



WSI NEWS

Volume 4, Fall 2007

Women's
Festival

Q & A

with
UTSA's
Women
Leaders

MARCH 22ND
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.
SOMBRILLA

VICKI GRISE AND
IRMA MAYORGA'S
THE PANZA MONOLOGUES
MELISSA BAXTER
ART SLAM
OVER 30 ORGANIZATIONS!

2007
WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

Mujer de Fuerza
EMERGEN

Adelina Anthony's
Mastering
Sex & Tortillas

UTSA

contents



Clockwise: Drs. Elizabeth Escobedo + Emma Pérez chat during lunch; UTSA Downtown Campus; Rainbow flag signifies LGBT movement; Elaine Perez performs the "Panza Manifesto" at the Women's Festival; Karla Legaspy, Dr. Rita Urquio-Ruiz, Adelina Anthony, + Dr. Patricia Quijada pose for a photograph at Pico de Gallo.

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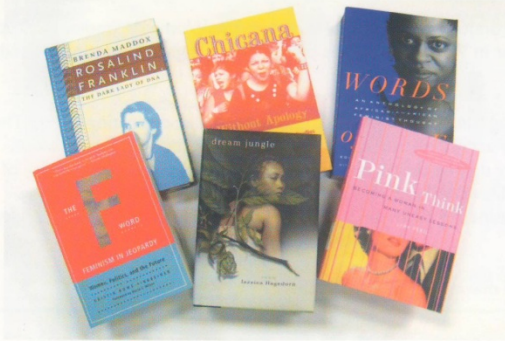
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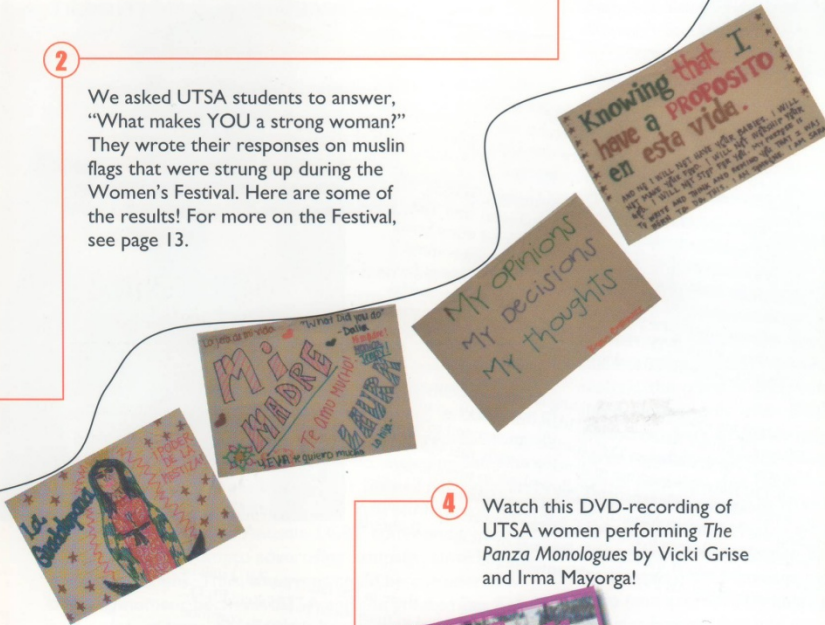
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WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND CAMPUS PLUS NEW BOOKS AND FILM AT WSI!

around the office



1 Don't forget the WSI office has a library full of books for your academic research! Stop by Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to check out our selection. Also, if you believe we should have a certain text, and we don't, let us know!

2 We asked UTSA students to answer, "What makes YOU a strong woman?" They wrote their responses on muslin flags that were strung up during the Women's Festival. Here are some of the results! For more on the Festival, see page 13.



3 Support WSI! Come by and pick up a decal for your car, notebook, or whatever you like!



4 Watch this DVD-recording of UTSA women performing *The Panza Monologues* by Vicki Grise and Irma Mayorga!



WSI News

Volume 4, Fall 2007

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DIRECTOR OF WSI

Dr. Sonia Saldívar-Hull

EDITORS

Megan Sibbett + Sara Ramírez

STAFF WRITERS + PHOTOGRAPHERS

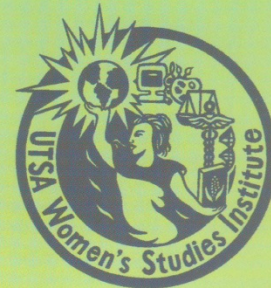
Sara Ramírez, Megan Sibbett,
Patricia Trujillo

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

David Kessler, Jessica Muniz,
Dr. Ben V. Olguín, Dr. Sara Oswald,
Irma Rosas

ADMINISTRATOR

Carolyn Motley



Unless otherwise noted, all photo credits go to Sara Ramírez and Megan Sibbett.

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Questions or comments can be directed to (210) 458-6277.

MAKING THE B.A. IN WOMEN'S STUDIES A REALITY AT UTSA

[By Patricia Trujillo, Staff Writer]

After several years of coordination – committee meetings, idea generating, drafting and proposal writing – the Women's Studies Institute is pleased to announce the approval of a Bachelor's Art degree with a major in Women's Studies by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The major was approved in April 2007.

The WSI Curriculum committee, chaired by Dr. Sharon Navarro, completed the proposal for submission to the coordinating board. The committee incorporated a vision that investigates women, gender, sexuality anchored by a commitment to diversity. WSI Executive Director, Sonia Saldivar-Hull explains, "Our goal is to offer an interdisciplinary degree that draws faculty and students from the College of Liberal and Fine Arts as well as from the College of Education and Human Development. We are optimistic that we will soon develop Women's Studies courses in the sciences, public policy, engineering, and business." As the major moves towards implementation, faculty with expertise in all aspects of women's studies will be involved.

Congratulations to the WSI Curriculum Committee for their dedication to making the major a reality!

dear wsi

Dear UTSA Women's Studies Institute,

In May 2006, I was informed that I had been selected to be a recipient of the 2006-2007 Women's Studies Institute Scholarship. I greatly appreciate being selected to receive this scholarship. Thank you for your generosity and willingness to sow into my education. Now that I have graduated, I would like you to know my accomplishments during college and future plans.

In May, I graduated summa cum laude from The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Women and Gender Studies. Also, I graduated with Tier II Honors from UTSA's Honors College. To graduate with Tier II Honors, I completed thirty hours of Honors coursework and wrote and Honors thesis under the guidance of a three-person committee. My thesis examined the relationships between personality characteristics and women's engagement in safe sex practices. I developed this one-and-a-half year project from my work as a research assistant in a social psychology lab ran by my thesis advisor, Dr. Tina Zawacki. I submitted my thesis to a paper competition conducted by UTSA's College of Liberal and Fine Arts and won the first place award in the undergraduate division.

Working on my Honors Thesis jump-started my interest for conducting research. In summer 2006, I participated in the Leadership Alliance Summer Research Early Identification Program. This program allowed me to visit Howard University in Washington D.C. for the summer and to work under the mentorship of Dr. Jules Harrell. Dr. Harrell helped me to develop a study that examined the relationship among various coping styles. My research experience allowed me to present my findings at several conferences, including the Leadership Alliance National Symposium in Chantilly, VA, the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research at the Dominican University of California in San Rafael, CA, the John Diggs Poster Session at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, MD, and the Our Lady of the Lake University Regional Psychology Conference in San Antonio, TX. [. . .]

After four wonderful years at UTSA, I can hardly believe that I will not be going back there in the fall. This fall, I will be attending the University of Connecticut (UConn) in Storrs, CT, where I will be enrolled in their social psychology Ph.D. program. I decided to attend this university because of the faculty's interesting HIV behavioral research. I plan to continue studying personality characteristics related to women's engagement in high risk sexual behavior. While in graduate school, I hope to become an active volunteer for a non-profit organization that empowers women. Upon my graduation from UConn, I aspire to develop my own non-profit organization while teaching and conducting research at a university or college.

Women's Studies Institute, your award helped me to have a fabulous college experience. Thank you again for your wonderful gift.

Best regards,

Angela White



Photo courtesy of Angela White



Photo courtesy of Emma Pérez. Modified by Patricia Trujillo.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MUJER DE FUERZA

EMMA PÉREZ

[By Patricia Trujillo, Staff Writer]

WSI IS WORKING TO DEVELOP A UTSA TRADITION in its “Mujeres de Fuerza/Women of Strength” Speakers series. In the past years, we have been fortunate to secure funding for such speakers as Devon Mihesuah, renowned Native American scholar and activist; Demetria Martinez, Mexican American writer and columnist; Sandra Cisneros, Mexican American author; and Jessica Hagedorn, Filipina writer and performance artist. This year we were proud to host Dr. Emma Pérez, Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder on March 1, 2007.

As the kickoff event for the 2007 Women’s History Month events, Dr. Pérez’s visit set the platform for the month with her keynote speech, “Borders Queers of El Paso/Juárez in the 21st Century: A Decolonial Queer Method.” Held at the UTSA Music Recital Hall, the event was the largest venue WSI has worked to pack—and we did! Filling the 300-seat theater almost to capacity, Dr. Pérez spoke to an audience of UTSA students as well as audience members representing all other major universities in San Antonio, including San Antonio Community College, Trinity, Our Lady of the Lake, and St. Mary’s University. Thanks to our WSI student volunteers, members from the San Antonio LGBT community were also invited by an impromptu advertising campaign aimed at the city’s queer clubs. Thus, the event could be considered a bridging moment between UTSA and the greater San Antonio community at large, blurring the line of the town-gown divide.

Emma Pérez is a Chicana historian, feminist theorist and creative writer. She is the author of the academic text, *The Decolonial Imaginary: Writing Chicanas into History*, and the novel, *Gulf Dreams*. This illustrious historian has also published in numerous scholarly anthologies, academic and literary journals. In addition, Dr. Pérez is currently working on a new scholarly text that will continue the work of *The Decolonial*

Imaginary, and on two novels entitled, *Blood Memory* and *The Shameless Sisters*. Her work is truly representative of the Women’s Studies ideology of work that is inter-, and multidisciplinary; Dr. Pérez theorizes the lives of women who might otherwise go unremembered.

She is most well known as a cultural studies theorist for her contributions to the field of history as the author of *The Decolonial Imaginary: Writing Chicanas into History*. The text, which is quickly becoming required reading in many university history courses throughout the country, focuses on the concept of the “decolonial imaginary” which is a “rupturing space, the alternative to that which is written in history” (6). Her contention is that women, generally, and Chicanas in particular, are often written onto male-centered master narratives of history. Dr. Pérez points out that “historians failed to raise gender, much less sexuality, as a category of analysis, the trend in early academic studies was to deliberate about women only when they were being depicted as exploited workers alongside men” (10). This perspective, Dr. Pérez rightfully suggests, does not allow for an academic historical paradigm that reflects women’s history accurately. Women’s contributions to the formation of nationality in the United States and Mexico were not only in service to a male vision of citizenry. Women had visions of their own. One of Dr. Pérez’s main themes is that women, of all backgrounds, were (and are) actively involved in forming history, and her theories suggest that it is our job to recover those subjugated voices.

As well as her important lecture, Dr. Pérez was able to join UTSA graduate students for a luncheon discussion. During this time, students were able to interact with one of the theorists many of them use in their work often. This interaction was invaluable for many students in their multiple stages of thesis and dissertation writing.

promoting **g**l**b**t pride

[By David Kessler, Academic Advisor, College of Liberal and Fine Arts]

EACH SUMMER, events occur around the world to bring gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) individuals together in celebration of their accomplishments as a community and to have pride in the culture associated with their gender or sexuality. Here in San Antonio, this year's gay pride parade included the Chief of Police, William McManus, and his wife as well as other advocates and allies who recognize the contributions and importance of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons. At UTSA, this celebration of pride happens each October with programming that will now be hosted by the Inclusion and Community Engagement Center.

Even with the current level of respect for gays and lesbians in the city and on campus, stereotypes and misperceptions continue to affect negatively some members of the GLBT community. Because the traditions and expectations of most societies are based on a binary system of heterosexual or homosexual and male or female, language, practice and beliefs may cause isolation and prejudice against bisexual and transgender individuals. For instance, a legally married bisexual woman may use non-gender specific language such as "partner" to describe her spouse, a word that has become a common reference to a same-sex significant other. The normalized response in asking about the partner, based on the acceptance of gays and lesbians, is "what does *she* do?" In this circumstance, language has misconstrued the relationship of the bisexual person and may cause the woman to have feelings of invisibility and lack of acceptance. Moreover, marriage, in most places, produces assumptions that both partners are heterosexual. As a result, a married person may not be accepted as knowledgeable about the GLBT population, when in fact that person has the necessary personal and professional experience to represent and support sexual and gender diversity.

These two examples serve merely as reminders that there are numerous individuals at UTSA and across the country who do not fit into an established mold. It behooves all of us to remember that while sometimes useful, assumptions and stereotypes can cause isolation and prejudice for faculty, staff and students that create difficulties affecting their job satisfaction or classroom performance.

For these reasons and others, over 100 college and university campuses have implemented educational services and resources through a separate office or center devoted to the concerns of GLBT individuals. While many began with no staff or only a graduate assistant leading the efforts, most have become fully staffed with one or more full-time professionals devoted to educating all members of the campus, being an advocate for the GLBT population, and promoting pride among all members of this community.

Besides the pride events sponsored by the Inclusion and Community Engagement Center this fall, you can learn more about sexual and gender diversity and how to support GLBT individuals on campus by attending an Allies Program training session or visiting the Allies Program website at www.utsa.edu/counsel/Ally.

[By Sara Oswalt + Tammy Wyatt, Assistant Professors, Department of Health and Kinesiology]

IN FALL 2006, UTSA received a grant from the Office of Women's Health in the Department of Health and Human Services to develop HIV/AIDS prevention and education programs for Latina students on the campus. The program is called *Somos Fuertes: Strong Women Making Healthy Choices*.

Led by Drs. Sara Oswalt and Tammy Wyatt (Department of Health and Kinesiology), a partner group was formed. Representatives from various UTSA departments (Student Health Services, UTSA Counseling Center, Women's Studies Institute, and Student Activities), and Planned Parenthood of San Antonio and South Central Texas implemented three strategies for educating UTSA.

Campus-Wide Events

As part of Women's History Month in March 2007, two events were sponsored by *Somos Fuertes* to discuss sexual

health and relationship issues. Valerie Menard, author of *Latinas in Love*, discussed how the Latina culture affects interactions between women and men. Later, *Somos Fuertes* partnered with Mujeres Unidas Contra el SIDA (Women United Against AIDS) to present a panel of HIV-positive Latina women. For the 2007-08 school year, *Somos Fuertes* will sponsor other campus-wide events during both Hispanic

Heritage Month in October and Women's History Month (WHM) in March.

Mini-grants to Student Organizations

Because of the importance of peer-approaches to HIV education, *Somos Fuertes* used student leaders to develop HIV/AIDS educational programs for student organizations. Interested student organizations applied and were selected to receive \$600 to promote HIV/AIDS education within their

Continued on page 15

SOMOS FUERTES!

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SOMOS FUERTES!



WITH PROMINENT WOMEN AT UTSA

[By Sara Ramirez + Megan Sibbett, Staff Writers]

Women are slowly becoming more visible as administrators in academic institutions. In spite of the constraints most women face in academia as well as in the corporate arena, many of these women were nonetheless able to achieve highly visible and important administrative positions. We asked eight, prominent UTSA women to tell us parts of their stories in a Question and Answer format.

DR. DOROTHY FLANNAGAN
DEAN, COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Q: Describe yourself in three words.

A: Collaborative, responsible, hardworking

Q: What was your first job?

A: Working in an office during the summer when I was in high school.

Q: Who or what is your biggest inspiration?

A: My sister. She has, better than anyone I know, been able to be an excellent leader in her profession while being a very committed, loving, and involved family member and friend. As many responsibilities as she has at work, she is a hands-on mom who helps with homework, attends every soccer game and swim meet, and whose house is always open and welcoming to friends and family.

Q: What does it mean to you to be a woman in your position in the University?

A: I am extremely grateful for the many opportunities that UTSA has provided me to grow. My current position as the Dean of the Graduate School has allowed me to work with remarkable people and to contribute to the exciting growth of the university. I also enjoy my role as a faculty member, particularly the opportunities it provides me to work with students, both as a teacher and a research mentor.

Q: What personal decisions did you have to make in order to be successful in your career?

A: I have always enjoyed my career, so I do not feel that I have had to make any difficult decisions. I am fortunate to have a wonderful family and good friends who have always supported my career decisions and who are very understanding if I have to spend weekend or evening time on a project. I have also been very fortunate to have had wonderful colleagues who have offered advice, support, and mentoring throughout my career.

Q: What advice would you give to women who are struggling with career choices?

A: Find a career you love, and find a mentor who has achieved some of the career goals you have set for yourself. Work hard, but set realistic expectations for yourself—no one can do everything perfectly all the time! And be sure to set aside some time regularly to do something for yourself that is enjoyable and relaxing. ★

DR. ANN EISENBERG
ASSOCIATE DEAN, HONORS COLLEGE



Q: Describe yourself in three words.

A: Independent, committed, outspoken

Q: What was your first job?

A: My first professional job was a post-doctoral position at Educational Testing Services. At age 14, though, I had my first job as a self-employed, summer, preschool camp “director.”

Q: Who or what is your biggest inspiration?

A: Last week, my 9-year-old son told me he wants to be “important” when he grows up. I asked him what he meant by “important,” and he said, “like Albert Einstein,” then added that doctors and teachers are important too because they help people. That conversation made me realize that my motivation has always come from wanting to be “important”—to do work that makes a difference in the world. I found what I was looking for in Honors education at UTSA—a place where I can do

meaningful work and make a difference in others’ lives, helping them reach their goals and form new ones they hadn’t imagined before.

Q: What does it mean to you to be a woman in your position in the University?

A: I’ve been at UTSA for 24 years, so I came when there were very few women on campus and almost no female administrators. I’m proud to have been one of the first and to have shown what women can accomplish. I also think that women are still asked to make more and more difficult choices in balancing their personal and professional lives, and I like to think that I have done a good job of that and can be a role model for younger women.

Q: What personal decisions did you have to make in order to be successful in your career?

A: Most of my personal decisions have probably made me less (not more) successful in my career. At one point, I imagined myself on the fast track to a position as Provost or university President. But being first part of a two-career marriage and then a widow with young children made me realize that some of my early professional dreams were incompatible—for me—with being the kind of wife and mother I wanted and now need to be. Yet the decision to delay marriage and children until I was well established professionally probably put me in a position where I could make those choices.

Q: What advice would you give to women who are struggling with career choices?

A: Follow your passion and remember that no decision is final. You can always change what you do. ★

COL. LISA FIRMIN
CHAIR, AEROSPACE STUDIES
COMMANDER, AIR FORCE RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS DETACHMENT 842



Photo Courtesy of Lisa Firmin.

Q: Describe yourself in three words.

A: Aggressive, dedicated and energetic

Q: What was your first job?

A: I worked as a waitress and learned the value of a strong work ethic, punctuality, and how to juggle many different priorities.

Q: Who or what is your biggest inspiration?

A: Both my parents inspired me. I saw them make sacrifices and work hard for their family. My father enlisted in the Air Force after getting a GED and my mother was forced to drop out of high school to work and take care of her siblings once her mother died. I learned you have to work hard and make sacrifices to be able to amount to anything and that education is important. Now, with three college degrees behind me, I have been able to make a

difference in my own life and in others. My parents may not have been well-educated, but they remain two of the smartest people I have known.

Q: What does it mean to you to be a woman in your position in the University?

A: I am honored to be able to command UTSA’s Air Force ROTC and serve as Department Chair for Aerospace Studies. I am entrusted with helping young people achieve their dreams of not only a college education, but in ultimately serving their country as an AF officer.

Q: What personal decisions did you have to make in order to be successful in your career?

A: I always took whatever job was thrown at me, I turned challenges into opportunities. I uprooted my family often to achieve higher level jobs and promotions. They sacrificed as much as I did for my success.

Q: What advice would you give to women who are struggling with career choices?

A: I would say that they should never give up no matter how hard or out of reach their dreams are. Then I would tell them to seek out people who inspire them and find out what opportunities are out there. They should never sell themselves short, they can do anything they set their mind to, but they must achieve the education and training that is required. ★

**DR. LYNDA DE LA VIÑA
DEAN, COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**



Photo courtesy of Lynda de la Viña

Q: Describe yourself in three words.

A: Visionary, strategic, objective/reasonable

Q: What was your first job?

A: While I was in college, I worked in the civil defense office of the county and then for the County Judge.

Q: Who or what is your biggest inspiration?

A: Personally: my family, especially my mother. As a Mexican American woman she obtained her high school diploma in 1934 and worked as a senior bookkeeper before marriage—unheard of during that period of time.

Professionally: Robert Rubin, former Secretary of Treasury. Although immensely wealthy he took no salary as secretary and, although faced with major international and national economic issues, he nevertheless brought focus to issues of community economic development and financial literacy—no other secretary had ever addressed these issues.

Q: What personal decisions did you have to make in order to be successful in your career?

A: Numerous and immense decisions regarding domicile, location, family priorities, time management, strategies for life balance.

Q: What advice would you give to women who are struggling with career choices?

A: Don't take the easy route or the one that brings in short term gain. Invest in yourself to build your human capital for a more successful career and long term gain. ★

**MS. CANDACE SAGEHORN
SENIOR DIRECTOR, BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PLANNING OFFICE**

Q: Describe yourself in three words.

A: Conscientious, dependable, faithful

Q: What was your first job?

A: My very first job was as a cashier at W.T. Grants while I was still in high school. My first full-time job (after graduation from college) was as a computer programmer at a small firm specializing in customized financial statements.

Q: Who or what is your biggest inspiration?

A: The “what” answer to this question would probably be the Christian work ethic which I interpret as “service.” I view my role as an employee (regardless of my title) as a servant to my supervisor and the organization I am working for. The “who” part of this question would be my mom and dad who demonstrated this work ethic to me. My dad was a police officer with the Los Angeles Police Department, and my mother worked for various medical facilities as a bookkeeper/office manager.

Q: What does it mean to you to be a woman in your position in the University?

A: I would refer back to my work ethic. I've never really visualized myself as a “leader” or “manager” but more as a hands-on worker. I see myself as working together with my staff to accomplish the objectives and goals of the University as they have been interpreted through the Division of Business Affairs.

Q: What personal decisions did you have to make in order to be successful in your career?

A: I don't really think that I have intentionally pursued success in my career. I think the success I am now enjoying (if I can say it that way) is a by product of the decisions I've made over the 35 years I've been employed. Those decisions have directed me down a path which went from computer programming to financial analysis to budgeting driven by a change in my interests. I've also sought out positions which are fulfilling and employ my skill set. That is why I'm now here at UTSA. I saw the position here as Senior Director of Budget Planning & Development as another step in employing and developing my skill set. I was also looking for a new challenge.

Q: What advice would you give to women who are struggling with career choices?

A: I would suggest first identifying one's strengths and abilities. Then begin looking for opportunities where those skills can be used and developed. I often think of this as a round peg finding the round hole which fits perfectly. I have observed those individuals who are round pegs in square holes. I cannot imagine that there is real fulfillment for those individuals. ★

DR. BETTY MERCHANT
DEAN, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Photo courtesy of UTSA Today.

Q: Describe yourself in three words.

A: Creative, conscientious, open

Q: What was your first job?

A: At age 15, I was secretary in a construction firm.

Q: Who or what is your biggest inspiration?

A: The countless number of ordinary, humble people who live life joyfully, enthusiastically, compassionately, and ethically, while struggling with immense difficulties and hardships.

Q: What does it mean to you to be a woman in your position in the University?

A: It means to be keenly aware of the importance of authenticity and openness in mentoring other women who aspire to leadership positions. It means to be vigilant with respect to the ways that women are all too often excluded from important discussions, networking opportunities, and critical sources of information. It means that I work both as a dean and a professor of educational leadership, to heighten awareness of gender issues—not only among students but also among my peers, many of whom are completely unaware of the extent to which their words and actions negatively impact their female students and colleagues. It means modeling qualities that don't force women into "either-or" situations; i.e. being either passive or aggressive; being compassionate versus "being objective" or "tough-minded."

Q: What personal decisions did you have to make in order to be successful in your career?

A: Not to be unduly constrained by the status quo. To be committed to living a balanced life, refusing to sacrifice family and relationships in the pursuit of my career. To take risks. To stand alone when necessary, to adhere to my values. To remember that there is nothing less attractive than someone marinating in her/his own poison. To forgive.

Q: What advice would you give to women who are struggling with career choices?

A: Look to other people but don't confuse yourself with them—your life is uniquely yours, as is your path. Never be deterred by comments like, "The odds are not in your favor." Learn to trust yourself and to stand alone when it's the right thing to do, it makes you less vulnerable to manipulation. Don't allow others to force choices upon you; choose as many or as few things as you like. Don't do anything you don't enjoy—no amount of money in the world will make up for the unhappiness you will experience as a result of making such compromises. Don't overestimate your own worth or underestimate the value of those around you. ★

MS. JUDITH GARDNER
PROJECT DIRECTOR, WRITING CORE PROGRAM



Photo courtesy of UTSA Today.

Q: Describe yourself in three words.

A: Optimistic, energetic, and friendly

Q: What was your first job?

A: Teaching 5th grade

Q: Who or what is your biggest inspiration?

A: So many people have influenced me—Barbara Bush, Rosalyn Carter, MLK, my grandmother, many people at the chemo center, etc. I can't really think of one who influenced me above others. Actually, I could name one in one circumstance and another in other circumstances.

Q: What does it mean to you to be a woman in your position in the University?

A: It means long hours. I wear several hats: Writing Program director, Writing Center director, Writing Across the Curriculum coordinator, and teacher.

Q: What personal decisions did you have to make in order to be successful in your career?

A: I didn't make any personal decisions really. I knew that I wanted to be a teacher when I was a very young girl. I think that I got a blackboard for Christmas when I was three or four. When I visited my grandparents, I lined up bottles of all kinds on their back porch and held classes. At home, my dolls were my students. So, I have been teaching much longer than most people would have guessed.

Q: What advice would you give to women who are struggling with career choices?

A: My advice is this: do what you love. ★

DR. SANDRA WELCH
VICE PROVOST FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS



Photo courtesy of UTSA Today.

Q: Describe yourself in three words.

A: I consider myself to be conscientious, caring and out-going

Q: What was your first job?

A: I was a sales clerk at J. C. Penney's.

Q: Who or what is your biggest inspiration?

A: My parents and my husband have provided the biggest inspirations for my life.

Q: What does it mean to you to be a woman in your position in the University?

A: I believe my educational and career preparation, ability to both work with a wide variety of people and willingness to take on new challenges successfully may serve as a role model.

Q: What personal decisions did you have to make in order to be successful in your career?

A: My career is that of an academic and administrator in a university setting. The preparation for this career exceeded a decade. First, I made a decision to pursue my doctorate in the field of accounting. Second, the choice to volunteer as a Provost's office intern and thus receive mentoring, work with a wide variety of people in the University, and gain an understanding of the University from the Provost's perspective proved both enjoyable and valuable. Third, the assembling of a competent, trustworthy team for my office has been critical.

Q: What advice would you give to women who are struggling with career choices?

A: Choose a career that aligns with your strengths and that will be fulfilling to you, rather than one that will earn the most money (if those characteristics are in conflict). Find a wise and trustworthy mentor to whom you can turn for advice. Be willing to serve. Pursue new opportunities that arise. ★

DR. GAGE PAINE
VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS



Photo courtesy of UTSA Today.

Q: Describe yourself in three words.

A: Caring, ethical, collaborative

Q: What was your first job?

A: The first job I ever applied and interviewed for was Resident Advisor at the University of Oklahoma. My first full-time position was Associate Dean of Students at McMurry College (now McMurry University) in Abilene, Texas.

Q: Who or what is your biggest inspiration?

A: My mother for several reasons, but relevant to this topic, for her example as a woman senior executive at a time in an environment when few women had that role and with my father for their example of a healthy, happy marriage in which the partners didn't always follow the traditional roles. Also my husband for keeping me grounded, several mentors in my profession and several authors whose books have helped me see the world in new and different ways.

Q: What does it mean to you to be a woman in your position in the University?

A: There are still too few women in senior administrative positions in higher education, so it is important to me that I serve as a role model for other women. I want to be able to lead in a way that ultimately is not defined by solely gender but neither does it ignore my gender; rather gender is one component of many that makes up my leadership style.

Q: What personal decisions did you have to make in order to be successful in your career?

A: Moving five times over the course of my career, and going to school part-time for my Ph.D. (and staying up later than I like to finish papers after the rest of my family was in bed).

Q: What advice would you give to women who are struggling with career choices?

A: Do work that you enjoy, that is aligned with what you value, with people who care about doing good work in places that will let you and support you in making a difference and in having a full and complete life—after that the details will take care of themselves, and you'll probably be surprised at what they turn out to be. ★

Women's Festival 2007

[By Megan Sibbett + Sara Ramírez, Staff Writers]

WSI held its annual Women's Festival at the UTSA 1604-Campus University Center on March 22, 2007. Co-Chairs, Megan Sibbett and Sara Ramírez, along with the Women's Festival committee, brought together over 30 UTSA and San Antonio community organizations and businesses that support women's issues. Because the theme of Women's History Month was "Celebrating Our Stories," Megan and Sara encouraged each organization not only to tell its story but to celebrate it. Students and other passers-by received information about women-related topics ranging from ovarian cancer, HIV-awareness, and reproductive rights to roller-derby teams, UTSA sororities, and women's shelters.

Previously called the "Women's Fair," the committee decided to change the name to the "Women's Festival" in order to create a more festive ambiance. The event took on its festive appeal through special decorations, music, readings, food, and even prizes.

A month prior to the Festival, committee members sat under the Sombrilla, inviting students to answer "What makes (you) a strong woman?"—a question that sparked creativity. Both female and male students used colorful Sharpies to design muslin flags centered on their personal perceptions of a strong woman. Student responses included, "Persistence," "Breaking with tradition," and even wordless designs depicting personal heroes. Volunteers, wearing Festival t-shirts, decorated the first floor of the UC with these special flags along with balloons, streamers, and posters.

The morning began with performance readings of Vicki Grise and Irma Mayorga's *The Panza Monologues*, a collection of Latina women's thoughts and experiences surrounding their panzas, a symbolic part of the female body. These short readings, creatively conveyed the truths about Latinas' overall conditions including their loves and abuses. Performers consisted of UTSA students and faculty.



Guest musician and single-mother Melissa Baxter entertained the crowd with her powerful vocals and acoustic guitar. She sang self-composed songs as well as those of renowned women musicians like Tracy Chapman, Melissa Etheridge, and Janis Joplin. The crowd, including Baxter's friends, family, and adorable, young son enjoyed her music for the hour that she sang. "I am just so stunned with the power behind her

"I am just so stunned with the power behind her voice ... for me, she really represents a strong woman."

voice. She is perfect for this event because, for me, she really represents a strong woman," said Annemarie Mulkey, a Festival committee member and junior at UTSA.

Prizes were also awarded to the most festively decorated table displays. Two gumball machines were given to (drum roll, please) the Blazin' Banditas rollerderby team and the Office of Institutional Diversity. The Blazin' Banditas' table décor included a black team flag, a fiery display board exhibiting photographs of the team, roller skates, shin guards, and an unused helmet filled with Atomic Fireballs candy. The Office of Institutional Diversity's table added to the festive ambiance of the event with a wheel-of-fortune that was centered around women's organizations on campus and women's rights.

In its third consecutive year, this event that brings together San Antonio women is becoming a tradition that we hope to celebrate in the years to come.



San Antonio

Women's Resources

Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation

www.alamobreastcancer.org
Helpline: (210) 692-9535

Battered Women and Children's Shelter

www.fvps.org
Helpline: (210) 773-8810

Esperanza Peace and Justice Center

www.esperanzacenter.org
(210) 228-0201

Martinez St. Women's Center

www.mswomenscenter.org
(210) 534-6638

P.E.A.C.E Initiative

www.thepeaceinitiative.net
(210) 533-2729

PFLAG San Antonio

www.geocities.com/pflagsanantonio
(210) 655-2383

The Rape Crisis Center

Helpline: (210) 349-7273

St. Mary's Legal & Social Justice

(210) 431-5714

Women's Resource Center

www.utsa.edu/wrc/wrc
(210) 458-4140

Student News:

Blazin' Bandita, Lori Rodriguez, earns Ford Fellowship

[By Ben V. Olguin, Professor, English, Classics, & Philosophy]



In the raucous rough and tumble world of women's roller derby in San Antonio, Lucha Dora is happy to be just one more member of the team. But number 21 of the Blazin' Banditas—the break away team that left the commercial Alamo City Rollergirls League to form a non-profit democratically run feminist collective in a league of their own—is far from ordinary. The relative anonymity afforded by her scuffed black helmet, red bandana and nom de guerre cannot hide the fact that this pivot (the roller derby pack leader) is an extraordinary community activist and nationally-recognized graduate student scholar—Lori Rodriguez.

A Ph.D. candidate in the Department of English, Classics and Philosophy, Lori Rodriguez was awarded a prestigious Ford Foundation/National Research Council Dissertation Fellowship for her dissertation project "Speaking Tejana: Contemporary Reconstructions of Tejana Identity in Literature, Film, and Popular Culture." This project traces the literary, visual and performative history of Chicana feminist recreations of autonomous Tejana spaces from the late 19th century to the present.

The Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship includes a one-year stipend of \$21,000, plus all expenses paid to attend the annual Conference of Ford Fellows, which includes specialized workshops, mentoring and research opportunities. This future professor of literature also joins a national network of Ford Fellows, which includes some of the nation's top scholars and administrators. The Ford Foundation has partnered with the National Research Council to offer fellowships to scholars of all backgrounds, disciplines and areas of study with the express goal of rewarding excellence and supporting efforts to diversify and expand the range and scope of the academy.

For 2007, only 35 Ford Dissertation Fellowships were awarded nationwide across all disciplines, with only 1-2 offered in the Literature and Language Division annually, along with 1 Honorable Mention. (Lori Rodriguez previously had received an Honorable Mention in 2004, and subsequently received a UTSA Dissertation Fellowship in 2006 and a Texas State University Summer Research Grant and Residency in 2007.) According to the Ford Foundation, awards are "made to individuals who, in the judgment of the review panels, have demonstrated superior academic achievement, are committed to a career in teaching and research at the college or university level, show promise of future achievement as scholars and teachers, and are well prepared to use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students."

To ensure recipients are the top scholars in their field, the application has six parts and the review process includes a rigorous evaluation by a panel of over one dozen faculty from throughout the nation. This panel spends three days at the National Research Council headquarters in Washington, DC reviewing applications. For an applicant to win, it must pass five levels of review, debate and incisive critique by noted scholars who all vote on each finalist. Usually less than 8% of applicants receive a fellowship award or honorable mention. According to Women's Studies Institute Director Sonia Saldivar-Hull, "The review process for the Ford Foundation Fellowships is comparable to, and in some cases more rigorous than some faculty grant programs."

Dr. Bernadette Andrea, Chair of the Department of English, Classics and Philosophy, asserts, "Lori is an outstanding scholar who is helping to bring attention to our doctoral program, which emphasizes cross-cultural studies of language and literature. She is truly a role model as a graduate student of the highest caliber, an excellent teacher of undergraduates, and a committed mentor in the larger community."

Among Lori's greatest fans are the middle and high school students at the San Anto Cultural Arts center in the Westside whom she has helped mentor to find their own voices. As some of the Blazin' Banditas' opponents have learned the hard way, there's no stopping this Southside Chicana from propelling her community and women of all backgrounds forward into the future. As one member of the Blazin' Banditas put it, "get outta her way, or join the team, 'cause Lucha Dora means business!"

Photos courtesy of Lori Rodriguez.



women's resource center

[By Jessica Muniz, Staff Clinician, Counseling Services]

UTSA Counseling Services is proud to announce our exciting move to the newly built Recreation Wellness Center, Room 1.810, located adjacent to the renovated Recreation Center. Counseling Services will continue to provide individual, couples and group therapy to UTSA students who are currently enrolled, free of charge. Our groups will begin forming in the fall semester, so keep an eye out for flyers!

The Women's Resource Center (WRC), Room 1.812, will be located across from Counseling Services, and will continue to provide educational resources to UTSA students, staff, and faculty. The WRC hopes to sponsor brown bag lunches and psycho educational training opportunities in their new space. Some topics that may be addressed are intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and finding balance in life, as well as other social justice issues. The WRC hopes to become a hub for UTSA women and men to find support and build relationships around common interests. The peer education organization, The C.U.R.E. (Campus United for Respect and Education), sponsored by Counseling Services and the WRC, will continue recruiting UTSA students interested in becoming more active on campus in the areas of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and social justice activities. For information on The C.U.R.E., or any other services, please call 458-4140.

volunteer opportunities

["Mastering Sex and Tortillas" continued from page 6]

audience with a socially transformative opportunity. As a UTSA graduate student stated, "The importance of this type of commentary is that it pushes the boundary of heterosexuals, traditional thoughts on ethnic and cultural perspective, and classic gender roles." In other words, it is pivotal to go beyond the surface level of the presentation and interrogate the deeper meaning(s) of such a performance. *Mastering Sex and Tortillas* situates the experiences of Chicana queers in a third space of self-definition and empowerment.

["Somos Fuertes" continued from page 7]

student group. Two leaders attended a planning workshop and designed a program for the organization's members. Four organizations completed the process and reached over 125 students.

Curriculum

The third component of *Somos Fuertes* was a six-part curriculum session designed to educate and empower women about relationships, sexuality and HIV/AIDS. The curriculum was fully implemented in Spring 2007 with over 70 students learning about relationships and sexual health issues. In order to increase involvement, afternoon and evening sessions will be offered during the 2007-08 school year.

As we begin fall semester, look around campus for updates on *Somos Fuertes* events. For more information, contact program coordinator Susie Hinojosa (210-458-6704) or the program directors, Dr. Sara B. Oswalt (210-458-6227) or Dr. Tammy J. Wyatt (210-458-7285).

DID YOU KNOW THERE IS A NEW SPACE FOR WOMEN ON CAMPUS?

UTSA WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER (WRC) IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD WOMEN (AND MALE ALLIES) TO HELP GET SOME PROGRAMMING GOING AT THE NEW WRC!

Contact Jessica Muniz, Co-director of the WRC
jessica.muniz@utsa.edu

DO YOU HAVE SOME GREAT IDEAS FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH?

JOIN THE 2008 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH (WHM) PLANNING COMMITTEE. STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FACULTY ARE ALL WELCOME TO JOIN. WE MEET THE LAST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH.

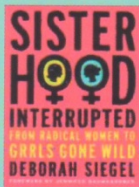
Next meeting: October 26, 2007 at 10:30 in the Oak Room (UC 2.01.20)
www.utsa.edu/wsi for updates on WHM

DO YOU LIKE PLANNING REALLY BIG PARTIES? HELP US PLAN OUR BIGGEST PARTY OF THE YEAR!

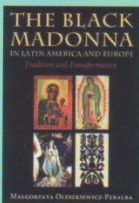
JOIN THE WOMEN'S FESTIVAL PLANNING COMMITTEE. DURING THIS EVENT WSI INVITES OVER 30 WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS TO CAMPUS TO CELEBRATE THEIR WORK AND WOMEN.

Contact Sara Ramirez for more information

new books & film at WSI



Sisterhood, Interrupted: From Radical Women to Grrrls Gone Wild by Deborah Siegel. Contrary to clichés about the end of feminism, Siegel argues that younger women are reliving the battles of its past, and reinventing it—with a vengeance. From feminist blogging to the popularity of the WNBA, girl culture is on the rise. A lively and compelling look back at the framing of one of the most contentious social movements of our time, this book exposes the key issues still at stake, outlining how a twenty-first century feminist can reconcile the personal with the political and combat long-standing inequality that continue today.



The Black Madonna in Latin America and Europe: Tradition and Transformation by Malgorzata Oleszkiewicz-Peralba. In her second book, UTSA associate professor of modern languages and literatures Oleszkiewicz-Peralba examines the feminine figure of the dark mother goddess/Virgin Mary throughout the ages, centering on her significance for national identity, resistance against oppression, and empowerment for the female population in Mexico and the American Southwest, Brazil and Cuba, as well as Poland and Russia. The book is the product of twelve years of research and field work around the world, and contains four chapters, fifteen color plates, and one hundred forty halftones.



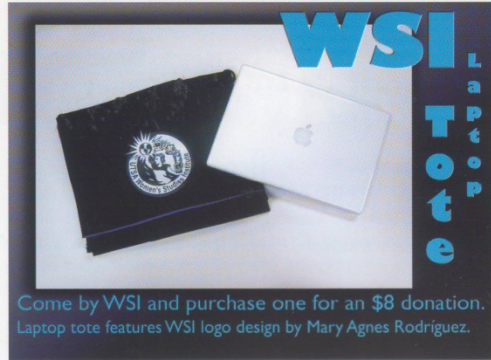
Maria Full of Grace Directed by Joshua Marston. In Spanish with English subtitles. Maria Alvarez (Catalina Sandino Moreno) lives with three generations of her family in a cramped house in rural Columbia and works in a rose plantation. The offer of a lucrative job involving travel—in fact, becoming a drug "mule"—changes the course of her life. Far from the eventful trip she is promised, Maria is transported into the risky and ruthless world of international drug trafficking. Her mission becomes of determination and survival and she finally emerges with the grace that will carry her forward into a new life.

Announcements

Interested in being part of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Women's Alliance?

The goal of this student organization is to address issues commonly encountered by graduate women across disciplines.

Sign up for information and future announcement by sending contact information and brief message to: IGWA@graduate.org.



The Society for the Study of Gloria Anzaldúa

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of *Borderlands / La Frontera*, SSGA is proud to announce the upcoming Symposium on November 3rd, 2007 at the UTSA Downtown campus. (FS 1.512). The Symposium will feature nine guest speakers presenting works on or influenced by Gloria Anzaldúa and will focus on Women and Borders.

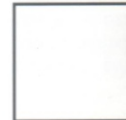
For more information contact
Dr. Norma Cantú at norma.cantu@utsa.edu
Or visit www.ssganzaldua.org

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UTSA
Women's Studies
Institute News

One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, Texas 78249-0700



Fall 2007 News