Springtime at the university is always filled with activities and this year has been no exception. One of the significant developments at the college this term was the announcement of the South Asia Institute, an organization supported by university-wide resources and faculty. The Institute was established to foster understanding and economic opportunities in a region of the world with mounting influence in the global marketplace.

Another key event, and an annual rite of spring, was the selection of the Pro Bene Meritis Award winners. Within this issue, I am pleased to introduce to you three outstanding individuals whose dedication to liberal arts and commitment to our university have been recognized with the bestowing of this award. The recipients include alumni Shannon Ratliff, Esq. (’61, ’64) and Prudence Mackintosh (’66) as well as long-time faculty member Dr. Robert Helmreich.

Our faculty, students and graduates continue to produce groundbreaking work and the following pages contain new discoveries in the fields of visual tracking, emotional healing, stress management and the history of black business in the U.S.

You also will meet two young people whose motivation and talent are inspiring others. Shola Lynch (’92) is a gifted and creative filmmaker whose directorial debut appeared on PBS earlier this year. Karl-Thomas Musselman is a student leader, and one of youngest delegates selected to participate in the 2004 Democratic National Convention, who is rousing peers and others to get involved and take action.

These individuals and many, many others affiliated with the College of Liberal Arts continue to make a dramatic impact on our society through their insights, expertise, energy and talent. I am delighted to have the opportunity to work closely with these wonderful people and am impressed daily with the results when intellectual curiosity, determination and drive intersect. I hope you will share the joy of watching this college move from strength to strength.

Best wishes to you for a wonderful summer and please stay in touch.

Richard Lariviere
Dean, College of Liberal Arts
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Dr. James Brow, Director
Dan Hamermesh, Ph.D., has a message for Americans who feel there’s not enough time in the day for everything they need to do: quit complaining.

“If somebody complains, I say, look it’s not a problem — the problem is you have too much money,” said Hamermesh, a professor in the Department of Economics.

Some may find that opinion a bit harsh, perhaps, but Hamermesh has co-authored a study that backs up his claim. He and graduate assistant Jungmin Lee analyzed survey data from the United States, Australia, Canada, Germany and South Korea, and concluded that the more money people have, the more pressed for time they’ll be as they try to find ways to spend it all.

This is because there are really only a couple of hours in the average weekday in which a person has some flexible time. With more money comes more options, which leads to greater stress in trying to get everything done. It’s logic only an economist would use, Hamermesh admitted.

“This just bothered the sociologists like crazy because they all said, ‘Look, if you have more income you can have people do things for you,’” Hamermesh said. “But if you think about most of the things you do, you can’t have people do them for you.” For instance, Hamermesh noted that you can’t pay a person to sleep for you -- or go to plays, read, exercise, eat or any of the countless other things that occupy the day. Those things take time, and time is a scarce commodity.

Conversely, Hamermesh found that people who have less money don’t complain about not having enough time. Not surprisingly, they’re more concerned about their income. This has led Hamermesh to conclude that those concerned about a time crunch are focusing on the wrong issue.

“This notion of time crunch is not one that should occupy public attention,” Hamermesh said. “It’s basically yuppie kvetch — complaining by the well-to-do. Poverty is a problem. Time scarcity is not a problem.”

With a touch of irony, Hamermesh noted that his study was funded in part by foundations interested in finding solutions to time crunch. But the solution that Hamermesh’s study suggests — that time-pressed people give away their excess money — isn’t likely to be a big hit in the affluent suburbs. “They’re clearly better off with more money and with the stress for time than they would be with less money and less time stress,” Hamermesh said. “They made this choice. Nobody is forcing them to do more.”

Hamermesh admits that both he and his wife feel the effects of time crunch — but he wouldn’t have it any other way. “I have lots and lots of money and not much time, so I’m running around like a maniac and feel quite rushed,” he said. “On the other hand, I have the ability to purchase almost anything I want within any kind of reason. I don’t deserve sympathy. Quite the contrary.”

Another finding in Hamermesh’s study is that women — particularly wealthy housewives — complain the most about time stress. Hamermesh speculated that the cause of this is the fact that women tend to be household managers, and hence have more tasks to juggle in a day than men, who are more singularly focused on work. And if you add children into the equation, the potential for time stress is that much greater. In his study, Hamermesh cites his daughter-in-law, who lamented, “With kids and the house, I often feel I have four hours of tasks and only two hours to do them in.”

Although the subject of time crunch has been thoroughly analyzed by social psychologists and

Hamermesh, continued on page 22
Future Vision:
Scientists Work to Decipher what Drives Eye Movement

“R”emember when you were little, and you used to hold an empty paper towel roll up to your eye and peer through it as if it were a telescope?” asked Dr. Larry Cormack, a psychology professor at The University of Texas at Austin. “The truth is that while that little hole took up only about one 200th of the area of your visual field, what you saw through it took up about half of the eye’s computational resources.”

What makes people feel that they are seeing a great deal more, Cormack explained, is the fact that the human eye makes between 10,000 and 15,000 movements, on average, every hour – translating into hundreds of thousands of movements each day. This steady, unconscious scanning of one’s surroundings makes the field of vision seem much larger.

“Most people don’t realize how quickly their ability to read a sign or perceive an object evaporates in the periphery,” said Dr. Bill Geisler, Cormack’s colleague and director of the Center for Perceptual Systems at the university.

For years, scientists have thought that the majority of the tiny, nearly constant eye movements are random, but Geisler and Cormack think otherwise. They believe there’s a reason these movements occur, a reason that has evolved over many generations and that makes the eyes incredibly efficient at taking in surroundings, evaluating them and noting objects that are important.

Isolating the cause of the eyes’ movements, and determining what they really mean in regard to what we see and perceive, is what’s driving a multi-year study by these researchers, psychology colleague Dr. Eyal Seidemann and Dr. Alan Bovik, an electrical engineering professor. All four have worked together collaboratively for years as part of the Center for Perceptual Systems, an effort that includes researchers from the departments of psychology, electrical and computer engineering, neuroscience, neurobiology, computer science and speech and communication.

“If we’re able to reduce visual perception to simple mathematical equations, allowing a robot to ‘see’ becomes a real possibility.”

The National Science Foundation recently awarded this research team a $1.2 million grant to isolate and decipher the perceptual systems at work in our mind that control our visual system. The team meets weekly to discuss issues of cognitive perception, how to capture and catalog it, and how to apply that knowledge externally.

“We believe there is simple information processed through the thousands of minuscule movements our eyes make that tell our brain whether there is something new or of interest on which to focus our vision,” explained Geisler. “If we can capture the data the eyes are taking in and break it down mathematically we can apply the process to a range of technologies.”

“Think about the work that has been done to help robots ‘see,’” said Cormack. “Scientists have tried, with little success, to build cognition into the machine to enable vision. If we’re able to reduce visual perception to simple mathematical equations, allowing a robot to ‘see’ becomes a real possibility.”

To identify what triggers eye movement these researchers are bringing the real world into the lab. They take photographs of everyday scenes and then study how the eye assesses and registers the data, an approach that is breaking new ground.

“The development of artificial systems that actively gather, interpret and act upon visual information

*Future Vision, continued on page 27*
The region of South Asia – which includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Afghanistan, Bhutan, and the Maldives – is becoming increasingly influential in the global marketplace in terms of culture, economics and politics. This transformation is largely driven by India, which is the world’s largest democracy and, with a population of more than one billion people, it’s second largest country. Recognizing the implications for Texas, the United States and other countries from this macro shift, The University of Texas at Austin has established the South Asia Institute to focus resources on fostering understanding and exchange with this part of the world.

When President Faulkner announced the South Asia Institute, he pledged a university-wide commitment to make this region the second center of excellence in international studies, following the precedent set by the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies.

“We are proud to have more than 50 faculty members from schools and colleges across the university affiliated with the Institute,” said Dr. James Brow, director of the South Asia Institute. “Many of our faculty are nationally and internationally recognized experts in their fields. They offer more than 150 South Asia-related courses as well as complete language instruction in Hindi, Malayalam, Sanskrit, Tamil and Urdu.”

The university’s distinguished South Asia team has been assembled over decades as part of an ongoing commitment to Asian studies that began in the 1960s with the establishment of the Center for Asian Studies and the later creation of the Department of Asian Studies within the College of Liberal Arts.

In April 2005, the Institute, which focuses particularly on issues impacting contemporary South Asia, hosted its first major conference titled “Economic Globalization and Its Implications for Democracy in South Asia.” The conference brought together a large number of academic, business and political leaders to explore the urgent issues facing the region and to discuss ramifications to South Asia and the rest of the world for the coming 10 to 20 years.

**South Asia in Context**

South Asia is heavily influenced by India due to the massive size of its population and geography.

“We know that developing understanding and encouraging tolerance of differences is critical in our increasing global society. Our outreach coordinators already talk to hundreds of teachers and community leaders and thousands of students each year and we plan to expand this program in the future.”

The Institute also sponsors conferences and seminars and provides Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships to students pursuing graduate degrees relating to South Asia in any department or school of the university. Students are encouraged to study abroad and, to this end, the Institute has awarded seven graduate fellowships for Summer 2005 to support student study in India.

**South Asia in Context**

South Asia is heavily influenced by India due to the massive size of its population and geography.
of the U.S. and its economy continuing to grow, it’s imperative for Americans to better understand the culture and history that shapes this region and our intertwined futures,” said Dr. Richard Lariviere, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and a driving force behind the creation of the South Asia Institute.

Contrary to the stereotype that nearly all of India is impoverished, the country actually has a large middle class – estimated to include more than 300 million people. These individuals are well educated and tend to be English speaking and business minded. In addition, Indian women, particularly those in the upper classes, have enjoyed power and professional success for more than a century. In fact, these women had the right to vote before their female counterparts in the United States.

While India’s middle class has been growing, a significant proportion of the population, particularly those living in rural areas, continues to struggle with desperate poverty. Among this group, clean water, food, sanitation and healthcare are all grave issues. There is a high incidence of death among children, particularly girls, and women are at heightened risk of becoming victims of violence.

**Economic Impact**
In the early 1990’s, India’s government removed many economic regulations that had limited trade with external countries. The result of this action has been a growing and developing economy that some experts predict may overtake China’s in the coming decade. Already, the economies of these two countries combined comprise approximately one-sixth of global GDP. “The United States is India’s largest trading partner, with two-way trade valued at more than $21 billion in 2004,” said Lariviere. “The value of goods traded has increased by 50 percent in just the past four years.” India’s economy is driven primarily by the service industry, with high technology companies leading growth in this sector. In addition, cinema is a major industry in India, with more Indians seeing movies each day than in any other country in the world. Bollywood is by far the largest studio, producing hundreds of feature films each year. Renowned Indian filmmaker Shekhar Kapur predicts that Indian movie making will be a $1.3 trillion industry within 20 years.

Exports from the region of South Asia overall to the United States nearly doubled from 2000 to 2004, rising from $4.6 billion to more than $8.5 billion. Imports combined comprise approximately one-sixth of global GDP.
“The United States is India’s largest trading partner, with two-way trade valued at more than $21 billion in 2004.”

were up more than 25 percent during this time, from $17.6 billion to $22.9 billion.

**Population Growth**

During the past 30 years, Asian influence has spread around the globe thanks to a large and growing expatriate community. From 2000 to 2003, the number of Asian Americans in the United States grew more than 12 percent to 13.5 million people, making this the second fastest growing minority population in the country. This group tends to be well educated and have high incomes. Indian Americans in the U.S., for instance, have among the highest median family income of any ethnic group, roughly $60,000 compared to the national average of $39,000. In addition, about 60 percent of Indian Americans over the age of 25 have a bachelor’s degree or more.

At The University of Texas at Austin, Asian Americans are the largest minority population, making up approximately 14 percent of the student body. Individuals from foreign countries make up nearly 10 percent more of the university’s student population, and nearly 20 percent of this group is from South Asia. The number of students from South Asia has increased by 20 percent during the past 10 years.

As South Asia continues to develop and impact our lives in new and expanded ways, The University of Texas at Austin will be at the forefront of change, helping to facilitate dialogue and understanding with this key region of the world.

Marisa Rainsberger
Photo by Marsha Miller

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**Bhutan**

New law grants citizenship on the basis of length of residence in Bhutan. Government stresses Tibetan-based Bhutanese culture antagonizing minority ethnic Nepali community.

**Sri Lanka, 1987**

Accords signed to create new councils for Tamil areas in the northern and eastern region, agreement with India to deploy Indian peace-keeping force.

**India, 1998**

Nuclear tests.

**Afghanistan, 1996**

Taliban seize control of Kabul and are recognized in 1997 by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

**Pakistan**

Military assistance from the US following Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

**Bangladesh, 1988**

Islam becomes state religion.

**Nepal**

Trade and transit dispute with India leads to border blockade.

**Afghanistan**

Mujahedin come together in Pakistan against Soviet forces. Afghanistan, USSR, the US and Pakistan sign peace accords.

**Pakistan**

Military assistance from the US following Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

**Sri Lanka**

President Premadasa killed in LTTE bomb attack.

**Nepal**

2001 General strike called by Maoist rebels.

2004 Nepal joins the WTO.

2005 February King Gyanendra dismisses Prime Minister, declares state of emergency.

**Sri Lanka**

2002 September Government lifts ban on Tamil Tigers and prisoners.

2004 December Tsunamis devastate country, government declares a national disaster.

**India**

2000 Birth of the billionth citizen.

2004 Launches application for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

**Afghanistan**

UN imposes sanctions on the Taliban to force them to hand over Osama bin Laden.

2003 NATO takes control of security in Kabul.

**Pakistan, November 2003**

Declares Kashmir ceasefire.

**Bhutan, 2005**

Proposed constitution unveiled for Bhutan to become a parliamentary democracy. Will be adopted or rejected in a referendum.
Shannon Ratliff
Respected Attorney, Tireless Advocate

Shannon Ratliff’s love of UT started long before his college career. Ratliff ('61, '64), the youngest of three boys, was also the third in line to attend The University of Texas at Austin. When Ratliff was embarking upon high school in his hometown of Sonora, Texas, his oldest brother Jack was starting at UT.

“I grew up visiting UT, and it was always a neat experience,” says Ratliff, who regularly made it to football games and the Texas Relays.

When it was finally time for Ratliff to enroll, he jumped in with both feet. He was elected president of the Freshman Council and served as president of his pledge class in Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. As a sophomore, he was selected to serve as a Texas Cowboy, a campus-wide service and spirit organization.

Ratliff’s brother Jack influenced his academic career by suggesting that Ratliff enroll in the Plan II Honors Program in the College of Liberal Arts.

“One of the best decisions I made was enrolling in Plan II,” said Ratliff. “I was exposed to the brightest and best students and had outstanding teachers throughout my Plan II experience, including Bill Livingston and Walter Prescott Webb. I had some of my finest teachers my third and fourth years in school – Roger Shattuck, Bill Devine, Tom Cranfill, Malcom McDonald – they were all excellent.”

After receiving his undergraduate degree, Ratliff entered UT’s law school and continued to participate actively both in and out of class.

“Entering law school was a decision I made rather late in the process,” said Ratliff, who is fascinated with history and politics and considered pursuing a Woodrow Wilson Scholarship. “Jack was again a factor in my decision. He attended UT’s law school and I had a great deal of respect for him.”

While in law school, Ratliff was the editor-in-chief of the Texas Law Review and was elected to the Order of the Coif, a national scholarly organization for law students, as well as Chancellors, an organization that recognized the top ten students for their academic and writing skills. He also was chosen to join the Friar Society.

After earning his law degree, Ratliff was selected as one of only two briefing clerks for U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Tom C. Clark. He wasn’t new to the Washington, D.C. scene, however, having worked during the summers for Senate Majority Leader and then U.S. Vice President Lyndon Baines Johnson from 1957 to 1961. He also worked as an assistant at the White House for President Johnson during the 1964 presidential election.

In 1965, Ratliff returned to Austin and joined the law firm of McGinnis, Lochridge and Kilgore where he became a partner in 1969. He stayed with the firm for 35 years, focusing his practice on commercial litigation cases involving energy, securities and financial services matters.

Ratliff established a solid reputation as a litigator, representing Fortune 50 companies in a variety of statewide and nationwide class actions and other complex litigation cases. He has successfully argued hundreds of cases, including many before the Texas courts of appeal and the Texas Supreme Court, on behalf of major corporate clients. In addition, he has represented clients in state and federal courts outside of Texas. In 2004, he was named Outstanding Trial Lawyer by the Texas Bar Foundation and also has been named a Super Lawyer by Texas Monthly.

In 2000, Ratliff joined international legal powerhouse Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld where he practiced for two years before founding Ratliff Law Firm.

“I decided I wanted a chance to experience law at a smaller operation,” he says of his decision to form his own firm.

Throughout his career, Ratliff has been heavily involved in state politics. He has actively participated in several campaigns including serving as the Central Texas coordinator for Lloyd Bentsen’s bid for the U.S. Senate and as finance chair during Mark White’s run for Texas Governor.

In 1978, the Supreme Court of Texas appointed Ratliff to serve as a member of the Board of Law Examiners, which he did for three years. In 1983, Governor Mark White appointed him Chairman of the Texas Public Safety Commission. He also served as president of the board of directors of the Paramount Theatre for the Performing Arts in Austin. The University of Texas, however, has been the fortunate recipient of much of his volunteer energy.

“It’s been a great pleasure to work with people over the years who really love the university,” Ratliff said.

Ratliff, continued on page 21
Prudence Mackintosh
Tackling Life with Humor and Panache

Prudence Mackintosh ('66) has fond memories of her years at the University of Texas. She remembers holiday carolers lining the steps to the South Mall, their voices joining in song as “Joy to the World” blared from trumpets high atop the Tower. She remembers candlelit prayer vigils for the integration of Kinsolving Dormitory. She also remembers the fun of participating in the first Eeyore’s Birthday Party, a whimsical celebration that still takes place each spring, drawing participants of all ages.

“We were just looking for an excuse to have people wear costumes and celebrate spring,” she says of her efforts as a founding proponent of this enduring Austin tradition. “I can’t remember where we got the donkey or the full-wimpled nuns who played recorders.”

Mackintosh also was active in her sorority and with the university’s International House. A Chinese student from Argentina was her roommate for two years, and her male friends from Brazil and Mexico regularly chastised her for dating “the flat tops”—their term for Anglo fraternity guys.

When Mackintosh wasn’t busy helping with the social and cultural activities of the campus and community, she was studying English and honing skills that would lead to her life’s work as a writer. Although Mackintosh taught in public and private schools for several years after graduation, she is better known as the author of countless Texas Monthly articles and several books. Mackintosh’s literary accomplishments include Thundering Sneakers, Retreads and Sneaking Out, all tales chronicling the raising of her three sons. While the books immortalized her sons’ antics, she says they took little notice of her profession while growing up. It wasn’t until her son had his first child that he gained a greater appreciation for her humorous insights on parenting. Her fourth book, Just As We Were,

A Narrow Slice of Texas Womanhood, collected her essays on being a woman in Texas.

Mackintosh came by her writing skills naturally, having been raised by two parents in the newspaper industry. She grew up believing that no experience in life was truly lived until one wrote about it.

“I thought writing was a basic motor skill,” she says. “When I was growing up, I didn’t realize there were people who didn’t write.”

Her father was the editor of the Texarkana Gazette, the newspaper in her hometown of Texarkana, Texas. Her mother was the women’s editor and general jack-of-all-trades in the newsroom, a location where Mackintosh spent a considerable amount of time.

“One of the biggest influences on my writing, was corresponding with my parents when I came to UT,” said Mackintosh, explaining that long-distance phone calls were not something that her parents supported. “I wrote them one or two letters each week, and my mother expected them to include colorful descriptions of the things happening here on campus.” The fact that Mackintosh was naturally selected by her peers and professors to write stories, plays, programs and other materials only served to solidify her writing skills.

It was during her time at the university that she met her future husband, John Mackintosh, who was her grader in a history class. Mackintosh credits his editing skills with keeping her writing organized and her diction clear. After nearly 40 years of marriage, he remains her favorite editor.

Mackintosh started with Texas Monthly in 1973, the year it was formed. She had met founding editor, Bill Broyles, a Rice graduate, eight years earlier when they both attended a Model United Nations gathering at UT. She was named contributing editor and has written for the publication in one capacity or another ever since. In 1978, when the magazine published its “Best of Texas Monthly” issue, two of Mackintosh’s stories were included.

“My father used to tease me about being lazy,” she confessed. “He couldn’t believe I worked for a publication that had a 30-day turnaround time.”

Mackintosh credits her father, who passed away in 2001, with being her inspiration. “He continued to write until he was 91,” she says with passion and respect. “He was so prolific.”

Mackintosh works with U.S. Representative Wright Patman.

Mackintosh, continued on page 21
In the Fast Lane
with Dr. Robert Helmreich

Buckle up because Robert Helmreich’s story is one action-packed ride. He has studied human error and teamwork in high-risk environments for more than 30 years at The University of Texas at Austin, where he has spent his entire academic career. His research has had an extensive reach, affecting the way people work together whether it’s by land, air, sea, or even outer space.

Helmreich’s research interest began when he was serving in the Navy on the USS Decatur. His experience chasing Russian subs during the Cuban Missile Crisis and his observations of the crew’s reactions to extreme stress left quite an impression. Upon completing his tour of duty as executive officer, he made plans to pursue his doctorate in social psychology at Yale University, where he had earned his bachelor’s degree.

As an undergraduate, Helmreich enjoyed the high-speed rush of auto racing. He acquired a passion for sports cars, a love that re-emerged when he recently purchased a 1959 Triumph similar to the one he raced in college. Helmreich kept his racing interests alive by stowing a go-cart in the torpedo room.

“When I was in the Navy I was responsible for the torpedo room,” Helmreich said. “So I would keep the go-cart stored there. When we’d dock I’d have something to race around in and I’d share it with my crewmates.”

During Helmreich’s doctoral studies, the Navy launched Project SEALAB—placing teams of aquanauts, marine biologists and Navy divers on the ocean floor, at 205 feet below sea level, in a pressurized habitat to conduct research. The Navy realized that the behavior of the aquanauts in this environment was of critical interest. The Navy’s problem was finding a social psychologist with military experience who was also a qualified diver. Helmreich surfaced from a limited pool of candidates and SEALAB became the topic of his dissertation and his book, “Groups Under Stress: Psychological Research in SEALAB II.”

In 1969 Helmreich journeyed to the Virgin Islands as a principal investigator for Project Tektite, a diving initiative sponsored by NASA that studied undersea habitation as an analog for long duration spaceflight. He took a number of students as research assistants to observe the aquanauts 24 hours a day by closed circuit TV and code their behavior.

“There was a grand total of about 50 students assisting throughout the seven month study,” Helmreich said. “They learned a lot about teamwork, and people living in strange and closed environments. They also learned a lot about research methods and the process of systematically coding everything that the aquanauts did and said.”

Helmreich’s early research at The University of Texas at Austin was sponsored by NASA, the National Science Foundation, and the Office of Naval Research. In 1978 he gave the keynote address at a conference on human error in aviation that led to an invitation to observe flight crews at work in the cockpit. He has been studying pilots ever since and has established himself as one of the leading experts in aviation safety.

One of the results of Helmreich’s research, funded by the Federal Aviation Administration, was formal training for flight crews in teamwork, communication, and decision-making known as Crew Resource Management. It is now mandated by the United Nations as a standard safety requirement for all the world’s airlines.

“Using a methodology we developed, we’re currently analyzing the dialogue from the cockpit voice recorders of three air crashes and applying our model of Threat and Error Management,” Helmreich said. “This technique, called microcoding, shows the number of tasks addressed by crews and how they are accomplished.”

Helmreich is also working on a project funded by NASA focusing on personality factors for the Mars mission.

“It’s a long flight!” he laughed. “We’re looking at personality and performance, and what types of personalities are suited for a very long flight and group living in a very confined space.”

In recognition for his work in aviation safety, Helmreich has received the Distinguished Service Award and the 2004 Human Factors Award from the Flight Safety Foundation, Aviation Week and Space Technology’s Laurels award, and the Roger Green Medal of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

His research recently has extended into the medical field, a profession that has many similarities to aviation. Both involve high-risk environments, highly trained individuals working in teams, and a hierarchical structure. Concluding that as many as 100,000 patients die annually from medical error, the Institute

Helmreich, continued on page 21
As a child, Karl-Thomas Musselman dreamed of journeying into outer space. Like many children he had the Star Wars and Star Trek action figures. But while most children were merely daydreaming about their space adventures, he was preparing for them.

Musselman attended space camps and academies whenever possible. He immersed himself in NASA’s history and programs. He gained insight into how astronauts train by participating in mock shuttle missions and rotating as a mission scientist, control person, pilot, flight director and crewmember. He learned how to work in a team and solve problems during emergency situations, resulting in him being selected as one of three honorees out of 450 of his peers to receive “The Right Stuff” award.

Back in his hometown of Fredericksburg, Texas, Musselman earned the rank of Eagle Scout following in the scouting tradition of both his father and grandfather. He also received a Rotary International Paul Harris Award for his commitment of service above self—an award rarely given to someone so young—recognizing his fundraising efforts for the Children Feeding Children Plus program.

Everything seemed to be going well for Musselman, but during the 2000 presidential elections something unexpected happened. He discovered the strong gravitational pull of politics and was faced with a very difficult decision. Was Karl-Thomas Musselman meant for the world of politics?

“I thought if Armstrong was the first man on the moon Musselman would be the first man on Mars,” he said. “I didn’t want to give up on the dream that I had had for the past eight years of my life to work as an aerospace engineer at NASA. It was a very stress-
ful time. I finally accepted that yes, I really did want to be in politics and that this was my direction in life."

A goal four years in the making, a 19-year-old Musselman became one of the youngest delegates at the 2004 National Democratic Convention. Prior to winning the nomination he had to compete at the precinct, county and state level.

“Before the state convention I wrote letters to everyone, called people, kept track of who committed support and who was still on the fence. I camped out in front of the Senate district check-in booth handing out campaign materials,” Musselman said. “I was running against a firefighter for Kerry who had been to state conventions before so I was really nervous. When it came down to the vote almost an entire room of hands went up and I had won 80 percent of the vote.”

Musselman has spent long hours volunteering for the Texas and National Democratic Parties; he worked for the Howard Dean Campaign in Texas, Iowa, New Hampshire, and Arizona. He served as an intern for Texas House Representative Mark Strama’s campaign. During the 2004 presidential election he experienced what he describes as one of the toughest but most rewarding parts of the job: door-to-door campaigning.

“You’ll have people who you know are home because you see them running into the house and all the lights mysteriously go out as you approach,” Musselman laughed. “But you balance those off with great ten or fifteen minute conversations with people who truly care. Some of the voters will invite you in and ask if you want coffee or tea. That’s what keeps me moving to the next door even when I’m so tired. Those conversations make me think I’ll do one more block. I think the one-on-one interaction with people is the most rewarding part of any of the campaign work I’ve done.”

Musselman, a government and liberal arts honors (LAH) sophomore at The University of Texas at Austin, has demonstrated a commitment to political and civic involvement. He is co-director of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally Affairs Agency (GLBTAAA), a student government organization.

Through the GLBTAAA, he has coordinated numerous events focusing on sexual identity, education and activism. He is an LBJ Fellow, which gave him the opportunity to attend Future Forum events, allowing him to interact with Texas’ professional leaders. He also writes for a blog (www.burntorangereport.com), an online column, and was a writing tutor to this year’s LAH freshmen class.

As a student, Musselman is interested in social analysis and statistics as a compliment to his political involvement. He was particularly captivated by a “Money and Politics” course taught by government Professor Brian Roberts. For his class project, Musselman researched the money spent during the 2002 election cycle by Texas House candidates for television advertising and how it related to the election outcome. He also researched corporations’ giving of Political Action Committee money and its affect on committee and House votes for Proposition 12, the medical and liability lawsuit reform.

Active in the effort to get more people to vote, Musselman was membership chair for the University Democrats and helped to coordinate their voter registration drive that resulted in 7,000 new voters on campus, with 3,000 voters being signed up the last day.

“We stood out on the drag until midnight the night of the deadline,” Musselman said. “We were registering three people as the tower struck midnight and had to turn others away. There was a 99.6 percent turn out in one of the on-campus precincts according to Travis County election data. Four years ago, most of the turnouts hovered around 20 to 30 percent.”

The night before the first day of early voting on the West Mall of campus was like a scene from a rock concert. There were local media, bubble machines, food, games, students sprawled out on quilts, and even a life-sized cutout of John Kerry. Students were camped out in celebratory anticipation of exercising their right to vote. Musselman was among a crowd of more than a hundred students and was among the approximately 30 students that camped out all night in order to cast their votes first thing in the morning.

Musselman believes one of the most important aspects of a political campaign is building a community. During his work on the Howard Dean campaign he observed how the Internet was used to connect people, particularly people in rural areas where they might not even know there were other supporters around them.

“The campaign community has outlived the campaign.”
For nearly 20 years, Dr. James W. Pennebaker has been giving people an assignment: write down your deepest feelings about an emotional upheaval in your life for 15 or 20 minutes a day for four consecutive days. Many of those who followed his simple instructions have found their immune systems strengthened. Others have seen their grades improve. Sometimes entire lives have changed.

Pennebaker, a professor in the Department of Psychology at The University of Texas at Austin and author of several books, including "Opening Up" and "Writing to Heal," is a pioneer in the study of using expressive writing as a route to healing. His research has shown that short-term focused writing can have a beneficial effect on everyone from those dealing with a terminal illness to victims of violent crime to college students facing first-year transitions.

“When people are given the opportunity to write about emotional upheavals, they often experience improved health,” Pennebaker said. “They go to the doctor less. They have changes in immune function. If they are first-year college students, their grades tend to go up. People will tell us months afterward that it’s been a very beneficial experience for them.”

In his early research Pennebaker was interested in how people who have powerful secrets are more prone to a variety of health problems. If you could find a way for people to share those secrets, would their health problems improve?

It turned out that often they would, and that it wasn’t even necessary for people to tell their secrets to someone else. The act of simply writing about those secrets, even if they destroyed the writing immediately afterward,

“Standing back every now and then and evaluating where you are in life is really important.”
had a positive effect on health. Further studies showed that the benefits weren’t just for those who had dramatic secrets, but could also accrue to those who were dealing with divorces, job rejections or even a difficult commute to work.

“Emotional upheavals touch every part of our lives,” Pennebaker explains. “You don’t just lose a job, you don’t just get divorced. These things affect all aspects of who we are—our financial situation, our relationships with others, our views of ourselves, our issues of life and death. Writing helps us focus and organize the experience.”

Our minds are designed to try to understand things that happen to us. When a traumatic event occurs or we undergo a major life transition, our minds have to work overtime to try to process the experience. Thoughts about the event may keep us awake at night, distract us at work and even make us less connected with other people.

When we translate an experience into language we essentially make the experience more understandable. Individuals may see improvements in what is called “working memory,” essentially our ability to think about more than one thing at a time. They may also find they’re better able to sleep. Their social connections may improve, partly because they have a greater ability to focus on someone besides themselves.

If writing can have such a dramatic effect on our lives, does that mean that we would all be best off keeping a daily diary? Not necessarily, Pennebaker said. While his work is not inconsistent with diary keeping, it acts more as a kind of life course correction. It allows people to step back for a moment and evaluate their lives.

“I’m not convinced that having people write every day is a good idea,” Pennebaker said. “I’m not even convinced that people should write about a horrible event for more than a couple of weeks. You risk getting into a sort of cycle of self-pity.

“But standing back every now and then and evaluating where you are in life is really important.”

Pennebaker’s research is benefiting people outside of those who participate in his studies. In 2004 he published Writing to Heal: A Guided Journal for Recovering from Trauma and Emotional Upheaval. The book is aimed at a general audience and offers a primer on writing and healing and numerous exercises that anyone who is capable of putting pen to paper can undertake. People across the country are giving it a try.

The Charlotte, N.C.-based company WordPlay recently offered a workshop titled “Writing to Heal” that borrows heavily from Pennebaker’s work. The participants each brought a life event they hoped to work through, whether it was a childhood trauma or a recent battle with cancer. Instructor Maureen Ryan Griffin said that each of the students came away feeling the writing had made a difference in their experience.

“They left with a new sense of the power of words,” she said. “They actually got access to using language as a healing tool in a way they had never used it before. Through writing they become active creators of their life stories. They are not simply people something bad or painful has happened to.”

Pennebaker has been looking at specifically how people use language in their writings and whether certain approaches to language translate into greater benefits from writing. To do so, he and his colleagues developed a text analysis program called Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC). Using LIWC they can look at the types of words people use in their writings. They are discovering some interesting patterns.

“People who construct a story, who build some kind of narrative over the course of their writing seem to benefit more than those who don’t,” Pennebaker said. “In other words, if on the first day of writing, people’s stories are not very structured or coherent, but over the three or four days they are able to come up with a more structured story, they seem to benefit the most.”

Making a story out of a messy, complicated experience may make the experience more manageable. Linguistically, Pennebaker looks for words that are associated with more complex thinking, including certain prepositions such as “except,” “without” and “exclude” and causal words such as “cause,” “effect” and “rationale.” An increase in these types of words over the writing process suggests that the experience is becoming clearer and more narrative.

Pennebaker has also found that the ability to change perspectives during the course of writing is also a potent indicator of how well the act of writing will benefit an individual. Using LIWC, he can analyze the types of pronouns an individual uses. A shift in pronouns means a shift in perspective.

Pennebaker, continued on page 22
**Ratliff**

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Ratliff serves on UT’s Development Board, the Executive Committee of the Chancellor’s Council and U.T. Austin’s President’s Council. He also serves as a Trustee of the Law School Foundation and on the Dean’s Roundtable of the School of Law. From 1985 to 1991, he served on the university’s Board of Regents, holding the post of vice chairman of the board from 1985 to 1989.

In 1996, Ratliff was recognized for his long-standing support of the university when he received its Distinguished Alumnus Award. In 2003, the university’s School of Law selected him as the recipient of its Outstanding Alumnus Award.

Ratliff’s career has taken him far from the small town of Sonora where he grew up, but those beginnings no doubt played a role in shaping his activism and involvement. “One of the things I loved about going to a small high school — and there were only 3,500 people in all of Sonora — was the chance to be involved in everything,” said Ratliff. “I tried my hand at sports, speech events and acting among other things. “You just don’t know about pressure until you have to perform Shakespeare in front of your football buddies,” he laughs. “Of course, the fact that Dan Blocker, the drama coach, was huge and also helped coach football didn’t hurt.” Blocker would go on to play Hoss Cartwright on the classic television Western “Bonanza.”

Ratliff’s energy and willingness to take on challenges have not dimmed. In 2003, in addition to his other work on behalf of the university, he agreed to serve on the Commission of 125, a group of citizens convened to express a vision for the university in the coming decades. The group delivered its recommendations to President Faulkner the following year.

Ratliff and his wife, Gay, have been married for more than 40 years and have a son and two daughters.

*Marisa Rainsberger*

**Mackintosh**

Continued from Page 14

Currently, Mackintosh is working on a book with an entirely new focus for her: architecture. The book has been commissioned by the Highland Park Library to provide a local history of the Texas neighborhood it serves. Mackintosh is interviewing local homeowners and merchants to provide perspective on the personal and historic significance of the architecture, sidewalks, shopping mall and other neighborhood features. The book is due to be released in 2006.

In addition to her family and career, Mackintosh continues to give back to the university and other community organizations such as St. Philip’s School and Community Center in Dallas where she served on the board for many years. Her ongoing involvement in the life of UT has spanned decades and included stints with the university’s Development Board and the Liberal Arts Foundation. In 1981, the university’s alumni association selected her as the first female recipient of the Outstanding Young Texas Exes Award.

In 1985, Mackintosh was invited to speak at the university’s campus-wide commencement ceremony to give graduates a feel of campus life in the 1960s and 1970s. She was also the featured speaker at the College of Liberal Art’s graduation ceremony in 1996. Most recently Mackintosh served as part of the Commission of 125, a group of citizens convened in 2003 to express a vision on how the university could best serve Texas and the larger society in the next 25 years. Mackintosh served as chair of the Commission’s Committee for Libraries, Museums and Information Technology Resources.

“Our committee spent a lot of time considering how to help students find credible information online, how to make UT’s wonderful collections available to the world online, and how to maintain and enhance collections like those of the Ransom Center and the Benson Collection,” said Mackintosh. “It’s exciting to see that some of the recommendations we felt were quite far reaching already have been accomplished.”

*Marisa Rainsberger*

**Helmreich**

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methods for improving safety. Funded by a grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, his research team is looking at the behavior of frontline medical personnel, including observation of surgical and emergency room teams. For his research in medicine he received the David S. Sheridan Award ‘for distinguished service to mankind’ from the Albany College of Medicine in 1997.

Helmreich credits his overall success and love of the job to his Human Factors Research Project team and expresses extreme pride in the accomplishments of students, both doctoral and undergraduate.

*Michele Bryant*

*Photo by Marsha Miller*
sociologists, Hamermesh is the first economist to take a look at the issue. And by using economic theories and models, Hamermesh said he hopes he shed new light on the subject.

“The beauty of being in this business is that unlike some other disciplines, there’s a specific theory with specific predictions,” Hamermesh said. “And when you test them and they come out correct, you feel just wonderful about the whole thing. That’s why this paper was so gratifying.”

In addition, Hamermesh said he believes his study will open avenues for further research. To that end, he was able to get a question about time stress added to a major U.S. survey last year, so new data on the topic will be available soon.

“There’s absolutely no doubt in my mind that somebody will use those data and take off from our paper sometime in the next four or five years,” Hamermesh said. “So in a sense I’ve laid the seed for future work.”

But even if new studies shed further light on the time crunch issue, Hamermesh said we shouldn’t expect Americans to heed his advice and quit complaining. After all, he said, complaining is what makes us special: “The essence of America is complaining. It’s really a unique cultural thing in this country.”

Anthony Zurcher
Photos by Marsha Miller

“So one day they may be talking about how they feel and how they see it,” he said, “but the next day they may talk about what’s going on with others, whether it’s their family or a perpetrator or someone else. Being able to switch back and forth is a very powerful indicator of how they progress.”

It’s not clear whether people who are able to construct narratives and change perspectives can be guided to do so in their writing, or whether doing so is simply a reflection of an emergent healing process for them. In “Writing to Heal,” however, Pennebaker offers exercises to help people experiment with both skills. After their four days of writing, individuals can analyze their own writing and try writing from different perspectives.

Griffin used Pennebaker’s exercise in changing perspectives in her class and found that it was one of the most profound things her students did.

“I was really struck by how amazed everyone was after writing about an event from more than one perspective,” she said. “It made a huge difference for them and their sense of the story to do this, and they were surprised by the power that had.”

Pennebaker is quick to point out that the act of confessing or expressing trauma has been part of healing for virtually all cultures, ranging from Native American indigenous cultures to those based on both Western and Eastern religious beliefs. He also notes that writing should be used cautiously. He doesn’t recommend trying to write about a trauma too soon after it happens and said that if a topic seems like it’s too much to handle, don’t try to tackle it before you’re ready. The effects of writing can be subtle, but sometimes they can be dramatic.

As an example, Pennebaker speaks of a young woman he worked with who had lost her husband very suddenly in an accident. The woman was praised by her colleagues in graduate school for how courageously and smoothly she had handled her husband’s death. She came to Pennebaker because she felt she needed to write about her loss. By the last day of writing she said she was transformed.

Within two months the woman had quit graduate school and moved back to her hometown. The writing experience had made her realize she was on a life path she no longer wanted and that she had been putting on a false, cheerful front with her friends.

“As a researcher, I could say, ‘Well here I have a technique that made an individual drop out of school, stop pursuing an advanced degree and return home,’” Pennebaker said. “It was a dramatic change, and it sounds like a failure. But from her perspective, it wasn’t.”

In fact, the woman felt that those four days of writing had saved her life.

Vivé Griffith
Photos by Marsha Miller
Shola Lynch ('92) has excelled as a scholar, athlete and filmmaker. She was just selected to receive a 2005 Outstanding Young Texas Exes Award to recognize her professional achievements as a filmmaker and her loyalty to the university.

Lynch received a liberal arts honors degree from The University of Texas at Austin and went on to earn her master’s degree in American history from the University of California. During her time in Austin, she was a nationally ranked track athlete in the 800- and 1500-meter races. According to Lynch, her most important life lesson derived from an athletic career that spanned 15 years of national and international competition.

“The lesson is not one of being a champion but the payoff of perseverance in the pursuit of a goal,” Lynch said.

Lynch made her directorial debut February 2005 with “CHISHOLM ’72 – Unbought & Unbossed” on PBS’s P.O.V. series. The documentary is about Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress and to run for president.

“Our goal was to make a documentary as passionate and powerful as Chisholm herself,” Lynch said. “The establishment didn’t endorse her, and yet she still found the courage and support to run for president through non-traditional means. I hope this film can be a springboard for discussion about presidential politics, equality and participation in democracy. Shirley Chisholm’s story is an important reminder of the power of a dedicated individual to make a difference.”

“I hope this film can be a springboard for discussion about presidential politics, equality and participation in democracy.”
Lynch faced many obstacles in trying to make the film along the way. First there was the matter of finding Chisholm, then convincing her to participate and finally generating enough funding for the project. Despite Lynch’s best efforts, finding Chisholm finally came down to luck, or perhaps fate. One night while out with a girlfriend at a bar in New York, Lynch commented to the bartender that his friend was cute. The next thing she knew the bartender was ducking under the bar to grab his friend and bring him back.

“Through the course of our conversation, he started talking about his mom who is a local politician,” Lynch said. “He then mentioned that she had just thrown a barbecue for Shirley Chisholm and I said, ‘Oh my goodness, Shirley Chisholm?’ He asked me if I knew who she was because I hadn’t mentioned anything about the project. I just thought it was meant to be.

“Ultimately the way I was able to appeal to her [Chisholm] was to appeal to the teacher in her,” Lynch added. “I told her that her story could not be lost to the next generation. I think on the third or fourth phone call I filibustered as to why I wanted to make this film. I told her that the story was not just about her, but about future generations, and she finally said yes.”

Lynch received funding for the documentary from many entities related to PBS including P.O.V (public television’s annual award-winning showcase for independent, non-fiction films), foundations, corporations and the National Black Programming Consortium. When she first started her fundraising efforts she approached smaller foundations and wasn’t sure if she could raise the money, but again was struck with a bit of good luck. By coincidence, Lynch was on a plane and met a man who had been part of the committee to elect the first black congressman. The group had been positively influenced by Shirley Chisholm’s work.

“He ended up giving me my first grant,” Lynch said. “It was $1,500 and I thought, ‘Wow!’ Having one grant made it a little easier to get the next grant, which was close to $5,000, and then $10,000, and then $20,000 and it grew from there.”

While Lynch has established herself as a director and producer working behind the camera, she’s also spent time in front of it. As a child growing up in New York, where she currently lives, she became part of the PBS family as a regular on “Sesame Street” from ages two to six.

Before Lynch’s directorial debut, she worked with acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns and Florentine Films on the Peabody Award-winning “Frank Lloyd Wright” and the ten-part “JAZZ” series. She also worked on the Emmy Award winning “Do You Believe in Miracles? The Story of the 1980 US Olympic Hockey Team,” an HBO Sports documentary that is part of the “Sports in the Twentieth Century” series. At veteran documentary filmmaker Orlando Bagwell’s ROJA Productions, she co-produced a documentary short about the 2000 Census and racial identity that was included in the last hour of the four-part series on race in America, titled “Matters of Race,” which aired on PBS in 2003.

Her work has been recognized at prestigious events including the Sundance Film Festival, South by Southwest Film Festival and the Independent Spirit Awards.
When Oprah Winfrey became America’s first black female billionaire, Forbes magazine took note. The major news networks took note. And Dr. Juliet E.K. Walker, professor in the Department of History at The University of Texas at Austin, took note as well.

As the country’s foremost expert on black business history, Walker has made black business her business. And recently, she’s made Oprah Winfrey her business, too.

While the media may be interested in Winfrey’s wardrobe, weight loss or famous car giveaways, Walker is interested in her role as an entrepreneur and what her success says about race and gender in business today. She’s exploring this in “Oprah Winfrey: An American Entrepreneur,” a book she is writing for Harvard Business School Press.

For Walker, Winfrey is a complicated figure. She is a potent personality and a cultural phenomenon as well as a remarkably accomplished businessperson. Her success in marketing the Oprah brand in television, film and publishing transcends race.

“The primary way I relate Oprah to black business is that she is a black person who is involved in business who has never really depended on a black consumer base,” Walker said. “Yet her business activities reflect certain aspects of the expansion of black business activity in the late 20th century, her joint ventures being one.”

Winfrey’s joint ventures with Walt Disney, Oxygen Media and Hearst Magazines are typical of what Walker considers the most recent wave in the rise of black corporate America.

In her book, *The History of Black Business in America*, Walker details the breadth of black business, beginning with the activities of African American slaves, among whom she marks a history of entrepreneurship. For most of the 20th century, small retail and service establishments and black hair care product manufacturers were the bedrock of black business.

“In the first waves of the century, black businesses catered to a black consumer market,” Walker said. “Businesses were primarily sole proprietorships, and the only real corporate businesses were insurance companies and banks. Later, with various affirmative action agendas and government support, blacks were able to develop enterprises within a larger market.”

In recent years, many black businesses positioned themselves for participation in the mainstream American business community through forming joint ventures with mainstream businesses. It’s an expansion in the crossover market black businesses first found in the civil rights era and exemplified by Berry Gordy’s Motown Records, founded in 1959.

Still, while it is easy today to point to African American business success stories—Black Entertainment Television (BET)’s founder Robert Johnson, sports star turned businessman Magic Johnson and hip hop entrepreneur Russell Simmons are obvious examples—the reality is that African American businesses are not even close to achieving parity with white businesses.

African Americans own only two percent of the nation’s businesses, and almost half of all black-owned businesses have receipts of less than $10,000. The average annual receipts of African American-owned enterprises are $86,500, compared to $410,600 for all U.S. firms. And in 1997, black business receipts totaled only four-tenths of one percent of all American business receipts.

Walker believes that in addition to acknowledging the state of black business in the country, it’s critical to understand that African Americans have a long history of business activity. Black economic history tends to focus on unemployment and low wages, and pre-Civil War history tends to focus on plantation slavery and the internal dynamics of the slave institution. Walker argues that these are limited perspectives of history.

“To help support the study of black business history, in 2002 Walker founded the Center for Black Business History, Entrepreneurship and Technology (CBBH). It is the only such center at an American university, and it was formed in response to the racial disparities in wealth holding, employment opportunities, income and business profits in America.

*Walker, continued on page 28*
like humans would be perhaps the single largest leap imaginable in information technology," said Bovik, the principal investigator for the project.

Most previous experiments in visual perception have looked at very controlled stimuli, such as a point of light on a dark screen. Very little data exists on evaluating sight in natural surroundings. Thanks to advancements in computer technology, it’s now possible to process the huge amount of data necessary to do such evaluations. Scientists can bring natural stimuli into the lab and control the experiment in a way that allows them to break images down into their most basic elements and then study what unique characteristics draw the eye.

“We know that people’s sight focuses on the details of their surroundings,” said Geisler, noting that when a person enters a room, he or she will pay little attention to the tan walls but will notice the pictures or other objects people have hanging on the wall. “Now we need to specifically identify the stimuli—such as light, color, movement, etc.—that triggers the eye to move and the mind to register the element.”

Another way to look at it, he explained, is to think of a symphony. While most people hear the music as a whole, the performance breaks down to different instruments, and even further to individual tones. Given that the mind does not actively process hundreds of thousands of visual stimuli each day, the team believes that the eye’s movements must break down into fairly simple “tones,” or commands. The eye’s evolution, therefore, has made it extraordinarily practiced at processing huge amounts of data every instant and acting only on what’s relevant.

“Think back again to the paper roll experiment,” said Cormack. “That high resolution view through the tube is how a camera treats everything it can see. We want to be able to program the camera with simple mathematical formulas so that it is drawn by movement or anomalies at a low resolution in a natural setting to mimic how the eyes move. This way, it only needs to ‘see’ at a high resolution over a small central area.”

The result? A camera that is able to sense stimuli at the periphery and react automatically, moving its gaze immediately as the eye would move.

“This ability could be really great or really scary depending on your point of view,” said Cormack.

From a medical perspective, it could offer a number of advantages. For instance, doctors might be able to train individuals who have lost portions of their sight to more efficiently use the vision they have left.

Bovik also sees diagnostic applications for the technology. Most doctors, he notes, miss about 10 percent of breast tumors identified with a mammogram. A few physicians, however, consistently identify even the most elusive tumors. Documenting the sight patterns of these few, and applying them to a mechanical “physician’s assistant,” could help all doctors improve diagnosis.

As we gaze into the future, it seems we’re only starting to perceive the tremendous applications of this research.

Marisa Rainsberger

Photos by Caroling Lee

Musselman

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Musselman said. “Politics is becoming more clear and directly connected to the people. Organizations are moving away from using hierarchical structures. All members are on the same playing field. You may still have a leader above you, but he or she is communicating to everyone at once rather than telling you that you need to tell your people to tell their people something. If you have an idea you can suggest it to the organization instead.

“It’s the natural evolution of society and how we choose to organize ourselves,” he added. “It is being reflected in politics, education, music, corporations and social groups. This is not an indication of a fad, but a truly new way people operate.”

Michelle Bryant

Photos by Marsha Miller
Establishing CBBH in the College of Liberal Arts acknowledges that to look at and understand black business, you have to look at the entire American culture. In addition to promoting and supporting further research and organizing conferences, the center established the Texas Black Business Hall of Fame, which inducted its first members in 2003.

Inductees Sherra L. Aguirre, Comer Cottrell, Kase L. Lawal and George Foreman were singled out for their distinctiveness in African American entrepreneurship, their contributions to American business and their community leadership in the State of Texas, particularly in their support of black colleges and universities.

Aguirre built a business by profitably professionalizing the domestic work of black women. The founder and CEO of Aztec Facility Services in Houston, Aguirre expanded her original cleaning service to become owner of one of the nation’s largest black female-owned businesses. With 1,000 employees, her multimillion-dollar business provides facility management and support services to corporate, industrial and government clients in four states.

Lawal, an African immigrant, owns the Houston-based oil and gas refinery CAMAC Holdings, Inc., only the second black enterprise to have business receipts of more than $1 billion. Foreman was recognized as “America’s Salesman” because of his many successful business ventures, including the George Foreman Grill. More than 50 million of them sit in kitchens across the globe.

Cottrell’s story offers an interesting look at black business in the 20th century. In 1970 he and his brother co-founded Pro-Line Corporation, one of the “big four” in black hair care products manufacturing. Pro-Line became one of the largest black businesses in the nation, with more than $100 million in annual receipts and markets in 43 countries. Cottrell was also part owner of the Texas Rangers baseball team.

Cottrell sold Pro-Line in 2000 to Alberto-Culver. The sale marked the end of an era when African American-owned businesses dominated the black consumer market in the sale of hair care products and cosmetics for blacks. Like the sale of BET to Viacom in 2002, it indicates the increasing difficulties black businesses now face in competing for the black consumer market.

“The question that must be answered,” Walker said, “is why has it been necessary for many of the nation’s largest black-owned businesses to sell out, notwithstanding the growing and profitable black consumer market, now some $600 billion?”

Walker believes work like that at CBBH will help. Forums with successful black entrepreneurs are planned, and each year the center organizes a conference that addresses an important issue in black business. In October, CBBH will host “Selling Blackness and Getting Paid: Hip Hop Entrepreneurs and Business Enterprises.” The conference will examine the multiple business activities generated from the hip hop industry and its impact on the economic life of African Americans.

“Our hope is to secure the profitable expansion of black business activity in which black businesspeople are able to tap into the mainstream American market in the same way Fortune 500 companies do,” she said.

The goal is in line with the goal of civil rights organizations for the 21st century: to create economic freedom and bridge the wealth gap for African Americans. For Walker, this means looking to successful contemporaries like Winfrey and Robert Johnson and also back to the roots of black business before the Civil War. In her research, Walker has uncovered numerous examples of early entrepreneurs, but it’s a story from her own roots that she often returns to.


After moving with his owner to Kentucky, he was allowed to hire out his time and eventually set up his own salt peter works, an enterprise he maintained until he left Kentucky. The fact that salt peter was a main ingredient in the manufacture of gunpowder is an irony not lost on Walker.

“That in itself was a contradiction,” she said. “It was illegal for slaves to carry firearms, but here’s a slave processing an ingredient used in gunpowder.”

In 1817 Frank purchased his wife’s freedom for $800. Two years later he bought his own liberty for the same price. By the end of his lifetime, Frank had founded the town of New Philadelphia, Ill., and purchased the freedom of 16 members of his family. He was a successful businessman, purchasing land and dealing in livestock.

An entrepreneur, pioneer and model of industry, Free Frank also holds one more distinction. He was Walker’s great great grandfather.

Vivé Griffith
Photos by Marsha Miller
Honors and Awards

Dr. Alison Frazier (History) was awarded a Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship to complete her study of Sanctuarium, a two-volume collection about medieval saints’ lives that was printed in 15th century Milan. She is the first female recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship from the Department of History. She also was awarded a Villa I Tatti Fellowship from The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies to support research on Sanctuarium as well as other Italian Renaissance projects.

Dr. Gregory Knapp (Geography and the Environment) was awarded a nine-month research grant from the Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship Program to study “Water Management, Livelihoods and Landscapes in the Andes.” This is Knapp’s second Fulbright-Hays Fellowship.

Dr. Robert Woodberry (Sociology) was awarded a $500,000 grant aimed at promoting “spiritual capital” research. With the money, Woodberry will lead research on the influence of various religions on health, education and economics.

Dr. John Higley (Chair, Government) was selected by the American Political Science Association’s Committee on the Status of Blacks in the Profession to receive its annual award for advancing the professional development of African Americans within the discipline. The award also recognizes the department which, through close collaboration with the Center for African and African American Studies directed by Dr. Ted Gordon, has recruited six African American scholars during the past three years.

Jo Anne Huber (Government) has been elected president of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). The association promotes and supports quality academic advising in institutions of higher education to enhance the educational development of students.

Juniors Lauren Gilstrap (Plan II Honors, Business Honors) and Rebekah Perry (Plan II Honors, Government and Philosophy) have been awarded Harry S. Truman Scholarships. The 75 Truman Scholar recipients were selected on the basis of leadership potential, intellectual ability, and likelihood of ‘making a difference’ from among 602 candidates nominated by 299 colleges and universities nationwide. Each Truman Scholarship provides $30,000 for graduate study.

In Memoriam

Dr. David B. Cohen (1941-2005), professor in Clinical Psychology at The University of Texas at Austin for 33 years, has died. Cohen enriched the lives of thousands of students. He was the author of six books on diverse topics that included sleep and dreaming, psychopathology, the nature of behavior, depression and human nature, the influence of parenting on the essential nature of a child, and a manuscript completed just eight days prior to his death on the analysis of Shakespeare from a psychological viewpoint.

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For information about planned giving, or making a donation of securities, please contact the Development Office at (512) 475-9763.
When Chris Chadwick enrolled at The University of Texas at Austin in the fall of 1990, he was following a family tradition set forth by his father and older brother. A graduate of Robert E. Lee High School in Houston, Chris entered the College of Liberal Arts and decided to pursue a degree in government. He was a handsome, energetic and outgoing student who was active in Kappa Alpha fraternity. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing and sharing these pastimes with his friends.

Chris’ life tragically was cut short in the winter of his freshman year when he suffered a heart attack one Monday morning after returning from classes. His death was mourned by hundreds of friends who remembered him warmly for his ready smile and positive attitude.

“Chris was a wonderful young man who cared about helping other people,” said his father, Tom Chadwick. “He caught on early to what life was really about.”

To honor Chris’ memory and his spirit of giving, Tom Chadwick and his late wife Carol established the Christopher Benton Chadwick Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Liberal Arts. Over the past several years, the Chadwicks have contributed more than $300,000 to the endowment that funds all educational expenses - including tuition, room, board and books - for the student recipient.

“I know Chris got a big smile on his face when we did this,” said his father. “Establishing this scholarship and being able to help a young person who might not be able to go to college otherwise would have been important to him.”

The scholarship is based on financial need and gives the student flexibility to change majors during his or her academic career, a parameter that was important to the Chadwicks.

Individuals interested in supporting the College of Liberal Arts through an endowment or other gift should contact its director of development, Kathleen Aronson, at 512-475-9763.

Editor’s note: Tom Chadwick died April 14, 2005
Division of Rhetoric and Composition

The Division of Rhetoric and Composition (DRC) was created in 1993 to provide an outstanding undergraduate writing program at The University of Texas at Austin. To fulfill its mission, the DRC has assembled a faculty of nationally recognized scholars, theorists, historians and writers who have won many awards for outstanding teaching. The DRC has significant strengths in composition theory, history of rhetoric, professional writing, argumentation, visual rhetoric and computers and writing.

Endowments and gifts from alumni and friends have made it possible for the DRC to assemble its excellent faculty contingent and to develop and expand programs that support its mission. For instance, DRC created and operates the Undergraduate Writing Center (UWC), one of the largest facilities of its kind in the country.

The UWC provides individualized, professional advice on all aspects of writing, offering more than 11,000 consultations to students each year. From a freshman’s first term paper to a senior’s law school application or résumé, writers of all levels and needs are benefiting from this resource. Complementing these efforts, the Writing Across the Curriculum Initiative improves students’ ability to communicate effectively to the general public and to diverse audiences within their discipline by integrating writing into all courses.

The DRC is also home to the Computer Writing and Research Lab (CWRL), one of the first and most respected centers for the study of writing and pedagogy in electronic environments. The CWRL maintains five state-of-the-art computer classrooms, a multimedia lab, a comprehensive Web site, and ongoing research programs.

To find out how you can support the Division of Rhetoric and Composition and its programs, contact Kathleen Aronson in the College of Liberal Arts Development Office at 512-475-9763 or mcaronson@mail.utexas.edu.