College Welcomes Award-Winning Writer

By Linda Jackson

“She Flies,” a play about the challenges a young Latina girl faces as the first in her family to dream of attending college was presented on May 1, 2006 at the UT College of Education. Over 100 elementary, middle and high school students, as well as University faculty and students attended the production. Marita De La Torre directed the cast made up of members from the Latina sorority, Kappa Delta Chi.

Written by award-winning Mexican-American author and playwright David Rice, the play focuses on the struggles of a high school senior named Milagros to reconcile her dream of college and her parents’ wishes. Rice adapted the play from a short story in his book, Crazy Loco. This short story collection won the American Library Association’s “Best Books for Young Readers” in 2001. Rice’s work has been nominated for the Tomas Rivera Mexican American Children’s Book Award and the Pura Belpre Award. He was a Pen Center USA West Awards finalist.

The UT College of Education’s Teacher Education Committee hopes to continue with events such as this successful spring diversity-related production. “The College’s Teacher Education Committee has been looking at ways to better educate our future teachers about culturally diverse students,” says Dr. Angela Valenzuela, associate professor in Mexican-American Studies and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. “Last fall we held a symposium, open to College of Education faculty, in which we discussed the challenges and concerns related to preparing future teachers for culturally diverse classrooms. The performance addressed some of the misconceptions about why Latinos are underrepresented on college campuses.”

Sponsors of the play were the College of Education’s Dean’s Office and the Teacher Education Committee, the Office of Inclusion and Cross-Cultural Effectiveness, Center for Mexican-American Studies, Center for African-American Studies and Kappa Delta Chi Sorority.
**University COOP to Fund Career Services Center**

*By Kay Randall*

George Mitchell and University Cooperative Society recently gave $75,000 to the College of Education for an Education Career Services Center, to be located in the Education Services Office. The funds will be used to construct an area that is suitable for students and recruiters to meet and conduct research.

“We will be building a wall in the main reception area and marking off what will be a very welcoming, inviting area for students and recruiters to use,” says Dr. Sharon Evans, Director, Education Services. “There will be counters where students look over our career-related materials as well as computers and a seating area. This new resource for our students will be called the Education Career Services Center, and we are extremely grateful to Mr. Mitchell and the University Cooperative Society for making it possible.”

Renovations are scheduled to begin this summer.

**Dean’s Office welcomes new Associate Dean**

*By Richard Mattingly*

The College of Education Dean's Office is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Sherry L. Field as Associate Dean of Teacher Education, Student Affairs and Administration. Dr. Field joined the faculty of The University of Texas at Austin in the fall of 2001 to lead the College of Education Social Studies Education Program. She brings a wealth of experience to the position, including teaching, cohort coordination, research, and management experience.

Please welcome Dr. Field to the Dean's Office.

**Bellmont Renovations Underway**

*By Richard Hogeda*

The Dean’s Office Advisors in Kinesiology and Health Education will be enjoying a new landscape this fall. Jason Gentry and Richard Hogeda, currently located in BEL 222, will be moving to the 10th floor as part of the renovations for the Kinesiology and Health Education Department. Career Services GRA Jody Haut will be moving as well. In addition to the new offices, a new student lounge is being completed which will be next door to the new Advising and Career Services offices.
By Courtney Myers

The College of Education Spring 2006 Commencement ceremony for undergraduate students was held on Friday, May 19th at 12:00 p.m. in Gregory Gymnasium. Approximately 350 May and August graduates were in attendance at the commencement ceremony along with 2,500 friends and family members.

As sounds of “Pomp and Circumstance” echoed throughout Gregory Gymnasium, graduates entered the gymnasium full of pride and enthusiasm on Friday afternoon. Senior Associate Dean Marilyn C. Kameen welcomed the audience and Dr. Ed Emmer delivered the Invocation. Dean Manuel Justiz congratulated graduates and their families and introduced the commencement speaker, Dr. Shirley Neeley. Dr. Neeley is the Texas Commissioner of Education and serves as the head of the Texas Education Agency, which oversees 1,037 school districts and about 200 charter schools. She provided an inspirational commencement speech.

Following the recognition of graduates, five graduating seniors seated on stage rose and led graduates and family members in singing “The Eyes of Texas.” Singers included Rebecca Frankel, Nathan Jugenitz, Jamie McKenney, Amanda Scharf, and Jana Walker. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the marshals led students out of the gymnasium to the sounds of “March Grandioso.”

The joint commencement ceremony for graduate students completing master’s and doctoral degrees will be held on Saturday, December 9th at 9:00 a.m. in the Bass Concert Hall of the Performing Arts Center. All College of Education students completing master’s or doctoral degrees are welcome to attend this ceremony hosted by the Graduate School. Please contact Andrea St. Lawrence in the Office of Graduate Studies for further information on the commencement ceremony for graduate students.