

UTSA RETIRED FACULTY ASSOCIATION BIOGRAPHY

Name: Marian Letitia Martinello
City of residence: San Antonio, TX
Contact email (optional):
marrob@earthlink.net

Department: Interdisciplinary Learning
and Teaching
Academic rank: Professor Emeritus
Year retired: 2000



Birthplace: Manhattan, NY
Marital Status: Widow

Birth year: 1935
Name of spouse or partner: Thomas H.
Robinson, deceased 2003

Recent activities and interests:

Since retirement, I have written two books on historical inquiry, both published by TCU Press. A novel for young adults about a San Antonio chili queen for TCU Press's Chaparral Books is nearing completion. I have been making presentations about the topics of my books at book fairs, book signings, and book clubs. I spend the most restful time of each week in the company of my retired Thoroughbred racehorse. One of my great pleasures is reading a wide variety of literature just for fun. Each month, I lunch with a group of professional women with whom I've worked on a variety of educational projects since the 1970s. Occasionally, I help out with public programs at educational institutions in the city and state. I regularly attend museum exhibits, concerts, theater and sports events, and movies with friends and on my own. And each year, I try to check off at least one entry on my bucket list.

My Retirement Story:

When I first began thinking about retirement, I promised myself that I would leave when I was at the top of my game and at a time when my colleagues might regret my departure. As I approached my sixty-fifth birthday, my mother's failing health and my long-retired husband's urging encouraged me to set the date as May 31, 2000. I did not know at the time that less than a year later I would have emergency surgery during which, the surgeon recalled, "You touched wings with angels." I did not know that a year after that my mother would die or that a year after that, I would lose my husband. As I reflect back on events, the timing of my decision was fortuitous.

Three years after retirement, bereft and drained, I found solace in the company of my retired Thoroughbred racehorse and a new sense of worth in writing about my long-term professional interest: inquiry learning and primary source research. I restarted an exploration into San Antonio's colonial soldiers, a topic that my late husband had wanted us to collaborate on after my retirement. The resulting book, *The Search for Pedro's Story*, was dedicated in to Tom. In writing that book, I caught my second wind and I began exploring San Antonio's chili queens on Military Plaza in the 1880s, resulting in *The Search for a Chili Queen: On the Fringes of a Rebozo*. That work, in turn, provided the research base for a young adult novel set in mid-1880s San Antonio, currently in manuscript form.

When I was asked to participate in UTSA's strategic planning, I eagerly agreed. Soon after, I rejoined my college for an interim assignment as Acting Associate Dean for Research until a current faculty member could be appointed. I was honored by the invitation and happy to serve. When colleagues asked me to visit a class to talk about my work, I felt elated and enjoyed my interactions with students. I may have retired, but my sense of connection to the UTSA and my profession is still strong.

And so it was with great pleasure that I joined the founding members of the UTSA Retired Faculty Association to establish a means for retired faculty—and those who are yet to retire—to maintain social and service affiliations with UTSA. I lived out most of my professional life at this university. As I contributed to its development, the university was generous with opportunities for my personal academic and professional growth. I am grateful and proud to stay connected and involved.

Publications, creative works, professional activities, or achievements:

Books

Martinello, M.L. (2009). *The Search for a Chili Queen: On the Fringes of a Rebozo*. Fort Worth: TCU Press.

Martinello, M.L. and Nesmith, Samuel (2006). *The Search for Pedro's Story*. Fort Worth: TCU Press.

Martinello, M. L. (2003). *Ready's Gifts*. San Antonio: MindCatcher Press.

Martinello, M. L. (2003) *Pathways for Inquiry* (Third Edition). San Antonio: MindCatcher Press.

Martinello, M. L. (2000). *Pathways for Inquiry: An Approach to Lifelong Learning*. Carrollton, TX: Alliance Press.

Martinello, M. L., & Cook, G. E. (2000). *Interdisciplinary Inquiry in Teaching and Learning* (Second Edition). Columbus, Oh: Merrill/Prentice-Hall.

Martinello, M. L. & Cook, G. E. (2000). *Indagación interdisciplinaria en la enseñanza y el aprendizaje*. Barcelona: Editorial Gedisa Biblioteca de Educación.

Martinello, M. L., Cook, G. E. & Woodson, L.T. (Eds.) (1998). *Modes of Inquiry: Voices of Scholars Across The Fields of Study*. Carrollton, TX: Alliance Press.

Martinello, M. L. & Cook, G. E. (1994). *Interdisciplinary Inquiry in Teaching and Learning*. Columbus, Oh: Merrill/Macmillan.

Martinello, M. L. (1992). *Cedar Fever: The Story of a German–Texan Girl During WWI*. San Antonio: Corona Press.

Martinello, M. L. (1987). *The Search for Emma's Story: A Model for Humanities Detective Work*. Ft. Worth: Texas Christian University Press.

Martinello, M.L., Robinson, Thomas H., Bruni, MaryAnn (1986). Illustrated by Caroline Shelton. *Hopes, Prayers, and Promises*. San Antonio: TexArt.

Martinello, M. L. & Sance, M. (1982). *A Personal History Book: The Afro–American Texans*. San Antonio: The Institute of Texan Cultures.

Martinello, M. L. & Nesmith, S. P. (1980). *With Domingo Leal in San Antonio, 1734*. San Antonio: The Institute of Texan Cultures.

Martinello, M. L. & Field, W. (1979). *Who Are the Chinese Texans?* San Antonio: The Institute of Texan Cultures.

Articles

The following titles are illustrative of the focus of my educational inquiries during my years in academe:

Co-inquiring with children: Asking Questions. *The Educational Forum* 62 (2) (Winter, 1998), 164–171.

To Guide the Intelligent Novice: Teacher Use of a HyperSearch Concept for Students' Authentic Inquiry. *Journal of Technology and Teacher Education.*, 3 (1), (1995), 25–45.

(With Gillian E. Cook). From Topics to Themes, *Middle School Journal.*, 25 (January, 1994), 40–44.

(with Gillian E. Cook). The Interdisciplinary Qualities of Inquiry, *Educational Forum* , 58 (Winter, 1993), 36–47.

(with Gillian E. Cook). Interweaving the Threads of Learning: Interdisciplinary Curriculum and Teaching, *National Association of Secondary Schools Principal Curriculum Report* (Feb. 1992), 21 (3), 6 pp.

(with Megan Kromer). Developing and Assessing Lower–SES Hispanic Children's Inferential Thinking Through a Museum–School Program, *Journal of Elementary Science Education*, 2 (Summer, 1990), 21–36.

(with Mauricio Gonzalez). The Museum as a Field Setting in Teacher Education. *Journal of Museum Education*, 12 (Fall, 1987).

(with Laurie Gudzikowski and Sarah Hepner). Training Docents in Socratic Questioning. *American Association of Museums' Sourcebook*, (Spring, 1987).

Visual Thinking in the Elementary Curriculum: Teaching and Learning Strategies. *Creating Meaning: Readings from the 16th Annual Conference of the International Visual Literacy Association*. 1986. Roberts A. Braden and Alice D. Walker (eds.). Blacksburg, VA: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Imagery in Education: A Museum–University Collaboration. *Journal of Museum Education*, 10 (Spring, 1985), 13–15.

Visual Thinking and Humanities Detective Work: An Undergraduate Course for Secondary Students. *Visual Literacy: Enhancing Human Potential*. (1984). Alice D. Walker, Roberts A. Braden, and Lenora H. Dunker (eds.) Blacksburg, VA: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, pp. 299–308.

(with Gillian E. Cook and Sally Wiskemann). Preparing Community Volunteers for Museum Education, *Curator*, 26 (1) (March 1983), 37–57.

(with Robert E. Roemer). Divisions in the Education Professorate and the Future of Professional Education, *Educational Studies*, (Summer, 1982), 203–223.

(with Gillian E. Cook). Roots and Wings: A Legacy for Children at the Institute of Texan Cultures. *Roundtable Reports*, (Summer/Fall, 1978), 6–7.

(with William D. Hedges). 1977. What the Schools Can Do: Some Alternatives for the Here and Now. In *Feeling, Valuing and the Art of Growing*. Yearbook of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD). Washington, D.C.: ASCD, pp. 229–247.

(with William D. Hedges). Role Examination to Increase the Productivity of Faculty Committees, *Texas Study of Secondary Education Research Journal*, 6 (Spring, 1975), 16–19.

Teaching to Communicate. *New Directions in Teaching*, 4 (Winter, 1974), 18–23.

Playgrounds for Learning. *Elementary School Journal*, 84 (November 1973), 106–114.

Developing Discipline in the Classroom: Insights from an Experience in English Primary Schools, *Thought Patterns in Education*, 1, (Winter 1973), 24–31.

Curriculum Materials

The following instructional materials were designed to promote student inquiry in science and social studies:

(with Elizabeth Hughes) (1989). *Flowering Plants*. Project MECCA Teaching Unit, Grade 5. San Antonio: The University of Texas at San Antonio and The Witte Museum.

(with Nel Reed and Holly Morgan) (1989). *Vertebrates*. Project MECCA Teaching Unit, Grade 3. San Antonio: The University of Texas at San Antonio and The Witte Museum.

(with Mimi Quintanilla and Holly Morgan) (1989). *Dinosaurs*. Project MECCA (Minority Education Collaborative for Children and Adults). Teaching Unit, Grade 2. San Antonio: The University of Texas at San Antonio and The Witte Museum.

Built in Texas (1984). Study Guide for Audiovisual Presentation. San Antonio: The Institute of Texan Cultures.

(with Emily Cutrer and Al Lowman) (1983). *Elizabeth Ney: Artist, Woman, Texan*. Study Guide for Audiovisual Presentation. San Antonio: The Institute of Texan Cultures, 37 pp.

Don Pedrito: Healer of Los Olmos (1981). Study guide for audiovisual presentation. San Antonio: The Institute of Texan Cultures, 24 pp.

(Editor) *Cronica Calderon*. (1981–83). Illustrated stories for young people on the Hispanic heritage in Texas, published as supplements to the Sunday San Antonio Express News, 1981–82 Vol 1 (nos. 1, 2, and 3), (1982–83) Vol II (nos 1 and 2). San Antonio: Festival Calderon.

(with Richard Tangum, Thomas Cleaver and others) (1981). *The Built Environment of Texas*. Audiovisual presentation and study guide. Dallas, TX: Texas Society of Architects.

(with Thomas H. Robinson and contributors) (1981). *San Antonio: The First Civil Settlement in Texas, A Guide for Teachers, K–12*. San Antonio: The City.

(with Melvin Sance and David Haynes) (1978). *The Wallace Brand*. Slide and Study Guide of the 100 year ranching experience of a black Texan family. San Antonio: The Institute of Texan Cultures, 39 pp.

Alternative Evaluation Instrument, Martinello Open-ended Science Task (MOST). In *Improving Science and Mathematics Education: A Catalog of Alternative Assessments* (June 1993). Austin, Tx: Southwest Educational Research Development Laboratory (SEDL).

Selected Presentations

Following is a sampling of presentations that characterize the focus of my explorations:

University Collaboration for Education: Commitment and Celebration. Invited presentation at Smithsonian Institution Kellogg Project, Mountain-Plains Regional Workshop, San Antonio, January 1984.

Interactive Learning Experiences in Museums. Invited presentation at the annual meeting of the Texas Association of museums, Midland–Odessa, April 1987.

Evaluating Learning in Museums. Invited address at the annual meeting of the Association of Science–Technology Centers, Seattle, WA, October 1987.

Science Education for Children's Thinking: A School–Museum–University Model. Invited address at the National Science Teachers Association/Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching. San Antonio, November 1987.

Developing and Using Museum Exhibits to Promote Student Thinking. Invited presentation at the annual meeting of the Texas Association of Museums, Ft. Worth, April 1988.

Learning as Detective Work. Invited presentation at the Northwood Institute's Seminar for Museum Volunteers, Dallas, March 1990.

Project MECCA. Invited presentation at the Education Commission of the States national meeting, Denver, July 1991.

Interactive Learning in Museums. Invited presentation at the Texas Association of Museums Annual Conference, Houston, March 1994.

Multicultural Children's Literature as a Defining Force in Contemporary Mainstream Publishing: A Public Discussion. Invited panelist at the Inter–American Book Fair, San Antonio, October 1994.

Visual Thinking and Authentic Inquiry. Invited presentation at the Mountain Plains Museum Association Annual Conference, Corpus Christi, October, 1994.

Developing Expert Learners: A HyperSeach Concept of Inquiry. Invited presentation at the Mountain–Plains Museum Association Annual Conference, Cheyenne, October, 1995.

Awards

2009. **San Antonio Conservation Society Book Award** for *The Search for Pedro's Story*.

1996 **Faculty Excellence Award**. UTSA Students and Office of Disabled Students Services.

1991 **Christa McAuliffe Showcase for Excellence Award** to Project MECCA (Minority Education Collaborative for Children and Adults) Category of "Initiating innovative applied research projects in education and disseminating the findings to schools and other campuses, as well as throughout the institution," American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

1987 **San Antonio Conservation Society Book Award** for *The Search for Emma's Story: A Model for Humanities Detective Work*.

1985 **San Antonio Conservation Society Book Award** for *The First Civil Settlements in Texas: A Guide for Teachers K-12*.

1984 **Michael A. Wilder Award** of the Texas Association of Museums for *A Personal History: The Afro-American Texans*.

1982 **Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award**. The Minnie Stevens Piper Professorship is awarded each year to college and university faculty in the state of Texas who are distinguished educators. Martinello was the first faculty member at the University of Texas at San Antonio to be named a Piper Professor.

1980 **Michael A. Wilder Award** of the Texas Association of Museums for *Who Are the Chinese Texans?*

1976 **AMOCO Teaching Award**, University of Texas at San Antonio.

1973 **Teacher of the Year Award** for the College of Education, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

1971 **Standard Oil Foundation Teaching Award**, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Grants and Contracts

These externally sponsored projects allowed me to explore questions about teaching and learning, provide teachers and their students with innovative instructional experiences and materials for science education, and sponsor teachers' graduate studies and completion of Master's degree programs:

Minority Mathematics and Science Education Cooperative (MMSEC).

Funded by the Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System and the U.S. Department of Education, under the auspices of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Mathematics and Science Improvement Act, 1989-92. \$40,000 per year.

Project MECCA. Funded by the Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System and the U.S. Department of Education, under the auspices of the Education for Economic Security Act (Title II), 1988-90. \$60,000.

Texas Interactive Museum Experience in Science. Baylor College of Medicine. Funded by the Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System and the U.S. Department of Education, under the auspices of the Education for Economic Security Act (Title II), 1987-88. \$67,909. Contract awarded to UTSA for developing evaluation protocols for assessing development of science processes in minority children through physical science exhibits. \$12,100.

Science Education for Children's Thinking: Dissemination of a School-Museum University Model. Funded by the Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System and the U.S. Department of Education, under the auspices of the Education for Economic Security Act (Title II), 1987-88. \$41,959.

South Texas Ecology: Using a Museum Exhibit to Develop Children's Skills of Scientific Observation and Inference. Funded by the Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System and the U.S. Department of Education, under the auspices of the Education for Economic Security Act (Title II), 1985-86. \$18,000.

Ninth Cycle Teacher Corps Program at the University of Florida and Alachua County Public Schools. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, 1974-76.

Administrative, business, or professional experience (other than teaching):

Acting Associate Dean for Research, College of Education and Human Development, 2009-2010

Director, Interdisciplinary Studies BA degree Program, 1992-98

Site Coordinator, Minority Mathematics and Science Education Cooperative Funded by the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System and the U.S. Department of Education under the auspices of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Science and Mathematics Improvement Act, 1989-92

Director, Project MECCA, Minority Education Collaborative for Children and Adults: a natural science/social science collaborative of San Antonio school districts, the Institute of Texan Cultures, the San Antonio Zoo, the San Antonio Botanical Center, the San Antonio Museum Association, and the University of Texas at San Antonio. Funded by the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System and the U.S. Department of Education under the auspices of the Education for Economic Security Act (Title II), 1988-90

Director, School-Museum-University Project "Science Education for Children's Thinking." Funded by the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System and the U.S. Department of Education under the auspices of the Education for Economic Security Act (Title II), 1985-88

Director, School-Museum-University Project "Science Education for Children's Thinking." Funded by the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System and the U.S. Department of Education under the auspices of the Education for Economic Security Act (Title II), 1985-88

Evaluator, Model Education Programs, Kellogg Project, Smithsonian Institution, 1985-86

(Trial tested innovative science curriculum developed by Robert Karplus (theoretical physicist and science educators) and served as demonstration teacher for UC Berkeley students and master teacher for UC Berkeley student teachers in de facto segregated Berkeley public schools and in experimental summer lab school programs.)

Classroom Teacher Commack Public Schools, 1961-64
New York

Earned Teaching Certification in New York City, New York State, and California.

Colleges or universities attended	Year	Degree
Columbia University Teachers College Curriculum and Teaching: Childhood Education, Older Children	1970	Ed.D.
Queens College, City University of New York Education, Curriculum and Instruction	1964	MS
Completed graduate courses in microbiology At New York University Medical School	1958-9	
Queens College, City University of New York Major: Biology/Minor: Chemistry	1956	BS

Date completed or revised: September 8, 2011