

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

UTEP

FALL 2012

INSIDE:
A MINER
HOMECOMING
GUIDE
INCLUDING PARADE
ROUTE & EVENT
CALENDAR

Homecoming
TWO-THOUSAND TWELVE





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear UTEP Alumni and Friends,

Modern technology has transformed profoundly our ideas of community and how we connect to each other and the University. With the help of social media channels and tools, we can access our personal and professional networks, whether locally or from a distance, in more exciting and innovative ways than ever. Today our alumni, students and friends can “find us” on Facebook, “follow us” on Twitter or “join us” on Google+ and LinkedIn to receive – and participate in – all of the latest UTEP news. These sites and the social media they support have been vital to the growth of a global online community of Miners that now has more than 24,500 active members ... and counting!

Our online communication has played an important role in publicizing upcoming events and rallying our supporters. I was extremely pleased and amazed at how quickly UTEP's online community brought together our extended Miner family for a good, old-fashioned summer picnic. More than 1,000 participants joined in the fun at 17 different picnic locations for the first-ever UTEP Alumni “PICK-NIC,” which was hosted concurrently in El Paso, across the country and at international locations such as Guadalajara, Mexico, and Bhutan!

The picnics were a great way to build the Miner Nation and express our Orange and Blue pride while enjoying good food and company (of course!). I invite you to see our Miner Family album in this issue starting on page 58; you can also access even more content on our official Facebook page, facebook.com/UTEPMiners. We hope you'll become involved with your local UTEP Alumni Chapter so that you can make the PICK-NIC a part of your summertime tradition as we continue to promote and grow this annual event.

New traditions, like the UTEP Alumni PICK-NIC, offer a great opportunity to strengthen the bonds of our Miner family through personalized exchanges with fellow alumni, wherever they may be. Equally important are our annual Homecoming celebrations, which are the perfect time to return to UTEP and commemorate our collective past, reflect on our successes and honor the recipients of our Distinguished Alumni and Gold Nugget Awards. This year's festivities will kick off with the Student Government Association's Royalty Pageant on Oct. 14 and culminate with the UTEP vs. Tulane football game on Oct. 20 at Sun Bowl Stadium.

Every year we expand our Homecoming activities, and this year is no exception. With the addition of events like the “Miner Run” and “Orange Friday,” we'll have even more ways to show our Miner spirit every day of the week! You'll find information about the week's events in this special issue, and we've also included a handy 16-page pullout guide to take with you so that you won't miss any of the excitement.

As we approach our Centennial, it's especially important to us that our alumni, students, and friends stay in touch. So, however you prefer to connect – via this magazine, Facebook, Twitter, etc. – we hope you'll continue your engagement with UTEP through these social media channels and through active participation in such established traditions as Homecoming. At home, abroad or online, by coming together as a Miner Nation, we honor UTEP's 100-year commitment to excellence while also celebrating our lasting connection to this University ... and there's no better time than Homecoming week to do just that! We look forward to welcoming you to our 2012 Homecoming and to sharing with you all of the many exciting events leading up to our Centennial in 2014!

Go Miners!

Diana Natalicio

DIANA NATALICIO • UTEP PRESIDENT



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
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TABLE OF CONTENTS



12 ORANGE YOU READY

More than 30,000 UTEP students and Miner fans wearing orange and blue packed the UTEP campus for the 22nd annual Minerpalooza on Aug. 31.

28 WELCOME MINERS

Recruiting at UTEP begins long before a student's senior year in high school and involves a comprehensive series of communications that are tailored to each potential applicant's individual situation.

30 COMMUNITY PARTNERS: HOT SUMMER CONFERENCE INTRODUCES YOUTH TO CAMPUS

For many youth living in public housing in El Paso, the road to a university education is long, but the journey can start with a HOT summer opportunity at UTEP.

32 2012 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AND GOLD NUGGET RECIPIENTS

Every year, The University of Texas at El Paso honors a group of men and women whose achievements stand out as monuments to dedication, integrity and hard work.

37 A HEALTHY UTEP

Hula hoop breaks, wellness ambassadors, tailored wellness services, healthy food options and fitness opportunities are among the tactics UTEP has taken to improve the health of its staff, faculty and students.

40 LHAKHANG BRINGS NEW MEANING TO 'BHUTAN ON THE BORDER'

The *lhakhang* will be the first structure on University grounds originally handcrafted in Bhutan by the Bhutanese people.

42 A BHUTANESE BOND

UTEP's relationship with Bhutan is more than just a borrowed architecture. It has evolved in the last century to be a mutually beneficial partnership in education, culture and friendship.



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

44 See the new Centennial logo, remember Texas Western College through the words of alumna and professor Mimi Gladstein, and read about the history of the Centennial Museum as it celebrates its 75th year.

RESEARCH

15 A UTEP center works to keep energy grids safe, a \$3.3 million collaboration focuses on solar energy, resilience drives a new psychology professor, partnerships capture the community's attention, and new science faculty raise the research bar.

UTEP DEPARTMENTS

- 2** News
- 50** Athletics
- 58** Alums
- 66** In Memoriam



ON THE COVER

"Mining Minds" statue
Photo by Joshua Garcia

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1914
2014
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

FACULTY MEMBERS EARN KUDOS FROM REGENTS

By Daniel Perez • Photo by Beverly Barrett



UTEP faculty members who earned the UT System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Awards were honored during a ceremony in August in Austin. In attendance were, from left, DeAnna Kay Varela, Guillermina "Gina" Núñez-Mchiri, Peter Golding, Virgilio Gonzalez, Kien Hwa Lim, UTEP Provost Junius Gonzales, UTEP President Diana Natalicio, Patricia "Trisha" Ainsa, Laura Lunstrum Hall, Ezra Cappell and Eric Hagedorn. Not pictured: Helen Hammond.

The desire and the ability to teach students in novel and inspirational ways are among the reasons 10 UTEP faculty members earned The University of Texas System Board of Regents Outstanding Teaching Awards in 2012.

The 10 were the most selected from The University of Texas at El Paso in the four-year history of the award. The honor recognizes teachers in the system's nine academic and six health institutions who have shown "an extraordinary classroom performance and innovation in undergraduate instruction." The previous UTEP record was nine awardees in 2009 and 2010.

The recipients are Patricia "Trisha" Ainsa, Ph.D., professor of teacher education; Ezra Cappell, Ph.D., associate professor of English; Peter Golding, Ph.D., associate professor of metallurgical and materials engineering; Virgilio Gonzalez, Ph.D., senior lecturer, electrical and computer engineering; Eric Hagedorn, Ph.D., associate professor of physics; Laura Lunstrum Hall, Ph.D., associate professor of information and decision sciences; Helen Hammond, Ph.D., associate professor of educational psychology and special services; Kien Hwa Lim, Ph.D., assistant professor of mathematical sciences; Guillermina "Gina" Núñez-Mchiri, Ph.D., associate professor of anthropology; and DeAnna Kay Varela, a lecturer in the Entering Students Program who earned the award for her work as a women's studies senior lecturer.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio praised the regents for establishing the award and the faculty

members for their excellence.

"These talented, innovative and dedicated UTEP teachers richly deserve the recognition conferred by this prestigious and highly competitive System-wide award," President Natalicio said. "I congratulate all of them and thank them for everything they do to contribute to UTEP's and our students' success."

Each winner received a medal and a \$25,000 prize during an Aug. 22 ceremony at the UT Austin campus. The awards – the highest honor bestowed by the regents – are among the largest in the nation rewarding faculty performance, and among the most competitive.

Nominees go through a rigorous evaluation process that includes student, peer and external review. At every level, the candidates are assessed on their teaching performance to include classroom expertise, curricula quality, innovative course development and student learning outcomes.

"These awards honor those educators who have produced proven results and have had a great impact on our students," said UT System Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa.

The selection reminded UTEP Provost Junius Gonzales of a quote by 20th century philosopher and educational reformer John Dewey, who stated that any genuine teaching will result, if successful, in someone knowing how to bring about a better condition than existed earlier.

"These awards, both in number and in depth, acknowledge UTEP faculty's commitment to the learning that students must partake in, and can only do well with superior teaching," he said. 📧



Jorge Gardea-Torresdey, Ph.D., holds corn plants in one of his growth labs in the Chemistry and Computer Science Building. He encourages minority students, especially Hispanics, to excel in the lab and the classroom.

Chemistry Professor Earns Piper Award

By Daniel Perez • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

A faculty member from The University of Texas at El Paso who is leading groundbreaking research on microscopic nanoparticles received one of the most prestigious awards that can be bestowed on a higher education professor in the State of Texas.

Jorge Gardea-Torresdey, Ph.D., chair of the University's Department of Chemistry and Dudley Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Science and Engineering, was named one of 10 Piper Professors for superior teaching at the college level by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation.

The foundation's board of directors approved his selection from a pool of outstanding educators nominated by 400 institutions of higher education, including public and private universities and community colleges throughout the state.

"I am honored to have been selected this year for this prestigious award, especially when you consider the extremely competitive selection process among all Texas educational institutions," Gardea-Torresdey said. "It energizes me and I will redirect that energy to the Department of Chemistry and its students. This is great for UTEP's Tier One aspirations."

The nomination came from the office of UTEP President Diana Natalicio, who was pleased with the foundation's choice.

"In Dr. Gardea's 20-year tenure on this campus, he has strengthened UTEP's international reputation as a research institution with his groundbreaking work on nanoparticles with potential for medical and environmental applications," President Natalicio said. "His research success has always been combined with a strong commitment to teaching, mentoring and serving as a role model to Hispanic students, thereby contributing significantly to UTEP's progress toward becoming the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic."

Colleague Mahesh Narayan, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry, who has worked with Gardea-Torresdey for five years, said his success should be shared by the Miner Nation and considered another stepping stone on the road to Tier One status.

"To us, Jorge's achievements and award is a beacon of light that illuminates our path and reminds us of our duties to the primarily Hispanic student body," Narayan said.

Gardea-Torresdey, who has been at UTEP since 1994 and chair of the chemistry department since 2003, is the 13th professor from The University of Texas at El Paso to achieve this honor since the San Antonio-based program began in 1958. 🏠



JORGE GARDEA-TORRESDEY, PH.D.,

chair of the University's Department of Chemistry and Dudley Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Science and Engineering, was named one of 10 Piper Professors for superior teaching at the college level by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation.

The quality of life at The University of Texas at El Paso went up by more than a half-million gallons after UTEP's Student Recreation Center (SRC) reopened its swimming area early in the fall semester.

Students, faculty, staff and alumni flocked to the refurbished pools that had been closed for a yearlong facelift that included refurbishing locker rooms and adding interior lighting, new plaster, and a coat of paint. It is the latest enhancement that comes from the \$32 million center renovation that started in 2009.

The multipurpose fitness center located on the north side of campus is another asset in the University's drive to become the first national

research (Tier One) institution with a 21st century student demographic.

Among those eager to use the pool was Eddie Barron, a junior kinesiology major and admitted workout-aholic. He uses the center about six days per week and had begun to teach himself how to swim at the pool a few weeks before it closed for repairs.

"I was making a lot of mistakes. My form was wrong and people would come over and offer advice. Lucky for me most of the advice came from hot chicks," he said during a morning warm-up in the second-floor weight room. He said he planned to use the water to enhance his training regimen.

The area has two pools. The smaller recreation pool holds 141,000 gallons and offers five 25-yard lanes. It has a "beach entry" that slopes to 4 feet deep. It is used for water volleyball and basketball. The water temperature is kept at 85 degrees. The larger competitive pool contains 381,000 gallons and sports 10 25-yard lanes. Its depth ranges from 3-1/2 feet to 13 feet. It comes with 1-meter and 3-meter spring boards. The water stays at 81 degrees.

While the pools are a big draw, the center also is home to a weight room, cardio floor, fitness programs (strength and conditioning, mind and body, dance and water), sports rental opportunities and outdoor adventures.



RENOVATED

Students Victoria Fierro and Daniel Fernandez applauded the center for its variety. They are among the estimated 4,000 who use it on a daily basis.

Fernandez, a junior electrical engineering major, said he uses the facilities for weight training, cardio workouts and to play basketball. He planned to use the pool for lap swimming.

Fierro, a sophomore education major, does cardio training about three days per week. She said she appreciates the convenience of the rec center and believes that workouts help her focus in the classroom.

Center staff planned to offer additional fitness classes during the fall semester and should


unveil three new racquetball courts during the spring 2013 semester. They also have plans to upgrade the adjacent multipurpose field. Among the features being considered are turf and lighting.

Norma Saavedra, SRC fitness coordinator, said the staff had to be creative and flexible to accommodate the many needs of classes and individuals using the SRC. One example she gave was having a basketball court do double duty as a studio for a spinning class.

Renovation of the 16-year-old building started in 2006 when students asked for a referendum to raise recreation fees to fund an expansion of what used to be called the Swimming and Fitness

Center. The Texas Legislature approved the referendum during its 2007 session. Work began in October 2009.

The new tri-level gym includes a three-lane, 1/8-mile running track, a 12,000-square-foot hardwood floor, an indoor soccer court and a 39-foot tall climbing wall that offers "high endurance" and boulder climbing sections.

"After construction is completed, the sky will be the limit" as to what can be offered, said Brian Carter, an SRC associate director. "We thank everyone for their patience as we experience our growing pains." 

POOLS

MAKE A SPLASH AT SRC

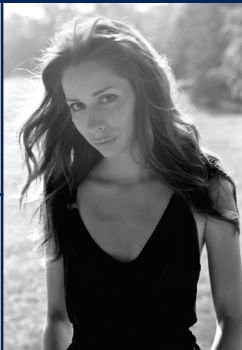
By Daniel Perez • Photos by J.R. Hernandez



MPH STUDENT GOES GLOBAL

By Laura L. Acosta
Photo by Adam Garelick

Sandra Groeschel, a Master of Public Health candidate, interned with Malaria No More in New York City this summer.



For Sandra Groeschel, New York is the city where dreams are made.

The UTEP Master of Public Health candidate moved to the Big Apple in May for an internship opportunity with Malaria No More, a nonprofit organization determined to end malaria deaths in Africa by 2015.

The move allowed Groeschel to live out her passion for helping vulnerable populations on a global level.

"Being able to work in this environment surrounded by scholars elevates your learning extremely. It makes you have a greater awareness of the world and the complexities involved," said Groeschel, a member of the Binational Diabetes Committee and an advocate for diabetes awareness along the U.S.-Mexico border. "I think that when you visualize where you want to be in life and take action, you influence and inspire others to work harder."

As a program intern, Groeschel developed a social impact measure on MNM's NightWatch Campaign (Nightly Mosquito Net Reminder), scaled up pitch decks for potential investments, and established partnerships with organizations such as the United Nations Refugee Agency.

This was the second time Groeschel spent her summer in the Big Apple navigating the city's transit system and street numbers. Last year she interned with New York University in a health policy project and thrived on the city's culture and close proximity to Washington, D.C. This time, the El Paso native has made New York her home. She'll only return to UTEP to defend her thesis and attend graduation this fall.

Being in a new environment also is helping Groeschel cope with her father's death in June. Karl Heinz Groeschel suffered a stroke three years ago, and Groeschel and her mother and sister helped care for him.

"It's different being in New York this time because I'm trying to work past my father's death," Groeschel said. "But I'm also using this as an opportunity to make my father proud and make my mother smile." ☘

CHS TAKES INITIATIVE ON MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

By Laura L. Acosta • Photo courtesy of the College of Health Sciences



iPad recipients include, from left, Connie Summers, Ph.D. (Speech Language Pathology); Oralia Loza, Ph.D. (Public Health Sciences); Bess Sirmon-Taylor, Ph.D. (Speech Language Pathology); Eugenia Gonzalez, Ph.D. (Occupational Therapy); Celia Pechak, Ph.D. (Physical Therapy); Stephanie Capshaw, Ph.D. (Occupational Therapy); Lily Romo, (Student Support Center); Kathryn Schmidt Ph.D. (Social Work); and Jeri Sias, Pharm.D., (Cooperative Pharmacy Program).

The iPad has revolutionized the way we listen to music, watch video, read books, and connect to the world around us.

The tablet-computing technology also has influenced how faculty and staff in UTEP's College of Health Sciences facilitate advising, teaching, research and community development activities.

In September 2011, the College awarded 11 iPad 2s to faculty and staff to be used as part of a one-year Technology Initiative project. The initiative was designed to integrate state-of-the-art technology with departmental and program goals, and ensure connectivity between the Health Sciences and Nursing Building on the UTEP campus and the Campbell Building in Downtown El Paso.

"This initiative enables us to leverage the power of mobile technology to assist faculty and staff to continue to thrive in productivity and innovation," said College of Health Sciences Dean Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D.

To qualify for the program, participants were required to use the technology as a novel tool to extend or improve the effectiveness of faculty

and staff participation in reaching Healthy People 2020 goals; advance funded global learning, research or service; and promote regional research partnerships and community engagement.

Assistant professors Celia Pechak, Ph.D.; Connie Summers, Ph.D.; and Eugenia Gonzalez, Ph.D.; and associate professor Stephanie Capshaw, Ph.D., formed an interdisciplinary team that used the iPads to improve their service-learning activities when they traveled to a rehabilitation facility in Antigua, Guatemala, for two weeks in August.

Summers explored different apps that could be used to communicate with children who have severe to profound disabilities.

Associate Dean Tim Tansey's project involved training participants to use the technology and evaluating how they successfully implemented it. Tansey, Ph.D., identified specific applications that have the best potential for research and productivity and worked with six Ph.D. students to develop three online undergraduate courses in rehabilitation sciences. ☘

ATHLETES GET BETTER **WITH AGE**

By Laura L. Acosta

SÍ SE PUEDE/ YES WE CAN!

They may not run as fast or jump as high as when they were younger, but the older adults who competed at the 30th Annual Senior Games in 2012 still have a spring in their step.

Their passion for fitness is the focus of a community research partnership that involves UTEP's College of Health Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, Center for Civic Engagement and El Paso's City Parks and Recreation Department.

"Sí Se Puede/Yes We Can!: Snapshots of Older Adults Participating in Senior Games in El Paso: Integrating Service Learning in Public Health Education," documents the positive experiences of the athletes to help generate a public health education campaign aimed at inspiring older adults to stay physically fit.

"One goal is to recruit more senior adults to participate in the Senior Games next spring, and the other is to encourage people to adopt healthy living practices and incorporate exercise in their lifestyle," said the project's principal investigator, Guillermina Nuñez-Mchiri, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology and anthropology.

The games showcase the competitive spirit in adults age 50 and older. They participate in table tennis, bowling, golf, swimming and race walking, horseshoes, volleyball, basketball, cycling, road racing and track and field.

From March 14 through April 16, UTEP students who were enrolled in anthropology courses interviewed 10 athletes on camera about their fitness routines and their motivation to exercise. Students from UTEP's occupational therapy program provided basic health assessments and checked blood pressure, body fat percentage, height, weight and lumbar flexibility prior to the Senior Games' opening ceremony.

According to David Lopez, senior division coordinator for El Paso Parks and Recreation, his department's collaboration with the University is helping to promote fitness and healthy aging throughout the city.

"I want to work with UTEP and also partner with them in a way that we can expand our program," said Lopez, who has been an instructor in the University's kinesiology and physical education department for nearly 20 years. "One of our objectives is to promote health through exercise. We can partner with lectures about pharmacology, physical therapy, and also provide an opportunity for the students to see the other side of senior life."

The researchers are developing health modules to educate older adults about exercise and healthy living.

Nuñez-Mchiri is developing a module on the social stigmas of aging with the assistance of graduate and undergraduate students. Cecilia Fierro, O.T.D., a clinical assistant professor in occupational therapy,

is working to educate seniors about fall and accident prevention.

Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy Celia Pechak, Ph.D., is looking at the healthy benefits of exercise, and Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Amanda Loya, Pharm.D., will create a module on medication management.

Students with the Center for Civic Engagement began showing the videos with the modules and senior athlete testimonials at senior centers and nursing homes as part of their service learning during the fall semester.

"When older adults see testimonials of their peers saying, 'I have overcome cancer ... I like competing ... Exercise makes me feel good and it's fun,' they will hopefully be more motivated to get physically active themselves," Nuñez-Mchiri said. "Whatever messages we plan to take out of these videos, we hope that they will communicate more effectively from an older adult to another older adult." 🏠



UTEP Students Help Spanish Speakers Seeking Citizenship Through Naturalization Guide

By Veronique Masterson • Photo by Laura Trejo

It's a very simple concept most students are taught in school: study and you should do well on your exam. But what happens if you don't have the proper study materials? That's one obstacle officials with the Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services Inc. in El Paso hope will no longer be an issue, thanks to more than a dozen American Government students at The University of Texas at El Paso.

At the request of the organization, which provides low-income Borderland residents with legal assistance on immigration issues, the students and their political science professor, Irasema Coronado, Ph.D., developed a unique United States citizenship exam study guide. Titled *A Guide to Naturalization in Spanish: Preparing for Naturalization*, the publication's target readership is older populations whose native language is Spanish.

Iliana Holguin, executive director of Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services, said the guide is a useful tool for clients who feel more comfortable learning complicated immigration laws in their native language. Immigration laws typically have long-term residency requirements of 15 to 20 years, so by the time residents are ready to take the citizenship test, they may be 50 years or older.

"If we can't provide a study guide to them, in their language, it just makes it all the more difficult and unlikely that they're going to pass the exam," Holguin said.

Holguin's nonprofit organization approached Coronado with the idea in May 2012. Coincidentally, Coronado was teaching an American Government class in Spanish and thought it would be the perfect opportunity to have the class compile a study guide as one of its assignments, while learning about America's government.

"It's a gift to the community from my class," Coronado said.

The 14 students spent their Summer Session answering and translating immigration law questions, and incorporated them into the guide.

"We're not just doing something for our grades, but we're helping other people," said one of the classmates, Luisa Cabrera, a senior mechanical engineering student.

The project was presented to the public and media in Spanish in July.

"Providing them with a guide in Spanish, when they're going to be taking the exam in Spanish, is going to greatly increase their chances of passing the exam and successfully becoming United States citizens," Holguin said. 📄

"If we can't provide a study guide to them, in their language, it just makes it all the more difficult and unlikely that they're going to pass the exam."

Iliana Holguin
Executive Director



Scan this QR code to read the naturalization guide.

Students in Irasema Coronado's American government summer course created a Spanish study guide for the U.S. citizenship test.



NEW NANO DEGREE OPTION AIMED AT BILLION-DOLLAR INDUSTRY

By Daniel Perez • Photos by J.R. Hernandez

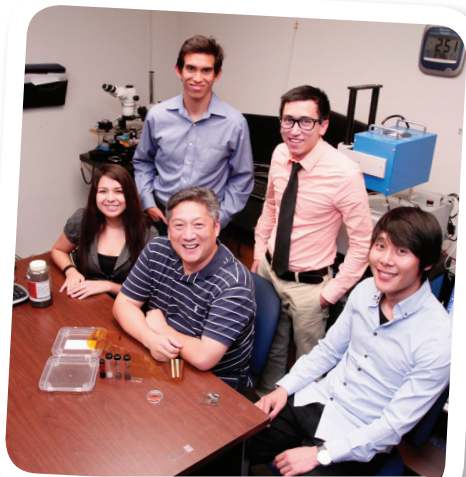
A cutting-edge degree plan option that could lead the next generation of metallurgical and materials engineers into a \$300 billion electronics market is being prepped for a fall 2014 launch at The University of Texas at El Paso.

Metallurgical and materials engineering (MME) undergraduates soon will be able to register for the Printing Nano-Engineering (PNE) degree plan that will familiarize them with novel electronic systems and devices that may be integrated into flexible electronics, materials and clothing. The advances also could reduce or eliminate waste from the manufacturing process, which trims production costs and environmental impact.

The new concentration, which is the first in the United States, was developed by Namsoo “Peter” Kim, Ph.D., associate professor of MME, in conjunction with Seo Kyeong University (SKU) in Seoul, South Korea. The two universities signed a collaborative agreement in May 2012.

“PNE is the leader of the next generation of electronics with an unlimited potential for applications and market,” Kim said. “The printed electronics market is approximately \$5 billion today. It’s expected to grow to \$300 billion by 2027.”

SKU has paid UTEP \$2 million to start the program. Kim said the money will be spent on student scholarships, faculty exchanges, state-



of-the-art equipment and expansion of UTEP’s PNE Lab in Burges Hall.

The South Korean government, which has invested \$58 million in PNE, supports the UTEP-SKU collaboration because the technology is considered the wave of the future, said Ho-young Ahn, 1st vice minister of foreign affairs and trade.

“With this trend, I strongly feel the need of equipping our next generation of engineers,” Ahn said.

PNE students will work with UTEP’s W.M. Keck Center for 3-D Innovation, which is known for its rapid-prototyping technology.

UTEP graduate student Ada Ortega supports the planned degree option. The native of Juárez, Mexico, said she gained a lot from her experience in Seoul, where she participated in the annual Korea Printed Electronics Research Association conference. Her involvement included interdisciplinary research with an SKU student.

“I believe that being able to communicate with engineers of different backgrounds reinforced my research experience at UTEP,” said Ortega, who earned her bachelor’s degree in metallurgical and materials science in May and is working on her master’s in the same discipline. “One of the objectives of this (degree option) is to develop globalized engineers who can work with different cultures.”

Top: Peter Kim, Ph.D., associate professor of metallurgical and materials engineering, seated center, developed a printing nano-engineering degree plan option in partnership with Seo Kyeong University (SKU) in South Korea. Members of his team are, from left, Ada Ortega, graduate research assistant; Victor Ornelas, undergraduate research assistant; Adrian Perez, UTEP-SKU history lecturer and technical writer; and Seyeon Hwang, UTE-SKU coordinator and lab manager.

Middle: Seyeon Hwang

Bottom: Victor Ornelas

FIRST IN THE UNITED STATES

The new concentration, which is the first in the United States, was developed by Namsoo “Peter” Kim, Ph.D., associate professor of metallurgical and materials engineering, in conjunction with Seo Kyeong University (SKU) in Seoul, South Korea. The two universities signed a collaborative agreement in May 2012.

LIBRARY ELECTION EVENTS TO ENGAGE, EDUCATE YOUNG VOTERS

By Daniel Perez

Photo by Joshua Garcia



The UTEP Picks: Election 2012 events kicked off with an exhibit of political campaign buttons donated by Evelyn and Roger Bell, pictured with UTEP President Diana Natalicio. The goal of the activities is to encourage young adults to get involved in the political process.

To engage young voters, UTEP has organized a series of fun and thought-provoking activities for the weeks leading up to the Nov. 6 general election.

A joint project of the University Library and UTEP's Division of Student Affairs, UTEP Picks: Election 2012 provides diverse programming and multidisciplinary speakers to encourage students to become educated voters. One of the first events was a festive Constitution Day celebration Sept. 17 at the library. The library also will host displays, contests, voter registration drives, two multidisciplinary lecture series, and screenings of election-themed films through early November.

Other than the 2008 presidential campaign, which energized the under-30 electorate, citizens from ages 18 to 29 have shown little interest in having their voices heard at the ballot box in recent years. The 2008 election brought out 46

percent of young voters. A column in the Feb. 15, 2012 issue of *The New Republic* stated that 53 percent of 18-to-29-year-olds went to the polls in 1972, compared to 36 percent in 2000, a historic low.

"We want to use the 2012 elections to get the students involved and engaged and to talk about the importance of voting and to raise voting awareness," said Robert Stakes, associate vice president of information resources and planning, and library director.

Tanya Sue Maestas, the 19-year-old president of UTEP's Student Government Association, called the library outreach a wonderful and convenient way to increase student involvement in the election process.

"It's a great first step," said Maestas, a junior biology major who has been involved in politics since middle school.

Among the faculty who will participate in

an afternoon and evening lecture series is Richard Pineda, Ph.D., associate professor of communication and associate director of the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies. His topics will cover political messaging, e-campaigning, and outreach to minorities, especially Hispanics.

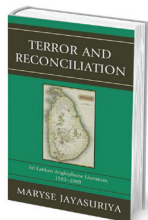
"The library is a natural place for a series like this because it can take advantage of the expertise of the faculty and serves as a good conduit for information to the students and the community," he said.

Students also are invited to browse through an extensive historical exhibit of campaign buttons from the 1880s to the present in the third floor gallery at the library. It is accompanied by other election materials and a video monitor that plays political ads dating back to 1952. ➡

INFORMATION:

libraryweb.utep.edu

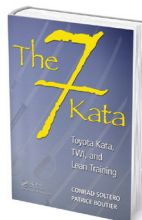
Faculty Must-Reads



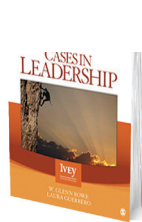
Terror and Reconciliation: Sri Lankan Anglophone Literature, 1983-2009, by Maryse Jayasuriya, Ph.D., assistant professor of English



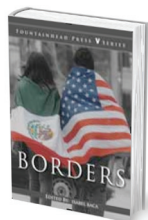
Looking at Contemporary Dance: A Guide for the Internet Age, by Myron Howard Nadel, professor and head of the dance program, et al.



The 7 Kata: Toyota Kata, TWI and Lean Training, by Conrad Soltero, Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center field engineer at UTEP, et al.



Cases in Leadership, Third Edition, by Laura Guerrero, Ph.D., assistant professor of management, et al.



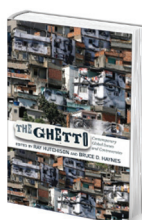
Borders, edited by Isabel Baca, Ph.D., assistant professor of rhetoric and writing studies



To Improve the Academy: Resources for Faculty, Instructional, and Organizational Development, contributor Beth Brunk-Chavez, Ph.D., associate professor of rhetoric and writing studies and associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts



Sam no es mi tío: Veinticuatro crónicas migrantes y un sueño americano, contributor and editor Aileen El-Kadi, Ph.D., assistant professor of languages and linguistics and director of the Brazilian Studies Program



The Ghetto: Contemporary Global Issues and Controversies, contributor Ernesto Castañeda, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology

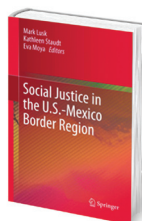


Grace and Gumption: The Women of El Paso, contributors Irasema Coronado, Ph.D., professor of political science; Mimi R. Gladstein, Ph.D., and Evelyn J. Posey, Ph.D., professors of English;

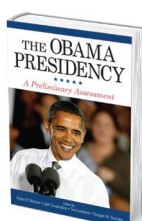
Volanda Leyva, Ph.D., associate professor and department chair of history; Meredith Abarca, Ph.D., and Lois A. Marchino, Ph.D., associate professors of English; Deane Mansfield-Kelly, Ph.D., assistant professor of English; and Brenda A. Risch, Ph.D., assistant professor of women's studies



Frictions et devenirs dans les écritures migrantes au féminin: Enracinements et renégociations, by contributor Jane E. Evans, Ph.D., associate professor of French



Social Justice in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region, edited by Mark Lusk, Ed.D., professor of social work; Kathleen Staudt, Ph.D., professor of political science; and Eva Moya, Ph.D., assistant professor of social work



The Obama Presidency: A Preliminary Assessment, contributor Jose D. Villalobos, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science



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Orange You Ready?

By Nadia Macias • Photos by Joshua Garcia

Fans sporting bright orange lined Wiggins Road and University Avenue as Paydirt Pete ran by, pumping them up. The Marching Miner Regiment and UTEP Cheerleaders followed close behind, blaring their horns and shaking their pompons.

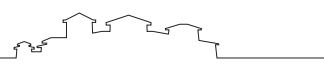
The parade took place during the 22nd annual Minerpalooza on Aug. 31. More than 30,000 fans crammed onto the UTEP campus to partake in the pep rally and get pumped for the first football game of the season and the start of a new school year.

Inflatables, game and food booths, and live music entertained students, fans and families all night long, while special highlights included speeches from Athletic Director Bob Stull and UTEP's football Head Coach Mike Price. Readers of El Paso's *What's Up* magazine have nominated the rally as the "Best You Can't Miss It Annual Event." Were you there? 📺



Use your smartphone to scan this code to view a Minerpalooza video. You can also view the video at utepnews.com.







Chalk the Block Features UTEP Student Artwork

By Jenn O'Hanlon

Chalk the Block is quickly becoming an El Paso signature event. Held in downtown El Paso, the public art festival is anchored by artists putting their spin on a traditional Italian technique as they unleash their creativity and use the sidewalk as a canvas.

As a celebration of contemporary art, Chalk the Block also features several interactive art installations from around the globe, a series of temporary art galleries known as pop-up galleries in empty downtown storefronts, and performances by aerialists and local musicians.

The free downtown public art event will be held Oct. 12-14 and will feature art of several students and staff from The University of Texas at El Paso.

"The idea behind Chalk the Block is to bring art and downtown El Paso to the forefront for our community to enjoy," said Marina Monsivais, chair of the Chalk the Block planning committee. "It is an honor to be able to highlight the local talent that El Paso fosters and, more importantly, is producing at UTEP."

This will be the second year that Chalk the Block will create pop-up galleries. Organizers are working with several curators from UTEP to fill these spaces with local artwork by UTEP students and faculty. These art installations are to be scattered throughout the downtown area.

Monsivais approached Anne Giangliulo, associate professor of art and graphic design at UTEP, to curate one of the pop-up galleries.

"My first thought was to get students involved in the gallery space," Giangliulo said. "I created an assignment for two sections of typography students to create posters for the event that could be sold in the gallery."

All of her students took the challenge, and 15 of them had prints chosen for mass production in collaboration with local screen printing company Proper Printshop.

Giangliulo said UTEP students are talented, and their work can be better than professionals in some cases. She felt once students are able to sell their designs for profit, they can officially consider themselves professionals. The professor views this as a perfect way to get students prepared for the real world.

Giangliulo's colleagues Antonio Castro, Albert Wong and Clive Cochran – all UTEP professors – selected the student art to be featured.

"Student work was based on creativity and craftsmanship," Giangliulo said.

Monsivais said that Giangliulo's enthusiasm for last year's Pop-Up Gallery Crawl did not go unnoticed.

"Little did we know that this would blossom into a project that would engage [Giangliulo] and 15 of her best and brightest students to design and sell custom Chalk the Block prints," Monsivais said. "We look forward to showcasing their work at Chalk the Block and encourage the community to experience and purchase their art." 📌



From left:

- Anne Giangliulo • Ariel Acevedo • Claudia Trejo King
- Dusty Parilla • Elora Schoppet Holt • Miriam Castillo
- Francisco Estrada • Joe Torres • Johnny Bustamante
- Jonathan Aguilar • Mike Veliz • Elora Schoppet Holt

INFORMATION: chalktheblock.com



GRANTS ROUNDUP

Between January and July 2012, The University of Texas at El Paso received a number of research grants to study a range of topics. The following is a sampling of grant research in each college started during that six-month period.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- **Gary Frankwick, Ph.D.**, professor and Marcus Hunt Chair in the Department of Marketing and Management; David Novick, Ph.D., associate dean in the College of Engineering and professor of computer science; Gary Williams, Ph.D., director of the Center for Research Entrepreneurship and Innovative Enterprises; and Cathy Swain, executive director of The Hub of Human Innovation, received state funding along with UT San Antonio, UT Austin and MD Anderson Cancer Center to create and foster an evolutionary entrepreneurial ecosystem across the campuses of the UT System, accelerating the transformation of innovative ideas and new technologies into products with commercial potential. They will track the growth in awareness, participation, technology development and commercialization as key indicators of UT System success at leading an entrepreneurial evolution in higher education.
- **Carlos Chang, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of civil engineering, and co-principal investigators Tom Fullerton, Ph.D., professor of economics and finance; and Heidi Taboada Jimenez, Ph.D., and Jose Espiritu Nolasco, Ph.D., assistant professors of industrial, manufacturing and systems engineering, received a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation to examine different methods for equitably allocating limited transportation funding among multiple jurisdictions.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

- **Elena Izquierdo, Ph.D.**, associate professor of teacher education, and co-principal investigator Char Ullman, Ph.D., assistant professor of teacher education, received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's National Professional Development Program to improve the education of English Language Learner (ELL) students within the Socorro Independent School District, especially at Socorro High School, as well as to improve teacher education at UTEP where it relates to ELL.
- **Josefina V. "Josie" Tinajero, Ed.D.**, professor and dean of the College of Education, and co-principal investigator Judith Munter, Ph.D., associate professor and associate dean of the College of Education, received a grant from the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corp. for Project SUCCESS (Striving for Undergraduate Coordinated and Comprehensive Enhanced Student Support), which focuses on improving retention factors and completion rates of post-secondary education students.
- **Pei-Ling Hsu, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of teacher education and seven other UTEP faculty representing the departments of physics, teacher education, computer science, sociology and anthropology, and electrical and computer engineering, received a grant from the Interdisciplinary Research Enhancement Program at UTEP to identify barriers to participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by underrepresented groups, specifically Hispanic females and English learners, and develop more successful strategies to engage these groups in STEM at the K-12 and undergraduate level.

- **Pei-Ling Hsu, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of teacher education, also received a grant from the University Research Institute at UTEP to investigate pre-service teachers' professional identity development in the context of informal science education.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

- **Pat Teller, Ph.D.**, professor of computer science and director of research computing, received a grant from High Performance Technologies Inc. to explore the use of cloud computing to support battlefield computational services. The research addresses the computational needs of war fighters and migrating applications to mobile computing platforms.
- **Salvador Hernandez, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of civil engineering, and co-principal investigators Carlos Chang, Ph.D., assistant professor of civil engineering; Kelvin Cheu, Ph.D., associate professor of civil engineering; Tom Fullerton, Ph.D., professor of economics; and Raed Aldouri, Ph.D., director of UTEP's Regional Geospatial Center and professor of civil engineering, received a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation through The University of Texas at Austin to begin research for the El Paso Border Master Plan. The master plan will improve bi-national planning, financing, technology and risk management coordination involved with the operation of soon-to-be constructed ports of entry in the region.
- **Evgeny Shafirovich, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, received a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to conduct research on gas generators. The

research aims to develop novel compositions for generation of oxygen, hydrogen, and iodine-containing gas species. Oxygen generators can produce more oxygen, show higher operational stability and lower fire hazards. These generators may then be used in aircraft and submarines. Hydrogen generators can serve as effective hydrogen storage systems for fuel cells and other applications. Iodine generators can rapidly produce biocidal gas that can be used to defeat bacteriological weapons.

- **William Walker, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of civil engineering, and co-principal investigator Lucy Camacho Chico, Ph.D., research assistant professor in the Center for Inland Desalination Systems, received a grant from Kii Inc. to analyze mineral composition of desalination process streams in order to demonstrate the effectiveness and energy efficiency of solar distillation at the Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Facility in Alamogordo, N.M.
- **Christopher Kiekintveld, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of computer science, received a grant from Czech Technical University in Prague to develop models for traps, or “honeypots,” to detect unauthorized use of computer networks.
- **Deana Pennington, Ph.D.**, research assistant professor in the Cyber-ShARE Center of Excellence, and co-principal investigators Paulo Pinheiro da Silva, Ph.D., associate professor of computer science; and Timothy Collins, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology and anthropology, received a grant from NASA to integrate a NASA-funded Center for Earth data analysis with an analytical web service that models potential future species distributions under scenarios of climate change.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- **Joao Ferreira-Pinto, Ph.D.**, director of research and special projects for the Center for Interdisciplinary Health Research and Evaluation (CIHRE), received a grant from the El Paso County Department of Transportation to study the dialysis transportation system for patients with end-stage renal disease in six counties including Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio.
- **UTEP Provost Junius Gonzales and co-principal investigator Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D.**, dean of the College of Health Sciences, received funding from the Paso del Norte Health Foundation to establish a Center of Excellence to prevent obesity in children.
- **Eva Moya, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of social work, received a grant from PIMSA (Programa de Investigación en Migración y Salud) through the Health Initiative of the Americas at the University of California, Berkeley, to fund a 12-month study on the sexual and reproductive health of Mexican migrant women.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

- **Arvind Singhal, Ph.D., Samuel Shirley and Edna Holt Marston Endowed Professor of Communication**, received a grant from the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health to look at the effectiveness of face-to-face versus online problem-solving skills for mothers of newly diagnosed child cancer patients.
- **Faculty members from the Center for Inter-American and Border Studies, Women’s Studies, and Public Health Sciences** (Moirá Murphy, Ph.D.; Brenda Risch, Ph.D.; Oralia Loza, Ph.D.; Kathryn Schmidt, Ph.D.; and Leticia Paez) received a grant from the Interdisciplinary Research Enhancement Program through the UTEP Provost’s Office to establish a working team between UTEP and universities in Mexico and Costa Rica. The team’s research will focus

on assessing and understanding barriers to retention for 21st century university students in the trans-Americas context.

- **Kathleen Staudt, Ph.D.**, professor of political science, received a grant from the National Institutes of Health to study the incidence of major health outcomes, especially respiratory problems and cancer, among the mostly Hispanic residents in Westway, a colonia in northwestern El Paso County near a large steel plant and Interstate 10.
- **Ana I. Schwartz, Ph.D.**, associate professor of psychology, received a grant from the Institute of Education Sciences to study improving reading comprehension of middle grades English language learners by combining structure strategy with web-based adaptive tutoring.
- **Jon Amastae, Ph.D.**, professor of languages and linguistics, received a grant from an anonymous foundation to evaluate the impact of reproductive health legislation enacted by the 82nd Texas Legislature.
- **Adam Arenson, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of history, received a Haynes Foundation Fellowship from the Huntington Library to research the art, architecture and urban context of the Home Savings and Loan buildings throughout California. These iconic projects include mosaics, murals, stained glass and sculptures that celebrated both family life and the history of the Golden State.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

- **Marc Cox, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of biological sciences, received a grant from Texas Southern University to continue his research to develop a treatment for prostate cancer. He has identified a promising compound and is now working on a method to best deliver the compound to the prostate tumor site.

- **Robert Kirken, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of biological sciences, received a grant from the Coldwell Foundation to continue his research to develop a treatment for leukemia and lymphoma. The next phase is to test the drug against human tumors that will be transplanted into mice.

- **Luis Echegoyen, Ph.D.**, Robert A. Welch Chair in Chemistry and associate vice president for research, and co-principal investigator Michael Irwin, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry, received a grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to study and develop a new design concept for the interfacial layers of organic photovoltaic devices.

- **Christian Botez, Ph.D.**, associate professor of physics, and co-principal investigator Lourdes Echegoyen, Ph.D., director of the Campus Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives, received a grant from the National Science Foundation to implement a new research-teaching integration strategy to enhance undergraduate student participation and success rates in STEM disciplines. Undergraduate fellows will conduct research in a faculty mentor's laboratory and design a lecture or lab module based on that research to present in a course taught by the mentor.

- **Leticia Velázquez, Ph.D.**, professor of mathematical sciences and director of the computational science program, and co-principal investigator Miguel Argáez, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematical sciences, received a grant from Stanford University and the Army High-Performance Computing Center to develop novel approaches to integrate new high-performance techniques in simulation and modeling to solve large-scale optimization problems.

- **Aaron Velasco, Ph.D.**, professor of geological sciences, and co-principal investigators William Robertson, Ph.D., associate provost, and Vanessa Loughheed, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences, received a grant from the National Science Foundation to help minority graduate

students build their science and teaching portfolios and develop their leadership and teaching skills, ultimately preparing top scholars in environmental, geological and biological sciences. The students will develop lesson plans for Early College High School students following the theme Science for a Sustainable Future, with a particular focus on the arid Southwest.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

- **Monique Lambert, D.N.P.**, instructor in clinical nursing, and co-principal investigator Kris Robinson, Ph.D., associate professor of nursing, received a grant from the Higher Education Coordinating Board to increase graduate nursing education opportunities in trauma and emergency care. Funds will be used to hire pediatric and adult/geriatric acute care nurse practitioner faculty and to provide tuition assistance and stipends for nurses to be educated in the role as an adult/gerontology or a pediatric acute care nurse practitioner with and emergency/trauma focus.

- **Elias Provencio-Vasquez, Ph.D.**, dean of the School of Nursing, received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to award five \$10,000 scholarships to students who enter the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Fast Track Program during the 2012-13 academic year. Scholarships are provided to students from groups underrepresented in nursing or from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. 📌

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> Theresa Provencio, left, and Pamela Valdez, right, graduate research assistants, flank Ralph Martinez, Ph.D., RCES director and the George W. Edwards, Jr./El Paso Electric distinguished professor in the College of Engineering, and the director of the University's energy initiatives. UTEP is one of a handful of institutions with a program that focuses on cyber and energy security.

UTEP Center Works to Keep Energy Grids Safe, Secure

By Daniel Perez
Photo by Laura Trejo

Some of America's most active, but seldom discussed, battlefields are electric power grids that control power for health care, business transactions, education, transportation, the military and so much more. According to the National Nuclear Security Administration, the United States sustains more than 10 million cyber attacks per day on nuclear reactor facilities, and that estimate could be conservative. The electric power industry receives a similar number of attacks per day.

A team of faculty, staff and students at The University of Texas at El Paso's Regional Cyber and Energy Security (RCES) Center is working to create processes, products, services and methods to secure energy systems and infrastructure against cyber attacks by natural threats (tornadoes, lightning, hurricanes, and earthquakes); internal threats, such as disgruntled employees or employee mistakes; and

equipment failures.

The team's focus is primarily the protection of the Southwest region's energy infrastructure, but their work is also expected to benefit governments and foreign and domestic enterprises. The RCES Center addresses both cyber security, which concerns IT communications and SCADA attacks — computer systems that monitor and control industrial and infrastructure processes like manufacturing, water treatment and electrical power transmission — and on energy security, which concerns cyber-physical security and resiliency in electric power grids. Due to the region's abundance of solar energy, the RCES Center also concentrates on cyber and energy security for distributed solar photovoltaic systems.

The RCES Center was created in February 2012 with the help of a six-year, \$3.4 million grant from the City of El Paso. It is a standalone center at UTEP that reports to the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects. The city sees the RCES Center as an economic development engine that can create high-tech job opportunities for Southwestern area graduates.

Ralph Martinez, Ph.D., RCES director and the George W. Edwards, Jr./El Paso Electric distinguished professor in the College of Engineering, said the center's goals are

to improve cyber and energy security for electric power grids. He referred to El Paso's three-day freeze in February 2011 that led to rolling blackouts as an example of how a drastic loss of access to energy can disrupt the region's quality of life.

"Without the proper protection, system failure could create havoc in a community, when you think of all the medical, business, manufacturing, and education sectors that require power to operate," Martinez said. "A significant national disruption could endanger the population and cost billions of dollars."

Since its inception, the RCES Center has averaged a dozen inquiries per month from nations and agencies that want to collaborate with or use the center's techniques and technologies.

"We're swamped," said Martinez, who also serves as the University's Director of Energy Initiatives. He pointed to a white board on a wall in his Burges Hall office that showed a three-tiered list of supporters and collaborators, big and small. The RCES Center has signed one-year contracts with nearby Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range for modeling and simulation of their electric power grids and has proposed similar investments from the U.S. departments of Energy and Defense.

The RCES Center is also working with

the IBM Smart Cities Program, Cisco Systems' Cyber Security for Electric Grids, and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). One of the bigger projects for which the RCES Center is competing is a five-year, \$13.7 million award from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to design and deploy a clean energy infrastructure with cyber security features in Vietnam. The UTEP team would study how to improve the country's legacy power infrastructure with solar, wind and natural gas options. USAID is expected to make its decision for an award in October 2012.

Industry heavyweights such as IBM and Cisco Systems Inc. have voiced their admiration and support of the RCES Center's work. Barbara Walker, a Cisco key account manager who handles the El Paso area, said the unrest in northern Mexico and the growth of narcotics trafficking creates a compelling need for increased cyber and energy security in the Paso del Norte region.

"The added complexities of the multi-jurisdictional federal, state and international agencies that serve our region are increasingly dependent on secure communications infrastructure," said Walker, who earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from UTEP in 1981. "Together with RCES, our vision is aligned to provide solutions to those industries that rely on mission critical communication infrastructure to extend services. We value the strategic partnership and opportunities that we have working with RCES."

The center also trains today's students for what is expected to become an international multibillion-dollar industry.

"UTEP is one of the few universities to start such a program with a focus on cyber and energy security," Martinez said.

The center employs 14, including seven graduate research assistants from the UTEP College of Engineering's departments of computer science; industrial, manufacturing and systems engineering; and electrical and computer engineering. The number could grow to 85 by 2017 as the amount of work increases, Martinez said.

Martinez recruited El Paso native Theresa Provencio for the team because of her creative and technical abilities. She is a master's student in systems engineering at UTEP and earned a bachelor's in graphic design from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. Provencio said she loves to come to work because she is starting on the ground floor of a growing industry.

Provencio called RCES work "pioneering" because it sets the framework for other graduate students.

"I feel as if I'm in the right place at the right time," she said. "The hands-on training I have received here is more than I could

have asked for. I don't think I'm going to struggle when it comes time to find a job."

In the next few years, the center plans to advance its efforts to assess and monitor risk, develop test and certification methodology, and provide training to sustain cyber and energy security systems through products and services provided by partners and collaborators. ▢

Faculty Profile



Ralph Martinez

POSITION:

Director of UTEP's Regional Cyber and Energy Security (RCES) Center, Director of Energy Initiatives in the University's Center for Environmental Resource Management, and the George W. Edwards, Jr./El Paso Electric Distinguished Professor in the College of Engineering

EDUCATION:

Ph.D., electrical engineering, University of Arizona, 1976; master's in electrical engineering, UTEP, 1968; bachelor's in electrical engineering, Texas Western College (now UTEP), 1966

MY GREATEST INSPIRATION IS ...

John F. Kennedy, the first Roman Catholic president of the United States, who challenged the nation to send a man to the moon. I also am inspired by the graduate students I have worked with at UTEP and the University of Arizona (105 master's and 16 Ph.D. students in 21 years). They make me want to continue my work with graduate students and help them to succeed.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS ...

working with graduate students, mentoring them, and preparing them for careers in engineering and the sciences.

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\$3.3 Million Collaboration Focuses on Solar Energy

By Laura L. Acosta

When Luis Echegoyen, Ph.D., joined The University of Texas at El Paso in 2010 as the Robert A. Welch Chair in Chemistry, one of his goals was to put together a multidisciplinary team of researchers who were interested in developing high-efficiency photovoltaic systems.

About 25 faculty members from chemistry, engineering, physics and science met once a week to discuss their areas of expertise and exchange ideas.

"We were learning from each other," said Echegoyen, who previously served as the director of the Chemistry Division at the National Science Foundation.

The group was eventually distilled down to seven researchers who could work coherently on solar energy projects – Echegoyen and chemistry professors Michael Irwin, Ph.D., Jose Nuñez, Ph.D., and Juan Noverón, Ph.D.; engineering professors David Zubia, Ph.D., and Chintalapalle Ramana, Ph.D.; and physics

professor Tunna Baruah, Ph.D.

Echegoyen's efforts to organize the UTEP Solar Group have resulted in a \$3.3 million award from the National Science Foundation to create a collaborative research and education program between UTEP and the University of California, Santa Barbara. The program will combine materials science and engineering research to develop new materials for photovoltaic applications, or solar panels.

The UTEP-UCSB PREM program will enhance the participation and advanced degree attainment of underrepresented minorities, primarily Hispanic students, in materials science and engineering. As part of the program, UTEP students will be able to participate in research internships at UCSB and vice versa. The program also allows UCSB and UTEP faculty to jointly teach advanced educational courses remotely to students at both campuses.

"UTEP and UCSB students will have

unique possibilities to work collaboratively in new materials research areas of direct relevance to solar energy," said Echegoyen, PREM's principal investigator. "We anticipate true synergistic outcomes to emerge from this collaborative partnership at the frontier of materials research for photovoltaic applications."

Craig Hawker, director of the Materials Research Laboratory at UCSB and co-principal investigator for the award, said the PREM award "is a chance to make a broader impact, and to excite and inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers at UCSB and UTEP."

Each of the researchers from the UTEP Solar Group, along with seven faculty members from UCSB, will work with undergraduate and graduate students to develop organic photovoltaic applications.

"One of the things I like about this is that it's a joint venture between engineering and science faculty,"

UTEP SOLAR GROUP

Each of the researchers from the UTEP Solar Group, along with seven faculty members from UCSB, will work with undergraduate and graduate students to develop organic photovoltaic applications.

Use your smartphone to scan this code to view a video interview with PREM scientists.

You can also view the video at utepnews.com.





Photo by J.R. Hernandez

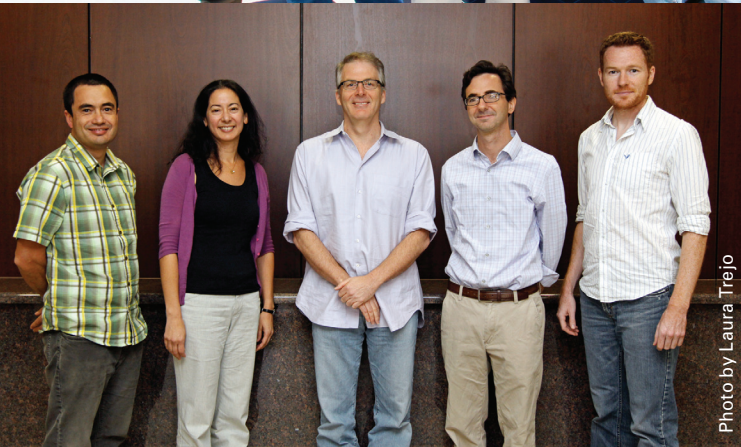


Photo by Laura Trejo

Top: The UTEP Solar Group consists of, from left, Juan Noverón, David Zubia, Jose Nuñez, Luis Echegoyen and Michael Irwin. Not pictured: Chintalapalle Ramana and Tunna Baruah.

Left: The UC Santa Barbara Barbara Group includes, from left, Javier Read de Alaniz, Dotti Pak, Craig Hawker, Michael Chabinyk and Kris Delaney.

Echegoyen said. "It's time for these historical barriers that have existed between faculty to come down. The interfaces of chemistry to materials and to biological systems is where the action is, and that includes engineering, physics, and multidisciplinary approaches to solving problems."

Researchers currently use inorganic materials such as silicon to create thick, heavy and rigid solar panels, which exhibit good efficiencies but are not optimal from many perspectives.

Echegoyen hopes to develop higher efficiency photovoltaic cells using organic materials that will result in flexible, thin, light and colorful solar panels that can efficiently absorb light and can be mass produced.

"I want to see the development of brand new materials," Echegoyen said. "I want to see new paradigms and new concepts in the preparation of these solar cells."

Each researcher will contribute his or her unique expertise to the development of the photovoltaic materials.

David Zubia, electrical and computer engineering professor, uses computers to calculate how atoms come together to make crystals that are used to make solar cells.

Zubia has been working on solar cell research for several years and said it was natural for him to participate in the program, which allows him to continue his research and also add the computational dimension.

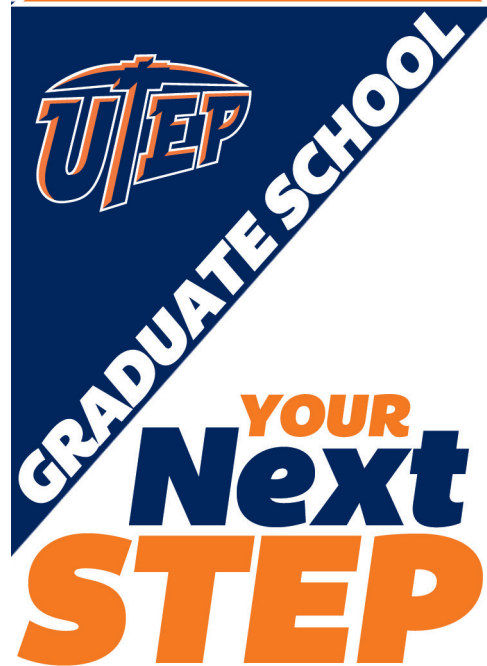
"It is important to make more perfect crystals since solar cells work better when the crystals have a low density of imperfections," Zubia said.

During the next five years, the program will enroll more than 30 undergraduate students and more than 20 doctoral students.

Funds will be used to pay for the students' salaries and travel, and for materials and supplies.

Echegoyen said that the PREM program between UTEP and UCSB is predicated on the basis of scientific parity, with both institutions making equal contributions to the research. He hopes to kick off the program with a scientific symposium at UTEP where researchers from both universities will meet and share ideas.

"If we succeed in producing good science out of the PREM, we'll be in good shape for something bigger like an energy research center in the future," Echegoyen said. "Of course, that's a few years away." 📖



Mike Loya
Academic Services Bldg.
Room 223
utep.edu/graduate

Resilience Drives Professor

By Laura L. Acosta • Photo by Laura Trejo

As a health psychologist, Felipe González Castro, Ph.D., conducts research among youth and adults to understand how best to prevent their involvement in unhealthy behaviors such as drug abuse, smoking, and a poor diet.

A pioneer in the field since 1981, Castro was among the first to teach health psychology as an assistant professor at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Thirty years later, Castro is a professor and director of the Health Psychology Program at UTEP, a position he assumed last year, where he focuses his research on a systemic analysis of stress, coping and resilience as influences on adaptive health behaviors in Latino and other racial and ethnic populations.

His research examines cognitive, affective and behavioral factors that are important in preventing and treating addictive behaviors and substance abuse disorders, as well as other lifestyle disorders, including type 2 diabetes.

“Prevention science is an important field. It emphasizes the adage that prevention is better than treatment,” said Castro, who was born in Mexico City. In the 1950s, when he was 3 years old, he and his family came to the United States as legal immigrants, via El Paso. “If you can intervene early in a disease or disorder, then you can prevent unhealthy or maladaptive behaviors and their consequences. We use scientific knowledge from carefully conducted research to identify what works, and then develop intervention programs to make it happen.”

In May, Castro reached another career milestone when he became the first Mexican-American chosen as president-elect for the Society for Prevention Research (SPR). He will lead the organization, which is dedicated to advancing scientific investigation on the etiology and prevention of social, physical and mental health problems, for two years beginning in June 2013.

“Dr. Castro will be an outstanding president for SPR and an excellent academic ambassador from UTEP to that organization,” said Pat Witherspoon, Ph.D., dean of UTEP’s College of Liberal Arts. “A leader in his discipline, as well as a new



leader at UTEP, he embodies the kind of scholar who guides universities as they become national research universities. We are very proud to have him in the College of Liberal Arts as an important change agent.”

As SPR president, one of his goals is to find ways to tailor prevention interventions that are culturally relevant for special populations, such as Latinos and other racial or ethnic minorities. According to Castro, a program designed for one population does not necessarily work for all groups.

“If I design an intervention program for New York City and I bring it to El Paso, there may be some differences in the population and in the environment, and these differences create the need for intervention adaptation, which involves the application of science, although tailoring it to work at the local level,” he said. “This requires additional efforts in order to get all the puzzle pieces to work together.”

Castro has been passionate about developing interventions that promote resilience, or a person’s ability to cope effectively when facing adversity and other challenging life experiences.

While he was a professor in the Department of Psychology at Arizona State University, Castro was co-investigator of a multi-year study (2005-09) that examined the effects of resilience on individuals and community residents. Under this larger study, Castro examined the resilience-related

characteristics of drug users, community residents, and Hispanic leaders.

Researchers interviewed 216 drug users, 44 community residents and 43 leaders from Arizona. The leaders included state senators, representatives of congress, professors and business and community leaders.

The drug users were found to have low resilience relative to the leaders, based in part on significant differences in their coping skills in response to a difficult life problem. Leaders exhibited higher resilience, particularly as this involves skills and efforts involving ongoing problem solving as their type of coping.

“We learned about the deep structure of resilience in this study, where the goal was to obtain the requisite knowledge to design and implement an intervention that will aid in developing resilience skills and capabilities,” Castro said. “If we know what the key ingredients are, we can design an intervention that can be preventive or restorative, depending upon the ingredients that go into it. However, it is also important to develop a culturally-tailored intervention that promotes resilience, particularly among high-risk groups. For children who are at risk for becoming drug users or going to prison, we need to find a way to develop and nurture their skills and their social environment, as these will increase their resilience.”

Eddie Castañeda, Ph.D., professor and

“A leader in his discipline, as well as a new leader at UTEP, [Felipe Castro] embodies the kind of scholar who guides universities as they become national research universities.”

Pat Witherspoon, Ph.D.,
Dean of UTEP's College of Liberal Arts

Felipe González Castro works with Katherine M. Aguirre, a clinical psychology master's student, on her thesis about strength and resilience in Hispanics.

chair of the Department of Psychology at UTEP, said Castro's academic and research background brings a focus on so many issues directly relevant to El Paso's population.

“His research touches upon prevention issues such as diabetes, breast cancer and substance abuse, among other health-related issues,” Castañeda said. “His expertise will facilitate cross-disciplinary collaborations, engage the community and enhance the University's capacity to train our students to give back to the community by helping to pipeline them to advanced careers in research and service.”

One of Castro's priorities is to train a new generation of research investigators who will be strong scientists with a sensitivity to cultural issues.

One of those future researchers is John A. Saucedo, a Ph.D. candidate in UTEP's psychology program who is working with Castro to analyze research data from a completed drug relapse prevention project in which researchers examined the predictors of relapse by using multilevel statistical modeling.

“I really enjoy and appreciate our meetings, where we can sit and brainstorm anything from broad theoretical issues to the most specific statistical detail about how to best analyze a hypothesis,” said Saucedo. “You can tell [Castro] views the mentoring of young scientists as an important part of the program, because the best mentors are the ones you aspire to be like.” ☒

Faculty Profile



Felipe González Castro

POSITION:

Professor, Department of Psychology and Director of Health Psychology

EDUCATION:

Ph.D., clinical psychology, University of Washington, 1981; M.S.W. in social work, UCLA, 1976

HOBBIES:

I enjoy going to big league baseball games, and I am a long time Dodger fan.

I CHOSE MY CAREER

BECAUSE ... Since high school, and likely before, I was fascinated by the psychology of human thought and behavior as related to well-being and health.

MY GREATEST INSPIRATION

IS ... To create or design an innovative work or product that makes a significant contribution to the world.

THE BEST PART OF MY

JOB IS ... The diversity of work activities, the challenges for creativity, the ability to teach and mentor students, and the ability to collaborate with so many talented scholars and professionals.

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Partnerships Capture Community's Attention

By Laura L. Acosta • Photo by Laura Trejo

Understanding that research is most effective when it leads to practical solutions and benefits for the community, UTEP's College of Health Sciences is using a unique program to build strong partnerships with the region's health organizations.

The Community and Academic Partnership for Health Sciences Research (CAPHSR), founded in 2009, brings together researchers and the individuals who work day-to-day in the community to improve the physical and mental health of residents – young and old – living along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The research projects of CAPHSR (pronounced “capture”) have placed emphasis on aging and chronic disease, mental health and substance abuse, children with special needs, and creating healthy homes.

“I very much believe in the power of universities working together with communities to change their health outcomes,” said College of Health Sciences Dean Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D. “We have an unlimited supply of student help, and the kinds of projects and activities that we can do with community partners are perfect for student learning and for integrating what they are learning about in classes with real life problems.”

Since the program's inception, representatives from as many as 20 community organizations have met with health sciences faculty each month to network and build relationships. Participants also attend quarterly training workshops, where they polish research skills and work on community-based research projects.

In March, the College of Health Sciences awarded \$4,000 Community and Academic Partnership mini-grants to six teams of faculty and community partners to conduct community-based participatory research projects that are aligned with Healthy People 2020 goals.

The grants provide seed money that allow participants to solidify their partnerships and collect pilot data to prepare grant proposals for outside funding, Curtis said.

One project is “Promoting the Health of Older Adults,” a collaboration between health sciences and liberal arts faculty,

UTEP's Center for Civic Engagement and El Paso's City Parks and Recreation Department.

The service-learning project involves UTEP students who are developing a public health education campaign about the city's annual Senior Games.

Another area focuses on children with special needs. Occupational Therapy Assistant Professor Eugenia Gonzalez, Ph.D., is working with the Department of Speech-Language Pathology, the Paso del Norte Children's Development Center, Region 19 – Early Childhood Intervention, and the Ysleta Independent School District to conduct a survey to find out what screening tools pediatricians use to determine developmental delays in children, such as autism.

“We are working on measuring the number of children with autism spectrum disorders in our community, and early identification and referral protocols,” said Jaime Barceleau, executive director of Paso del Norte Children's Development Center. “Our long-term goal is to improve services to this population.”

Barceleau has been involved with CAPHSR since the beginning.

“My involvement is consistent with my

professional interests,” said Barceleau, a UTEP graduate. “I think the work of the University and CAPHSR is important because it has strengthened ties between UTEP and the community agencies, and it has gotten us to focus on common goals.”


Jeri J. Sias, Pharm.D., a clinical professor in the UTEP/UT Austin Cooperative Pharmacy Program, is working with Centro San Vicente, the Texas A&M Colonias Program and the Boys and Girls Club on a project concerning healthy homes for families and adolescents.

The team is conducting focus groups in two of the city's low-income zip codes and in the Socorro community to find out what parents think about the quality of life and well-being of their neighborhoods.

Sias said CAPHSR goes beyond sharing information between the University and its community partners.

“Research should have meaning,” she said. “Research should lead to improved health in our communities.”

Mark Lusk, Ed.D., and Griselda Villalobos, Ph.D., in the Department of Social Work are working with Family Services of El Paso to study depression and trauma among Mexican refugees.



UTEP faculty members Jeri J. Sias, Pharm.D., and João Batista Ferreira-Pinto, Ph.D., are members of the CAPHSR steering committee. The CAPHSR program brings together researchers and the individuals that work day-to-day in the community to improve the health of residents along the U.S.-Mexico border.



The team is conducting focus groups in two of the city's low-income ZIP codes and in the Socorro community to find out what parents think about the quality of life and well-being of their neighborhoods.

Eva Moya, Ph.D., assistant professor of social work, is recruiting 25 migrant women who are survivors of domestic abuse from Migrant Refugee Services, Familias Triunfadoras in San Elizario and the Mexican Consulate's program, Ventanillas de Salud, to conduct a Photovoice project that focuses on women's sexual and reproductive health.

João Batista Ferreira-Pinto, Ph.D., director of UTEP's Center for Interdisciplinary Health Research and Evaluation in the College of Health Sciences, has worked with community partners in the past. But until CAPHSR, Ferreira-Pinto felt that the research was very one-sided.

"I've been on both sides of the fence. I was a researcher and then I started to work with community-based organizations," he said. "I could see how there could be some apprehension from community organizations because some researchers go in, interview their patients, collect data and never share what they found. We get this data and people don't know what happened."

That data can only be provided by community organizations that work directly with the population, CAPHSR researchers said.

"Academics see health from a theoretical or literature point of view – we know how many people die from this and we're very knowledgeable about the statistics," Sias said. "But our partners deal with health issues every day. They're our key informants as to what is practical and what patients will respond to, and it's important that our partnership be two-sided."

This fall, CAPHSR members will continue to work on their individual community projects but under a new unifying theme: Healthy Homes and Communities Across the Lifespan.

"One of the things that has come out of this partnership is that things evolve and emerge over time," Sias said. "We've realized that we're all connected because we're all trying to do different research and educational programs that create a healthier home and a healthier community, so why not embrace that?"

Sias said that it will take time to see CAPHSR's impact on the community.

"It's a longer-term picture, but we have to make the investment," she said. "It's also the right thing to do. From an outside perspective, I think that people would expect UTEP and the community should be working together all along." 📌



UTEP's College of Health Sciences invites Miner fans to lace up their running shoes and join us for the



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New Science Faculty

Raise the Research Bar

Three new faculty members in UTEP's College of Science bring impressive educational backgrounds, groundbreaking research projects, and a burst of energy to the University. From using geology to find oil, to developing solar fuels and solar water purification systems, to studying how the brain controls food intake and responds to blood sugar levels, these researchers provide a new dimension of expertise at UTEP.



Michael Irwin, Ph.D.



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

WHAT IS YOUR POSITION AT UTEP?

I am an assistant professor of chemistry and materials science and engineering.

WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND?

I earned my B.A. from Texas A&M University in chemistry and my Ph.D. from Northwestern University in inorganic chemistry.

WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH BACKGROUND AND WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS?

My background is in inorganic and materials chemistry. My current research is based on sustainability science with focuses on organic photovoltaics, dye-sensitized solar cells, solar fuels, and solar water purification.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR CAREER?

After researching a few different professions, I decided that I wanted to have a career like my role model and undergraduate adviser, Professor John Fackler.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE UTEP?

I was offered a postdoctoral position under the Intelligence Community Postdoctoral Fellowship program within the W.M. Keck Center for 3-D Innovation. The opportunity seemed too good to pass up and has worked out beautifully for me. As this position was coming to a close, Professor Luis Echegoyen and I started a collaboration that seemed too good to be true. After some negotiation, I elected to stay at UTEP to pursue my passion. The professionalism, poise and vision of Dr. Natalicio, as well as the opportunity for continued collaboration with the Keck Center and MRTI (Materials Research and Technology Institute), also played big roles in my decision to remain at UTEP.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

I really enjoy the problem solving aspect of my job. In addition, I like that I get to help create new scientists and engineers and therefore have a hand in the future of science.



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Kate Giles, Ph.D.



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

WHAT IS YOUR POSITION AT UTEP?

I am a faculty member in the Department of Geological Sciences. I hold the Lloyd A. Nelson Professorship and am the Director of the Institute of Tectonic Studies at UTEP.

WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND?

I have a B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison; an M.S. degree from the University of Iowa; and a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona.

WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH BACKGROUND AND WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS?

My research is primarily in the study of carbonate rocks (limestone) and their relationship to tectonic processes. I am especially interested in understanding the controls on the development of fossil reefs. Some of these reefs are more than 600 million years old and were constructed by creatures long extinct. I am currently focusing on understanding how salt diapirs rise and flow by documenting how sediments are deposited and deformed around diapirs - especially reefs. My students and I are studying outcropping diapirs in Utah, Spain, and South Australia at the moment.

WHAT IS A DIAPIR, AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

A salt diapir is a vertically or subhorizontally rising column of salt that stems from an originally horizontal sedimentary layer of salt. Sediments pile up around the rising salt diapir. Some of the sediments deposited next to the diapirs form a zone where oil and gas collects in what is referred to as a trap. Oil companies are actively exploring for salt diapir related traps, especially in the Gulf of Mexico. My research provides models that aid in the prediction of where those traps might be.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR CAREER?

I have always been fascinated by nature and particularly enjoy trying to understand the evolution of the Earth. I had worked as a research geologist for Exxon for several years after graduating from the University of Arizona. I quickly decided that I wanted to follow my own research interests. I also like to share my knowledge with others. As a faculty member at a major research institution, I can achieve both of these goals.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

I enjoy travelling with students and fellow researchers to remote areas around the world to study rocks. It's the ultimate research laboratory for someone like me who loves to be outdoors observing nature along with people who like to do the same.

Arshad Khan, Ph.D.



Photo by Laura Trejo

WHAT IS YOUR POSITION AT UTEP?

Assistant professor in the Department of Biology

WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND?

I earned my Ph.D., from the University of California – Riverside and I completed my postdoctoral work at the University of Southern California.

WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH BACKGROUND AND WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS?

My dissertation at the University of California – Riverside focused on how the brain controls food intake and helps regulate body weight. I centered on the molecular machinery in a brain region called the hypothalamus and how it controls food intake. I had a great deal of neuroanatomical training during my postdoctoral years with Alan Watts at the University of Southern California, which in turn changed my focus to the neuroanatomy of the hypothalamus. I was interested mostly in how the brain responds to the stress of having low blood sugar. After earning a Career Development Award (K01) from the National Institutes of Health in 2008, I have developed and brought with me to UTEP two research agendas that are interrelated. I'm interested in the brain circuits that control food intake and those that are involved in blood sugar regulation.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR CAREER?

I was always curious about science when I was a child and decided to embark on a pre-medical track during my undergraduate years at the University of California – Riverside. As a senior, I began leveraging time in the lab doing research for entrance into medical school. After some time, I realized I was more enamored with the research itself. I looked for the appropriate avenue to utilize my interests in research and the skills I acquired and decided to get my Ph.D. instead of going to medical school.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE UTEP?

I chose UTEP for a number of reasons. First, the mission of both the University — access and excellence — and the Border Biomedical Research Center (BBRC) — border health issues, including diabetes and obesity — were very appealing. There is a dynamism in the faculty and students on campus that shows this undercurrent of access and excellence in an astonishing way. The competitively modern facilities suggested that a lot could be accomplished with the support I would receive. I was challenged positively by the idea of finding a sense of how my research overlaps with others in a very collaborative and interdisciplinary way. Lastly, Rob Kirken, the department chair of biology and BBRC program director, is visionary about recruiting high-caliber faculty from multiple disciplines. 📍



By Laura L. Acosta • Photo by Laura Trejo

AUG. 27 MARKED THE BEGINNING
OF THE FALL 2012 SEMESTER AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO.

WELCOME MINERS

The campus bustled with anticipation as nearly 4,500 freshmen and first-time UTEP students began their first day of classes Aug. 27.

Among them was Christian Balandran, a J.M. Hanks High School top 10 percent graduate who enrolled at UTEP to study kinesiology.

Since his junior year in high school, the Hanks Knight remembers recruiters from different colleges visiting his school to tout their programs, but after learning about the University's physical therapy program, Balandran was set on becoming a Miner.

"I decided to come to UTEP because of the great physical therapy program here," said Balandran, a UTEP Presidential Excellence Scholarship recipient. "Since both of my parents graduated from UTEP, I really felt like attending here too. I was born and raised in El Paso, so I have heard and known about UTEP since I was little."

One-on-one interaction, campus visits and electronic communications are some of the tools that UTEP recruiters leverage to attract the region's best and brightest students to the University.

"As recruiters we have to know pretty much everything that is going on on campus," said Carlos Joel Gonzalez, senior university recruiter in the UTEP Office of Admissions and Recruitment. "We're on the frontline. It's more than just communicating the excellent programs that [UTEP] has, or the admission process, but we also have to be able to back it up with process-oriented operations."

Innovation plays a major role when promoting the University to students in El Paso and across the nation.

The Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) system created by Hobsons, an education solutions company, allows the University to effectively manage more than 120,000 recruitment, enrollment and retention records. Twice in the past three years, UTEP's Enrollment Services has been recognized with the Peer Excellence Award from Hobsons for their successful implementation of the system.

"With [UTEP's] mission of access and excellence, we do everything we can to support our work using CRM," said Gus Monzon, UTEP's associate director of admissions and recruitment. "We're a growing institution with a growing demand and we have to employ technology to help us become more efficient, so we're doing those things to help us improve our customer service. In the end, that's really what it's coming down to. We want to make sure that we work with all students."

The CRM allows UTEP to tailor messages to a specific student, noted Craig Westman, Ph.D., UTEP's associate vice president for student solutions and outcomes integration. "We are a growing institution and with growth can come a lack of personalization when it comes to recruitment," he added. "The CRM allows us to tailor messages to specific student needs. For example, students missing transcripts, test scores, etc., to be admitted, are notified of exactly what they are missing. The CRM allows us to be very personal despite continued growth. Students want information germane to their informational needs and the CRM allows us to provide that."

UTEP's recruiters – Gonzalez, Rosa Sandoval, and Arthur Ybarra – start working with high school students long

Recruiters worked with more than 11,000 students from the region in 2012.

before they enter their senior year. The University uses CRM to email and send direct mail to students who have taken the PSAT in the 10th grade to introduce them to UTEP and let them know what they need to do to prepare for college as juniors and seniors.

Students navigate five stages in the enrollment funnel – suspect, prospect, applicant, admitted and enrolled.

The suspect phase includes students from around Region 19. They receive emailed information about academic programs. Prospective students complete an online interest page that indicates that they're interested in attending the University.

But the phase where recruiters work the hardest is when the student begins to apply, Monzon said.

Applicants are given access to CRM's VIP portal – the Miner Insider, an interactive Web page – where they can check their admissions status, explore majors, learn about student organizations and stay up-to-date with University news and events.

Miner Insider is tailored to each individual. They receive updates about what is missing on their application, such

as transcripts or test scores, which is also filtered to recruiters who are then able to follow up with the students and their high school counselors.

Gonzalez said working with counselors throughout the year helps to streamline the recruitment process.

"They are our gatekeepers," he said. "We need to form and nurture those relationships with the counselors, and we do that by updating them with as much information about their students about who applied and what we need. That's where we build our credibility."

Martin Sanchez, a counselor at El Dorado High School, said he and his students enjoy the accessibility they have to the University, and he hopes that the same relationship continues after the University achieves Tier One status.

"Our students are very much interested in UTEP," he said. "The students feel it is the best local choice they have as far as a university."

Recruiters worked with more than 11,000 students from the region in 2012. They work with counselors to set up application intake times at high schools where they help seniors with the online Apply Texas form. Classroom presentations, parent information nights, and college fairs are some of the other year-round events.

The system also is used to promote new student orientation, a three-and-a-half-day event that familiarizes students with the University, its faculty members, facilities and fellow incoming freshman. More than 90 percent of participants enroll at UTEP after attending orientation.

During orientation, Cynthia Martinez toured the College of Engineering to see where she was going to spend the next four years preparing to become an engineer.

"It was fast," Martinez said. "They showed us how to arrange our classes to have a better schedule and explained how the [engineering] program works. They also showed us the Classroom building, which I thought was very cool."

For current students, the system is used to inform them about registration and advising dates.

Gonzalez said that one of the best parts of his job is getting students interested in a college education.

"We are really sincere about them going to school and instilling in them that a higher education is attainable," he said. "A lot of times [students] don't know that, and sometimes they just need someone to explain to them the college process." 📌

Community Partners:

H.O.T. Summer Conference Introduces Youth to Campus

By Jenn O'Hanlon • Photos by Laura Trejo

For many youth living in public housing in El Paso, the road to a university education is long, but the journey can start with a H.O.T. summer opportunity.

Summer 2012 marked the third year of the Higher Opportunities Thrive (H.O.T.) Summer Youth Conference, made possible by a partnership between The University of Texas at El Paso and The Housing Authority of the City of El Paso (HACEP). The program was developed to give children living in public housing in El Paso the opportunity to spend a week on UTEP's campus.

This year, the summer conference was named 3-D H.O.T. to signify its third year in existence.

The purpose of H.O.T. is to introduce children ages 10 to 18 to a university setting with the two main goals of providing career awareness and college preparation through exposure to university life.

"We want students who live in public housing to feel attached to the UTEP community," said Beto Lopez, associate vice president for university relations. "We seek to prepare lower income students the same way any other student would prepare for a college education."

H.O.T. teaches students that better opportunities abound when they prepare. The conference setting reminds students that they are always learning, meeting other people and developing a culture of professionalism.

"You have more opportunities if you're prepared," Lopez said. "As of the

2011 school year, we had former H.O.T. participants enrolled at UTEP as students."

UTEP and HACEP's partnership is successful each year because of the shared goal of helping the community, specifically youth, gain access to a university.

"From day one, the staff at University Relations and HACEP has worked as a team with the main focus being the success of the HACEP youth," said Maria Flores, community services supervisor for HACEP and liaison to UTEP for the H.O.T. Summer Conference.

"This was our third year working with UTEP, and approximately 50 percent of



Damien Terrazas participates in 3-D H.O.T.



Stan Waterhouse, CEO of The Housing Authority of the City of El Paso, speaks with children ages 10 to 18 during the 2012 3-D H.O.T. summer youth conference. The conference's goal is to provide career awareness and college preparation through exposure to university life.

the youth participating in the program were returning participants,” Flores said. “The confidence these youth exhibited in comparison to the initial year of participation was highly noticeable. They showed a sense of belonging and familiarity with UTEP staff and faculty.”

The H.O.T. Summer Conference exposes participants to an environment that can initially be intimidating. Students learn about different career fields and their associated requirements. They prepare short- and long-term goals during the

truly believe this program can thrive in any city as long as there are caring professionals in housing and in the university setting. It’s just a matter of developing a partnership.”

Lopez said that if it were not for the solid partnership with HACEP and its leaders, the program would not be what it is.

“It takes strong leadership to be so invested,” Lopez said. “There is a tremendous amount of trust, vision and aspiration in this project.”

Flores said that investing in the development of youth is one of HACEP’s main objectives.

“HACEP has plans to continue collaborating with UTEP to continue the H.O.T. Summer Conferences in an effort to reach and develop more youth members of the El Paso community,” Flores said.

Arvizu added that the number of students that register for the program increases each

“Youth are recruiting their friends from their communities to come to the conference,” Arvizu said. “I want this program to continue for many years. It would be great to see the kids we work with now grow to earn our positions in the future so they can help the next generation of H.O.T. attendees.”

University Relations officials said the entire UTEP campus has been supportive of the H.O.T. project.

“We all have the spirit of H.O.T. in us,” Lopez said. “We use that spirit to motivate ourselves daily to be the best we can for the youth involved.” 📌



THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT REGISTER FOR THE PROGRAM INCREASES EACH YEAR.

weeklong conference and make oral presentations, which helps build self-confidence.

“We promote all colleges at UTEP so participants are aware they don’t need to leave El Paso to obtain their degree,” said Andres Arvizu, coordinator for 3-D H.O.T..

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) awarded the H.O.T. and II H.O.T. Summer Youth Conferences a NAHRO Award of Merit in Housing and Community Development on July 29 during its summer conference in San Francisco.

The programs also have been entered in the National Awards of Excellence competition.

“We are very fortunate to be recognized as one of the top youth programs in the country,” Lopez said. “We will present H.O.T. as a national program model. We



Left: UTEP student Griselda Garcia instructs youth participating in 3-D H.O.T.

Above: Children living in public housing in El Paso spent a week on UTEP’s campus in summer 2012.

The purpose of H.O.T. is to introduce children ages 10 to 18 to a university setting with the two main goals of providing career awareness and college preparation through exposure to university life.

Distinguished Alumni 2012

By Jenn Crawford



Dennis C.K. Poon

B.S. IN CIVIL ENGINEERING '77

In the tale of the tortoise and the hare, Dennis C.K. Poon describes himself as the slow-and-steady tortoise.

"I tell myself that I'm just a turtle, but I'll keep working and working until I reach the target. I don't take a break," said Poon, vice chairman of Thornton Tomasetti Inc., a New York-based international engineering firm that has designed some of the world's tallest buildings. "I'm not that super; I'm just an ordinary person."

Humble, for certain. But ordinary is no way to describe his impressive engineering resume. Poon, 58, was the chief engineer in the design of Taipei 101, a 101-story, 1,667-foot-tall building in Taiwan that was the tallest in the world when it was finished in 2004. His firm also designed the Petronas Towers in Malaysia (1,483 feet), and is involved with the not-yet-completed Shanghai Tower (2,074 feet) and Ping An International Finance Center (2,216 feet) in China, and the Kingdom Tower (3,280 feet) in Saudi Arabia.

In addition to supertall buildings, his company played a key role in designing the Chicago O'Hare Airport; Yankee Stadium; the MGM CityCenter hotel, casino and convention center complex in Las Vegas; and dozens of other projects.

Poon grew up in the 1950s in a public housing settlement in Hong Kong for Chinese families. His father was in construction and his mother was a homemaker taking care of five children and occasionally sewing clothes for a factory part-time from home. Neither of Poon's parents attended college.

The family shared a single room with no running water, no private bathroom and no kitchen. All seven members ate, slept and studied in that room, and Poon learned quickly how to make the most efficient use of space and time. He dreamed of living in a bigger, better place. He knew that to achieve his dream and to help support his family, he needed an education.

Upon graduating from Hong Kong Polytechnic in 1974 with a certificate in building technology, Poon looked forward to attending a university. But in British-controlled Hong Kong, a rigid standardized testing system limited university attendance to the academically elite.

Unwilling to give up on his college dreams, Poon began to look abroad. He chose The University of Texas at El Paso because of its affordability and because it offered a broad academic program in engineering.

To pay for his tuition and living expenses, Poon worked in the University Library copy center, earning \$2 an hour. He and a roommate teamed up to buy used cars from graduating seniors, repair them, and sell them to other students for a profit. They also bought leftover clothing and housewares from local stores and resold them at a flea market.

In the summers, Poon moved to New York City to work in a Chinese restaurant washing dishes and waiting tables. The jobs supported him and left enough extra money to help his two brothers leave Hong Kong and join him at UTEP. Raymond Poon earned a bachelor's in business administration and an M.B.A. at UTEP and now manages a software company. Daniel Poon earned a B.B.A. at UTEP and works as an investment banker.

After six semesters at UTEP, Poon graduated with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1977 and went on to earn a master's in civil engineering from Columbia University in 1979. While a student at Columbia, a longtime customer at the restaurant where he worked recommended Poon to a friend, Charlie Thornton, who was then an executive at a New York City engineering firm that later became Thornton Tomasetti Engineers. In December 1977, Poon became a junior engineer at the firm while completing his master's degree.

Almost 35 years later, he is vice chairman of the 700-person firm and heads the company's international operations. But the journey started at UTEP.

"UTEP offered me the best education and campus facilities in my life at an affordable cost," he recalled. "The engineering program was broad-based and prepared me for continuing higher education. Most importantly, UTEP gave me the opportunity to further my studies at the time I badly needed to prepare for a good and prosperous future."

Poon hopes to continue to support aspiring engineers and design buildings that have a positive impact on their communities in terms of function and characteristics, and not necessarily because they are tall or iconic.

But he admits there is something special about standing at the top of one of the world's tallest buildings and knowing that it is strong and safe.

"It's a thrill to stand on top of the building and say to yourself, 'Wow, what I learned in school really works,'" Poon said. "Being an engineer, the true reward is what you have done to make an impact to society, when people can use and enjoy what you have designed."

Every year, The University of Texas at El Paso honors a group of men and women whose achievements stand out as monuments to dedication, integrity and hard work. They are the Distinguished Alumni.

This year, the University has selected two outstanding Miners as the 2012 Distinguished Alumni. Please join us in honoring those who have honored us through their achievement and example.



Ignacio Urrabazo, Jr.

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION '70

When Ignacio Urrabazo, Jr., arrived at Texas Western College, now The University of Texas at El Paso, in 1965, he was a confident 17-year-old who thought he knew everything he needed to know about the world. He was wrong.

When he was 35 and was asked to start a new bank and become its president, he thought he was ready for the challenge. He wasn't.

In both cases, Urrabazo took risks and ended up in situations where he had to learn and grow as he went along. But in both cases, he was successful in the end. Today, he tells his employees at Commerce Bank in Laredo, Texas that without risk, they will not find success.

"It's good to know how much you don't know," said Urrabazo, 64, who grew Commerce Bank from an idea in 1983 to a \$560 million enterprise in 2012. The bank is a subsidiary of International Bancshares Corp., the largest minority-owned bank in the country. "You will not be successful if you do not take risks. Sometimes you'll fall flat on your face, but hopefully you'll learn from that."

Urrabazo grew up in the small border community of Del Rio as a third-generation Texan. Neither of his parents finished high school – his mother was a homemaker and his father worked for Southern Pacific Railroad and the city water department – but they always knew their son would go

to college. His aunts on both sides of the family also encouraged him to continue his education – they were teachers and college graduates.

"There was really no option," Urrabazo recalled. "It was just a matter of where."

Urrabazo had his sights set on St. Mary's University in San Antonio or the University of Texas at Austin, but after a trip with his high school math club during his senior year to visit the UTEP campus – then called Texas Western College – he sent a third application to TWC.

Texas Western accepted Urrabazo almost immediately. By the time the other two universities sent their acceptance letters, he had put down a \$25 deposit on a room in Hawthorne House.

"It turned out to be one of my best decisions ever," Urrabazo said. "UTEP nurtured me and molded me and matured me, and I owe a lot to UTEP for that. I really was not totally prepared for college and I was not ready to be on my own."

Urrabazo had graduated from a small, predominately Hispanic high school with limited academic skills and limited life skills. At UTEP, he met students from around the country; experienced the college's 1966 national basketball championship, witnessed the name change from TWC to UTEP; and participated in debates about the Vietnam War and racial equality.

As a student, he worked part-time at the El Paso National Bank in the installment loan department. That was his first taste of banking, and combined with what he was learning in his finance and economics classes, it was enough to capture his interest.

Urrabazo earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from UTEP in 1970. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves right away, knowing that he would be drafted if he didn't, and served six years. During that time, he started his first job as a management trainee at State National Bank in El Paso, where he worked until 1977. That year, he moved to National Bank of Commerce in San Antonio, where he stayed until he accepted an offer to start Commerce Bank in 1983. He never left.

Urrabazo also earned an M.B.A. from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 1980 and an advanced banking diploma from Southern Methodist University in 1981.

He is dedicated to his job and to the banking industry. He is chairman-elect of the Texas Bankers Association, a member of the FDIC Advisory Committee on Community Banking, and has been chairman of the National Bankers Association and Minbanc Foundation, which represent and support minority banks.

He has testified before congressional committees twice and was invited by Speaker of the U.S. House John Boehner to join a national panel discussion on job creation.

He was a 1999 Gold Nugget Award recipient from UTEP's College of Business Administration.

Outside of work, Urrabazo enjoys hunting and spending time with his wife of 43 years, Yolanda, seven children and four grandchildren.

The keys to his success have been a combination of family support, values instilled in him by his parents, hard work, being at the right place at the right time, and the foundation of a college education at UTEP.

"I had some very good professors there," Urrabazo said. "I got very good basic fundamentals in everything – whether it was accounting or finance or marketing. It gave me a lot of confidence and a lot of leadership that I did not have when I got to UTEP." 🍌

Gold Nuggets

Stories by Timi Haggerty-Muñoz and Isela Ocegueda



The University of Texas at El Paso and the UTEP Alumni Association are proud to present the 2012 Gold Nugget Award recipients. These outstanding alumni are recognized by each of the University's colleges and schools for their achievements and dedication.

We recognize them because they inspire others – the current students who will follow their paths, guided by their bold examples.



**Alfonso
Batres, Ph.D.**

B.A. in Psychology, 1975 • College of Liberal Arts

Alfonso Batres' pursuit of an undergraduate degree at UTEP was temporarily interrupted when he joined the Army and fought in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969.

Yet this decision to serve his country would be the impetus and inspiration to earn his degree in psychology from UTEP in 1975.

"UTEP provided me with a solid academic foundation at a time when I was personally struggling with my readjustment back to civilian life from Vietnam," he said. "I wanted to help my fellow veterans with their readjustment needs and found that psychology was the right choice."

Batres earned his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1984. In 1994, he became the chief readjustment counseling officer for

the Veterans Health Administration. Under his resolute leadership, the quantity and quality of services provided through community-based Vet Centers nationwide were expanded and improved to meet the unique needs of an ever-growing number of combat veterans and their families. These services include specialized counseling, medical and benefit referrals, and job assistance.

"The opportunity to serve veterans and their families as a civil servant through the Vet Center program has been a dream realized and an honor," Batres told the Partnership for Public Service when awarded the 2011 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal in recognition of his distinguished career.

"I love working with and for veterans," he said, "and have been blessed with a job that I love."



**Brant
Capps, D.P.T.**

M.S. in Physical Therapy, 1995 • College of Health Sciences

From his days as a student at UTEP, Brant Capps recalls his professors' guiding words of encouragement: "Stay active in the profession," "Push yourself to find your boundaries and then go past them," and "I expect great things from you in the future."

They will be pleased to know that Capps not only met their expectations – he exceeded them.

After earning a master's degree in physical therapy from UTEP in 1995, Capps earned his doctorate in physical therapy in 2011 from Texas Tech University.

"I wanted to show others that the D.P.T. is good for the future of our profession, and that I was willing to pursue this degree for my own personal growth while hopefully helping inspire others to do the same," he said.

As the director of Rehabilitation and Therapy Services

at Baptist St. Anthony's Health System in Amarillo, Texas, Capps oversees three departments and more than 100 clinical employees. The driving force behind everything he and his team do remains constant: helping patients.

"These patients strive to overcome many great obstacles throughout their recovery, and it is rewarding to witness them achieve milestones and regain their hope for the future," he said.

As vice president of the Texas Physical Therapy Association and coach to third- and eighth-grade boys' club basketball teams in Amarillo, Capps embodies the spirit of leadership.

"I hope that I am living up to my potential," he said, "and to the potential others have seen in me."



**Robert J.
"Jacob"
Cintron**

Master of Business Administration, 1996 • College of Business Administration

Jacob Cintron, raised in El Paso by a single mother, never imagined going to college – much less working in the health care industry – even though as a high school junior, he started working for R.E. Thomason General Hospital (now University Medical Center). It was the unwitting beginning of a successful career.

Encouraged to attend college by the hospital's then-CEO, Cintron earned not only his baccalaureate degree from UTEP – a B.S. in industrial engineering in 1983 – but also his M.B.A., in 1996, and a master's in accountancy in 2002.

Cintron has been CEO of Del Sol Medical Center since 2007 and was instrumental in establishing the hospital as a leading medical center on a national scale.

He is rightfully pleased about its quality accolades,

including being designated a top performer in key quality measures by the Joint Commission, a national accreditation organization, and being in the top 5 percent in the nation in maternity services, general surgery and gastrointestinal surgery.

"We now lead in so many areas, and we're proud of that," he said. "Our focus is to continue to maintain great quality care and provide a great patient experience."

A member of the UTEP Centennial Campaign Leadership Council, Cintron attributes his success to his faith, his family, his mentors and to UTEP.

"Now I can give back to my university," he said, "yet I feel I will never be able to give back everything UTEP has done for me."



**Lillian W.
Crouch**

M.Ed. in Education Supervision, 1972 • College of Education

Lillian Crouch, a retired teacher and El Paso Independent School District administrator, is well known throughout the city for her tireless work to advance the region's quality of life. In fact, in 2003, the El Paso Times named her a "community hero."

Crouch, who earned her UTEP master's degree in education supervision in 1972, was a trailblazer whose career was filled with many firsts. Her most notable achievements included being named EPISD's first African-American junior high principal and the first to reach the director level, becoming executive director of human resources in 1997.

"The proof is in the pudding," K. Allen Johnson, a former EPISD associate superintendent for administration and instruction, said. "At a time when there weren't many

women in administration, she was named principal and then promoted to director of employee benefits – and that was no small task. As a leader, she set the tone. She was so very professional. She had character and she treated the teachers as they should be treated."

After nearly 40 years in public education, she retired in 2001 to take on leadership positions in the multiple community-based organizations she'd been serving for decades as a member – including UTEP, where she is a member of the Centennial Campaign Leadership Council and the Development Board, and past president of the Woman's Auxiliary.

"It comes naturally to me to want to give and give and give," Crouch said. "It brings me joy."



**Edward
Escudero**

B.B.A. in Accounting, 1992 • College of Business Administration

Edward Escudero's academic path was largely inspired by his family. With entrepreneurial parents and three older siblings who attended UTEP before him, Escudero's decision to major in accounting at UTEP was a judicious choice.

Escudero, who earned his B.B.A. in accounting in 1992, is grateful for what UTEP afforded him.

"UTEP gave me the opportunity to pursue my education and work, which further developed a strong work ethic that my father first encouraged," he said.

Today, Escudero is president and chief executive officer of Sierra Finance, a company that provides capital alternatives to small and mid-size companies. He is also executive vice president and chief financial officer of C&R Distributing, a major distributor of fuel and industrial lubricants, and owner of numerous convenience stores in

the region.

One of Escudero's proudest professional achievements came in 2007, when he served as chief financial officer of Petro Stopping Centers L.P. and was instrumental in organizing the sale of the company for more than \$700 million.

Escudero is chair of the El Paso Water Utility Public Service Board and serves on the boards of directors for the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Community en Acción, among others. He also is co-chair of UTEP's 2014 Commission.

Escudero said: "It gives me a lot of happiness to know that now I can go back and get involved with UTEP, and it's very exciting for me to be involved with the upcoming Centennial celebration."



**Thanh
"Tommy"
H Dinh**

B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, 1976 • College of Engineering

Thanh "Tommy" H Dinh left his native Vietnam in 1972, arriving in the United States at age 18. His government had permitted him to seek a higher education overseas – a lucky break that enabled him to escape compulsory military service during the Vietnam War.

He enrolled at UTEP as an engineering student in 1973. He excelled despite his limited English skills, painstakingly completing homework assignments with two dictionaries by his side – one in Vietnamese and one in English. His determination to succeed earned him a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from UTEP in 1976.

Like most UTEP students, H Dinh had worked to put himself through school. His boss at the Dunkin' Donuts on Mesa Street was attentive to H Dinh's well-being, treating him more like a son than an employee.

"He cared about me," H Dinh said. "That was a lesson as an employee I never forgot."

Today, H Dinh is founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Austin-based MagRabbit Inc., a \$100 million global supply chain management, workforce solutions and software development firm recognized as one of the top 500 Asian-owned companies in the United States.

H Dinh credits the lessons he learned on the journey toward his UTEP degree with propelling him to the heights of professional success.

"It's not a secret," he said. "Just work very hard and be lucky – the harder you work, the luckier you are – be willing to keep learning and changing, maintain strong customer and employee relationships, and don't give up."



**Keelung Hong,
Ph.D.**

M.S. in Chemistry, 1970 • College of Science

Keelung Hong grew up in Taiwan when it was colonized and controlled by China under martial law. While many would-be leaders, doctors, lawyers and scholars were persecuted and even executed under the Chinese oligarchy, Hong's academic promise enabled him to leave Taiwan and study in the United States – and UTEP was his destination.

At the invitation of the late James Whalen, who was then chairman of UTEP's Chemistry Department, Hong entered the University as one of the first students in the newly launched master's program in chemistry.

Hong graduated from UTEP with his master's degree in 1970. He said, "Those two years enriched my knowledge in my field so much that I was able to do research well."

He earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of

California, Berkeley and conducted postdoctoral work at Stanford University. In 1998, after serving as a research scientist at UC San Francisco for more than 20 years, Hong founded Hermes Biosciences to develop innovative technologies for targeted drug delivery, helping to provide safer and more effective cancer treatments.

Hong, who resides in San Francisco, is founder, chief executive officer and chairman of Taiwan Liposome Company Ltd., a publicly traded Taiwan-based biopharmaceutical company with subsidiaries in the United States and the Netherlands. It is Taiwan's first global biotech company. TLC's drug delivery technologies are improving the treatment of cancer, ophthalmic conditions and infectious diseases, and advancing health outcomes in Taiwan and around the world.



Katherine Long

B.S. in Medical Technology, 1988 • College of Health Sciences

A public speaking course was one of the requirements to earn a bachelor's degree in medical technology (now clinical laboratory science) when Katherine Long went through the UTEP program in the mid-1980s.

"I seriously never thought I would need that type of training in the laboratory," she said. "Little did I know that, one decade later, I would be giving speeches regarding very complex concepts in front of groups numbering in the hundreds and appearing on nationally broadcasted television programs."

Long, who earned her B.S.M.T. in 1988, has testified more than 200 times as an expert in bloodstain pattern analysis and in forensic serology, paternity testing and DNA testing.

Her expertise has contributed to such high-profile

criminal cases as the murder of atheist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair; Darlie Routier, now on death row for killing two of her sons; and the "Victoria 19" incident, in which smugglers allowed 19 migrants to suffocate in the back of a tractor-trailer. She also appeared in episodes of the national TV series Forensic Files and Cold Case Files for two other cases in which she performed DNA testing.

Today, Long is a scientific specialist in medical diagnostic sales with Helena Laboratories in Dallas.

Long said: "I've worked with multitudes of other lab workers and have realized that, because my instructors at UTEP were so thorough, I received a much better education and am much better off in my career than others who went [to] other universities."



Enrique Mata

B.S.N. in Nursing, 1997 • School of Nursing

Enrique Mata has dedicated his life to working with local, national and international leaders to develop solutions to some of the region's and the world's most complex health problems.

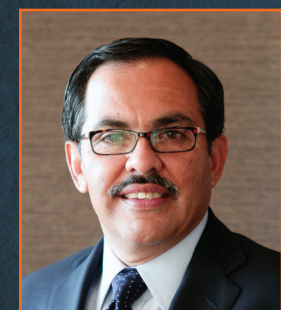
As a senior program officer with the Paso del Norte Health Foundation, he promotes regional health and disease prevention on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. His current and prior initiatives, conducted in partnership with other local and national health advocacy organizations, have emphasized such critical health issues as childhood obesity prevention, smoking cessation and preventing social isolation among the elderly.

Those initiatives have resulted in major enhancements to the region's health and wellness infrastructure and in appreciably improved health outcomes among residents. Achievements include the creation of three major centers

in Juárez, Mexico, to provide meals, transportation, physical activity and mental health support to several thousand older adults, and the integration of a national model for coordinated school health that, in El Paso, resulted in a 13 percent decrease in the prevalence of obesity among fourth graders.

Mata, who earned his UTEP B.S.N. degree in 1997 and a master's in public health from Walden University in 2008, said it's been a privilege to represent the Paso del Norte region in forums that have included such world health leaders as former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan and former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher.

Mata said: "It's been my greatest honor to help improve the quality of life in my community."



**Jesus A.
"Antonio" Rico**

B.S. in Electrical Engineering, 1980 • College of Engineering

Jesus A. "Antonio" Rico attributes much of his success to his entrepreneurial mother, who to this day sells apparel out of her home. She encouraged Rico to attend UTEP and major in electrical engineering, calling it "the career of the future."

Rico took her advice and graduated from UTEP with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1980. "UTEP opened a big window of opportunity," he said. "It showed me a different world that I had never imagined."

After graduating from UTEP, Rico worked for El Paso Electric and El Paso Natural Gas, and while he learned a great deal, he often told himself that "there was something else outside in the world." That "something else" was revealed when Rico acted on his desire to start his own

business, an evocation of his mother's enterprising spirit. In 1994, he founded ElectroSystems Engineers Inc., a telecommunications engineering and IT services company that he heads today as president.

Rico is also chairman of the board of the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and vice president of the engineering chapter of UTEP's Alumni Association.

But he is most proud of his achievements as a father. With one son, Antonio, serving as the business development executive for ElectroSystems Engineers, and the other, Diego, a recent Top 10 graduate from UTEP's College of Business Administration, Rico said: "That my two sons went to my alma mater and are now very successful is big." 📧

Hula-hooping is much more than just child's play at The University of Texas at El Paso.

On a warm July morning, students, faculty and staff got their spin on – twirling the hoops around their waists to see who could keep them going the longest and burn the most calories, all while toning their abdominal muscles and de-stressing from the hectic work week.

“It was perfect because that morning I didn’t have a chance to do yoga and so I felt that I was missing out on exercise,” said Maria Elena Acosta, graduate program coordinator for UTEP’s Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. “This was the perfect opportunity for me to get out and move.”



College of Health Sciences Dean Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D., practices her hula-hooping skills during a recent hula hoop break. The breaks are among the many fun and healthy activities offered through UTEP's Wellness Program.

A

Healthy

UTEP

By Laura L. Acosta
Photos by Laura Trejo

UTEP Features

Hula hoop breaks are among the many fun and healthy activities offered through UTEP's Wellness Program in the College of Health Sciences. The program creates awareness of healthy lifestyle choices by providing UTEP employees with tools, resources, education and peer support. By doing so, the University expects to reduce the incidence of preventable illnesses and injuries.

"Employers have a responsibility to employees to create as healthy an environment as possible," said College of Health Sciences Dean Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D. "We know that the environment impacts the decisions that people make about their health on a daily basis, and the more we can educate our employees and give them opportunities to make choices that are going to turn out better for them in promoting their health or seeking the appropriate level of care, I think it's an opportunity that we should take advantage of."

Roving Retro Recess – the Wellness Program's name for the hula hoop breaks – uses hula hoops to encourage faculty and staff to be physically active and serves as a mental health break during the workday, a staff meeting or a conference. The idea is that physical activity increases oxygen and blood flow to the brain, which can enhance productivity among employees.

"Typically what we do is a warm up and let people get familiar with the hoops again, because for a lot of them it's been years since they tried," said Amber Bridges, coordinator for the UTEP Wellness Program. "After that, we do some timed competitions to see who can go the longest and who can walk forward with it or turn."

Promoting a Healthy Workplace

Since 2009, the Wellness Program has recruited wellness ambassadors who volunteer to work with program staff to increase health awareness in their departments.

Ambassadors receive handouts on different topics, from responsible weight loss to information on health observances such as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, which they pass on to their coworkers.

Terry Weber is the wellness ambassador for the physics department.

"What's so nice about these [Wellness Ambassador] meetings is that they give us information like healthy recipes that I can use in the Weight Watchers groups," said Weber, the department's office supervisor.

She helped launch Weight Watchers on campus in 2010, and has since lost 73 pounds. The group meets once a week for 12 weeks at lunch during the fall and spring semesters.

"UTEP is offering it to [staff and faculty], so it's not an inconvenience," said Weber, who was recognized as The University of Texas System Health Hero in August 2011. "You can't say, 'Oh, I don't want to go after work because I'm hungry and I'm tired.' It's here on campus at lunch time."

Weber is training for UTEP's Commitment to



Fitness, a 5K Run/2K Walk on Sunday, Oct. 14, by joining the Wellness Program's Couch Potato to 5K Training Program.

"I've learned never to say never," Weber said. "I don't know if I'll ever run a marathon, but I'm going to run a 5K."

One-Minute Workout

Curtis said the Wellness Program has begun to tailor its services to the needs of individual departments to more effectively improve overall employee health. Data shows that a need to improve employee health exists: according to a 2010 WebMD study conducted by the College of Health Sciences, two-thirds of UTEP employees were obese or overweight.

"What we're trying to do is promote activity that is desired by the units, needed by the units, and responsive to those needs, as opposed to us doing something centrally which can only see a fraction of the people," Curtis said.

The facilities services department is one example of a unit that worked with the Wellness Program to develop a wellness strategy unique to its employees' needs.

At the top of every hour, facilities services employees take a voluntary one-minute wellness break. An announcement over the radio encourages carpenters, painters and other maintenance staff to exercise for 60 seconds by doing wall push-ups, jumping jacks or stretches.

During the fall and spring semesters, employees can voluntarily come in 30 minutes before work and exercise in the department's conference room. They follow a PowerPoint presentation developed by UTEP's kinesiology department that includes push-ups, neck rolls and other exercises.

"When I started, I could barely do a jumping jack," said Jaime Robles, fleet operations manager. "But after you get started, your body gets used to it."

At the department's monthly staff meetings, bilingual speakers from Las Palmas LifeCare Center and the College of Health Sciences talk on such topics as cardiovascular health and workplace stress.

UTEP School of Nursing student Alba Dominguez-Arriaga walks across a cable about 20 feet off the ground during a high ropes course organized by the Student Recreation Center.



Use your smartphone to scan this code to view a hula-hooping video.

You can also view the video at utepnews.com.



Health sciences students prepare for a high ropes course organized by UTEP's Student Recreation Center.

"Our bodies are our tools," said Luis Morales, associate director of facilities services. "If you're overstressed about a job or if you're tired, you're not going to be focused. If you're overweight, you're not going to be able to climb a ladder. Wellness to our employees is [feeling] good mentally and physically, and that's why we promote it."

A Healthy Appetite

Eating healthfully is another way to boost energy levels, support weight loss and reduce the risk of developing diseases such as diabetes or heart problems.

The Wellness Program and Sodexo, UTEP's food services provider, have teamed up to develop a point-of-purchase menu to educate faculty and students about the nutrients and calories they are consuming when they eat at campus venues.

In spring 2012, Adriana Rascon-Lopez, Ph.D., a public health sciences lecturer, and 35 students in her Community Health class collected nutritional information on the food and beverages that are available on campus at local venues such as El Cazo and The Grill.

The students designed signs that will be placed at the venues next spring.

Adriana Ruiz, Sodexo's district marketing coordinator, said the information will help consumers pick smarter and healthier food options.

"Let's say you came in with the idea to get a hamburger, but then you go to The Grill and you look at all the calories and you think, 'Well, maybe I should try the vegetable medley,'" she said.

Balancing Fitness and Academics

Encouraging students to make physical fitness a priority in their lives is one of

the aims of the UTEP Student Recreation Center.

"We know how stressful academics can be," said Brian J. Carter, the center's associate director. "Students have family and job commitments, and we try to encourage them to work in some physical activity or routine, especially during the college years, so they can start establishing good habits."

Up to 1,600 UTEP students work out daily at the rec center during the fall and spring semesters, according to Hector Muñoz, recreational sports director.

UTEP students who are enrolled during the semester have access to the center seven days a week. Faculty and staff can purchase a membership.

Since the renovated and expanded center opened in August 2011, members have enjoyed a climbing gym, indoor track, indoor soccer, basketball and volleyball courts, cardio and weight machines, plus recreational and competitive swimming pools.

The center also offers intramural sports and fitness programs such as boxing, yoga and a Climb Fit class that uses climbing movement in a fitness routine. During the spring semester, the UTEP Police Department offered a self-defense course.

Muñoz credits the center with more than just helping students get into shape.

"They become a lot more comfortable interacting with others and they become more self-confident people, and that can only benefit their academic life," he said.

According to Curtis, a healthy workforce benefits the University as much as its employees' well-being.

"A healthy group of employees is more productive, they're out less on sick time and they're going to cost the University less," she said. 📌

MINER HEALTH TIPS

Fitness

- **Use a hula hoop to get in shape.** According to the American Council on Exercise, intermediate-level hula hooping can burn as many calories per minute as step aerobics or brisk walking.
- **Make a commitment to fitness.** The third annual Commitment to Fitness 5K Run / 2K Walk is on Sunday, Oct. 14, on the UTEP campus. Visit chs.utep.edu/runwalk to register.
- **Get moving.** The wellness program has free exercise videos online, from yoga to a 15-minute ab workout.

Nutrition

- **Make healthy meal choices.** Sodexo offers a wide range of options for healthy dining. Simply to Go features food labels with nutrition icons that let consumers know if the item is balanced, gluten free, local, organic, vegan or vegetarian.
- **Make an appointment.** The Student Health Center offers students confidential nutrition counseling.
- **Watch what you're drinking.** Adding flavors to your coffee increases the calorie count. The only coffee that has zero calories is black.

Screening and Prevention

- **Take advantage of preventive services** that are covered without copayments or deductibles under your health insurance plan, such as mammograms. Check with your health insurance provider for a list of services.
- **Attend wellness screenings.** More than 400 UTEP employees participated in the Healthy Miner Campaign in February. The College of Health Sciences, University Medical Center and Sierra Providence Health Network offered employees free wellness screenings that included blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol checks, a mental health checkup and a carpal tunnel screening.



Provided by UTEP Department of Communication

LHAKHANG BRINGS NEW MEANING TO “BHUTAN ON THE BORDER”

By Nadia Macias

The *lhakhang* was featured in the 42nd annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in 2008. The festival highlights a different region of the world each year.

Garbed in traditional maroon and yellow robes, a Buddhist monk clangs a bell and silently prays. Smoke pours from a nearby fire pot while a group of donors, alumni and Bhutanese students and visitors look on.

The monk from Bhutan is in the process of performing a ritual of thanksgiving at the groundbreaking site of the *lhakhang*, a cultural artifact that is one of The University of Texas at El Paso’s campus transformation projects.

Since 1917, the University has fashioned its buildings after the architecture of Bhutan, marking it as the campus’ signature style. But this *lhakhang* will be the first structure on University grounds originally handcrafted in Bhutan by the Bhutanese people.

“This will give new meaning to our claim

of being ‘Bhutan on the Border,’ or even ‘BhU-TEP,’ as some of our Bhutanese friends have called us,” said University President Diana Natalicio.

“This will give new meaning to our claim of being ‘Bhutan on the Border.’”

THE JOURNEY

In 2008, the *lhakhang* began its journey to UTEP when it was created and delivered to the United States for the 42nd annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival. The festival, which occurs at the National Mall in Washington D.C., celebrates cultural traditions by highlighting a different region of the world each year.

The prefabricated elements of the 40-by-40-foot building – hand-carved and painted windows, doors, columns, beams and railings – made the trip by sea, packed in 200 crates.

Once in Washington, Bhutanese

craftsmen – who are known to hand-forge their tools – reconstructed the building for the festival.

“We were thrilled to learn that the beautiful *lhakhang* was to be donated to the people of the United States by the people of Bhutan [at the end of the festival], with the proviso that it be reconstructed on the UTEP campus,” President Natalicio said.

UTEP Associate Vice President of Business Affairs Greg McNicol spent a week at the National Mall documenting and taking photos of the construction.

“I was an observer and a student,” said McNicol, who had been put in charge of learning the architecture of the *lhakhang* so he could lead the on-campus reconstruction four years later.

Interestingly, Bhutanese structures are assembled without nails or iron bars. Instead, they rely on a tongue-and-groove design, a series of slots and ridges carved to fit the pieces of the building together. They are also extremely delicate as they are carved from “green” wood, or freshly felled timber, that is prone to shrink and warp.

After the official announcement of the relocation, a UTEP team was sent to Washington to see that the structure was carefully disassembled and transported by truck to El Paso. It was stored in a secure, climate-controlled warehouse – until now.

BHUTAN ON THE BORDER

“This building is a symbol of friendship, cooperation, knowledge and wisdom,” said Lhatu Wangchuk, Bhutanese ambassador to the United Nations. “It is a symbol of peace, harmony and oneness.”

On July 23, a group of alumni, donors and Bhutanese were invited to watch the groundbreaking event for the *lhakhang*.

“In Bhutanese culture, the equivalent of our traditional groundbreaking ceremony, complete with ceremonial shovels, is a thanksgiving ceremony performed by



Provided by UTEP Department of Communication



monks to express appreciation for the ground at the site and the purpose to which it will be dedicated,” President Natalicio said.

Now, with the guidance of Bhutanese architects and craftsmen, the University has already begun reconstructing the *lhakhang* in front of the Geological Sciences Building to serve as a central presence on campus. It will underscore UTEP’s cultural heritage and commitment to expand the global perspective of students.

The structure, which should be completed in spring 2013, will be similar to the Heritage House historical center on campus. Visitors will be able to tour the structure at certain hours and learn about Bhutanese culture.

“We are going to create a very natural looking setting around it, like the way

it would look in Bhutan, surrounded by rocks, boulders and a little stream,” McNicol said.

Special highlights of the *lhakhang* include several wall-to-wall tapestries that will tell a story within the building, and four hand-carved and painted garuda heads, mythical bird-like creatures that appear in Buddhist mythology.

The hope is that this colorful, intricately designed building will serve as a permanent reminder on campus of the rich cultural ties that UTEP has maintained with Bhutan for nearly a century.

“We’re so fortunate to have this tie to another nation where we can share our culture and ideas,” McNicol said. “I want people to recognize that UTEP is really unique.” 🗡️

Bottom, previous page: Several hand-painted images of Buddha will appear inside the structure. The Bhutanese are known for their intricate hand carving and painting.

Above: Four hand-carved and painted garuda heads – a mythical bird-like creature that appears in Buddhist mythology – will appear on each outer corner of the *lhakhang*.



For more information on UTEP’s Campus Transformation projects, scan this QR code with your smartphone or go to campus.utep.edu.



Photo by J.R. Hernandez



File Photo

A BHUTANESE BOND

By Jenn Crawford

Although it is more than 8,000 miles away, the Himalayan country of Bhutan is, in many ways, a close neighbor to The University of Texas at El Paso.

The connection began almost 100 years ago when the first dean's wife noticed a similarity in the topography of El Paso and that of Bhutan and suggested to her husband that the campus buildings take on a Bhutanese look.

Today, UTEP's relationship with Bhutan is more than just a borrowed architecture. It has evolved to be a mutually beneficial partnership in education, culture and friendship.

Bhutan on the Border

But it all started with the architecture.

The inspiration for UTEP's signature look is credited to Kathleen Worrell, wife of Texas School of Mines and Metallurgy (now UTEP) Dean Stephen Worrell. Kathleen Worrell saw a photo essay in the April 1914 *National Geographic* titled "Castles in the Air" that recounted the travels across Bhutan of British diplomat and engineer John Claude White.

Accompanying the article were 74 of White's photographs – among the first ever published of the ancient and isolated kingdom nestled in the Himalayan Mountains between Tibet and India.

Persuaded by his wife that the style of Bhutanese dzongs, or administrative and religious centers, would be a good fit for his mining school's setting in the foothills of El Paso's Franklin Mountains, Dean Worrell had the first campus building, Old Main, constructed in this style in 1917. According to His Royal Highness Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck of Bhutan, whose great-great-grandfather had been king of Bhutan at the time, it was the first piece of Bhutanese architecture ever constructed outside Bhutan.

Since then, nearly all UTEP buildings have followed this theme, creating an architectural coherence that offers a glimpse of the beauty and serenity of Bhutan itself.

"This architecture has brought this university and Bhutan closer in our

relations," said Lhatu Wangchuk, Bhutanese ambassador to the United Nations. "Over time it has become much more meaningful, much more deep, and we have some common purpose to share – to educate our people. Not only to give skills and knowledge, but perhaps to give wisdom to serve humanity."

An Educational Partnership

The architecture helps make the UTEP campus feel a little bit like home for the eight Bhutanese students who were enrolled in the fall 2012 semester. Since 1995, UTEP has welcomed 35 students from Bhutan, and 26 have earned degrees in fields ranging from geophysics and finance to engineering, communication and education. In fact, the first Bhutanese undergraduate in the United States studied at UTEP, according to Prince Wangchuck.

To help Bhutanese students with the cost of earning a degree, UTEP alumnus Robert Washington, '63, has generously supported the University's Bhutanese Culture Endowed Scholarship.

"Years ago, I realized that a little bit of financial assistance is very important to these kids," Washington said. He visits campus about once a year to meet with the Bhutanese students and bring them gifts of school supplies, housewares and other everyday essentials.

When they graduate, the students return to Bhutan with knowledge and

an enriched perspective to serve their country, Ambassador Wangchuk said.

"The kind of training they get [at UTEP] and the kind of atmosphere that's the ambiance this university provides is something very close to Bhutan, and for us I think that is more valuable than just acquiring knowledge," he said.

Cultural Artifacts

Other than the architecture and the people, elements of Bhutan are visible around the UTEP campus.

Large wall tapestries hang in the Bhutan Lounge in Union Building East, the Undergraduate Learning Center lobby and the library atrium. A prayer wheel graces the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens and a small brick structure in front of the Undergraduate Learning Center called a *choeten* is said to impart wisdom to those who walk clockwise around it at least three times.

The most recent gift from the people of Bhutan is a lhakhang being constructed in the center of campus. The hand-painted and hand-carved structure will serve as a cultural center and museum that is a permanent reminder of the rich cultural ties that UTEP has maintained with Bhutan (see story, page 40).

"UTEP has succeeded in making the Bhutan link much more than a collection of buildings," said Prince Wangchuck of Bhutan when he visited the University in 2008. "As a first-time visitor to El



Photo by J.R. Hernandez



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Left, previous page: A Bhutanese monk at UTEP for the *lhakhang* groundbreaking views a Bhutanese tapestry on display in the Undergraduate Learning Center.

Right, previous page: The prayer wheel at the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens is one of several Bhutanese artifacts on the UTEP campus.

Left: Lhatu Wangchuk, Bhutanese ambassador to the United Nations, visits the *choeten*, a small structure outside the Undergraduate Learning Center that is said to impart wisdom to anyone who walks clockwise around it at least three times.

Right: Khendun Gyabak '09 is one of 26 Bhutanese students who have earned degrees at UTEP since 1995.

Paso, I appreciate that the school has been very conscious of the need to make the buildings live – to develop a soul – through incorporating examples of Bhutanese culture and art, and now with the arrival of the [*lhakhang*], elements of our spiritual culture, too.

Visiting the Last Shangri-La

UTEP alumni and leaders are taking advantage of the Bhutanese connection to further their own education and knowledge of other cultures.

In September 2009, recent UTEP graduate Xochitl Rodriguez, '09, packed her bags and flew to Bhutan to spend a year as the country's first international artist in residence. She worked with Bhutan's Voluntary Artists' Studio, or VAST, a nonprofit organization that helps Bhutanese youth develop their professional skills in the visual arts.

"When I first came to Bhutan, I expected to meet people who were living life easily in the world's last Shangri-La," Rodriguez said. "I think a lot of visitors expect that. The misty mountains and otherworldly landscapes immediately capture one's soul, and it's easy to forget that in the midst of this great beauty, real life, with all of its challenges, is taking place."

During the months she was in Bhutan, she discovered that "the strength and resilience of the Bhutanese people is even more beautiful than the scenery that surrounds them," she said.

About a year earlier, in November 2008, UTEP President Diana Natalicio had the opportunity to visit Bhutan as a special guest at the coronation of His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, Bhutan's fifth king.

"My first reaction to the invitation was to convince myself that I couldn't possibly make the trip ... Fortunately, my thinking improved," President Natalicio wrote in the Winter 2008 issue of *UTEP Magazine*. "This invitation from the Royal Family reflected the very special relationship that UTEP enjoys with the Kingdom of Bhutan and represented an extraordinary opportunity to join in celebrating two major milestones in Bhutan's history: the coronation of the Fifth Druk Gyalpo and the 100th anniversary of the Wangchuck Dynasty."

The University also organized an alumni trip to Bhutan in 2004, and is planning another trip in Fall 2013 in conjunction with the first Western opera to be staged in that country.

Up Next: Opera Bhutan

Opera is almost unknown within the small, isolated country that has been little affected by Western culture. The production of *Opera Bhutan: Handel's Acis and Galatea* will bring together artists from the U.S., Europe, Australia and the Eastern Himalayas to create, for the very first time, an operatic experience reflecting and celebrating Bhutan's cultural traditions.

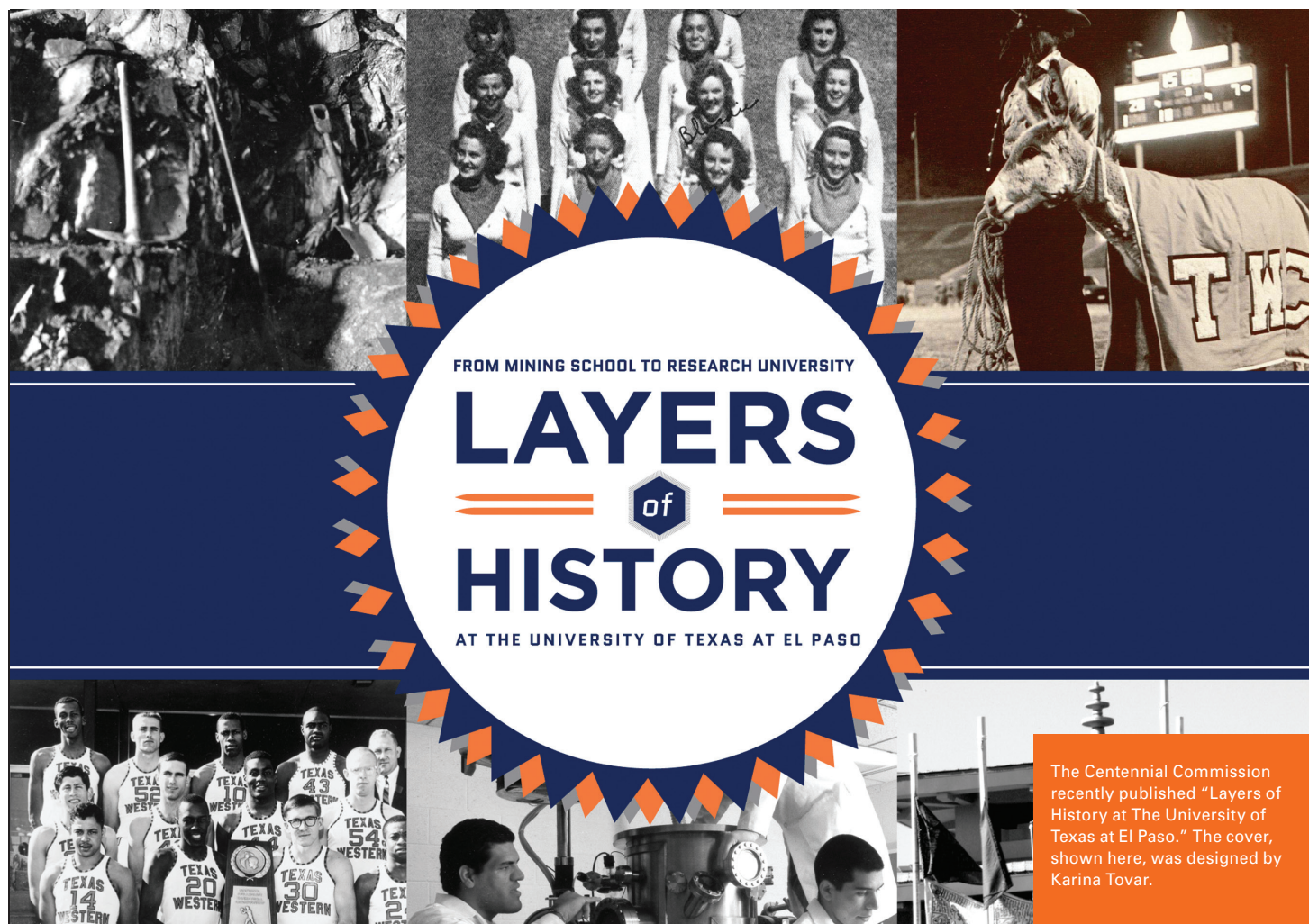
The production is a cooperative project between The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso Opera, the Royal Government of Bhutan, opera professionals in Rome, and other international collaborators. It adapts one of Handel's best-loved works by incorporating cultural elements of song, ritual dance, instrumentation and the visual arts from Bhutan.

The finished piece will premiere in Bhutan in 2013 and then return to the United States for a performance in El Paso in 2014, the year the University will celebrate its 100th anniversary and an equally long connection with Bhutan.

"It makes us very proud that we are somehow linked with this wonderful institution," Ambassador Wangchuk said. "We have relationships with other universities, but it's more businesslike ... But with this university, there is something that is bonding us. There is something that we cannot understand that is bringing us together. I see a long association, and we're very happy about it." 🏠



To see a video from Bhutan, scan this QR code with your smartphone or go to utepnews.com.



The Centennial Commission recently published "Layers of History at The University of Texas at El Paso." The cover, shown here, was designed by Karina Tovar.

2014 Commission Ideas Move from Planning to Realization

By Daniel Perez

Hundreds of ideas to commemorate the 100th anniversary of The University of Texas at El Paso – from parties to publications to clothing and accessories – are about to be implemented.

The products and events were conceived by the 2014 Commission, a group of 100 UTEP and community representatives led by co-chairs Laura Tate Goldman and Ed Escudero. The commission, formed in fall 2010, spent about two years envisioning ways to celebrate the anniversary through events, outreach, and keepsakes and publications.

The goal of every concept is to build pride in UTEP's accomplishments, promote the University's growing academic and research prowess and uphold its brand nationally as the University observes its 100th birthday.

The projects are being divided among the University's staff and faculty, who will serve as team leaders. Each team will have a budget and a schedule to support the plans, said Keith Erikson, Ph.D., assistant professor of history and executive director of the Centennial Celebration.

"We have to bring in more staff," said

Erikson, echoing Roy Scheider's famous line from the movie *Jaws*: "You're going to need a bigger boat."

Erikson, who manages the Centennial's progress from his fourth floor office in UTEP's Administration Building, rattled off a handful of activities and memorabilia in the works that he said will be on shelves and calendars. Look for more details in a future issue of *UTEP Magazine*.

Members of the Miner Nation are ready for the party to start, said Liz Thurmond, director of events for the Office of Institutional Advancement and co-chair of the 2014 Commission's events committee.

"People are getting excited and inquisitive," she said. "They want to know when we're going to start the festivities and what we are planning."

She pointed to the popular July 14 international Alumni PICK-NIC as an example of the ideas born in her committee and successfully executed by the Alumni Association. It included celebrations from

coast to coast and border to border.

Thurmond added that UTEP alumni also are interested in the ongoing Opera Bhutan project, which involves an international group of artists including UTEP faculty and students who will produce the first Western opera in Bhutan. Directors will incorporate the country's music and dance into George Frideric Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, which should be produced in Bhutan in fall 2013 and make its U.S. debut in September 2014 at UTEP as part of the Centennial Celebration.

The scope of the festivities will be huge, said Gary Edens, Ed.D., interim vice president for student affairs. He said the plans are a testament to the passion, support and dedication of the alumni and community representatives who appreciate what the University means to the region, especially in educating its population.

Edens, co-chair of the commission's outreach committee, said the ideas that involve children pleased him the most.

"Our efforts to engage future Miners in our Centennial Celebration are so important," he said. "(Committee members) spent a great deal of time talking about how best to incorporate children in all that we do for the Centennial. Ideas range from video presentations at area high school graduations to visits by UTEP alumni to area elementary schools."

The commission members are eager to see their ideas turned into reality, said John Hadjimarcou,

Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Marketing and Management. He is co-chair of the group's marketing committee.

"This University is near and dear to these people, so they are very excited to see their work influence people in a positive way," he said.

One of his favorite projects is the campus transformation. The University

will integrate the spaces between buildings to create more pedestrian-friendly areas where students, faculty and staff can relax and collaborate. While the ideas did not come out of his committee,

he said that they were reviewed by it.

"(The transformation) will be the Centennial's premier accomplishment. These plans are going to change UTEP forever," Hadjimarcou said, adding that everything tied to the anniversary will market UTEP's identity.

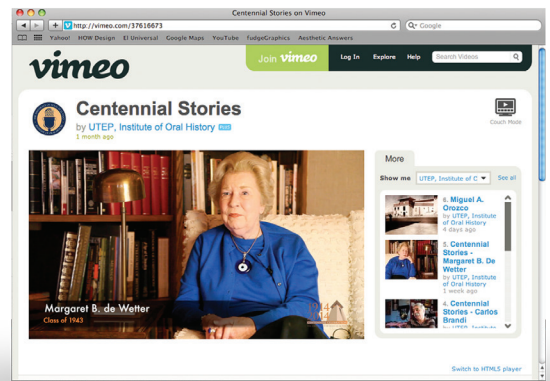
The commission recently published an 18-page "Layers of History at The University of Texas at El Paso" booklet written by Erikson that provides a quick history lesson about the University beyond the 1966 national basketball championship, Bhutanese architecture and its origins as a mining school. The initial run mainly was for the 2014 Commission, University leaders, and campus staff involved in planning. Future editions will be used for new employee orientations and institutional advancement.

"It's going to let people know about our story," Erikson said. "It's about the layers of aspirations that have shaped the school over the past century." ☞

TEAMWORK

The projects are being divided among the University's staff and faculty, who will serve as team leaders.

Each team will have a budget and a schedule to support the plans.



Centennial Stories 2.0

UTEP's Centennial Celebration organizers encourage the Miner Nation to share their recollections of The University of Texas at El Paso. The plan is to share some of those stories in *UTEP Magazine* and on the web. In future issues, organizers will ask for love stories, ghost tales, accounts of personal family sacrifice and memories from the military – from active duty to veterans. This time, the University asks for your funniest or most embarrassing UTEP-related moment, whether on- or off-campus. Please email your story to centennialstories@utep.edu. Every story will be made part of the Centennial Celebration Oral History and be preserved in Special Collections in the University Library.



New Logo

The University of Texas at El Paso recently unveiled a new logo that promotes the University's upcoming Centennial Celebration. The logo was created by University Communications under the direction of the 2014 Commission.



Former chairs of the English Department met during a Homecoming in the 1990s outside Hudspeth Hall, where the department is housed. From left: G. Douglas Meyers, Mimi Reisel Gladstein, Robert Bledsoe, James Mortensen, Walter Taylor, Tony Stafford and John West.

REMEMBERING TWC; APPRECIATING UTEP

By Mimi Reisel Gladstein • Photos provided by Mimi Reisel Gladstein



Mimi Reisel Gladstein, in the yellow dress, is pictured in a costume for one of her musical comedy roles in 1968.

“OPEN THE DOORS; DON’T WANT NO MORE – WE’RE THE CLASS OF ’54,” WE CHANTED AS WE GRADUATED FROM EL PASO HIGH SCHOOL AND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY ENROLLED FOR SUMMER SCHOOL AT TEXAS WESTERN COLLEGE.

Like two lost lambs, my best friend Norma Levine and I wandered onto the Magoffin Auditorium stage and were immediately cast in the forthcoming production of *Carousel*, which was in rehearsal. Only in theater can you play a hoochie coochie dancer at a carnival in Act I and the 10-year-old child of one of the main characters in Act III. Norma and I were named “Bessie” and “Jessie” in the program and I was “Snow’s Daughter” later in the cast listing. I laugh to think that I was such an innocent at the time that someone had to teach me to do bumps and grinds for the carnival dance role.

You learn a lot of important lessons in theater. The play was directed by Milton Leech, whose organizational and directing abilities were such that he rose to the position of Interim President of the University. Leech Grove is named for him as he is the one who saved that spot of natural beauty when architects wanted to put a building there.

Starring in *Carousel* were Phil Tanner and Shirley Calcote. Also in the cast was Charles Woodul, who would later become a professor in the Music Department. Robert Massey did the scene design. It was a wonderful introduction to Summer Stock, which that season opened with *Carousel*, followed by *Mrs. McThing*, *The Philadelphia Story*, and closed with an extraordinary production of *MacBeth*. I say extraordinary because in those days there was open casting and often professional actors who had been drafted and were stationed at Fort Bliss would audition for parts. That summer Patrick (Mainer) Hines, who later became one of the most successful Shakespearean actors in the country and was in the Tony Award-winning production of *Amadeus*, played Macbeth. The actor who played MacDuff went on to star in the television production of *Cinderella* and was the Lord of the Mirrors in the Broadway *Man of La Mancha*. I played the Second Witch and won the “Best Trooper” award because I broke my toe while working on building the

set and hobbled through rehearsal and performance on my purple and green foot. *Carousel* opened June 10 and *MacBeth* closed on July 3. I marvel at how that small Drama (it became Theatre later) Department could put on four plays in five weeks. And they were good performances, often reviewed favorably on the front page of the *El Paso Times* or *El Paso Herald Post*.

That fall I went to Oklahoma University where I met Jay, my husband-to-be. Back at TWC for summer school, I worked on Summer Stock again. It was quite onerous – class during the morning, working on crew and rehearsing for the next show during the afternoon, and doing final rehearsals each evening, often until midnight. What I remember about that summer is that the head of the Costume Shop, a visiting professor, fell in love with a stripper in Juárez and we would often spend our time switching from making Elizabethan farthingales and ruffs to sewing sequins on her performance outfits. As I remarked before, one learns all sorts of useful and useless skills in theater.

After my sophomore year at Oklahoma, I married, and we spent the first two years of our marriage in Germany where my husband, Jay, was stationed. Returning to El Paso, it was back to school for me to finish my B.A. degree with one child in tow. For my M.A. degree, I switched to English because at that time there was no such degree in drama. It was a happy switch for I discovered Doc Sonnichsen. He was a marvelous teacher and remarkable human being. It did not matter what the man taught, I enrolled. Many years later, I am happy to say that I was chair of the English Department and was instrumental in founding a scholarship in his honor.

There were lots of good things about going to Texas Western College besides the wonderful professors. For one thing, I could drive onto campus and park right in front of whatever building my class was in. Tuition was reasonable and books weren't budget-busters. On the other hand, the culture and the campus were markedly sexist. When I first asked about teaching for the department, the chair told me, "We don't hire housewives." He told me I would need a Ph.D. to be hired, although there were a number of men in the department that did not have them. When I returned from the University of New Mexico with my Ph.D. in

hand, I was paid considerably less than the newly hired and less experienced men. A lot needed to be changed. To begin, I was the first female faculty member to teach a Women's Studies course and the first to wear pants while teaching, a revolutionary act in those days. That last fact is amazing to our young co-eds. They can't believe that the Dean of Women could expel a female student for wearing pants on campus. When I had to build sets, paint, and saw, I rolled my Levis up under my full skirt till I got to the workshop. In some ways, the good old days weren't so good.

1966 was a banner year. Not only did it mark the transitional period between college and university, but it brought us to national attention when our unheralded team won the NCAA Championship. Afterwards, Coach Haskins was very upset by some of the negative press, and so Les Standiford and I did some investigative reporting and countered some of the misinformation published in *Sports Illustrated* and by James Michener in *Sports in America*. Steve Treddenick represented us at District Court in Austin when we sued and won our case against *The Texas Observer* for not publishing a contracted article about these lies. Frank Fitzpatrick acknowledges my contributions in *And the Walls Came Tumbling Down*.

From a small mining and metallurgy school to a first class university, I have been here as student and professor to enjoy and benefit from the growth and change. Whenever I walk out of the classroom and marvel at the blue skies and beautiful mountains, I thank my lucky stars. ☘

TEXAS WESTERN COLLEGE

"There were lots of good things about going to Texas Western College besides the wonderful professors...Tuition was reasonable and books weren't budget-busters."

Photo by J.R. Hernandez



Mimi Reisel Gladstein stands in front of Magoffin Auditorium, where she appeared in a number of plays beginning with *Carousel* in 1954.

Mimi Reisel Gladstein loves UTEP so much that she never left and has been here as student and professor since 1954. She was the first director of the Women's Studies Program; chaired the English and philosophy departments twice; chaired the Department of Theatre, Dance and Film; directed the Western Cultural Heritage Program; and was associate dean of liberal arts. Executive director of the Diamond Jubilee Year was another of her administrative duties. Her pioneer struggles for women's rights and international professional recognitions have earned her induction into the El Paso Commission for Women's Hall of Fame and the El Paso County Historical Society Hall of Honor.

MUSEUM HAS BEEN EL PASO'S WINDOW TO THE WORLD

By Daniel Perez • Photos by J.R. Hernandez

El Paso's first museum was born during the Great Depression because determined El Pasoans, including a supportive college administrator, understood its value to the community and the fledgling Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy, which today is UTEP.

Community members had been asking for a museum since the early 1900s with little success. Small exhibit spaces had popped up around town. One of them was in the basement of the college's administration building, which was Old Main at the time.

City leaders lobbied in October 1935 for funds from the Texas Centennial Commission of Control, a group that allocated grants to Texas communities to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Texas' independence from Mexico in 1836. The El Paso group received \$50,000 for a proposed museum.

Organizers discussed whether to build a new structure or renovate an existing one. They weighed several options and decided to build on 15.8 acres outside the city limits next to the college. The selection was made in part because college President Dossie Wiggins promised the college would operate and maintain the building as a museum and art center.

Since its opening in late April 1937, the El Paso Centennial Museum – now the Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens – has served El Pasoans and out-of-town visitors. For an isolated community, this building offered a window to the world for decades, said Wynn Anderson, a retired UTEP administrator and former curator at the museum's gardens, which were dedicated in 1999.

"Multiple generations have enjoyed the exhibits, from the stuffed animals to the mineral and fossil collections," he said. "This museum opened people's eyes to the natural world and cultures of the world and provided a context for visitors young and old. The Centennial has meant a great deal to the community and still does."

El Pasoans eager to help make the three-story museum a success lent or donated their eclectic collections to the museum,

which was led initially by Howard Quinn, Ph.D., professor and chair of the college's Department of Geology.

The county population was about 131,000 at the time and many shared collections that ranged from firearms to pottery to paperweights. One family gave a menagerie of African big game trophy heads.

"The city was determined to have a place to show off its history," said Marshall Carter-Tripp, Ph.D., former interim museum director. "(Residents) knew it was important to have a home for historical artifacts. As soon as it became available, stuff poured out of their attics."

The museum quickly had more collections than exhibit cases, according to "The El Paso Centennial Museum 1935-46," an article written by Esther "Terrie" Thompson Cornell in the spring 1981 issue of the *Password*, the quarterly newsletter for the El Paso County Historical Society.

Cornell's story said the museum opened with exhibits of local artists, natural history and archaeology, and collections of local flora and Southwest mammals and birds. Through the mid-1940s, some of its 6,700 square feet of exhibit space was used for meetings, art exhibits, and college classes in art, voice, speech and drama.

Cornell, who extensively researched the museum's history as a Centennial volunteer in the early 1970s, said she never learned why President Wiggins promoted and supported the idea to locate the museum near campus.

Regardless, she called the decision a boon to the institution as a way to introduce schoolchildren to the campus, as a supply of teaching collections for college students, and as a center to showcase work of area artists.

"It's an oasis on campus," she said via email from her summer home in

Hackensack, Minn.

Nancy Hamilton, author of *UTEP: A Pictorial History of The University of Texas at El Paso*, wrote about the museum's origins in her book. Hamilton did not know Wiggins' reasons, but surmised that he simply wanted to enhance the campus.

"You have to remember it was a small school back then," she said. "Anything that would add to the facilities and strengthen the school would be welcome, especially if it would be for free."

Today the museum has about 73,000 pieces among its collections. It maintains permanent exhibits about the region's natural and cultural history, and presents exhibits of UTEP research, the Americas, and border life and culture in its temporary galleries.

Many of the older exhibits have been updated and those efforts will continue so the public displays can reflect the newest information about life in the region, said Scott Cutler, museum curator.

"We will work with all parts of the University to help UTEP reach Tier One status by ensuring that the research collections are well cared for and available to students, faculty and staff," he said.

One of the museum's newest tasks is to help train the next generation of museum workers through the University's museum studies minor that started in 2010. Students gain hands-on experience with collections and public programming, and apply their classroom experience to real-life situations.

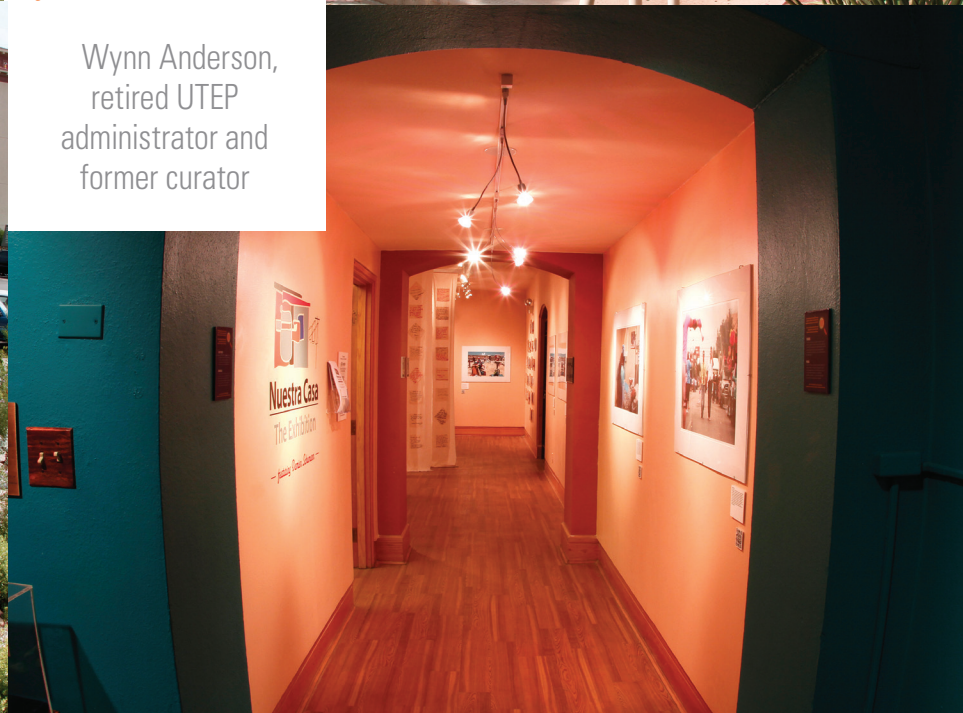
Cutler invited everyone to participate in the museum's 75th anniversary celebration by sharing their museum stories, photographs, articles and videos in person or via email to museum@utep.edu. 📧





“Multiple generations have enjoyed the exhibits, from the stuffed animals to the mineral and fossil collections.”

Wynn Anderson,
retired UTEP
administrator and
former curator



miner

With fall sports under way, these Miners are athletically and academically poised to make the Miner Nation proud.

Anthony Rotich

Class:
Freshman
Major:
Pre-engineering
Hometown:
Eldoret, Kenya

Anthony Rotich is participating in his first cross country season with the Miners. The freshman comes off a successful track season, earning a bid to the NCAA Championships, where he earned All-American honors after finishing sixth overall in the 3,000m steeplechase with a time of 8:41.14. Rotich posted a personal-best of 8:41.14 in the steeplechase at the NCAA Championships prelims. He took second place in the steeplechase (8:49.42) at the NCAA West Preliminary Championships. During the outdoor season, Rotich posted a silver finish in the steeplechase (8:56.39) and a bronze finish in the 5,000m (14:19.37). The Miner crossed the finish line second in the 5,000m at the 2012 C-USA Indoor Championships. In his first semester at UTEP, he earned a G.P.A. of 3.75.



Kenah Linger

Class:
Junior
Major:
Speech language pathology
Hometown:
Dallas, Texas

Kenah Linger is a two-year starter for the UTEP soccer team and a key contributor to the back line. A standout defender, Linger logged 2,055 minutes of action to pace all Miner field players in 2011. Her efforts helped UTEP register seven shutouts, and she is a big reason why the team earned runner-up honors at the 2011 Conference USA Championship. As a freshman, Linger started all 19 matches and played the fifth-most minutes of anyone on the squad. She has also been a good student, twice earning placement on the C-USA Academic Honor Roll.



mania

Photos by J.R. Hernandez

Xitlali Herrera

Class:
Junior
Major:
Multidisciplinary studies
Hometown:
Juárez, Mexico

Xitlali Herrera earned 2011 All-Conference USA first team honors in her first season as a Miner. The junior led the volleyball squad in 2011 with 384 kills, 132 blocks and a .321 hitting percentage. Herrera ranks second in program history for block assists in a single season with 121. The middle blocker was named a 2011 AVCA All-Midwest Region honorable mention and earned 2011 C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll honors.



Jamie Irving

Class:
Senior
Major:
Multidisciplinary studies
Hometown:
Perris, Calif.

UTEP senior linebacker Jamie Irving is the epitome of a student-athlete, taking care of business in the classroom, giving back to the community and serving as a leader in the locker room and on the field. He is set to graduate with a degree in multidisciplinary studies from UTEP in December. Irving also contributes volunteer hours around El Paso, most recently visiting the Providence Children's Hospital. He had a great season in 2010, leading all the linebackers while ranking second overall on the team in tackles with 79. It ended in heartbreak, though, with a shoulder injury in the Miners' bowl game against BYU putting him out of commission. The injury required surgery on both shoulders, and he missed what would have been his senior campaign in 2011. After a year of rehabilitation, Irving returns to the gridiron to lead the Miners in 2012. 🏈





Football Fans Make a Day Out of **GAME DAY**

By Laura L. Acosta • Photos by Joshua Garcia





Miner football was back in the Sun Bowl on Sept. 1 as thousands of orange-clad fans packed the stadium to watch UTEP take on the University of Oklahoma in the season's opening game.

Minutes before kickoff, 150 Miner Maniacs got the nearly sold-out crowd pumped as they ran out of the south end tunnel and onto the field shouting "UTEP!" and waving Miner pickaxe hand gestures in the air.

Freshmen Aayrick Thomas and Jessica Porras were among the first to participate in the Miner Run — a new game day tradition.

"This is to show our true school spirit and to show that we're dedicated to our Miners," Thomas said.

As the UTEP team exited the Mine Shaft, fans exploded with excitement, much like the orange and blue fireworks that lit up the clear evening sky over the end zone.

While UTEP lost 24-7 after a game that was close until the fourth quarter, Miner spirits were not defeated.

"We were hopeful," said UTEP alumna Laura Fernandez, who, along with her husband, Robert, and sister Angie Ortiz are season ticket holders. "We knew that they were playing the fourth-ranked team and we knew that it was going to be tough, but we still bleed orange."

Despite the loss, Ortiz said she planned to be in the stands at all six UTEP home games and cheering the Miners at homecoming when they face Tulane on Oct. 20.

"Win or lose, we're Miner fans," she said.

Earlier in the day, the campus pulsed with energy as fans took part in the time-honored tradition of tailgating — setting up lawn chairs and grilling hamburgers and hot dogs along University Avenue and Wiggins Road and enjoying music in the Miner Gameday Zone on the Geology Lawn.

Jose Reyes, a UTEP civil engineering graduate, arrived at 1:30 p.m. with his family.

"It's a good time to spend the afternoon with the family and enjoy the college atmosphere," he said.

With the Miners back in action this fall, fans are looking forward to watching them "Pick Axe" this season. 🏏

Go Miners!

40 YEARS LATER

By Jeff Darby • Photo courtesy of UTEP Athletics

Back then, he was 20 years old. Today, he's 60. A lot has happened since Sept. 9, 1972, the darkest day in United States Olympic basketball history.

Jim Forbes has moved on. But the memories are still there. And so is the overwhelming sense of being wronged, of having had something taken away from him and given to someone who didn't deserve it.

"I don't think anybody could have imagined what transpired," Forbes said. "You would hope to see it resolved in a positive way, but obviously that didn't happen."

Jim Forbes was between his sophomore and junior years at UTEP when he played on the United States Olympic basketball team in 1972.

"I just felt like we won that game 50-49."
However, the record shows that Forbes and his American teammates came up on the short end of a 51-50 score to the Soviet Union in the gold medal game at Munich. The Russians scored the winning basket on a layup by Alexander Belov as time expired.

Forbes was between his sophomore and junior years at UTEP, and his college coach, Don Haskins, was an assistant to the legendary Henry Iba on the U.S. bench.

The Americans had never lost in Olympic play dating back to 1936 and carried an overall record of 63-0 into the game. But they were uncharacteristically vulnerable that year.

Bill Walton, the National Player of the Year at UCLA, had opted not to participate in the games. The Americans, all collegians newly acquainted with one another, were also going up against a Soviet squad that averaged 28 years of age and had played nearly 400 games together.

The Russians were up by five points (26-21) at the break and increased their lead to as many as 10 in the second half before the Americans mounted a furious rally. When Doug Collins drained a pair of foul shots with only three seconds remaining, the United States had a 50-49 lead and was seemingly on its way to an eighth straight gold medal.

"That game, in our minds, ended after Collins made the two free throws and the Russians threw the ball in," Forbes said.

But it was far from over. In fact, in a bizarre sequence of events, the Soviets were allowed to run three inbound plays before the final buzzer sounded.

"Everything after [the first inbound play] was not legitimate," Forbes said.

Following the first inbound, Renato William Jones, the secretary general of the International Basketball Federation

(FIBA), came out of the stands and ordered the officials to put three seconds back on the clock due to a timing malfunction. But when the Soviets inbounded the ball for the second time, the scoreboard showed 50 seconds remaining. The USSR's Ivan Edeshko completed a short pass to teammate Modestas Paulauskas, who in turn fired the ball to Belov at the other end of the court. However, the buzzer sounded immediately after the ball left Paulauskas' hand.

The Americans celebrated their apparent one-point victory and fans stormed the court before the officials ruled that the clock had not been set properly and the final three seconds still needed to be played. Curiously, this time around official Artenik Arabadjian gestured to 6'11" U.S. player Tom McMillen to back up while defending the inbound pass. The action resulted in Edeshko having a clear passing lane to Belov on the opposite end of the floor.

Belov was being guarded by the USA's Forbes and Kevin Joyce, but at six feet seven inches, he was able to come down with the ball. Forbes and Joyce both tumbled to the ground on the play, giving Belov a wide open, game-winning layup.

"Defensively, we were set up for the play," Forbes said. "It was more of a balance issue for me. It was a bang-bang play and I fell, and he caught the ball and laid it in."

"You can go through it a million times, but the fact of the matter is the guy caught it and scored and nothing is going to change that."

The U.S. team protested the outcome, and to this day the Americans have refused to accept their silver medals. They continue to be stored in a vault in Lusanne, Switzerland.

Forbes suffered a serious knee injury

"I just felt like we won that game 50-49."

shortly following the Olympics and wasn't the same player thereafter, although he did earn second team All-Western Athletic Conference honors as a senior in 1974. He was chosen by Chicago in the fourth round of the 1974 NBA Draft, but never played a game in the league. More recently he has had a highly successful run as the head coach at Andress High School in El Paso.

Forbes planned to attend a 40th anniversary reunion of the 1972 U.S. team in Kentucky in late August 2012. The squad is also the subject of a new book, *Stolen Glory*, by Mike Brewster and Taps Gallagher.

"To be honest, I do get tired of talking about it," Forbes said. "I have to move on. People think that we are acting selfishly, that we're sore losers and can't accept defeat. But you accept defeat every day. You win and lose games and you move on."

Forbes hasn't talked to his Olympic teammates in 20 years. And he has refused to share the lessons learned from the 1972 experience with a new generation of high school players.

"I don't think I have brought it up one time," he said. "For those guys, it's definitely ancient history." 📌

Former Miners PLACE AT LONDON OLYMPICS

Several UTEP alumni participated in the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London and reached their event finals. Congratulations to all Miner Olympians!

KELLY PARKER, Canada, Women's Football (Soccer), Bronze Medal

ENDURANCE ABINUWA, Nigeria, 4x100 finals, fourth

BLESSING OKAGBARE, Nigeria, 4X100 finals, fourth; 100m finals, eighth

OLUDAMOLA OSAYOMI, Nigeria, 4x100 finals, fourth

CHURANDY MARTINA, Netherlands, 200m finals, fifth; 100m finals, sixth; 4x100m, sixth

MICKAEAL HANANY, France, high jump, 14th



By Daniel Perez • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Different Strokes

ECONOMICS PROFESSOR OFFICIATES AT U.S. OLYMPIC TRIALS



fficiating national swim meets is old hat for Jim Holcomb, Ph.D., associate professor of economics, but he admitted having butterflies in his stomach when he worked the finals of the U.S. Olympic swimming trials in June.

Holcomb, who has judged national meets for 10 years, described the pomp and pyrotechnics that accompanied the swimmers and judges as they walked up to the pool in Omaha, Neb. The fireworks, flames, lasers and ultraviolet lights in the pool emphasized the scope of the event where athletes were competing for a spot on the nation's Olympic swim team.

"It was very cool," he said with a grin in his second-floor office in the College of Business Administration Building. He called the invitation to the eight-day event – a first for him – the pinnacle of a swimming officiating career in America. "It was kind of fun to be acknowledged."

The El Paso native got involved in officiating in 1999 as a way to beat the monotony of attending the swim meets of his children, Alex and Rachel. His volunteer efforts, which include leadership positions with various youth swim organizations, mean he officiates at about three national competitions per year along with his service at local, regional and state meets.

Frank Swigon, head of the Texas High School Swim Officials and a USA Swimming official for the Austin/San Antonio area, has known Holcomb for 10 years and praises him for his fairness, dedication and intelligence.

"He wants to ensure that every athlete has an opportunity to succeed," Swigon said. "He works hard at that."

Holcomb, a three-sport athlete at El Paso's Eastwood High School (track/cross country, wrestling and swimming), earned his undergraduate degree in economics from UTEP in 1979, his master's in economics from Texas Tech University and his doctorate in economics from Texas A&M University.

Tim Roth, Ph.D., the A.B. Templeton Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics, called Holcomb one of his best students during his 40-plus years of teaching. He noted Holcomb's intellect and affinity for economics.

"He loves it and it shows. It's instinctive. Some people are born to think like an economist, and I think Jim is one of those," Roth said, adding that Holcomb is a dedicated teacher. "Jim believes in the idea of cultivating the student."

Holcomb said his next goals are to volunteer at national swim meets such as the 2012 AT&T Winter National Championships Nov. 29-Dec. 1 at UT Austin, and return to the Olympic trials as a more senior official. Locally, he wants to mentor area swim officials and train them to be their best. 📧

Fans filled the Don Haskins Center during the 2011 C-USA Basketball Championships.

Coming in 2014

File Photo

CONFERENCE USA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS TO RETURN TO EL PASO

Three years after generating an estimated economic impact of \$3.5 million and national television exposure for the city of El Paso, the Conference USA Basketball Championships will head back to the Sun City.

The C-USA Board of Directors approved placing the 2014 championships in El Paso, coinciding with UTEP's Centennial celebration. The dates and format are to be determined.

"The board determined that a rotational hosting model would be best moving forward in the conference," said C-USA Commissioner Britton Banowsky. "UTEP and the El Paso community were enthusiastic and extraordinary hosts for our men's and women's championships in 2011."

"It's terrific news for UTEP and the El Paso community," said UTEP Director of Athletics Bob Stull. "So many people banded together to produce a first-class event in 2011 – the city, the county, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Sports Commission and all of our volunteers, particularly from the Sun Bowl Association. We're looking forward to staging another great championship in 2014."

The 2013 C-USA Championships will be played in Tulsa, Okla.

Besides playing host to the C-USA men's and women's basketball championships in 2011, the Don Haskins Center was the site of the men's Western Athletic Conference tournament in 1984, 1985 and 1990. 📍

22

NCAA Division I National Championship Teams

138

Conference USA Commissioners Honor Roll Recipients

600

Nearly 600 All-Americans

3,500

More Than 3,500 Community Service Hours This Past Year

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UTEP *alumni*

PICK-NIC

Coast *to* Coast *and* Border *to* Border

JULY 14, 2012



1



2



3



4



1. CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

UTEP alumni engineers and their families gathered at Lake McBride near Cedar Rapids, Iowa to enjoy *carne asada* together.

2. VANCOUVER, CANADA

Charley Prine, a 1980 graduate with a B.S. in criminal justice, spent the day on China Beach on Vancouver Island, Canada with his wife and sister-in-law. Prine is an associate judge in the 309th District Court in Harris County, Texas.

3. PHOENIX

11 alumni picnicked and got to know each other in Phoenix. "We had some great food, drinks and company, and are planning to get together in the near future," said Cecilia Benavides, the picnic host.

4. ORLANDO

Elizabeth Claudio, a current UTEP M.B.A. student and coordinator in the University's Office of Alumni Relations, hosted a PICK-NIC at Blue Jacket Park in Orlando. "These Miners never met while attending UTEP, but are now united by geographic region, and plan to continue to get together for UTEP games and other events," she said.

5. BOTHELL, WASH.

"We spent a lot of time getting acquainted and talking about El Paso, our experiences on the UTEP campus, and what we are doing with our fantastic UTEP education," said Becky Birch, organizer of the hamburger and hot dog alumni cookout in Bothell, Wash. "We also played with Frisbees and beach balls ... and practiced and recorded the UTEP fight song."

6. GUADALAJARA

Forty-two alumni attended the Guadalajara PICK-NIC coordinated by Angeles Uribe, a 2001 graduate from the College of Business Administration. The former Miners feasted on Mexican food and sang karaoke all night long.

7. NEW YORK

More than 50 people attended the PICK-NIC potluck in Central Park, New York organized by Alex Muñoz, a 2011 graduate from the College of Business Administration. Muñoz now works for JP Morgan Chase in New York City.

8. EL PASO

More than 350 alumni attended the largest PICK-NIC at El Paso's Memorial Park. The College of Business Administration and the College of Engineering set up their own booths for alumni of their colleges. The UTEP women's soccer and volleyball teams also were present to help alumni enjoy the event. 🍷

From border to border and coast to coast, nearly 1,000 alumni came together in 17 cities to celebrate being Miners on July 14. The University's first Alumni "PICK-NIC" took place around the world, from Florida to Seattle and Guadalajara to Vancouver.

The Office of Alumni Relations put together starter baskets for each city's host to bring to the event complete with coolers, Frisbees, UTEP Miner flatware, nametags and Miner promotional materials.

"We anticipate this event being a yearly occurrence with much of our planning concentrating on the Centennial Celebration in 2014," said Margie Adame Brickey, chapter development coordinator for the Office of Alumni Relations. "It would be fantastic to have a service project develop in each community due to this social event."



Use your smartphone to scan this code to view an Alumni PICK-NIC video. You can also view the video at utepnews.com.



UTEPALUMNI ASSOCIATION



DEAR ALUMNI FAMILY,

What an exciting time to be a UTEP Miner! As we approach our Centennial Celebration in 2014, you will begin to hear about the many activities and events that are planned to commemorate this great milestone. In order for the entire alumni family to appreciate all that our great University has achieved, it is imperative that you be actively engaged with your alma mater.

As I begin my term as president of the UTEP Alumni Association, I would like to thank Keri Moe for her leadership and commitment as immediate past-president of the association. The UTEP Alumni Association continues to work hard to develop programs and services for alumni that enable the organization to support the great accomplishments of our students, faculty and staff.

The Alumni Association is committed to ensuring that all Miners – past, present and future – understand their value to the alumni family. However, in order to establish these connections, it will require your participation and engagement with us. Come join us at our events, volunteer at an activity and explore our website to see how you can participate.

I am honored to represent the UTEP alumni, and look forward to meeting you throughout the year.

Picks up ... GO MINERS!

David Veloz, '95

President, UTEP Alumni Association



THERE ARE MORE THAN
96,000
UTEP ALUMNI WORLDWIDE

Becoming a card-carrying member of the Alumni Association is simply the best way to stay connected to UTEP!

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UTEPALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ALUMNI RELATIONS

As we enter a new academic year, the Alumni Association has spent the summer working on a new strategic plan that is focused on delivering definitive value to our alumni, current students, faculty/staff, and the community-at-large. During the development process, the Alumni Association Board identified key propositions to building lifelong relationships and nurturing a “giving back” mindset amongst alumni all over the globe.

It is my belief that as an organization, it is our responsibility to establish strong relationships and create partnerships in order to achieve our goals and objectives. Therefore, I am calling upon each one of you to expand your commitment to the Alumni Association, as we are your lifelong connection to UTEP.

The Alumni Association Board has developed the 2012 Strategic Plan to ensure an effective association that fulfills its purpose “to support the activities of The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) toward the realization of its mission and educational programs in every manner possible.” The association looks to engage alumni in the life of the University with support to pursue their goals, enhance the image and prestige for UTEP by showcasing alumni success, provide service and program benefits aligned with alumni needs, and expand membership growth and participation by all alumni to include recent graduates.

The most important thing to remember about UTEP traditions is that their value results from the connections forged between you and the University. The PICK-NICs held across the country and abroad this past July are a perfect example of how alumni help create and sustain Miner pride.

The Alumni Association is your gateway to Miner traditions – come to one of our events and explore our website to learn the ways you can engage with the University and help UTEP on its quest to become the first national research university serving a 21st century student demographic.

I look forward to the Alumni Association becoming even stronger and delivering valued benefits.

Go Miners!

Richard J. Daniel, Ph.D.

Associate Vice President for University Advancement and Special Projects
Executive Director for Alumni Relations



Alina and Marian Komarnicki married in 1947 and moved to the United States in 1949.

**PERHAPS
MORE THAN “A
HUMAN STORY,”
THEIRS IS A
STORY OF THE
INDOMITABLE
HUMAN SPIRIT.**

PAYING FORWARD THE AMERICAN DREAM

Polish Couple Leaves Bulk of Estate to UTEP for Scholarships

By Isela Ocegueda • Photo courtesy of Tony Kruszewski

Having no formal connection to UTEP, Marian and Alina Komarnicki learned of the University by association. And yet, they left the bulk of their estate to UTEP, a profound testament of their commitment to higher education and their esteem for the University.

Their contribution, worth more than half a million dollars, established the Marian and Alina Komarnicki Scholarship Fund, which supports students in the College of Liberal Arts.

Behind their generous gift is the compelling story of the Komarnickis – a story of survival, resilience and altruism.

On Sept. 1, 1939, when the Komarnickis were just teenagers, Nazi Germany invaded their native country of Poland, launching World War II. Marian, son of a prominent lawyer, was expelled from his hometown by the Germans. He would meet his future wife, Alina, through her brother in 1941. Both young men were part of the same underground organization in Warsaw, which mobilized to fight against Nazi German forces. Tragically, Alina's brother died in the Warsaw

Uprising, leaving a permanent emotional scar on her. After surviving his death and that of so many of their countrymen, then enduring forced labor in work camps, constant displacement and extreme poverty, the Komarnickis married in 1947 and moved to the United States in 1949.

It was in 1952 that Z. Anthony “Tony” Kruszewski, also a WWII refugee who had participated in the Warsaw Uprising, met and befriended the Komarnickis in Chicago.

“We became the best of friends,” said Kruszewski, now a professor and former chair of political science at UTEP. “Nobody had their family in the U.S., so we created a substitute family of refugees. We were meeting practically every week for 50 years. We became one family.”

The Komarnickis eventually followed Kruszewski and his wife, June, to El Paso in 1972 after Kruszewski was hired at UTEP.

“They came here only because my wife and I were here,” Kruszewski explained. “They wanted to live in a city where they would have at least one friend.”

It was this deeply rooted friendship that inspired the Komarnickis' interest in UTEP. That interest eventually evolved into commitment and engagement, made manifest through their posthumous gift to the University. Marian Komarnicki passed away in 1999, followed by Alina in 2011.

Tony Kruszewski refers to the Komarnickis' story as “a human story.”

“They wanted to increase their contribution to this country by leaving their tribute,” he said. “They wholeheartedly left it to UTEP, a very symbolic place. UTEP represents a second chance for people who might not have had the opportunity to go to college otherwise. That money [from the Komarnickis] will help people achieve their educational aspirations and a higher standard of living.”

Perhaps more than “a human story,” theirs is a story of the indomitable human spirit.

“The Komarnickis,” Tony Kruszewski said, “were immigrants who believed in America and the American dream, not unlike many of our students at UTEP.” 📌

MINER MUNGLES

AWARD-WINNING MUSICIANS 'MOONLIGHT' AS EL PASO TEACHERS

By Daniel Perez • Photos by Laura Trejo

On any given weekend, hundreds to thousands of people across the Paso del Norte region tap their toes, swing their hips, bob their heads and beam a smile to the musical performances by the “Superheroes of Funk,” Fungi Mungle.

During the academic year, members of this well-known, award-winning, El Paso-based band teach students from throughout the area.

Five of the Mungles earned their academic degrees from The University of Texas at El Paso – Dave Hamilton, bass guitar; Ramon Lechuga, saxophone; brothers Gilbert and Mike Mata, lead guitar and percussion, respectively; and Cody Ritchey, keyboards. They share their knowledge and love of music in the classroom sans their trademark afros, polyester shirts, bell-bottom jeans and platform shoes.

“I think their parents get a bigger kick when they find out who we are,” said Ritchey, who earned a bachelor’s in economics in 1988 and a master’s in education 17 years later from UTEP. “They’re not expecting their children’s teachers to do that.”

The El Paso native serves as a music and theater consultant for the El Paso, Socorro and Ysleta school districts and has taught students in El Paso and New York since 1997. While not everyone is cut out to be a performer, the arts advocate teaches students how to relate to an audience to build self-confidence.

Mike Mata said his work as a Mungle spills into the classroom where he has taught for the past 10 years. His current position

is head band director at Canyon Hills Middle School in Northeast El Paso.

Mata, who earned his bachelor’s in music education in 1993 and is on track to earn his master’s in education administration in spring 2014, said he teaches his students about harmony and tone quality, but also the values he learned at UTEP: professionalism, preparation and attention to detail. The percussionist said he hoped that he could become a stronger advocate for the arts after he becomes a school administrator.

“I think extracurricular activities are a big part of education, but they often are overlooked,” Mata said. “It’s as plain as day that a good arts program also means higher test scores and better morale.”

Numerous studies have tied music classes to the academic and social development of students, said Brian Giza, Ph.D., associate professor of teacher education.

“There is anecdotal and research data that have shown that creativity in one realm is transferable to other realms. Many, many scientists, inventors and mathematicians have high levels of proficiencies in the arts – music, dance, etc.,” said Giza, whose research involves interdisciplinary approaches to teaching. 📷

Left: Five members of the popular disco-funk group Fungi Mungle are UTEP graduates who work as teachers in area school districts by day. They are, from left, Mike Mata, Ramon Lechuga, Dave Hamilton, Cody Ritchey and Gilbert Mata.

Right: And in their mild-mannered true identities: Ritchey, Hamilton, Lechuga, Gilbert and Mike Mata.



MINERS AROUND THE WORLD



The University of Texas at El Paso asked Facebook fans to submit photos of themselves wearing UTEP gear during their travels around the world. Here are some of the photos submitted.



1) Audrey Westcott, a senior multimedia journalism major, shows her creative UTEP pride with lava rocks on Hawaii's Big Island.

2) Frank Savina (B.A. in math, 1996 and M.A.T., 2008) and his wife, Ivette (B.I.S., 1996 and M.Ed., 2003), celebrated their wedding anniversary in Paris.

3) Javier Nevarez, a 2009 electronic communication graduate, is all smiles at the Chihuahua Supercross Nationals in Mexico.

4) Julian Mapp, a 2008 UTEP graduate, took his UTEP flag to the top of Mount Fuji, the highest mountain in Japan.

5) Leticia Aguilar, a 1999 nursing graduate and her husband, Jesus, a 1992 political science grad, proudly held their "Picks Up" during a recent vacation at the Pirámide de Kukulcán in Chichén Itzá, Mexico.

6) Monique Becerra (B.S., 1996; M.Ed., 1999) says when she's not teaching, she's traveling! Here the proud Miner alumna is pictured at Machu Picchu in Peru.



To submit a Miners Around the World photo for possible inclusion in UTEP Magazine, send a photo and caption information to univcomm@utep.edu.

50s

Lahoma N. Counts (B.A. '50), executive director of Elderbridge Agency on Aging in Mason City, Iowa, retired in March after 20 years with the organization. The Elderbridge Agency on Aging advocates for seniors, enabling them to live with dignity, well-being and independence.

Rosa E. Guerrero (B.A. '57; M.Ed. '77), an El Paso-area educator and city promoter, was honored by Business and Professional Women - Paso Del Norte in June for her work in the community.

Mario J. Martinez (B.A. '57), an attorney at the law firm Mario J. Martinez, P.C. in El Paso, received the Professionalism Award at the El Paso Bar Association Annual Law Day Dinner and Awards Banquet in May.

60s

Art Alva (B.A. '61), of El Paso, was named chairman of the Teachers Federal Credit Union board of directors in May.

David Briones (B.A. '69), an El Paso U.S. district judge, received the Albert Armendariz Lifetime Achievement in Human Rights Award at the El Paso Bar Association Annual Law Day Dinner and Awards Banquet in May.

Corrine "Leighton" Dahl (B.A. '66; M.Ed. '74), of El Paso, played Carrie Watts in the El Paso Playhouse's production of "The Trip to Bountiful" in April.

Gerald J. "Jerry" Rubin (B.S. '65), president and CEO of beauty products company Helen of Troy, Ltd. in El Paso, was appointed to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas' Business and Community Advisory Council.

Hector M. Zavaleta (B.A. '69), an attorney at the law firm Hector M. Zavaleta, P.C. in El Paso, received the Mediator of the Year Award at the El Paso Bar Association Annual Law Day Dinner and Awards Banquet in May.

70s

Clara E. Duncan-Adams (B.S.Ed. '77), a Burges High School (El Paso) mathematics instructor, was inducted into the El Paso Women's Hall of Fame in March for impacting the community through civic leadership.

Jesus Beltran (B.S.Ed. '74; M.Ed. '84), a retired Lt. Col. of the United States Army Reserve, retired from the Socorro Independent School District (Texas) in April.

Tanny S. Berg (B.B.A. '70), owner and president of real estate company Jack Berg Sales, was honored in May with the League of Women Voters of El Paso's 2012 Bravo Award for his leadership in civic and nonprofit organizations. Berg is chairman of the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger board of directors.

Arturo Bronson (B.S.M.E.T. '70; M.S. '72), UTEP mechanical engineering professor, received a grant worth nearly \$400,000 from the United States Air Force Office of Scientific Research in May. The grant will fund the investigation of new methods of processing high temperature materials for the United States Air Force's and NASA's hypersonic airplane.

Dwight M. Deter (B.S. '73), physician assistant at Southwest Endocrine Consultants in El Paso, was honored by the American Academy of Physicians Assistants in May with the 2012 Physician-PA Partnership Award. The award recognizes a career of providing exceptional care to patients through the relationships between physicians and physician assistants.

Oscar G. Gabaldon (B.A. '79), El Paso County judge, authored the article "Fathers are a Necessary Piece in a Child's Puzzle of Life," which was published twice — once in 2009 by Court Appointed Special Advocates, a nonprofit organization that recruits and trains volunteers to serve as advocates for child victims of abuse and neglect, and then again in 2010 by the *El Paso Bar Journal*. Gabaldon is also a recipient of the Aliviane Inc. 2011 Humanitarian Award for his dedicated service to families and children in El Paso.

Carl H. Green (B.A. '73), an attorney at the law firm of Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson & Galatzan in El Paso, presented on the investigation of catastrophic transportation accidents to the Texas Association of Defense Counsel in June. Green also received the Outstanding Senior Lawyer Award at the El Paso Bar Association Annual Law Day Dinner and Awards Banquet in May.

Carlos A. Gutierrez (B.S. '71), a physician at Paso del Norte Pediatrics, P.A. in El Paso, was honored in April with the 2012 Rotary Club Distinguished Service Award for his efforts in creating El Paso's first standalone children's hospital.

Luis Herrera (B.S.Ed. '75), city librarian of the San Francisco Public Library, was named to the National Museum and Library Services Board by President Barack Obama in March.

David D. Kelley (B.S.Met. '72), of Houston, was named sales engineer-offshore platform coordination at National Supply Company, an oil field equipment manufacturer, in June.

Jose Luna, Jr. (B.A. '74), chief medical officer at Centro San Vicente in El Paso, was honored at the Lucy G. Acosta Humanitarian Awards in April for his work in supporting the community through his practice.

Harriet B. May (B.S. '71), retired CEO of GECU in El Paso, was inducted into the Texas Credit Union Hall of Fame in May for her leadership and commitment to GECU. May is the current chair of the Credit Union National Association board of directors.

Lorraine O'Donnell (B.S.Ed. '75; M.Ed. '85), assistant superintendent of the charter school district El Paso Initiative Inc., returned from Japan in July 2010, where she served as graduate dean of education for the University of Phoenix on Kander Air Force Base.

Jessie "Faynell" Poe (B.B.A. '71), a paralegal/office manager at El Paso law firm Firth Johnston Martinez, was named NALS 2012-13 education director in March. NALS is an association for legal professionals dedicated to enhancing the competencies and contributions of members in the legal services profession through education, networking and programming.

Roseanne de la Fuente Rueda (B.B.A. '78) was named to the El Paso Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure's board of directors in April.

Oscar E. Venegas (B.S.C.I. '73), president and owner of Venegas Engineering Management & Construction, was named the Small Business Person of the Year for the Small Business

Administration's El Paso District in April.

80s

Cynthia M. "Cindy" Aguilar-Davis (B.A. '85), a program coordinator in UTEP's College of Science, was named to the El Paso Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure's board of directors in April.

Armando C. Aguirre (B.S.Ed. '85; M.Ed. '89; Ed.D. '04), UTEP assistant provost, was named executive director of The El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence in January. The collaborative is a partnership among education, business and civic leaders in the region, working to implement education reform initiatives.

Victor M. Calzada (B.A. '84), an *El Paso Times* journalist, won second place in the Photojournalist of the Year competition at the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors convention in Dallas in March.

Arlene E. Carroll (B.B.A. '87), a first vice president at El Paso's WestStar Bank, was named vice president of the Hospice El Paso executive board in March.

Manuel "Manny" Castruita, Jr. (B.S.Ed. '88; M.Ed. '92), counselor coordinator for the Ysleta Independent School District in El Paso, was named Region III director for the Texas Counseling Association. Castruita, Jr. also was honored as the 2012 Linda Kistenmacher Outstanding Counselor by the Trans-Pecos Counseling Association local chapter.

Victor M. Mendez (B.S.C.E. '80), of Washington, D.C., administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, was the keynote speaker at the 3rd annual Transportation Summit in March. The summit, which was held at Benedict College in Columbia, S.C., focused on disseminating safety data, business opportunities and workforce development information.

Robert C. "Bob" Moore (B.A. '88), editor of the *El Paso Times*, was named to the United Way of El Paso County's board of directors in April.

Daniel W. Olivas, Jr. (B.A. '88) was named a shareholder in the Nashville office of the Lewis, King, Krieg and Waldrop, P.C. law

firm in February. Olivas joined the firm in 2005.

Hector R. Puente (B.S.E.E. '80), of El Paso, was named El Paso Electric Co.'s new senior vice president and chief operations officer in June.

Alma D. Puentes (B.B.A. '80), president and director of Puentes Concrete Contractors Corp. in El Paso, was named a board member of the El Paso Chapter 248 National Association of Women in Construction in March.

Tresa P. Rockwell (B.B.A. '82), culture marketing manager for Red Bull North in Austin, Texas, was named to the Governor's Commission for Women in February. Through outreach, education, research and referral services, the commission addresses issues affecting Texas women.

Robert L. "Bob" Sewell (B.S. '80), of El Paso, was named the Hoy Fox Automotive Group's Infiniti dealership manager in June.

Felipa G. Solis (B.A. '83) was named executive director of El Paso Pro-Musica in March.

Jennifer L. Vandenbosch (B.A. '89; B.B.A. '92), an El Paso district attorney, was inducted into the El Paso Women's Hall of Fame in March for impacting the community through professional business.

90s

Mary Aguilar-Yanez (B.B.A. '93), adjunct professor at El Paso Community College, was honored by Business and Professional Women - Paso Del Norte, for her work in the community.

Julieta Adaauto (B.S. '95), of El Paso, opened up Orange Peel Pastries, Cakes & More in December.

Steven P. Busser (B.B.A. '94), vice president at El Paso Electric Co., was named United Way of El Paso County's board treasurer in April.

Gilbert Carreon (B.B.A. '98), of El Paso, was promoted to assistant vice president at WestStar Bank in April.

Christopher A. Fenton (M.B.A. '94), of Kohler, Wis., was named director of quality for Kohler Co.'s kitchen and bath division in the Americas region in April.

Leanne M. Garcia (B.I.S. '94), of Durango, Colo., was named principal at Durango High School in June.

Luis "Ricardo" Herrera (B.M. '94), assistant professor of voice at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, performed in El Paso Opera's *The Marriage of Figaro* in March.

Martha Koester (B.A. '94), an *El Paso Times* copy editor, won third place in headline writing at the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors convention in Dallas in March.

Michael G. McCorgary (B.B.A. '93), owner of Airport Printing Services, was named to the El Paso Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure's board of directors in April.

Liliana I. Miranda (B.B.A. '98), senior vice president and auditor at WestStar Bank, was elected 2012-13 president of Hospice El Paso's board of directors in March.

Christopher "Chris" Mitchell (B.A. '93) graduated with a degree of Doctor of Medicine from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston's School of Medicine in September 2011.

Agustin Montes, II (B.B.A. '99), of El Paso, was named a Sun Bowl Association board member in April.

Jerry R. Paugh (B.S.Ed. '90), Montwood High School's girls soccer coach, reached a career milestone of 200 victories in March.

Jonathan T. "Jon" Stovall (B.A. '92), Eastwood High School English teacher and girls golf coach, was named the *El Paso Times* All-City Girls Coach of the Year in May for coaching the Eastwood High School girls golf team to a fourth consecutive District 1-5A title.

Lawrence N. "Larry" Vucan (B.A. '94), of Southlake, Texas, joined Southlake Carroll Senior High School in May as a pitching coach for the boys baseball team.

Paulette Wingo (B.I.S. '92; M.Ed. '96), founder and president of Road Map Publishing and

author of *A Parent's Survival Guide for the School Years*, was the guest speaker at the National Pan-Hellenic El Paso Council scholarship presentation in June.

Liliana Woo (B.S. '95) joined Texas Regional Urology as a practicing partner in February. Texas Regional Urology is a new medical practice servicing the northern metro Houston area.

Karen L. Hart (B.A. '97), an attorney at the law firm of Bell, Nunnally & Martin in Dallas, was named a 2012 "Texas Rising Star" in March by Super Lawyers, a Thomson Reuters publication and rating service. Rising Stars recognizes lawyers across 70 practice areas who are 40 years or younger and have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement in the first 10 years of their practice.

Yadira Azcona (M.B.A. '04), president of structural insulated panels company Enercon SIPS, was named 2012 treasurer of the El Paso Chapter 248 National Association of Women in Construction in March.

Marshall C. Barclay (M.B.A. '05), of El Paso, was named Lincoln Financial Advisors' Financial Planner of the Month in May.

Lisa D. Campos (Ed.D. '09), a former senior associate athletic director at UTEP, was named vice president for intercollegiate athletics at Northern Arizona University in April.

Analisa Cordova (B.B.A. '08) was named to the United Way of El Paso County's board of directors in April.

Roberto A. Coronado (B.B.A. '00; M.S. '02), UTEP visiting assistant professor of economics and finance, was promoted in February to economic outreach officer at the El Paso Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

Ashleigh M. Decker (B.B.A. '07), a former UTEP soccer standout, joined the UTEP Miner soccer team as an assistant coach in February.

Timothy D. Duffie (M.Ed. '02) was named Wake Forest University's football secondary coach in March. Duffie coached nine seasons with the UTEP Miner football team.

Elizabeth K. Gibson (B.A. '07) joined the City of El Paso's economic development department as a senior economic development specialist in February.

Leslie D. Gonzales (M.A. '05; Ed.D. '10), professor in UTEP's College of Education, was recognized in April by the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education as a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Faculty Fellow.

Esperanza Calderon-Guillen (B.B.A. '01), business manager for El Paso engineering firm Raba Kistner Consultants Inc., was named 2012 secretary of the El Paso Chapter 248 National Association of Women in Construction in March.

Ricardo R. Chavez (M.B.A. '04), of El Paso, was named Del Sol Medical Center's director of therapy services in June.

Karla R. Gutierrez (B.S.I.E. '09), UTEP environmental science Ph.D. student, was recognized in April by the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education as a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Graduate Fellow.

Jennifer E. Han (B.S. '07), of El Paso, was inducted into the El Paso Martial Arts Hall of Fame in June. Han, a five-time national amateur champion, was a silver medalist at the World Boxing Championships and was voted USA Boxing's Best Boxer three times.

Linda M. Hernandez (B.B.A. '06), of El Paso, was named first vice president of teller operations at WestStar Bank in April.

Patricia Islas (B.A. '00; M.A. '03), an El Paso Community College assistant professor of speech, was inducted into the El Paso Women's Hall of Fame in March for impacting the community through education.

Olivia C. Moreno (B.S.I.E. '09), UTEP environmental science Ph.D. student, was recognized in April by the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education as a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Graduate Fellow.

Arturo A. Muñoz (B.A. '08), of El Paso, was named a Sun Bowl Association board member in April.

Homar Niestas, Jr. (B.B.A. '01; M.B.A. '08; B.B.A. '09), of El Paso, joined JDW Insurance Co. as an assistant vice president and controller in April.

Miguel Ortiz (B.B.A. '09) opened Dayvasos, a Mexican-based franchise that sells tomato juice drinks flavored with beef jerky, shrimp and clams, in El Paso in May.

Jordan W. Palmer (B.M.S. '06) was signed to a three-day workout contract with the National Football League's Jacksonville Jaguars in April.

Angelica M. Ramsey (M.Ed. '04), principal at Eastlake High School in El Paso, was selected in June to participate in a cultural and educational research expedition to the Chinese cities of Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai. The trip is sponsored by Education First Tours, a global education agency that provides all-inclusive tours to foreign countries for students, educators and school administrators in the United States.

Melodya Salices (M.P.A. '05), senior organization specialist and director of services at Nonprofit Enterprise Center in El Paso, was named the Small Business Administration El Paso District's Women in Business Champion of the Year in April.

Edmundo Soltero (M.B.A. '05), a registered architect, was named Arizona State University's assistant vice president for the Office of the University Architect in March.

Ashlee Stephens (B.B.A. '09) opened Teaze, a boba tea franchise, in El Paso in June.

Aurora Tafoya (B.A. '01), of El Paso, received the Liberty Bell Award at the El Paso Bar Association Annual Law Day Dinner and Awards Banquet in May. The Liberty Bell Award is presented to an outstanding non-lawyer for selfless contributions to the community to strengthen the justice system.

Olivia Zepeda (B.B.A. '05; M.B.A. '10) was named assistant to UTEP's associate vice president in the University Development office in February.

Kristofer B. Adams (B.B.A. '10) signed to the National Football League's Indianapolis Colts in June as a receiver.

Jonathan O. Childress (B.B.A. '10), of El Paso, was named an Evolve Federal Credit Union 2012 brand ambassador in May.

Bryan S. Cleavenger (B.B.A. '10), of El Paso, was named an Evolve Federal Credit Union 2012 brand ambassador in May.

Karl Karam (B.B.A. '11) joined information technology firm Varay Systems as support technician I in February.

Yasmin Marquez (B.F.A. '11), senior graphic designer with UTEP's student newspaper, *The Prospector*, was recognized in May by the College Newspaper Business and Advertising Managers Inc. with the Best of Category Award for black and white display ads.

Mary B. Martin (B.S. '11), of El Paso, was named Bowie High School's girls basketball coach in April.

Oswaldo Rodarte (B.B.A. '11) opened Dayvasos, a Mexican-based franchise that sells tomato juice drinks flavored with beef jerky, shrimp and clams, in El Paso in May.

Joel R. "Ryan" Stoltzfus (M.B.A. '11) joined the Visiting Nurse Association of El Paso as a hospice director in April.

Trevor Vittatoe (B.B.A. '10), a former UTEP quarterback, was signed to the NFL's Indianapolis Colts in March. Vittatoe was ranked 14th and 15th in BCS college football history for passing yards and touchdowns, respectively.



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Audian H. Paxson (B.A. '52) Boerne, Texas; Sept. 14, 2011.
Robert C. Rice, Sr. (B.B.A. '70) Branson, Mo.; Nov. 15, 2011.
Carroll R. Jordan (B.S. '64) Mason, Texas; Dec. 4, 2011.
Robert N. Specht (B.S. '59) San Antonio; Dec. 29, 2011.
Lee H. Keily (B.B.A. '58) Amarillo, Texas; Feb. 2, 2012.
Patricia Aboud Randazzo (B.S.Ed. '68) San Jose, Calif.; Feb. 3, 2012.
Raquel O. Venegas (B.A. '63) El Paso; Feb. 6, 2012.
Lucille Fresquez Estrada (B.I.S. '96) El Paso; Feb. 12, 2012.
Leland P. Rowe (B.B.A. '69) Farmington, N.M.; Feb. 12, 2012.
Joan Stiles Ponsford (B.A. '52) El Paso; Feb. 13, 2012.
Sharon Kay Fischer (B.A. '66; M.A. '70) Horizon City, Texas; Feb. 18, 2012.
Jean L. "Jeannie" Wolking (B.S.Ed. '68) El Paso; Feb. 18, 2012.
Patricia C. Whitt (B.A. '56) El Paso; Feb. 19, 2012.
Margo L. Hughes-Wiesberg (B.S.Ed. '66) Las Vegas; Feb. 25, 2012.
Stephen N. "Steve" Harden (B.S. '77; M.S. '82) Houston; Feb. 28, 2012.
Elbert Mario Hankerson Jr. (B.A. '77) El Paso; March 1, 2012.
Mary S. Bothner (B.S.Ed. '69) El Paso; March 2, 2012.
William C. "Bill" Schillinger (B.S. '48) El Paso; March 3, 2012.
William E. Bruce (B.S.E.E. '61) El Paso; March 4, 2012.

Jesus "Chuy" Terrazas, Jr. (B.M. '54; M.A. '60) El Paso; March 7, 2012.
Michael N. Elorreaga (B.B.A. '77) El Paso; March 9, 2012.
Oscar D. Gonzalez (B.S. '43) El Paso; March 12, 2012.
Gloria C. Aranda (B.I.S. '92) El Paso; March 13, 2012.
George W. Butterworth (B.B.A. '63) El Paso; March 13, 2012.
Hector D. Aguilar (B.B.A. '81) El Paso; March 14, 2012.
Frederick R. "Fred" Lowenberg (B.B.A. '84) West Seneca, N.Y.; March 17, 2012.
Richard N. Tedrick (B.S. '56) Round Rock, Texas; March 18, 2012.
Ellen "Renee" Charles-Butler (B.S.N. '81) Albuquerque, N.M.; March 20, 2012.
Charles B. Ewing (B.S.Ed. '72; M.A. '75) Modesto, Calif.; March 21, 2012.
Wallace Moore "Wally" Lowenfield (B.A. '51) El Paso; March 25, 2012.
Dawn Marie Markwell Garcia (B.S. '96; M.P.A. '99) Las Cruces, N.M.; March 24, 2012.
John A. Malooly, Sr. (B.B.A. '59) El Paso; March 30, 2012.
Etta G. Kern (M.S. '70) Moorpark, Calif.; April 1, 2012.
Thomas J. Stone (B.B.A. '69) El Paso; April 3, 2012.
Sandra Harris Casillas (B.F.A. '88; M.A. '91) Las Cruces, N.M.; March 28, 2012.
A. Ralph Rettig, Jr. (B.B.A. '57) El Paso; March 31, 2012.
James D. Thomas (B.S.M.I. '51) El Paso; March 31, 2012.
Trinidad "Trini" Mendoza (B.S.Ed. '66; M.Ed. '80) El Paso; April 3, 2012.

Luis M. Paredes (B.S.Ed. '89) El Paso; April 5, 2012.
Myra P. Looper (B.A. '97; M.Ed. '09) El Paso; April 6, 2012.
Estela V. Reyes (B.S.Ed. '71; M.Ed. '76) El Paso; April 8, 2012.
Thomas M. "Tom" Callaghan (B.B.A. '63) El Paso; April 15, 2012.
Mary Maxon (B.S.Ed. '72; M.Ed. '74) Rio Rancho, N.M.; April 15, 2012.
Ruben Avelar (B.A. '51) Garland, Texas; April 17, 2012.
Jim "Nageb" Aziz (B.S.Ed. '71) El Paso; April 17, 2012.
Donna L. Kvapil (B.B.A. '83) El Paso; April 17, 2012.
Sarah A. McKinnon (B.A. '97) Tampa, Fla.; April 20, 2012.
Elizabeth Carbajal (B.I.S. '04) El Paso; April 22, 2012.
Sylvia J. Galatzan (B.S. '44) El Paso; April 24, 2012.
Phyllis Rae Thurmond (B.A. '48; M.A. '65) El Paso; April 26, 2012.
Sharon Brooks Hartman (B.A. '91) El Paso; April 27, 2012.
Patricia B. Gorby (B.A. '78; M.A.I.S. '85) El Paso; April 29, 2012.
Daisy C. Meacham (B.A. '53) Nogal, N.M.; May 1, 2012.
Virginia "Jigger" Olsen (B.B.A. '43) Alamogordo, N.M.; May 2, 2012.
Charles H. Coldwell (B.A. '42) Dallas; May 4, 2012.
Clay W. Gibson (B.S. '90) Amarillo, Texas; May 4, 2012.
Yvonne M. Lipe (B.B.A. 1983) El Paso; May 4, 2012.

Jack G. Shinaut, Sr. (B.A. '56; M.Ed. '70) El Paso; May 5, 2012.
Frances St. Clair (M.Ed. '68) El Paso; May 6, 2012.
Miladean "Mikey" Ward (B.A. '52) El Paso; May 6, 2012.
Antoinette K. "Toni" Empson (M.Ed. '69) El Paso; May 7, 2012.
Robert G. Kern, Sr. (B.S. '86) El Paso; May 9, 2012.
Agnes L. Wayne (B.A. '43) El Paso; May 9, 2012.
Debra L. Hamann (B.A. '73) Medina, Ohio; May 14, 2012.
Mamye L. Jeffery (B.A. '79) El Paso; May 15, 2012.
Lloyd E. Anderson (B.I.S. '92) Houston; May 16, 2012.
Gary E. Nelson (B.B.A. '78) El Paso; May 17, 2012.
Bertha A. Seely (B.B.A. '84) El Paso; May 21, 2012.
Ysela P. O'Malley (B.A. '53; M.A. '61) El Paso; May 21, 2012.
Carol J. Collins (B.S.Ed. '79; M.Ed. '84) El Paso; May 23, 2012.
William G. Grimes (B.A. '66) El Paso; May 24, 2012.
Steve M. Natal (B.S.E.E. '60) El Paso; May 26, 2012.
Mary V. Mellen (B.S.Ed. '62; M.Ed. '68) El Paso; June 4, 2012.
Georgia Satterfield (B.S.Ed. '63; M.Ed. '71) North Richland Hills, Texas; June 4, 2012.
Jacqueline W. "Jackie" Martinez (B.A. '73; M.A. '75) Dallas; June 5, 2012.

Guido A. Barrientos

By Daniel Perez

Guido A. Barrientos, Ph.D., navigated the streets of Guatemala City during a riot in the summer of 1963 to call Texas Western College (now UTEP) regarding a job. Guatemala was in the midst of a civil war.

"I accept your offer," he said several times, cutting off efforts by the person on the other end of the line to explain his duties and salary. What was thought in El Paso to be a bad connection was actually the sound of gunshots and tear gas canisters being launched.

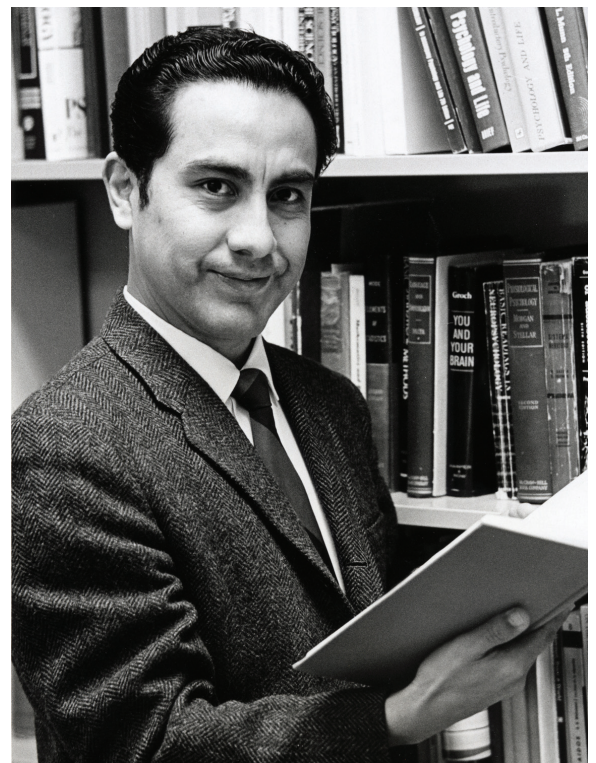
Barrientos retired as a professor emeritus of psychology from The University of Texas at El Paso in 1998 after 35 years of service. He died in his El Paso home July 26, 2012. He was 80. He is survived by his wife, Roselia; his two children, Carlo and Tanya; two grandchildren; and two brothers in his native Guatemala.

UTEP colleagues remembered Barrientos as a man who impacted the lives of hundreds of students.

"He was a remarkable intellectual who will be missed by all," said Randolph Whitworth, Ph.D., professor emeritus of psychology. Whitworth recalled that phone call in '63 with a bit of a chuckle. "He is one of the finest people I've ever known."

Harmon Hosch, Ph.D., professor of psychology, called Barrientos a good teacher and excellent coworker. The two co-authored a book in 1999 and knew each other for 37 years. "He was supportive of his students and held them to high standards."

Barrientos, who earned his doctorate from the University of Kansas in 1959, also was a highly respected clinician who provided psychological services in private practice for many years. 📖



John Robert Foster

By Daniel Perez

John Robert “Bob” Foster, D.B.A., longtime UTEP professor of marketing, liked to laugh, debate key business issues, and see others treated with respect and kindness. He died May 8, 2012, in El Paso at age 77.

Born in Tacoma, Wash., Foster grew up in Oklahoma City. He earned a bachelor’s in journalism from the University of Oklahoma in 1956, and an M.B.A. and doctorate from Indiana University in 1960 and ’66. He taught at Western Kentucky University and the University of South Carolina before joining UTEP in 1972. He served as UTEP’s Graduate School assistant dean, chairman of both the departments of marketing and business, and was the M.B.A. program’s founding graduate adviser.

He combined a subtle sense of humor with a passion for teaching to push his students to reach their full potential, said his oldest son Robert. “Dad equally valued teaching both undergraduate and graduate students.”

Colleague and friend Tim Roth, Ph.D., professor and chairman of UTEP’s Department of Economics and Finance, called the elder Foster a thoughtful, generous gentleman, and a “rare scholar” who was interested in multidisciplinary topics.

“He was thoroughly engaged in thinking about what I call ‘grand questions,’” Roth said. “He was a marketing professor who eventually taught ethics. That’s where I think he found his niche.”

His outside interests included reading, attending UTEP basketball games, and volunteering with the Rotary Club of El Paso and Boy Scout Troop 44.

His younger son John said he always will admire his father’s laugh, kind spirit, sense of fairness and in-depth business knowledge.

John Robert Foster is survived by his wife, Joanne, and sons Robert and twins James and John. 📍



Dilmus D. James

By Daniel Perez

Dilmus D. “Dil” James, Ph.D., was born with a mind for economics and a soul full of compassion, said those who knew the former UTEP professor. James died May 29, 2012, his 80th birthday.

“He had a heart bigger than himself ... and he was six-two,” said his wife of 44 years, Jeanette “Jan” James.

She said her husband enjoyed his time at The University of Texas at El Paso. He was hired in 1958 at what was then Texas Western College and retired in 2004 as a professor emeritus of economics.

James specialized in international economics, economic development and Latin American economics and focused his research on technology transfer in underdeveloped regions around the world. He thought technology and proper public policies could improve the lives of the impoverished.

Tim Roth, Ph.D., chair and professor of economics, said poverty remediation drove James’ thinking and led to many interdisciplinary efforts on campus and internationally. Because of his interests, James served in many roles outside academia, such as senior economic adviser on technology for the United Nations’ Conference on Trade and Development.

In his eulogy, Roth said of his friend: “Every (academic) department needs that one person who is, simultaneously, a leading scholar, a source of stability, and a person whose spirit of comity makes serious and productive engagement possible.”

His generous spirit also was part of his legacy. He faithfully donated to numerous charities and funded a UTEP scholarship for graduate students studying economics. Since 2001, 50 students have benefited from the James Foundation Scholarships.

He is survived by his wife; his brother, Henry Fleming James; three stepsons; and a cousin, Patty Lee. 📍



R. Milton Leech

By Daniel Perez

Fun and skilled were two words used to describe R. Milton Leech, Ph.D., who was a teacher and administrator at The University of Texas at El Paso for 35 years until his retirement as professor emeritus in 1984. He died May 19, 2012, in Sarasota, Fla. He was 90.

His daughter, Susan Leech Allen, said her father drew great joy and satisfaction from his work at the University. Through the years he served as a professor of speech and drama, dean of administration, vice president for academic affairs, and acting president.

Leech earned his B.F.A., M.F.A., and Ph.D. in drama and education from UT Austin before being hired at Texas Western College (now UTEP).

"He was witty, fun, well organized and wonderfully capable," said Mimi Gladstein, Ph.D., professor of English at UTEP, who met him as a freshman. "He understood budgets and could communicate. He was the whole enchilada and that combination is rare."

Leech's eldest daughter, Janis Leech Blackman, said one of her father's favorite memories was his battle in the late 1960s to save a patch of grass on campus for students in need of a break between classes. Students began to call it Leech Grove, and the name became official in 1985.

"Our dad's life was enriched in every way by choosing to work at UTEP," Blackman said. "From El Paso he drew an enduring, always engaging, keep-you-on-your-toes, laugh-'til-you-drop group of friends that lasted him and my mother a lifetime."

He was preceded in death by his wife, Carolyn, the previous January. He is survived by his daughters, their husbands, two grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and his brother, Ralph Leech. 📧



Charles Roy Stanley

By Daniel Perez

Charles Roy Stanley was dedicated to his students, his craft, The University of Texas at El Paso, and its Department of Music, according to his friends and family. Stanley died June 9, 2012, in El Paso. He was 81.

Stanley taught voice and choir, music theory, harmony and composition during his 30-year career at UTEP that began in 1966. He helped design the Fox Fine Arts Building in the early 1970s and started the department's electronic music program about a decade later.

Lowell Graham, D.M.A., professor and chair of the music department, said Stanley considered the University part of his family.

"Anything he could do to help us, he did," Graham said. "When he didn't have the expertise ... he would take a course to stay current with industry, especially in the audio world. He was truly a man who would reinvent himself as time went on."

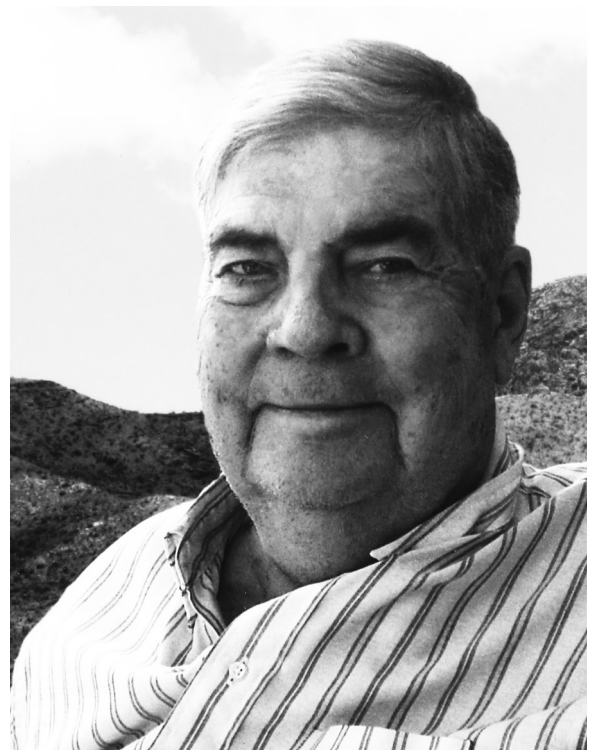
Marilyn Snider Stanley said her husband of 60 years took great pride in his association with UTEP.

"He loved his interaction with the students and being part of the music department," she said.

Stanley grew up during the Great Depression in Tulsa, Okla. Despite being unemployed, his father bought two things for his family — a cow for nourishment and a piano for entertainment.

Stanley earned his bachelor's degree in music from Anderson (Ind.) College in 1953 and his master's in church music from the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

He is survived by his wife; their children Stephen, Sharlene, Sharilyn and Sue, and their spouses; nine grandchildren; his sister Donna Thomas; and his sister-in-law Kathleen (Jerry) Egelston. 📧



Dear friends,

I'm pleased to share with you the exciting news that UTEP was just ranked among the best universities in the nation by *Washington Monthly* magazine. As you can see below, at #12 overall, we're in fine company among America's top colleges and universities.

This ranking adds to UTEP's reputation for making a big difference in the lives of our students, the El Paso region and our nation. **In fact, in terms of social mobility, UTEP was recognized as #1 among all U.S. universities for success in enabling students to achieve the American Dream through our affordable and high quality academic programs.**

You can find more information about this important new validation of UTEP's success at *Washington Monthly*. Thank you for all you do to support our efforts to enable UTEP students to achieve their highest aspirations.

Go Miners!



President Diana Natalicio

WASHINGTON MONTHLY'S TOP UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. UC San Diego | 9. UC Riverside |
| 2. Texas A&M | 10. Georgia Tech |
| 3. Stanford University | 11. Harvard |
| 4. UNC | 12. UTEP |
| 5. UC Berkeley | 13. Michigan |
| 6. UCLA | 14. UC Santa Barbara |
| 7. Case Western Reserve | 15. MIT |
| 8. U. of Washington | |
- For a complete list,
visit www.washingtonmonthly.com.



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2012-13 UTEP BASKETBALL

UTEP Women's Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent
Nov. 3	St. Mary's (Exhibition)
Nov. 10	Loyola Marymount
Nov. 16	Houston Baptist
Nov. 18	Arizona State
Nov. 21-25	Junkanoo Jam (Arizona, Texas Southern)
Nov. 28	at NM State
Dec. 1	Texas State
Dec. 5	NM State
Dec. 8	Eastern New Mexico
Dec. 16	at Kansas State
Dec. 20	New Mexico
Dec. 28	Sam Houston State
Dec. 30	UTPA
Jan. 9	at Tulsa*
Jan. 13	East Carolina*
Jan. 20	UAB*
Jan. 24	at Rice*
Jan. 27	at Houston*
Jan. 31	Tulsa*
Feb. 3	SMU*
Feb. 7	at Tulane*
Feb. 10	Southern Miss*
Feb. 14	at Marshall*
Feb. 17	at UCF*
Feb. 21	Houston*
Feb. 24	at Memphis*
Feb. 28	Rice*
March 3	at SMU*
March 8	Tulane*
March 13-16	at Conference USA Tournament#

Bold denotes home game

* Conference USA game

Tulsa, Okla.

All dates subject to change

UTEP Men's Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent
Nov. 3	Southeast Oklahoma State (Exhibition)
Nov. 9	Oral Roberts
Nov. 15	at Arizona
Nov. 22	vs. Oklahoma^
Nov. 23	vs. Clemson/Gonzaga^
Nov. 25	vs. Davidson/Marist/Vanderbilt/West Virginia^
Nov. 28	NM State
Dec. 8	Idaho
Dec. 17	UNLV
Dec. 19	Oregon
Dec. 22	Arkansas-Pine Bluff+
Dec. 23	Central Mich./Nebraska+
Dec. 28	Cameron (Exhibition)
Jan. 5	at Colorado State
Jan. 9	at Tulane*
Jan. 12	Marshall*
Jan. 14	Houston Baptist
Jan. 16	at Tulsa*
Jan. 19	SMU*
Jan. 26	at East Carolina*
Jan. 30	at UAB*
Feb. 2	Tulane*
Feb. 6	Rice*
Feb. 9	Tulsa*
Feb. 13	at Houston*
Feb. 16	UCF*
Feb. 20	at Southern Miss*
Feb. 23	at NM State
Feb. 27	Houston*
March 2	at Rice*
March 6	Memphis*
March 9	at SMU*
March 13-16	at Conference USA Tournament#

Bold denotes home game

^ Old Spice Classic (Orlando, Fla.)

+ WestStar Bank Don Haskins Sun Bowl Invitational (El Paso, Texas)

* Conference USA game

Tulsa, Okla.

All dates subject to change

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

HOMECOMING 2012

A MINER'S GUIDE TO HOMECOMING & TAILGATING

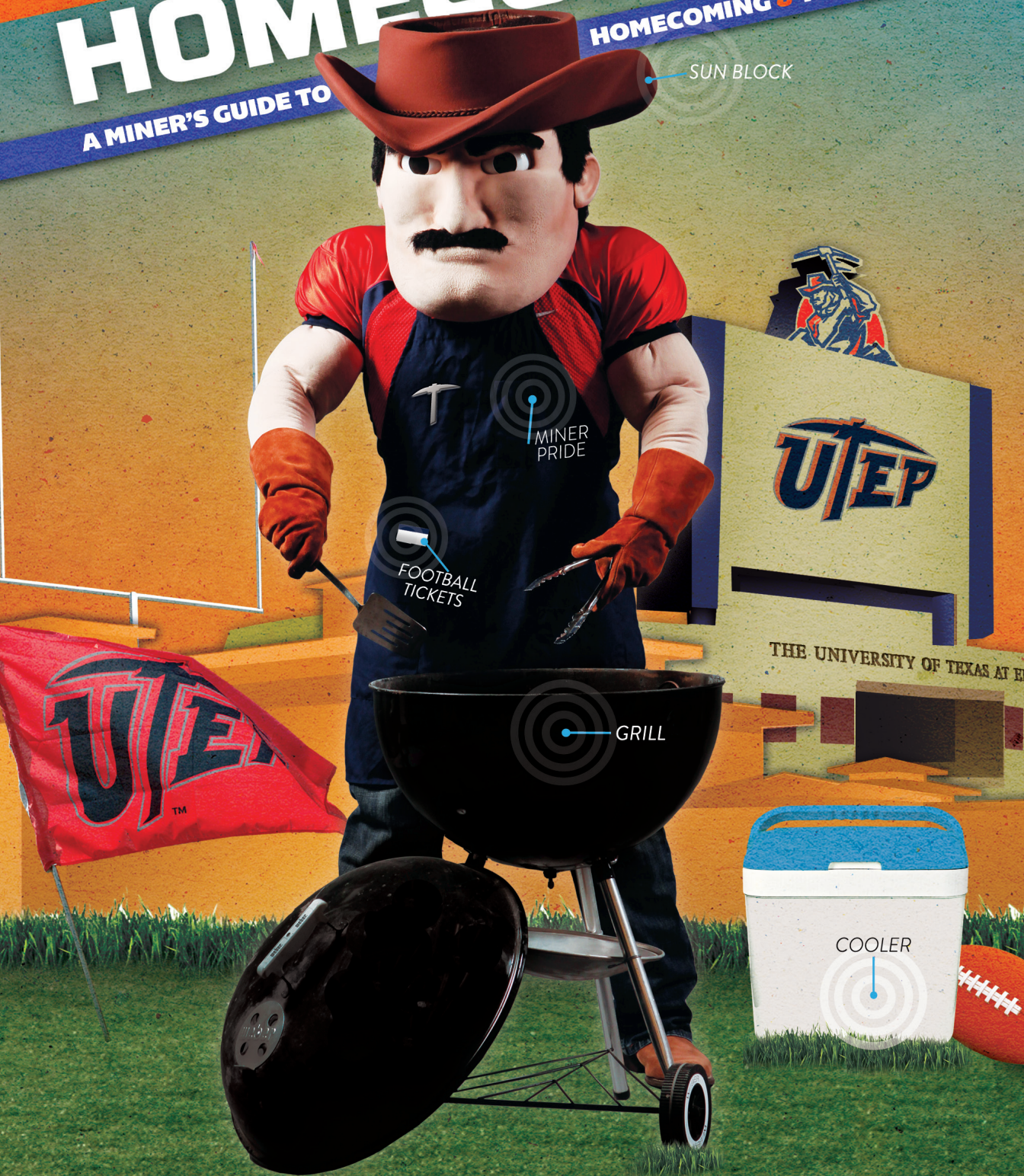




TABLE of CONTENTS

3

MAKING A MINER PICK

Learn the specifics of this time-honored tradition.

5

GOLDEN GRADS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Class of 1962 and earlier: Join in the activities planned especially for you!

6

HOMECOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

The festivities start Sunday, Oct. 14 and don't stop until Saturday night, Oct. 20. Don't miss a thing with this easy-to-read calendar.

8

CAMPUS MAP

Find event venues, tailgating areas and parade viewing locations with this handy map.

10

5K RUN/2K WALK

Start Homecoming Week by burning a few calories with a run or walk around campus.

12

HOMECOMING TRADITIONS

From the parade and pep rally to the Distinguished Alumni, Gold Nuggets and Golden Grads, here's what you need to know about Homecoming at UTEP.

14

MINER GEAR

Be the most spirited Miner on the block with this gear from the University Bookstore.

11

THE MEAN GREEN BURGER

Try this recipe to complement your tailgating festivities.



HOW TO MAKE A MINER PICK

LEARN HOW TO SHOW YOUR MINER
PRIDE WITH THIS HAND GESTURE.

The “pickaxe” is the Miner hand gesture used at athletic

events, pep rallies and other occasions when you want to show your Miner pride.

To make a Miner Pick, extend your thumb and pinkie finger to opposite sides and fold your three middle fingers down so you’re almost touching the top of your palm. Bend your elbow and hold your hand at shoulder level, close to your body, with your thumb pointing toward you.



PICKS UP!





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UTEP ALUMNI

UTEPALUMNI ASSOCIATION™

2012 TAILGATE PARTIES

SEPT
01
OKLAHOMA



Tailgate: 5:30 p.m.
Kick-off: 8:30 p.m.

★ GO MINERS ★



QUINTERO'S
Meat Company, Inc.

SEPT
15
NM STATE



Tailgate: 3 p.m.
Kick-off: 6 p.m.

★ PARENTS WEEKEND
FIESTA NIGHT ★



OCT
06
SMU

SMU



MUSTANGS

Tailgate: 3 p.m.
Kick-off: 6 p.m.

★ WESTERN NIGHT ★



OCT
20
TULANE



Tailgate: 3 p.m.
Kick-off: 6 p.m.

★ HOMECOMING ★



QUINTERO'S
Meat Company, Inc.

NOV
10
UCF



Tailgate: 2 p.m.
Kick-off: 5 p.m.

★ MILITARY NIGHT ★



NOV
24
RICE



Tailgate: 2 p.m.
Kick-off: 5 p.m.

★ SENIOR NIGHT ★

**Thanksgiving Holiday
Surprise Menu**

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SPOTLIGHT

E.P. NEWS

alumni.utep.edu/tailgate

Purchase tickets online at alumni.utep.edu/tailgate
or by phone at 915-747-8600.
For more information, contact alumni@utep.edu.

Golden Grads Events



Our motto, "Once a Golden Grad, always a Golden Grad," encourages all alumni from the class of 1962 and earlier to join us for the celebrations especially designed with our TCM and TWC graduates in mind. A weekend full of social, educational, and entertainment activities has been planned for you, featuring a bus tour of campus and a luncheon with UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

**Visit alumni.
utep.edu/
goldengrads
or call
915-747-8600
to register.**

THURSDAY, OCT. 18

*Golden Grads Reunion –
Coffee and Check-in*

Location: Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center

Time: 10 a.m.

Enjoy coffee and a light breakfast during check-in. Guests will receive their event packets and complete itinerary for the reunion weekend.

*Golden Grads Reunion –
Campus Tour*

Location: Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center (tour ends at Geology Reading Room, Geological Sciences Building, third floor)

Time: 11 a.m.

The Golden Grads will take a campus tour led by the Miner Ambassadors. Transportation will be provided.

*Golden Grads Reunion –
Welcome Lunch*

Location: Geology Reading Room

Time: 1 p.m.

The luncheon offers a social and academic perspective of the campus as you hear from administrators and students about the current state of the University.

*Golden Grads Reunion –
Dinner and Dance*

Location: Larry K. Durham Center

Time: 7 p.m.

Dine and dance with fellow Golden Grads and their guests. The Larry K. Durham Center offers an awesome view of the Sun Bowl.

FRIDAY, OCT. 19

*Golden Grads Reunion –
Open House at the Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center
and visit to the University
Bookstore*

Time: 8:30 a.m. - noon

Enjoy the Alumni Association's 20 percent discount at the bookstore, then stop by the lodge for refreshments and snacks before the parade.

*Golden Grads Reunion –
Parade Activities*

Location: Meet at Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center at 11 a.m. to participate in the parade at noon

Time: 11 a.m.

The Golden Grads have the opportunity to ride in the parade. If you would rather watch, enjoy the parade from the reserved seats in front of the Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center.

*Golden Grads Reunion –
Alumni Luncheon*

Location: Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center

Time: Approximately 1:15 p.m.

Immediately after the parade, enjoy a meal on the fabulous patio of the Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center.

SATURDAY, OCT. 20

*The History of UTEP –
Heritage House Open House*

Location: Heritage House

Time: 9 - 11 a.m.

*Golden Grads Reunion –
Golden Grads Lunch with
President Natalicio*

Location: El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Enjoy a meal and entertainment by students of the Music Department, and hear a State of the University talk by President Natalicio. A commemorative photo will be taken immediately after the luncheon.

*UTEP Alumni Association
Golden Grads Tailgate Party*

Location: Glory Field

Time: 3 - 6 p.m.

Contact: Office of Alumni Relations at 915-747-8600 or alumni@utep.edu

Cost: \$10 members, \$15 non-members.

**The Golden Grads
reunion events
are hosted by the
Office of Alumni
Relations.**

**For information
on Golden Grads
events, contact:
Jackie Reed at
915-747-8600 or
jreed2@utep.edu.**

Homecoming Calendar

THROUGHOUT HOMECOMING WEEK

Monty Python's Spamalot

Location: UTEP Dinner Theatre, 2nd floor, Union Building West

Time: Varies

Hosted by: UTEP Dinner Theatre

Contact: Greg Taylor at 915-747-7473 or gtaylor@utep.edu

Enjoy dinner and a show during Homecoming! Visit utep.edu/udt for ticket information and showtimes.

Shifting Sands: Recent Video from the Middle East

Location: Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts at Seamon Hall Bldg.

Time: Gallery Hours

Hosted by: Rubin Center

Contact: Kerry Doyle at 915-747-6164 or kadoyle@utep.edu
rubincenter.utep.edu

SEFT-1: Ivan Puig and Andres Padilla Domene

Location: Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts at Seamon Hall Bldg.

Time: Gallery Hours

Hosted by: Rubin Center

Contact: Kerry Doyle at 915-747-6164 or kadoyle@utep.edu
rubincenter.utep.edu

UTEP Black Alumni Network Reunion

Various events throughout Homecoming Week

Hosted by: Office of Alumni Relations

Visit alumni.utep.edu/uban for a full list of events.

Weeklong Student Organization Activities

Location: Various

Time: TBA

Hosted by: Student Development Center and Campus Activities Board

SUNDAY, OCT. 14

UTEP Commitment to Fitness 5K Run/2K Walk

Location: Health Sciences and Nursing Building, Wiggins Road across from Library

Time: 8 a.m.

Hosted by: Department of Kinesiology

Contact: 915-747-7245
chs.utep.edu/runwalk

SGA Homecoming 2012 Pageant

Location: Magoffin Auditorium

Time: 5 p.m.

Hosted by: Student Government Association
Contact: sga@utep.edu

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 17

Miner Morning Mania

Location: TBD

Time: 5:30 a.m.

Hosted by: University Communications

Contact: University Communications at 915-747-5526

Open House: The History of UTEP

Location: UTEP Heritage House

Time: 10 a.m. - noon

Hosted by: Heritage Commission

Contact: Office of Alumni Relations at 915-747-8600 or alumni@utep.edu

Lip Sync Competition

Location: Union Plaza Stage

Time: Noon - 1 p.m.

Hosted by: Student Development Center

Contact: Sam Sosa-Rodriguez at 915-747-5670 or sjrodriguez3@utep.edu

Department of English Homecoming Reception

Location: Hudspeth Hall

Foyer

Time: 1:30 - 3 p.m.

Hosted by: English Department

Contact: Ceci Rhymes at 915-747-6402 or crhymes@utep.edu

Gold Nugget and Friends of the College of Health Sciences and School of Nursing Recognition Ceremony

Location: HSN Bldg. Curlin Plaza, 1851 Wiggins Road (across from UTEP Library)

Time: 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Hosted by: College of Health Sciences and School of Nursing

Contact: Leticia Paez at 915-747-8268 or lpaez@utep.edu

THURSDAY, OCT. 18

College of Science Gold Nugget Breakfast

Location: CCSB Lobby 1st floor

Time: 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Hosted by: College of Science

Contact: Victoria Gutierrez at 915-747-8257 or vsgutierrez@utep.edu

Open House: The History of UTEP

Location: UTEP Heritage House

Time: 10 a.m. - Noon

Hosted by: Heritage Commission

Contact: Office of Alumni Relations at 915-747-8600 or alumni@utep.edu

SGA Past President Luncheon

Location: Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Hosted by: Office of Alumni Relations

Contact: Judy Heredia-Perry at 915-747-6361 or jheredia@utep.edu

SGA Past President Luncheon hosted by Russell Autry – Alumni Association President-Elect. RSVP by Friday, Oct. 12.

College of Liberal Arts Gold Nugget Ceremony and Reception

Location: Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts

Time: 4 p.m.

Hosted by: College of Liberal Arts

Contact: Yvonne Carranza at 915-747-8621 or ycarranz@utep.edu

College of Business Administration Gold Nugget Reception

Location: Hilton Garden Inn

Time: 4:30 - 6 p.m.

Hosted by: College of Business Administration

Contact: Krista Snow at 915-747-8636 or klsnow@utep.edu

FRIDAY, OCT. 19

College of Business Administration Military Breakfast

Location: El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Hosted by: College of Business Administration

Contact: Krista Snow at 915-747-8636 or klsnow@utep.edu

Alumni Relations Open House

Location: Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center

Time: 8:30 - 11 a.m.

Hosted by: Office of Alumni Relations

Contact: Judy Heredia-Perry at 915-747-6361 or jheredia@utep.edu

College of Education Gold Nugget Breakfast

Location: Union Building East, Templeton Suite (Room 303)

Time: TBA

Hosted by: College of Education

Contact: Noni Silva at 915-747-5783 or mesilva@utep.edu

Open House: The History of UTEP

Location: UTEP Heritage House

Time: 10 - 11:45 a.m.

Hosted by: Heritage Commission

Contact: Office of Alumni Relations at 915-747-8600 or alumni@utep.edu

Homecoming Open House

Location: Liberal Arts 109

Time: 9:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Hosted by: Languages and Linguistics

Contact: RosaMaría Tabuenca-Moyer at 915-549-7033 or tabuenca@utep.edu
Alumni are invited to mingle with current students, faculty and staff. Refreshments and snacks will be served.

Civil Engineering Luncheon

Location: TBA

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Hosted by: Department of Civil Engineering

Contact: Concha Ruiz at 915-747-5464 or ruiz@utep.edu

Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally

Location: UTEP campus

Time: Noon

Hosted by: Student Development Center

Contact: Wendy Kane at 915-747-5670 or wakane2@utep.edu

Alumni Luncheon

Location: Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center

Time: 1:15 p.m. (immediately after the parade)

Hosted by: Office of Alumni Relations

Contact: Office of Alumni Relations at 915-747-8600 or alumni@utep.edu

Sociology and Anthropology Cookout

Location: Old Main

Time: 2 - 4 p.m.

Hosted by: Sociology and Anthropology Department

Contact: Terry Sanchez at 915-747-5740 or tsanchez3@utep.edu

Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

Location: Don Haskins Center

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Hosted by: Office of Alumni Relations

Contact: Office of Alumni Relations at 915-747-8600 or alumni@utep.edu

UBAN Homecoming Party – It's a Family Affair

Location: Hilton Garden Inn

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Hosted by: UTEP Black Alumni Network (UBAN)

Contact: Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@utep.edu, 915-747-8600 or alumni.utep.edu/uban
\$20 per person.

SATURDAY, OCT. 20

College of Engineering Alumni and Gold Nugget Breakfast

Location: Tomás Rivera Conference Center, Union Building East, Rm. 300

Time: 8 – 10 a.m.

Hosted by: College of Engineering

Contact: Ingrid Wright at 915-747-5971 or rspengineering@utep.edu
\$20 per person.

Political Science Homecoming Reception and Awards Ceremony

Location: Benedict Hall Front Lawn

Time: 9 - 11 a.m.

Hosted by: Department of Political Science

Contact: Dr. Gaspere M. Genna at 915-747-6066 or ggenna@utep.edu
Welcome back for alumni, faculty and students. Continental breakfast will be served.

Open House: The History of UTEP

Location: UTEP Heritage House

Time: 10 a.m. - Noon

Hosted by: Heritage Commission

Contact: Office of Alumni Relations at 915-747-8600 or alumni@utep.edu

African-American Studies Homecoming Open House

Location: Liberal Arts Room 401

Time: 10 a.m. - noon

Hosted by: African-American Studies

Contact: Dr. Maceo Dailey at 915-747-8650 or mdailey@utep.edu
www.utep.edu/aasp

Department of Communication Annual Homecoming Brunch

Location: Cotton Memorial Lawn

Time: 10 a.m. - noon

Hosted by: Department of Communication

Contact: Frank G. Pérez at 915-747-6287 or fperez1@utep.edu
Annual Homecoming brunch for Communication alumni to present the Hicks-Middagh Award.

College of Education Homecoming Tailgate Party

Location: Heritage House Lawn

Time: 3 – 6 p.m.

Hosted by: College of Education

Contact: Noni Silva at 915-747-5783 or mesilva@utep.edu
College of Education student organizations host and coordinate event, which is open to college faculty, staff, Gold Nuggets, students. Food to be served at cookout.

UTEP Alumni Association Tailgate Party

Location: Glory Field

Time: 3 - 6 p.m.

Hosted by: Office of Alumni Relations

Contact: Office of Alumni Relations at 915-747-8600 or alumni@utep.edu
Cost: \$12 members, \$15 non-members.

Law School Preparation Institute Homecoming Tailgate

Location: Glory Field

Time: 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Hosted by: Law School Preparation Institute

Contact: Rachel Serrano at 915-747-8866 or rserrano5@utep.edu
LSPI is hosting a tailgate party on Glory Field for alumni, faculty, staff, and supporters.

Homecoming Football Game UTEP vs. Tulane

Location: Sun Bowl Stadium

Time: 6 p.m. Kickoff

Hosted by: UTEP Athletics

Contact: Visit utepathletics.com for ticket prices and more information.

UBAN Post-Game Party

Location: Hilton Garden Inn Hospitality Suite

Time: 10:30 p.m.

Hosted by: UTEP Black Alumni Network (UBAN)

Contact: Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@utep.edu, 915-747-8600 or alumni.utep.edu/uban

HOME COMING GUIDE



Open for tailgating at 8 a.m.

Open for tailgating at 2 p.m.

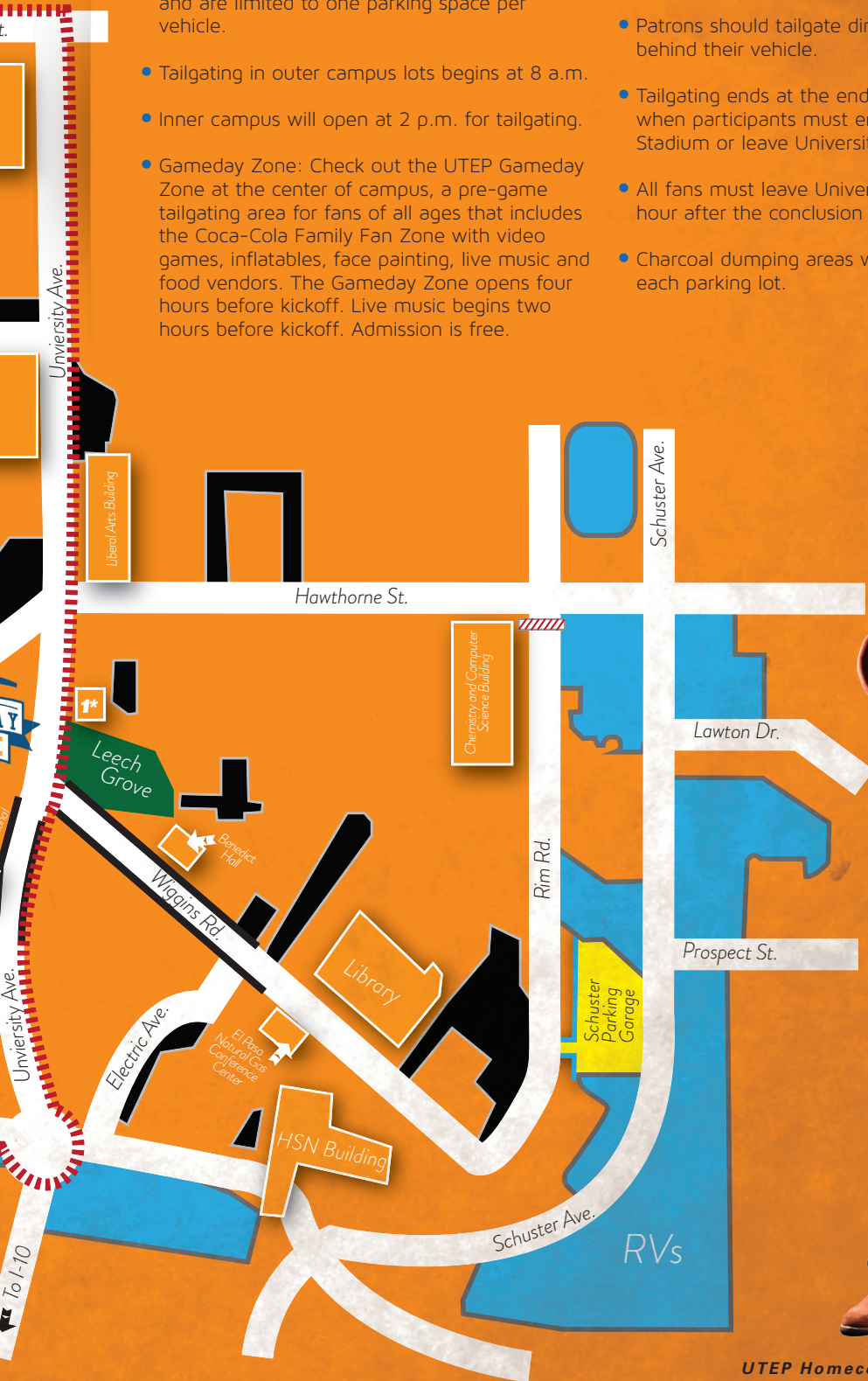
No Tailgating

Parade Route

1* Peter & Margaret de Wetter Center

TAILGATING 101

- All Miner fans are welcome to tailgate in UTEP parking lots, but they cannot reserve spaces and are limited to one parking space per vehicle.
- Tailgating in outer campus lots begins at 8 a.m.
- Inner campus will open at 2 p.m. for tailgating.
- Gameday Zone: Check out the UTEP Gameday Zone at the center of campus, a pre-game tailgating area for fans of all ages that includes the Coca-Cola Family Fan Zone with video games, inflatables, face painting, live music and food vendors. The Gameday Zone opens four hours before kickoff. Live music begins two hours before kickoff. Admission is free.
- Glass containers are not permitted in tailgating areas or inner campus.
- Patrons should tailgate directly in front of or behind their vehicle.
- Tailgating ends at the end of the first quarter, when participants must enter Sun Bowl Stadium or leave University property.
- All fans must leave University property one hour after the conclusion of the game.
- Charcoal dumping areas will be available in each parking lot.





When:

8 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 14

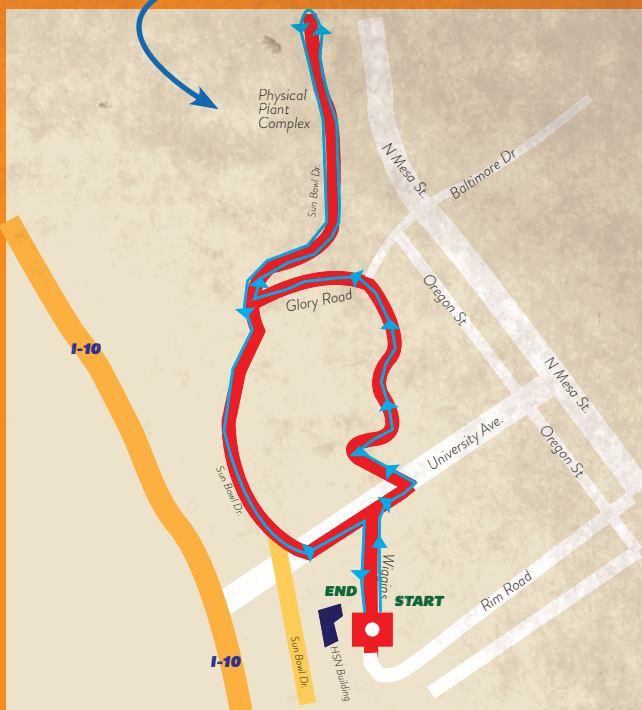
Start/Finish:

Health Sciences and Nursing Building,
1851 Wiggins Road

The 3rd Annual Commitment to Fitness 5K Run/2K Walk, organized by the Golden Age Fitness Association with the support of the Department of Kinesiology, connects the College of Health Sciences with the community and brings awareness to the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Proceeds benefit the Physical Fitness in the Golden Age Program, an ongoing exercise and fitness research program developed by the Kinesiology Department, and other programs in the College of Health Sciences. Register for the race at chs.utep.edu/runwalk. Registration fees increase Oct. 10!

5K RUN ROUTE



2K WALK ROUTE



THE MEAN GREEN BURGER

Recipe provided by Armando, Grace, Vince and Priscilla Piña

Priscilla Piña, a senior nursing student at UTEP, says this burger is a crowd pleaser that tastes great with chips and an ice-cold beverage.

GUACAMOLE

- 4** medium avocados
- ¼** diced onion
- 1** pinch of salt
- ½** diced medium tomato
- ¼** cup of sour cream

Mash peeled avocados with potato masher; add the rest of the ingredients and mix well. Keep in the ice chest.

BURGER

- 1** pound 93% lean ground beef
- 1** egg
- ½** diced chopped onion
- 1** pinch of salt
- 1** pinch of pepper
- 2** TBSP soy sauce
- Cheese slices
- Roasted green chile slices
- 8** Hamburger buns
- Lettuce
- Sliced tomatoes

Blend/mix ground beef, egg, diced onion, salt, pepper and soy sauce together by hand. Grab a palm-sized amount of mixed burger meat and mold it into a circular patty. Repeat for 8 patties. Grill the burgers for about 10 minutes on each side.

Stack the ingredients in this order: bottom bun, hamburger, cheese, 3 slices of roasted green chilies, 2 TBSP of guacamole, lettuce leaves, 2 slices of tomato, top bun.





1974
Paydirt Pete



Homecoming *Traditions*

Since the College of Mines and Metallurgy held its first Homecoming game in 1929 at the El Paso High School stadium, the event has been an annual tradition at what is now The University of Texas at El Paso. This year, UTEP will continue old traditions such as the parade, pep rally and recognition of Distinguished Alumni, and add several new traditions to the Homecoming and football festivities.

SGA Homecoming Pageant



Each year Homecoming Week kicks off with the crowning of the Homecoming King, Queen, Prince, Princess, Duke and Duchess. The Homecoming Court is introduced to

the audience during the Homecoming football game Saturday night.



To watch a video about UTEP's Homecoming traditions, scan this QR code with your smartphone.

Distinguished Alumni and Gold Nuggets

The Distinguished Alumni award is the highest honor bestowed upon alumni of the University by the Alumni Association. Each college also selects one or more Gold Nugget Award recipients. The colleges choose these alumni for their achievements and dedication. The award recipients are recognized throughout the week at college-specific events and at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner.

Distinguished Alumni & Gold Nuggets participate in the Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally and are introduced to the Miner community during the Homecoming football game.

The Homecoming Parade takes place at noon on the Friday of Homecoming Week and includes floats from student organizations, community sponsors and University departments. At the pep rally, UTEP President Diana Natalicio, as well as the Student Government Association president, football coach, cheerleaders, Goldiggers, Paydirt Pete and the UTEP Marching Miner Regiment get the crowd pumped up for the following night's Homecoming football game at Sun Bowl Stadium.

This year the Miners will play Tulane University at 6 p.m. Oct. 20.

Parade and Pep Rally



Golden Grads Reunion

Golden Grads are those UTEP alumni who graduated at least 50 years ago. For 2012, the Golden Grads include the classes of 1962 and earlier. The Office of Alumni Relations plans special events for Golden Grads, beginning with a reunion event on Thursday night, Oct. 18. For a complete calendar of Golden Grads events, see page 5.



*Once a Golden Grad,
always a Golden Grad*

NEW THIS YEAR

Orange Fridays

Started in 2011, Orange Fridays has expanded in 2012 to include not only the UTEP campus community, but the entire El Paso region. Everyone in El Paso is asked to show their University pride on Fridays by wearing UTEP Orange, and the Friday of Homecoming Week is certainly no exception! Individuals who participate receive special discounts and incentives at the University Bookstore and at campus food venues.

Gameday Zone

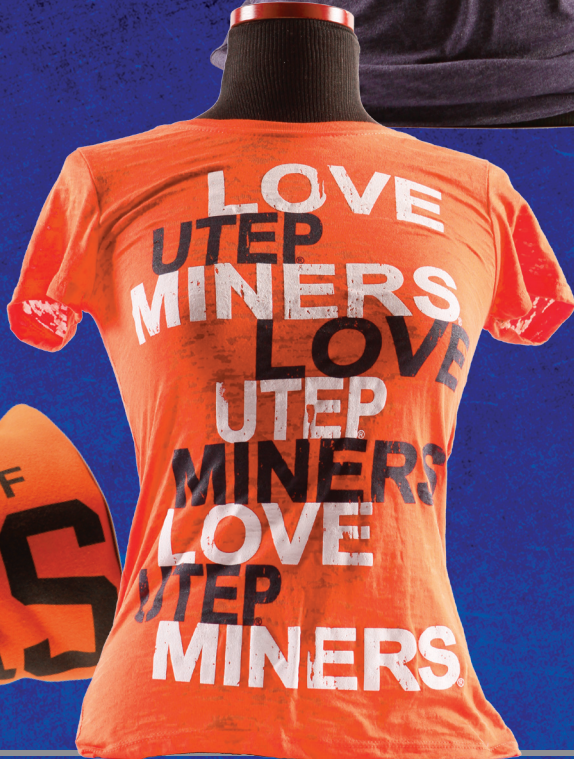
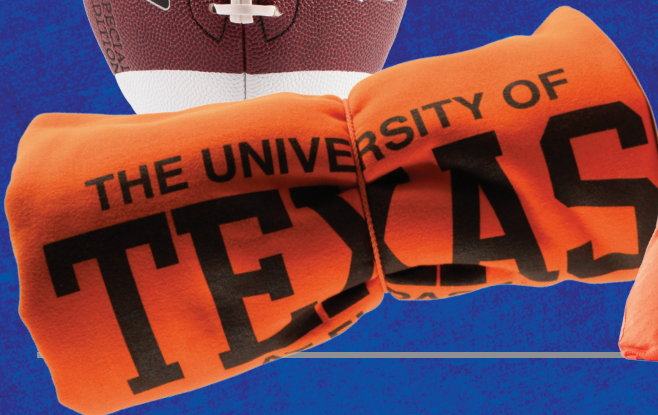
The new Gameday Zone in Memorial Triangle has enhanced the football tailgating experience for Miner fans and their families. The Gameday Zone opens at 2 p.m. on game days and includes a family fan zone, games for children, inflatables, face painting, live music, food and beverages.

Miner Run

To kick up the energy in the Sun Bowl and welcome the UTEP football team to the stadium, a group of students who call themselves "Miner Maniacs" run across the field about 15 minutes before kickoff. The Miner Run signals the arrival of the team through the "Mine Shaft" on the north end of the stadium.

HOMECOMING Gear Guide

Gear up for Homecoming Week by visiting the University Bookstore. Show your Miner pride with fashionable apparel and accessories so you can bleed orange and blue every day of the week! Don't forget to get your 20 percent discount if you're an Alumni Association member, or 15 percent off if you're a faculty or staff member.





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