

# **HOMECOMING 2015**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, PARADE ROUTE & MORE!

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

FALL 2015

# UTEP

MAGAZINE



UTEP'S CENTENNIAL PLAZA

**AN OASIS IN  
THE DESERT**



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



One of my great pleasures over the past several months has been to share the joy and excitement prompted by UTEP's new Centennial Plaza project. From members of our UTEP family of students, faculty, staff, alumni and close friends to first-time visitors to our campus, everyone seems inspired—even awestruck!—by the transformation of our beautiful campus core.

Earlier this summer, we had the pleasure of welcoming a very special newcomer to our campus, when Adm. William McRaven, recently appointed Chancellor of The University of Texas System, his wife Georgeann, and members of his leadership team visited UTEP. Shortly after his visit, Chancellor McRaven captured his first impressions of UTEP in a fascinating blog, which I have the pleasure of sharing with you here. I trust you'll enjoy as much as we did seeing UTEP through our new Chancellor's eyes.

Go Miners!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana Natalicio".

Diana Natalicio

Happy Friday! I didn't get a chance to blog last Friday because I was in the midst of a tremendous two-day visit to UT El Paso.

All of our universities and health institutions contribute culturally and economically to their local communities, but few universities anywhere are as enmeshed in the life of their hometown as UT El Paso.

Simply put, UT El Paso is unique. Set in the foothills of the Franklin Mountains, El Paso enjoys the kind of mountain views most people simply don't associate with Texas. Paul Foster, chairman of the UT System Board of Regents and El Paso resident – along with UTEP President Diana Natalicio and her team – graciously showed Georgeann, me and my UT System colleagues around the city and the university last week.

The first thing you notice about the campus is the architecture. It requires a little backstory. UTEP was founded 101 years ago (although then it was called the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy). The wife of the school's first dean was fascinated by some photos she had seen of Bhutan, a country in South Asia, in National Geographic. She persuaded her husband that Bhutanese-style architecture would be the perfect fit for his school's first building. And long story short, in the century that followed, as the school has grown, the campus has sustained an unusual degree of architectural consistency and a life-long connection with the people of Bhutan. Almost everywhere you look, you see the signature sloping walls, overhanging roofs, dark bands of brick and mosaic tiles.

In culmination of UTEP's 100th anniversary, a historic campus transformation project is nearly complete. Students now enjoy outdoor green spaces and the ability to walk freely across their campus. Additionally, the Texas Legislature recently approved \$70 million in tuition revenue bonds to help fund a new interdisciplinary research center on campus. UTEP continues to grow!

Under President Natalicio's leadership, UTEP has focused on offering high quality and affordable educational opportunities to young people of all backgrounds – and that focus has garnered national attention, as Washington Monthly magazine ranked UTEP #1 in the country for fostering student mobility. UTEP's access and excellence model is something we all can learn from.

But what makes UTEP unique has less to do with its architecture, or its growth, than with its vision and commitment to making a difference in the Paso del Norte region. In reaching out to the K-12 schools and the community colleges, they have encouraged the region to buy into the concept of higher education as a game changer for individual students and for the community itself.

In my UTEP visit, I had a chance to see a lot of really impressive facilities, including simulation laboratories and 3-D printing sites. But more importantly, I got to meet the faculty, the staff and especially the students who are the lifeblood of every UT System campus. I also met with local business leaders, legislators and members of the media. Everywhere I turned, and every conversation I had, I got a reminder of how important a good university is to the community around it.

I left El Paso feeling very proud of what UTEP means to this unique American community. I'm excited about the future the school and the community will share, and I'm already looking forward to my next visit.

I hope you have a great weekend. Thanks for reading.



**Adm. William McRaven**  
Chancellor of The University of Texas System

***All of our universities and health institutions contribute culturally and economically to their local communities, but few universities anywhere are as enmeshed in the life of their hometown as UT El Paso.***

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JENN CRAWFORD

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ROSE COOPER

**PHOTO EDITOR**  
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**EDITORIAL**  
LAURA L. ACOSTA, ELIZABETH ASHBY, DAVID CHAVEZ, LISA Y. GARIBAY, P.J. VIERRA, VERONIQUE MASTERTSON, DANIEL PEREZ, ESMERALDA TREVIÑO, NADIA M. WHITEHEAD

**DESIGN**  
BOBBY DANIELS, JOHN DOWNEY, TROY TOMBERLIN

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
IVAN PIERRE AGUIRRE, J.R. HERNANDEZ

**COPY EDITORS**  
RACHEL ANNA NEFF, DAVID PEREGRINO

**ONLINE EDITOR**  
FRANK DURAN

**WEB AND VIDEO**  
NAHUM AVILA, JAVIER LOYA, LIZA RODRIGUEZ

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PATSY ACHIM

**SENIOR ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNICATIONS & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS**  
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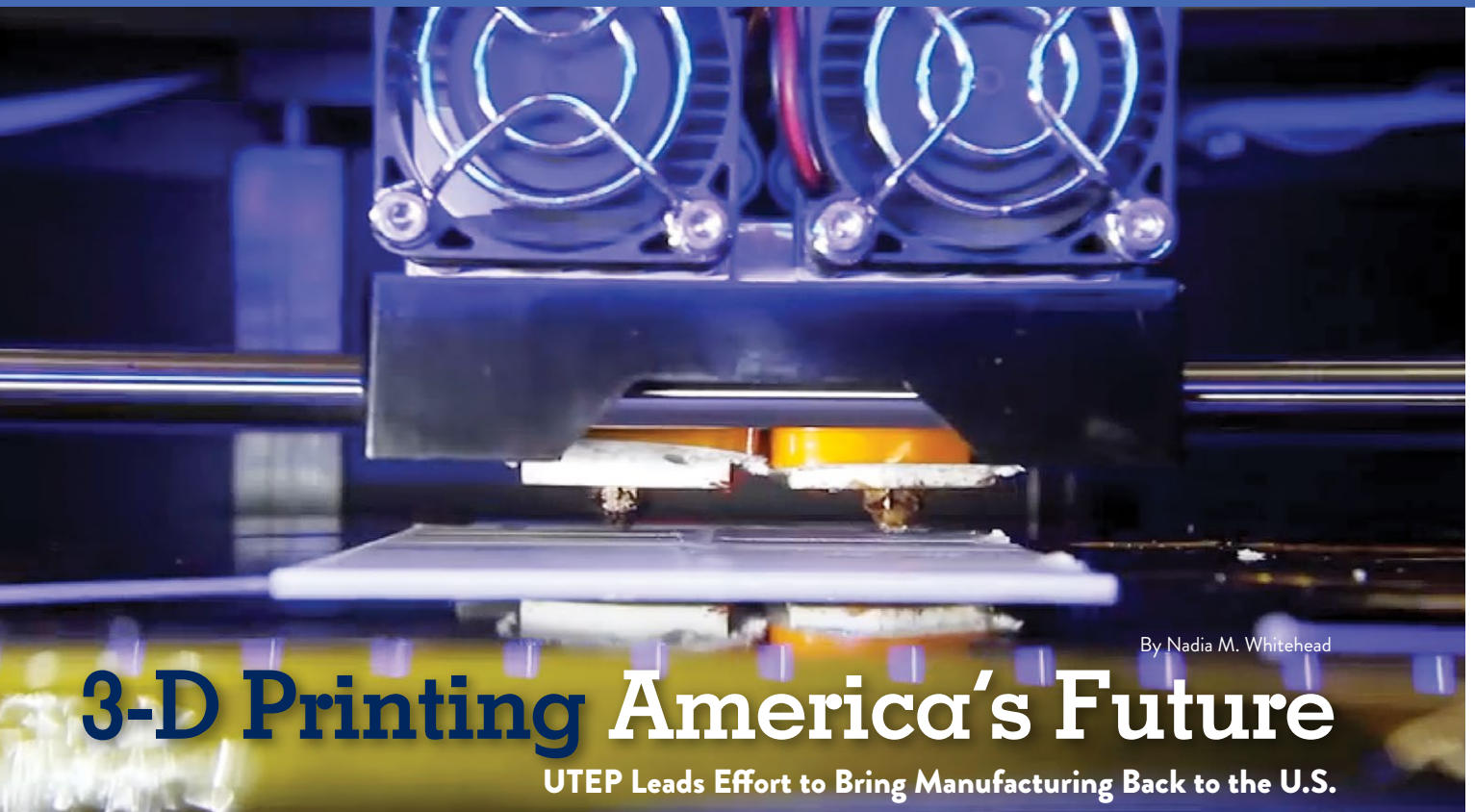
**SPORTS INFORMATION**  
Brumbelow Building  
500 W. University Ave.  
El Paso, TX 79968-0579  
915-747-5347  
www.utepathletics.com

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By Nadia M. Whitehead

# 3-D Printing America's Future

## UTEP Leads Effort to Bring Manufacturing Back to the U.S.

In 2012, President Barack Obama envisioned new efforts to revitalize manufacturing in the U.S. The vision demanded cutting-edge innovations in manufacturing to create more jobs for the American people.

Just three years later, The University of Texas at El Paso has become directly involved in that initiative, leading the effort to strengthen manufacturing through 3-D printing.

The University was declared the country's first satellite center of America Makes earlier this year. Also known as the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute (NAMII), America Makes is a federally funded institute created in response to Obama's manufacturing ambitions. The new government partnership legitimizes UTEP's national leadership in 3-D printing and signifies the University will play a major role in advancing manufacturing.

"This new relationship is a testament to the preeminence of research underway at UTEP," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "Exciting new technologies developed on this campus are attracting the attention of the nation and the world."

The satellite center designation will lead

to the creation of an America Makes office within UTEP's W.M. Keck Center for 3-D Innovation, a laboratory brimming with state-of-the-art 3-D printing technologies. Government employees will be housed in the new center and will work closely with UTEP faculty and student researchers on new developments related to manufacturing.

"3-D printing has the potential to revolutionize manufacturing in the U.S.," said Ryan Wicker, Ph.D., Keck Center director and professor of mechanical engineering. "By printing exactly what you need, you can reduce assembly time, inspection and manufacturing costs, thus creating high-value, mass-customized parts."

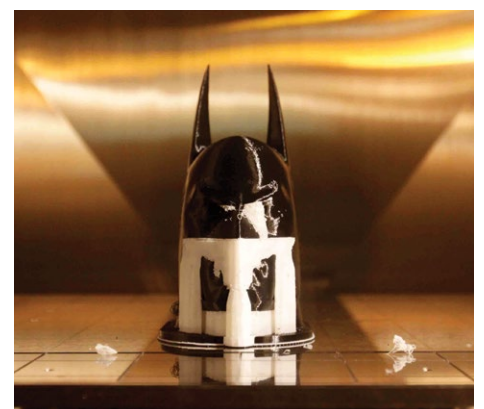
Wicker and the Keck Center are developing a manufacturing suite of technologies based on 3-D printing to build complex parts with multiple functions.

The technology operates similar to an assembly line. Multimaterial objects are moved from printer to printer via a robotic arm so that plastics, metals and electronics can be printed and incorporated into the final product.

"This is the future – a day where simply pushing a button will lead to rapid, reliable and affordable 3-D printed items," Wicker said.

These unique UTEP-developed technologies are expected to build up America's manufacturing strength, and El Paso's, too. With support from America Makes, the Keck Center is keen on making El Paso a hub for 3-D printing. Part of the government partnership involves regional outreach to educate, train and provide technical assistance to businesses that utilize 3-D printing technologies.

Wicker expects job opportunities for El Pasoans and others across the country to soon increase thanks to the country's new focus on manufacturing with a 3-D printing twist. 📸



Top: UTEP's W.M. Keck Center for 3-D Innovation is brimming with state-of-the-art 3-D printing technology. Photo by J.R. Hernandez  
 Bottom: A 3-D printer at UTEP in the process of creating the popular comic book hero Batman. Photo by J.R. Hernandez





# New Bachelor's Fulfills Construction Industry Need

By Nadia M. Whitehead

**G**raduates of a new University degree plan are expected to find jobs quickly and easily.

The Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering and Management (BSCEM) program blends business management and civil engineering to create savvy graduates with administrative and construction skills.

"There is an increasing demand from students for programs that have a mix of technical and business skill development, and from employers in the construction industry for graduates of those programs," said Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., dean of the College of Engineering.

National universities with construction engineering programs report nearly 100 percent placement of graduates with high starting wages. In addition, according to statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor, employment of construction professionals is projected to increase by 16 percent during the 2006-16 decade – faster than the average for all occupations.

Cesar Carrasco, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Civil Engineering – where the degree will be housed – explained, "Construction projects today are very complex and require very sophisticated management skills that are not part of most bachelor's degree programs in civil engineering."

Students in UTEP's BSCEM program will be able to meet these demands by gaining more than engineering skills. By the time they graduate, BSCEM students will have taken courses in accounting, finance, business management, construction management, communication, cost estimating, safety and contracts.

The degree was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in April 2015. 📌



Undergraduate Amanda Saredidine decided to switch over to the new Construction Engineering and Management program earlier this year because of the field's high job demand.  
Photo by J.R. Hernandez

## Best of the Best:

### UTEP Places Second in International Desalination Competition

By Nadia M. Whitehead



A team of UTEP faculty members placed second in the international Desal Prize competition. From left: Director of the Center for Inland Desalination Systems (CIDS) Thomas Davis, Ph.D.; Associate Director of CIDS Malynda Cappelle; and Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering Shane Walker, Ph.D.  
Photo by J.R. Hernandez.

The University of Texas at El Paso has another accolade to tie to its name.

In April, a team of faculty members placed second in the highly competitive and rigorous Desal Prize competition. More than 60 teams from 29 countries registered for the international challenge.

The victory positioned UTEP right behind first-place winner Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and ahead of a team that included individuals from the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology and the University of North Texas.

"I'm very proud of what we accomplished and that we were able to hold our own against MIT," said Malynda Cappelle, who led the UTEP team and serves as the associate director of the Center for Inland Desalination Systems (CIDS). Other members of the group were CIDS Director Tom Davis, Ph.D., and Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering Shane Walker, Ph.D.

The challenge involved creating a cost-effective, energy-efficient and environmentally

sustainable desalination technology that could provide potable water for humans and crops in developing countries. After months of evaluation, the competition boiled down to five finalists whose cutting-edge prototypes were pitted against each other in Alamogordo, New Mexico.

With the second place designation, the UTEP team won \$60,000. The group is now eligible to receive grant funds totaling \$400,000 to implement their prototype in pilot projects with rural farmers.

"I look forward to the next step, which will be piloting our system with farmers in a developing country, hopefully somewhere in Latin America," Cappelle said.

The challenge took place to encourage and accelerate innovative solutions to treat brackish water — water that is saltier than freshwater, but less salty than seawater. It was hosted by multiple organizations, including the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). 📌



# Graduation Celebration

Almost 2,600 spring and summer graduation candidates were eligible to participate in The University of Texas at El Paso's Spring Commencement ceremonies at the Don Haskins Center on May 16, 2015.

During the three ceremonies, President Diana Natalicio talked about her pride in the graduates' accomplishments and the role UTEP played in transforming their future. She hoped this milestone would be a springboard to future success based on planning, preparation, perseverance and meaningful partnerships. She advised them to use their talents to do what they loved.

"Match your purpose to your work," President Natalicio said. "Make career choices that enable you to leverage your special strengths, skills and passions in ways that allow you to both uniquely contribute to the world touched by your work life, and at the same time bring you deep satisfaction." 📄

Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre









THE SPRING CLASS OF 2015

# TOP TEN SENIORS

By David Chavez and Esmeralda Treviño • Photos by Laura Trejo



**Mayela Renata Aldaz-Cervantes**  
Metallurgical & Materials Engineering

Throughout her time at The University of Texas at El Paso, Mayela Renata Aldaz-Cervantes has been very active in student organizations, internships and her studies. During her undergraduate career, she seized every opportunity for research and professional development, including developing biomaterials for liver cells at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology for two summers and studying components from the space shuttle Columbia to provide better materials for future spaceflight with UTEP's Center for the Advancement of Space Safety and Mission Assurance Research (CASSMAR). She has traveled extensively to represent UTEP. Her research and training prepared her to be a materials engineer and researcher. She hopes to begin her Ph.D. in materials engineering this fall.



**Alexander Jeremiah Balcázar**  
Sociology

During his undergraduate career at UTEP, Alexander Jeremiah Balcázar learned the importance of education. The liberal arts major took courses to expand his horizons. He credits associate professors of sociology and anthropology Sara Grineski, Ph.D., and Tim Collins, Ph.D., with challenging and encouraging him to strive for excellence. Balcázar worked as an undergraduate research assistant under their mentorship, studying disparities in health outcomes and health care access among fourth- and fifth-graders in the El Paso Independent School District. He wrote a scholarly article that is in peer review and presented his research at the 2014 American Association of Geographers national conference. Balcázar's experience in research at UTEP has sparked his desire to continue studying at the graduate level.



**Karla Verónica Becerra**  
Mechanical Engineering

"At the start of my engineering education, I doubted the extent of accomplishments I could achieve as a woman in engineering," said Karla Verónica Becerra. "However, I now realize that being a woman in engineering is an empowerment." Throughout her undergraduate career, Becerra took advantage of all of the great opportunities made available to her. Although she was a freshman at the time, Becerra was offered her first internship with General Motors Global Fuel Lab. After her success at GM, Becerra was offered a second opportunity at the Lake Orion Assembly Center, where she helped launch the Chevy Sonic and Buick Verano under the Chassis Issue Resolution Team. She later completed an internship with the Central Intelligence Agency. Her final internship was with the Intel Corporation, where she assisted in price negotiations and cost savings. Becerra plans to pursue a Master of Business Administration in the near future.



**Joselyn Cardenas Anaya**  
Mechanical Engineering

Joselyn Cardenas Anaya was the first in her family to attend college. She knew there would be many challenges when she started her as a mechanical engineering major. Early on, Cardenas Anaya participated in student organizations and internships, including serving as vice president for The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). When she joined the Baja Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) chapter, she worked with engineering applications. As captain of the safety team for the international Baja SAE competition, she participated in the design, building and coordination process of an off-road vehicle. Her participation in hands-on extracurricular activities at UTEP prepared her for an internship with Boeing in Seattle, where she is now employed. "My dream has always been designing airplanes, since I was five, so just being near airplanes is the best," she said.



**Lisa Marie Haisan**  
Civil Engineering

Being in the Texas Pre-Freshman Engineering Program at The University of Texas at El Paso convinced Lisa Marie Haisan to pursue a degree in civil engineering at the University. Her involvement on campus continued when she joined the American Society of Civil Engineering. She became one of the six teammates and the only woman from UTEP to compete as a builder during the 2012 Texas-Mexico Regional Steel Bridge Competition in Houston, Texas, where her team won first place. She later performed research on NASA-sponsored projects. Haisan also conducted research in the Center for Inland Desalination Systems (CIDS) lab at UTEP, where she designed an environmentally sustainable system for developing countries that could be powered solely by renewable energy. Overall, UTEP has allowed her to develop leadership skills and prepare for future endeavors.





Each year, The University of Texas at El Paso presents some of its most promising future alumni with the Top 10 Seniors award, which recognizes graduating or recently graduated students. The award reflects the true spirit of what it means to be an outstanding student and a proud Miner.

The Top 10 Seniors for 2015 were chosen based on a combination of academic achievement, involvement, leadership and service both in the community and on campus, as well as the impression they have made on others during their time at UTEP. Nominees must have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or greater and be receiving their first undergraduate degree within the current academic year.



**Taylor Steven Harmon**

*Cellular & Molecular Biochemistry*

Taylor Steven Harmon had one singular goal since he stepped onto The University of Texas at El Paso campus as a freshman – to become, as he wrote in an essay, “the greatest student ... by working to be among the top, if not the top, of my graduating class.” He achieved this goal, finishing with a 3.96 grade point average as a cellular and molecular biochemistry major. He received the Men of Mines Award, the Who’s Who Among American Colleges and Universities and graduated *Summa Cum Laude* in December 2015. Harmon also spent hundreds of hours volunteering at numerous events and organizations while working various research jobs to enhance his education.



**Beatriz Del Carmen Madrigal Sánchez**

*Cellular & Molecular Biochemistry*

While at UTEP, Beatriz Del Carmen Madrigal Sánchez learned the great reward of overcoming obstacles. With her 3.96 GPA, she has been on the Dean’s List since 2009. Madrigal Sánchez has received an Institute for Molecular Engineering fellowship program scholarship and a Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) undergraduate research scholar award. Madrigal Sánchez also excelled outside the classroom, volunteering at a research laboratory and participating in several campus and community organizations. She founded the UTEP chapter of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) in 2012. She will pursue her master’s in nursing in San Antonio.



**Andre Fernando Perez-Orozco**

*Cellular & Molecular Biochemistry*

Andre Fernando Perez-Orozco graduated with a Bachelor of Science in cellular and molecular biochemistry and a 3.95 GPA. He received more than 10 awards during his studies at UTEP, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Summer Research Fellowship and the Best Research Poster award at the MIT-Harvard symposium in summer 2014. Perez-Orozco participated in seven campus organizations and volunteered in several community activities. He was an officer for the American Society of Microbiology and a peer leader for Peer-Led Team Learning. Perez-Orozco has been accepted to several prestigious M.D. and Ph.D. programs and plans to become a medical doctor.



**Claudia Stephanie Preza**

*Art History*

Claudia Stephanie Preza thrived throughout her studies at UTEP. The art history major maintained a 3.94 GPA while participating in six different student organizations, holding the secretary and interim vice president positions in two of them. Preza maintains strong ties with her community, taking part in the St. Matthew Catholic Church Catechism as a kindergarten teacher, retreat team leader and coordinator. Preza is grateful for the support from her loved ones and the help UTEP has given her to prepare for her future. As part of her museum studies minor, Preza worked as a curatorial intern at the El Paso Museum of Art. Preza plans to continue her career in art history and credits her time at UTEP with laying the foundation for her future successes. “I am grateful that UTEP enabled me to expand my horizons via leadership workshops, honors programs and internship opportunities,” she said.



**Esteban Quintanilla**

*Accounting*

As an incoming freshman at UTEP, Esteban Quintanilla wished for time travel so he could fix his past mistakes. He still thinks it would be extraordinary to go back in time, but he no longer wishes to change his past because, “It’s those mistakes that led me to a point I could have never envisioned myself reaching – graduating near the top of my class.” He would develop drive and confidence early on at UTEP and would begin to strive for perfection. The accounting major maintained a 4.0 GPA and received numerous awards, including the Accounting Society Most Valuable Member and the Gibson, Ruddock, Patterson LLC Accounting Scholar. He took part in campus and community activities including the Accounting Society. Quintanilla will pursue a master’s in accounting from The University of Texas at Austin. ☑



# Nontraditional Students Connect

## with New Online Degree Plans

By Daniel Perez

### The launch of UTEP Connect in early May 2015 expanded The University of Texas at El Paso's efforts to provide access and excellence to students beyond the region.

UTEP Connect is the institution's collection of 12 fully online graduate and undergraduate degree plans created to benefit nontraditional students who, for business, personal or geographic reasons, cannot attend classes on campus.

Program officials reported a smooth start as UTEP's cyberstudents logged on to their classes and reviewed homework assignments. The initial feedback was positive.

The flexibility of online education is critical to reach the growing number of nontraditional students who want to earn college or university degrees, said Mike Smith, J.D., Ph.D., dean of Extended University, the institution's administrative

arm that oversees nontraditional academic content.

"Some of our military students, for example, are deployed and log into the courses from Afghanistan," Smith said. "UTEP Connect online programs allow working adults to earn a degree and an invaluable credential for promotion or advancement in the workforce."

The numbers bear out a need for online curriculum at UTEP and beyond. According to data from the University's Center for Institutional Evaluation, Research and Planning, the number of students who took online courses jumped to 9,219 during the 2013-14 session from 4,419 four years earlier.

The number of UTEP's fully online courses almost doubled to 630 during the same time period. Recent national statistics showed that about 25 percent of college students took a distance-learning course in 2012, and almost 22 percent of the nearly 3 million U.S. graduate students worked exclusively online.


UTEP Connect bachelor's programs are

in criminal justice, security studies, organizational and corporate communication, multidisciplinary studies, health promotion and prebusiness. Its master's plans are in nursing, defense and strategic studies, and bilingual and early childhood education. Students also can pursue a graduate certificate in technical and professional writing.

UTEP Connect plans to expand its portfolio within the next few years to include a doctoral degree from the College of Education.

Don Belknap, fifth grade teacher at Lundy Elementary School on El Paso's West Side, earned his master's degree in early childhood education in December 2014. This degree plan is among those consolidated under UTEP Connect.

Belknap, a husband and parent, said he needed self-discipline and focus to succeed with online courses, but they gave him more control of his time.

"It freed me up when I had deadlines at (Lundy)," Belknap said. "I could work late at school and not miss a class." 



Learn more about the UTEP Connect suite of programs at [online.utep.edu](http://online.utep.edu).





# Faculty Must-Reads



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

# UTEP CONNECT

An exceptional education should be accessible and affordable for everyone, everywhere.

## 100% online degrees from UTEP



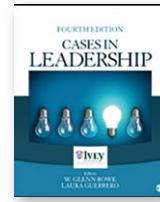
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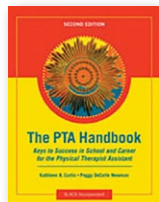
[online.utep.edu/utepmag](http://online.utep.edu/utepmag)  
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**Colección Ficción: Testimonios desde la memoria colectiva**, by Luis A. Ramos, professor of creative writing (Universidad Veracruzana, 2014)



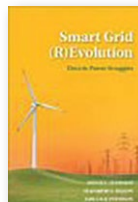
**Cases of Leadership**, by Laura Guerrero, Ph.D., assistant professor of management, et al. (SAGE Publications Inc., 2015)



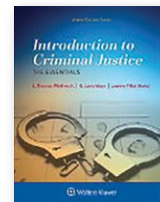
**The PTA Handbook: Keys to Success in School and Career for the Physical Therapist Assistant**, by Kathleen A. Curtis, Ph.D., dean of the College of Health Sciences and the Charles H. and Shirley T. Leavell Chair in Health Sciences, et al. (Slack Books, 2014)



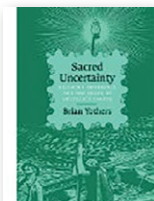
**Inspiring Change and Saving Lives: The Positive Deviance Way**, by Arvind Singhal, Ph.D., Samuel Shirley and Edna Holt Marston Professor of Communication, et al. (Plexus Press, 2014)



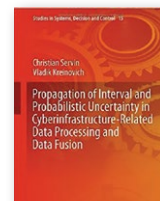
**Smart Grid (R)Evolution: Electric Power Struggles**, by Tarla Peterson, Ph.D., professor of communication, et al. (NHBS, 2015)



**Introduction to Criminal Justice: The Essentials**, by Leanne F. Alarid, Ph.D., associate professor of criminal justice, et al. (Aspen Publishers, 2014)



**Sacred Uncertainty: Religious Difference and the Shape of Melville's Career**, by Brian Yothers, Ph.D., professor of English (Northwestern University Press, 2015)



**Propagation of Interval and Probabilistic Uncertainty in Cyberinfrastructure-Related Data Processing and Data Fusion**, by Vladik Kreinovich, Ph.D., professor of computer science, et al. (Springer, 2015)



**Solid State Physics**, contributor Raymond C. Rumpf, Ph.D., associate professor of electrical and computer engineering (Elsevier, 2015)



**Overcoming Challenges in Software Engineering Education: Delivering Non-Technical Knowledge and Skills**, contributors Ann Gates, Ph.D., chair and professor of computer science; Elsa Villa, Ph.D., assistant professor of practice; and Salamah Salamah, Ph.D., clinical associate professor and director of software engineering (IGI Global, 2014)



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

# HOME COMING EVENTS GUIDE



Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre



# 2015 Homecoming Calendar

Sunday, Sept. 27 - Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015

## Sunday Sept. 27

### Miner Dash

#### 6th Annual 5K Run/3K Walk and Family Fitness Fiesta

College of Health Sciences,  
Kinesiology  
8 a.m. - noon  
UTEP Campus, Streets  
George King/David Wittenburg  
747-7284/747-2269

### Homecoming Pageant

Student Government  
Association  
5:30 - 9 p.m.  
Magoffin Auditorium  
Hector Soltero/Karen Aguilar  
747-7492/747-7489

## Wednesday Sept. 30

### Lip Sync

Student Engagement &  
Leadership Center  
Noon  
Union Plaza  
Sam Rodriguez  
747-5670

### Gold Nugget and Friends of the College Recognition Event

College of Health Sciences  
4 - 5:30 p.m.  
Health Sciences and Nursing  
Building, Curlin Plaza  
Leticia Paez/Daniela Lerma  
747-8585/747-7201

## Thursday Oct. 1

### Alumni Association Past Presidents' Breakfast

Office of Alumni Relations  
8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.  
Peter and Margaret de  
Wetter Center (Alumni Lodge)  
747-8600

### College of Science Breakfast

College of Science  
9 a.m.  
Chemistry and Computer  
Science Building,  
First Floor Lobby  
Roxanne Giron/  
Kristen Gonzalez  
747-5042/747-8106

### SGA Past Presidents' Luncheon

Office of Alumni Relations  
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Peter and Margaret de Wetter  
Center (Alumni Lodge)  
747-8600

### Homecoming Reception

Department of English  
3 - 4:20 p.m.  
Hudspeth Hall Foyer  
Mitzel Garcia/Ana Diaz  
747-6240/747-6239

### Gold Nugget Reception

College of Liberal Arts  
4 p.m.  
Stanlee and Gerald Rubin  
Center for the Visual Arts  
Estella Estrada /  
Cecy DeSantiago  
747-7016/747-8621

### COBA 2015 Gold Nugget Ceremony

College of Business Administration  
4:30 - 6 p.m.  
Hilton Garden Inn,  
Del Norte Ballroom  
Krista Snow  
747-8636

### UTEP Black Alumni Meet and Greet

UTEP Black Alumni Network  
5 - 7:30 p.m.  
Hilton Garden Inn, Patio  
James Jones/Florida Dotson  
256-457-9008/281-802-6286

### Young Alumni Network Social

Young Alumni Network  
5 - 10 p.m.  
TBD  
Jackie Reed  
747-5592

## Friday Oct. 2

### COBA Military Appreciation Breakfast

College of Business  
Administration  
7:30 - 9 a.m.  
El Paso Natural Gas  
Conference Center  
Krista Snow  
747-8636

### School of Nursing Gold Nugget Breakfast

School of Nursing  
7:30 - 9:30 a.m.  
Health Sciences and Nursing  
Building, Curlin Plaza  
Samantha Dena/Laura Aguirre  
747-8173/747-7216

### Open House at the Alumni Lodge

Office of Alumni Relations  
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Peter and Margaret de  
Wetter Center  
747-8600

### College of Education Gold Nugget Breakfast

College of Education  
8:30 - 11 a.m.  
Templeton Suite,  
Union Bldg. East  
Noni Silva/Julio Martinez  
747-5783/747-5572

### Civil Engineering Homecoming Luncheon

Civil Engineering  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Chemistry and Computer  
Science Building Courtyard  
Concha Ruiz  
747-5464

### Float Making Party

Student Engagement &  
Leadership Center  
6 p.m.  
University Towers Parking Lot  
Sam Rodriguez  
747-5670

### Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

Office of Alumni Relations  
6:30 p.m.  
Don Haskins Center  
Sonia Villa  
747-6742

## Saturday Oct. 3

### College of Engineering Homecoming Breakfast

College of Engineering  
8 a.m.  
Tomás Rivera Conference  
Center  
Alejandrina Morton/Ingrid  
Wright  
747-6917/747-5971

### Panhellenic Reunion

Office of Alumni Relations  
9 - 10 a.m.  
Peter and Margaret de Wetter  
Center  
Dr. Sue Glover Mottinger,  
Class of 1965  
sgmott@gmail.com

### Communication Homecoming Brunch

Department of Communication  
10 a.m. - noon  
Cotton Memorial Lawn  
Stacey Sowards/Rosie Antillon  
747-8854/747-5129





# 10/03 Homecoming Game UTEP vs. San Antonio 6 p.m.



Photo by Van Pierre Audre

Homecoming Calendar continued from previous page

## Saturday Oct. 3

**Homecoming Parade**  
Office of Alumni Relations  
1 p.m.  
University Ave. and Oregon St.  
747-8600

**Pep Rally**  
Office of Alumni Relations  
2 p.m.  
Kidd Field  
Office of Alumni Relations  
747-8600

**UTEP Alumni Tailgate**  
Office of Alumni Relations  
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.  
Kidd Field  
Office of Alumni Relations  
747-8600

**Homecoming Game – UTEP vs. San Antonio**  
UTEP Athletics  
6 p.m.  
Sun Bowl  
Ticket Center  
747-5000

All Golden Grads events hosted by the Office of Alumni Relations-Golden Grads Committee

## UTEP Alumni Association 1965 Golden Grads Calendar

### Thursday Oct. 1

**Coffee and Check-in**  
10 a.m.  
Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center (Alumni Lodge)

**Campus Tour**  
11 a.m.  
Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center (Alumni Lodge)

**Welcome Lunch**  
1 p.m.  
Geology Reading Room,  
Third Floor

**Dinner**  
6:30 p.m.  
Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center (Alumni Lodge)

### Friday Oct. 2

**Open House at the Alumni Lodge and Visit the UTEP Bookstore**  
8:30 a.m.  
Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center (Alumni Lodge)

**Heritage House Tour**  
9 a.m.  
Heritage House

**Golden Grads Luncheon with President Natalicio**  
11:30 a.m.  
Tomás Rivera Conference Center, Union Bldg.  
Third Floor

### Saturday Oct. 3

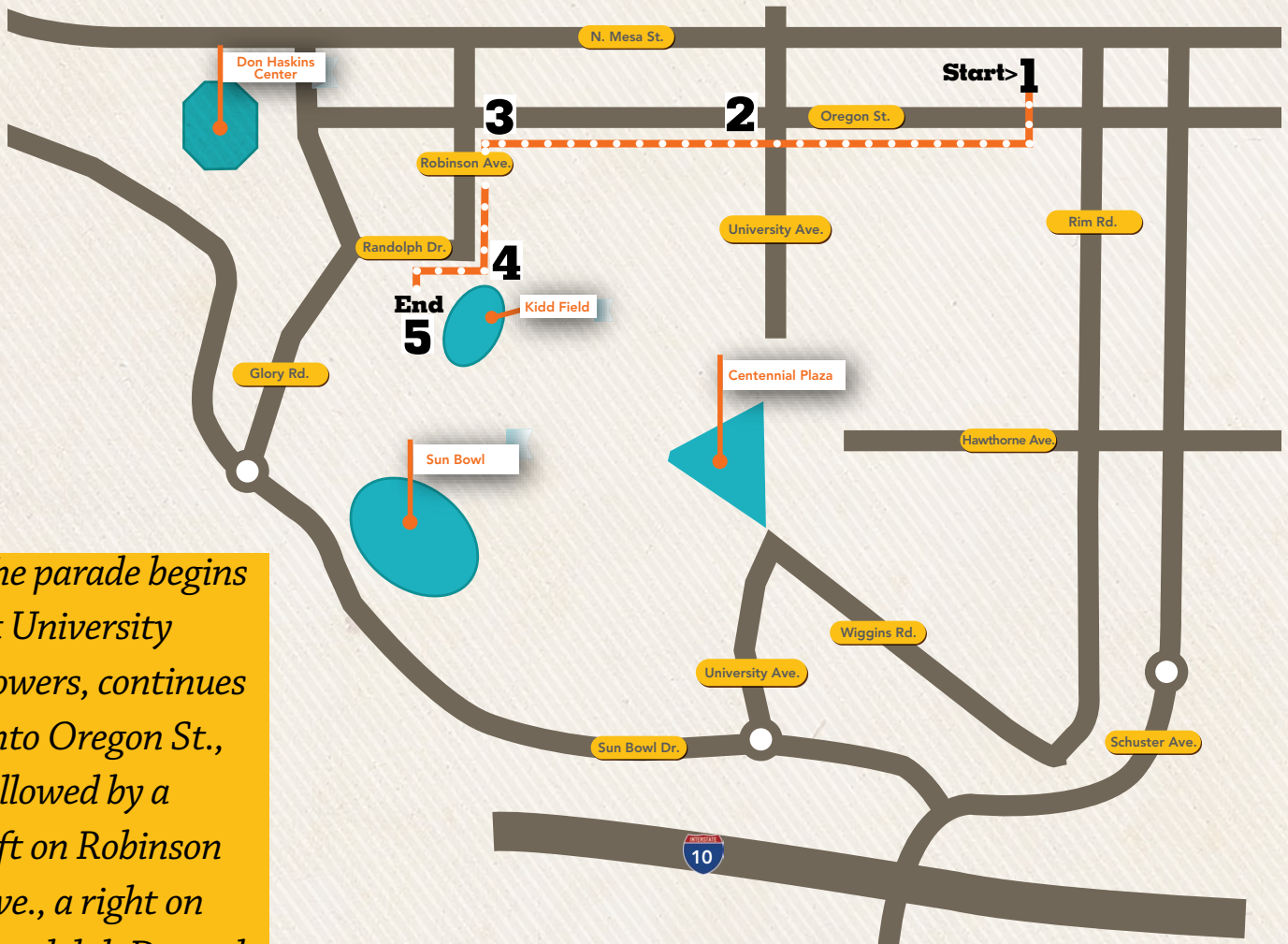
**Brunch, Housing Tour, Parade and Pep Rally**  
11 a.m.  
Miner Village

Our motto, "Once a Golden Grad, always a Golden Grad," encourages all alumni from the class of 1965 and earlier to join us for the celebrations especially designed with our TCM and TWC graduates in mind. Visit [alumni.utep.edu/goldengrads](http://alumni.utep.edu/goldengrads) or call 915-747-8600 to register.



# Homecoming Parade Route

Saturday, Oct. 3 | 1 p.m.



*The parade begins at University Towers, continues onto Oregon St., followed by a left on Robinson Ave., a right on Randolph Dr. and ends at Kidd Field.*

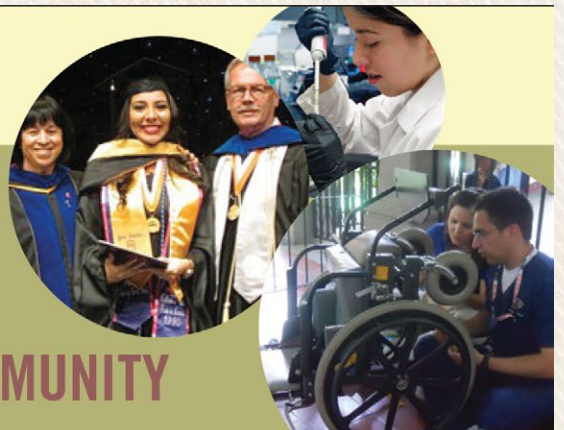
The University of Texas at El Paso  
**College of Health Sciences**



chs.utep.edu



PREPARING LEADERS,  
CHANGE AGENTS, AND  
ADVOCATES FOR  
**THE GLOBAL HEALTH COMMUNITY**







## **Distinguished Alumni**

*As is tradition, The University of Texas at El Paso sets aside a few moments during Homecoming to focus the attention of the Miner Nation on graduates who have achieved excellence in their chosen fields and serve as examples of what can be accomplished through integrity, dedication and determination.*

*The University has selected three outstanding UTEP graduates whose achievements serve as an inspiration to present and future Miners. They join the distinctive ranks of Distinguished Alumni because they balanced big dreams with a confidence in the knowledge and skills that were honed at this institution.*

*We salute the 2015 Distinguished Alumni for raising the bar now and forever.*



# Blanca Estela Enriquez

B.S. in Elementary Education, 1979;  
M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction, 1985  
College of Education

By Laura L. Acosta

“

*My UTEP education afforded me not only a work study position but also wonderful professors who were mentors, and through my education I gained a higher quality of life professionally and personally.*

”



**B**lanca Estela Enriquez, Ph.D., grew up in *Segundo Barrio*, one of El Paso's oldest neighborhoods in one of the United States' poorest

ZIP codes. Enriquez's mother, Maria Vicenta Navarrete, knew education was the key to a successful future and encouraged her daughter to attend college.

"My mother always said, 'My daughter is going to the university,'" recalled Enriquez, the newly appointed director of the national Office of Head Start (OHS). "That was my mother's expectation."

After graduating in the top 10 percent of her class from Bowie High School in 1969, Enriquez exceeded her mother's expectations. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1975 and a master's in curriculum and instruction in 1985 from UTEP. She also received a doctorate in education administration and management from New Mexico State University.

"My UTEP education afforded me not only a work study position but also wonderful professors who were mentors, and through

my education I gained a higher quality of life professionally and personally," said Enriquez, who has three children with her late husband and high school sweetheart Manuel R. Enriquez.

Before presiding over the nation's Head Start and Early Head Start programs in 2015, Enriquez served as the executive director of the Region 19 Head Start program in El Paso since 1986. During her tenure, the program grew from 1,200 preschoolers at 11 sites to 4,500 children at 31 sites.

In her new role at OHS, Enriquez has continued to fulfill her mother's dream, laying the foundation for 1 million children from low-income families to achieve lifelong success starting with school readiness and healthy development initiatives.

"As a 30-year champion of Head Start, it is particularly fitting that Dr. Enriquez is taking the helm of OHS as Head Start marks its 50th anniversary," Yasmina Vinci, executive director of the National Head Start Association said in a statement after Enriquez's appointment. "We have every confidence that Dr. Enriquez will continue her tireless efforts to promote

access to quality early learning and embrace our national commitment to providing our most vulnerable children and families a window of opportunity to a lifetime of self-sufficiency and success."

Enriquez's experience in high-quality early education also resulted in her appointments to the Texas State Secretary's Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Education by former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and to the advisory board for the National Institute for Literacy by President George W. Bush.

Throughout her career, Enriquez has remained close to the University. She held teaching workshops at UTEP and worked with the University to offer career development opportunities for Head Start teachers.

"During all my time as a professional teacher, director and administrator, I always have had ties to UTEP in my other community positions," Enriquez said. "I hope one day to return to UTEP and either teach or become an administrator. I would love the opportunity to give back to my University."





## Gaspar Enriquez

B.A. in Art, 1970

College of Liberal Arts

By Lisa Y. Garibay

“  
My education in art helped fulfill my passion and gave me the opportunity to mentor students who grew up in the same barrio I grew up in.  
”

**T**he University of Texas at El Paso played a huge role in the life of a former machinist-turned-artist.

Alumnus Gaspar Enríquez was born and raised in El Paso's Segundo Barrio, but left for California at 18 to help support his family working as a machinist. Even then, education remained a priority, with Enríquez taking classes at East LA Junior College while working.

Returning to El Paso in the late '60s, Enríquez earned a B.A. in art from UTEP in 1970 while still working full time.

“When my late wife and I moved back to our hometown, she encouraged me to pursue my life-long dream: a career in visual arts,” Enríquez said. “For me, the best way to achieve that goal was to continue my art education. Because I had to continue working in order to afford that, UTEP gave me the best opportunity to work and earn my B.A.”

As he advanced his own artistic practice, Enríquez remained firmly committed to cultivating future generations of local artists by teaching at Bowie High School for 34 years.

Outside of teaching, Enríquez created a

staggering body of art. His work is included in numerous public and private collections – including that of actor Cheech Marin – and has been exhibited in San Francisco's de Young Museum, the Tucson Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Arlington, and the Mexican Fine Arts Museum in Chicago.

“Gaspar is the rarest kind of treasure for our artistic community – an accomplished artist with a dynamic career who has received national and international attention for his work and at the same time remained engaged and committed to the local arts community,” said Kerry Doyle, director of UTEP's Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts.

In 2014, an exhibition focusing on Enríquez's artistic influence upon generations of artists was held at the Rubin Center. Central to it was “Ignite,” a mural commissioned by the center and created by a group of Enríquez's former Bowie students who went on to become renowned artists themselves. After the exhibition, “Ignite” was permanently installed at Bowie High School in honor of UTEP's Centennial in 2014.

“Gaspar endeavors to raise awareness about the U.S.-Mexico borderland experience,” said

Christian Gerstheimer, curator of the El Paso Museum of Art, which presented a retrospective of the artist's work in 2014. “His portraits convey both his versatility of practice and his strong personal connection and commitment to those he depicts. His influence as an artist and educator will live on and grow for many years.”

But Enríquez's influence extends well beyond the borderland.

“Gaspar is notable for his dedicated work as artist, educator and mentor to many,” said Eduardo Diaz, director of the Smithsonian Latino Center. “His close connection with his community brings a crisp, generous and personal touch to his art. He is a consummate craftsman and, in my opinion, our most accomplished portraitist.”

And for Enríquez, it was UTEP that laid down a path for him that allowed him to get his work and wisdom out into the world.

“The education I received at UTEP not only broadened my fields of knowledge and exploration, it raised my socioeconomic status,” Enriquez said. “My education in art helped fulfill my passion and gave me the opportunity to mentor students who grew up in the same *barrio* I grew up in.”



# Renard U. Johnson

BBA, 1995

College of Business Administration

By Daniel Perez

“

*UTEP professors gave me the foundation and structure that helped me to be successful in my business. The knowledge gained in my accounting, marketing, speech and statistics classes has been invaluable.*

”



**R**enard U. Johnson built his multimillion dollar company, Management and Engineering Technologies International, Inc., better known as METI, on vision and a strong business plan that he developed while a student at The University of Texas at El Paso.

METI is a multitasking, multinational organization focused on systems engineering, information technology, and research and development. Its employees work with federal and commercial customers to include the U.S. military.

Johnson earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in 1995 and credits his UTEP education for giving him the necessary skills to keep his El Paso-based corporation competitive at an international level.

“In my line of business, I am required to use public speaking, marketing and social skills on a daily basis,” Johnson said. “UTEP professors gave me the foundation and structure that helped me to be successful in my business. The knowledge gained in my accounting,

marketing, speech and statistics classes has been invaluable.”

Despite his hectic schedule, the Chicago, Illinois native makes time to support his alma mater on boards, committees and as a vocal fan at Miners athletic events. For his successes in business and as a person, UTEP has selected Johnson as one of its 2015 Distinguished Alumni.

The METI CEO graduated from El Paso’s Andress High School in 1984 and joined the family business, which was very similar to METI. While Johnson incorporated METI in 1994, he did not actually open his company until after his parents, Louise and Alvin Johnson, sold their business in 1998.

The University’s College of Business Administration honored the entrepreneur as its 2013 Gold Nugget, the highest honor the college can bestow on an alumnus. He has served on the College of Engineering’s Advisory Board and recently on the Centennial Campaign Leadership Council. He also serves or has served as a chairman of the board for the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas-El Paso

Branch, Providence Memorial Hospital and Sierra Medical Center, Sierra Providence East Medical Center, and the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

When not working, Johnson enjoys riding his Harley, playing golf or spending time with his wife, Caribe, a prominent news anchor and 2005 UTEP graduate, and their two young children.

Friends refer to Johnson’s commitment to UTEP that stretches from involving faculty and students in business assignments to his efforts to get others to join him in investing in the institution.

College of Engineering Dean Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., smiles as he speaks about Johnson, who he said balances a genuine pleasantness with a Type-A passion for UTEP and his adopted hometown of El Paso.

“He’s the kind of guy you love to be around,” Schoephoerster said. “He wants to know how things work and what he can do to make an impact. I think that’s what makes him successful.”



# 2015 Gold Nugget Award Recipients

## Sandra Elaine Braham

M.Ed. in Education Administration, 2002; Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Administration, 2005

College of Education



Sandra Elaine Braham found success by helping others achieve better lives. She credits The University of Texas at El Paso for putting her on that path.

Since 2007, Braham has served as CEO of the YWCA El Paso del Norte region, the largest in the nation with an annual budget of \$32 million, more than 500 employees and services that impact more than 40,000 people. Prior to that, she worked at UTEP in different leadership positions where she secured more than \$20 million in federal and state grants to assist students, especially first-generation college students from low-income families, in activities such as Upward Bound, GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness Undergraduate Programs) and CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program).

Braham focuses her attention on women's economic empowerment and eliminating racism. She has been recognized at the local, regional, state and national levels for her advocacy efforts for civil rights, community service and U.S. military veterans.

The native of St. Louis, Missouri said UTEP enhanced her ability to think critically and analytically. She stays connected with the University as a guest speaker, adjunct professor, committee member and active alumni association member.

"The academic and professional opportunities I received through UTEP helped me provide the empowerment programs and support services needed by youth and families to pursue their American Dream," said Braham, herself a first-generation college student.

## Melissa A. Carrillo

B.A. in Journalism, 1989; M.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies, 1999  
College of Liberal Arts



In 2014, Melissa Carrillo celebrated her 15-year tenure with the Smithsonian Latino Center Institution.

She enthusiastically thanks UTEP for opening the doors that led her to such a successful career with the largest museum complex in the world.

The born-and-bred El Pasoan chose to return to UTEP in 1997 for graduate work after completing her bachelor's degree in journalism at the University in 1989. UTEP's Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS) program allowed Carrillo to further her studio work as a visual artist as well as empower her cultural studies expertise. Carrillo described it as "cutting-edge and way ahead of even what mainstream museum curriculum was teaching at the time."

The MAIS program and its required portfolio afforded Carrillo three back-to-back fellowships from the Smithsonian that changed her life forever and led her to become director of New Media and Technology for the Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC) and creative director for the Smithsonian Latino Virtual Museum (SLVM).

The new technology pioneer has delivered keynotes at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, presented virtual installations in Paris, and launched the SLVM at the London School of Economics.

Carrillo is always thrilled to proclaim, "I am a proud Miner!" She even brought UTEP with her to Sorbonne University in Paris when she presented a co-keynote with Disney Animation Studios at the 2015 Immersive Education Summit. UTEP's Academic Technologies was one of nine representing teams joining Carrillo at the Sorbonne as well as at the Disney Institute with activities related to the SLVM.

## James B. Cearley III

B.S. in Geology, 1978  
College of Science



As a first-generation college student from a military family, James B. Cearley III received a world-class education from the Department of Geological Sciences at The University of Texas at El Paso.

Thanks in part to the field trips he took to geologic outcrops near the University, Cearley received numerous job offers when he graduated.

"Those trips were some of the most influential experiences in bringing together the concepts I learned in the classroom and consolidating my understanding of geologic principles," he said. "The natural laboratory around UTEP differentiates it from many institutions."

He went on to work for Chevron for 35 years, where he finished his career as a general manager and also played a significant role in deep-water oil discoveries in the Gulf of Mexico.

He finds time to give back to the college that provided him the education that kicked off his professional life. As a current member of UTEP's College of Science Advisory Board, Cearley focuses on alumni outreach and has helped establish the Field Geology Experience Fund endowment.

"The Field Geology Experience Fund is important to me personally because I want to ensure that future geology students are able to experience the same rich geologic field environment as I did," Cearley said.

His professional accomplishments include numerous presentations at geologic society conventions and publishing the article "Chevron's Undersea Imaging: Seeing Through Salt" in Forbes magazine.



The University of Texas at El Paso and the UTEP Alumni Association are proud to present the 2015 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 – including the current students who will follow their paths, guided by their bold examples.

## Irene Chavez

**B.A. in Political Science, 1979**  
College of Liberal Arts



After graduating from high school, Irene Chavez encountered some bumps along the road to reaching her dream of becoming a college graduate. Chavez's determination helped her overcome those detours and earn a bachelor's in political science from The University of Texas at El Paso.

"I was determined to secure a college degree and make a difference in people's lives by performing worthwhile work," Chavez said.

Chavez's first career choice was secondary education, but as a student, she worked in the health care field to pay for her tuition and felt she had found a place she could make a difference.

She decided to pursue a health care career and has excelled in the field. Chavez served as the chief operations officer at El Paso's Providence Memorial Hospital for five years. Afterward, she assumed the CEO position at Providence for one year.

Chavez identifies her time at UTEP as a major reason for her success.

"My professors inspired me when they spoke of integrity, a sound moral compass and our duty to contribute to society in such a passionate manner," Chavez said. "These are foundational values I call upon daily as I carry out my duties as a health plan and hospital executive."

Currently, Chavez is the senior vice president and area manager of Kaiser Permanente San Jose Medical Center. She continues to thrive in the medical field and still maintains strong ties with UTEP.

## Hilda C. Galvan

**B.S. in Electrical Engineering, 1985**  
College of Engineering



As Partner-in-Charge at the Dallas branch of the international law firm Jones Day, Hilda C. Galvan has represented clients in some of their most important lawsuits. Galvan has tried complex intellectual property cases before courts across the country and in the International Trade Commission for more than 20 years.

Following her graduation with a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering in 1985, she began work as an engineer for Southwestern Bell. After five years of supervising at Southwestern Bell, Galvan enrolled at The University of Texas at Austin's School of Law in 1990. After graduation she took a position at Gibson Dunn and Crutcher, and eventually moved to Jones Day.

"One of my greatest accomplishments to date is receiving my electrical engineering degree from The University of Texas at El Paso, particularly at a time when few women attempted it," Galvan said.

Today, Galvan maintains a connection with UTEP. As a lawyer and hiring partner for Jones Day, she and her law firm partners help UTEP students participating in the Patricia and Paul Yetter Law School Preparation Institute (LSPI) with their interviewing skills. In addition, Galvan and her husband, Mike Galvan, also a UTEP engineering graduate, have established the Galvan-Contreras Engineering Endowed Scholarship.

## Jean Foret Giddens

**M.S. in Nursing, 1986**  
School of Nursing



Earning a Master of Science in Nursing from The University of Texas at El Paso marked the beginning of Jean Foret Giddens' distinguished career in nursing academia.

A nationally recognized expert in nursing education, curricula and evaluation, Giddens, Ph.D., was named dean of the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing in 2013.

While teaching at Eastern New Mexico University - Roswell during the mid-1980s, Giddens realized that earning an advanced degree would allow her to expand her career opportunities in nursing education.

UTEP offered an innovative graduate nursing program that made it possible for working professionals like Giddens to attend classes on weekends and during the summer.

"Had that program not been available, it is unlikely I would have been able to access the education needed allowing me to begin my career in nursing education," Giddens said.

Giddens' graduate degree also served as the stepping stone to her Ph.D. from Colorado State University.

Giddens has taken her nursing career to new heights. She is the author of numerous journal articles, nursing textbooks and electronic media in nursing education. She also has served as professor and executive dean of the College of Nursing at the University of New Mexico and as an instructor in the nursing program at UTEP.



## Sue Glover Mottinger

**B.A. in Physical Education, 1965**  
*College of Health Sciences*



At Texas Western College (TWC), Sue Glover Mottinger, Ph.D., learned about the importance of serving others from the professors who inspired her to become a lifelong advocate for equality in education and sports for women.

"Professor (Lynette T.) Glardon always stressed service – service to the school, service to your profession and service to the community," recalled Mottinger, an educator for 45 years who graduated from TWC (now UTEP) in 1965. "It was upon this foundation of advocacy that I built my career as a champion for women's equality in the classroom and in sports competition."

Mottinger's on-campus involvement with the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, the Physical Education Majors Club and as the TWC student intramural director allowed her to develop valuable leadership skills that helped her succeed as a teacher and as an advocate for gender equality.

She always encouraged her students to excel, first as a public school teacher and then as an educator at Texas Woman's University, the College of Charleston in South Carolina and The University of Texas-Pan American.

Since 2013, Mottinger has helped students in UTEP's College of Health Sciences achieve their educational goals with support from the Sue Glover Mottinger, Ph.D., Endowed Scholarship.

The annual scholarship is awarded to students in the kinesiology program.

## Sylvia Martinez

**B.S. in Nursing, 1980**  
*School of Nursing*



As a nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit, or NICU, at Providence Memorial Hospital for 13 years, Sylvia Martinez cared for critically ill newborns while offering their parents much-needed comfort and support.

Martinez parlayed that experience into opening Altomar, a home health care agency, in 2000. Altomar offers therapy and nursing care at home to infants, the elderly and people with disabilities.

The company, which started with eight employees, has grown to 65 contracted employees and serves more than 450 clients in El Paso County and southern New Mexico.

Martinez attributes her success as an entrepreneur to her family's endless support and the bachelor's in nursing she earned from UTEP in 1983.

"UTEP helped me as a first-generation college graduate to achieve goals I never would have imagined growing up in a family of 10 children," said Martinez, who was awarded a scholarship her senior year at Ysleta High School to attend the University.

A proud Miner, Martinez has stayed connected to UTEP. As a member of the UTEP School of Nursing's advisory board, she promotes the school's guiding principles of excellence, innovation and diversity.

In 2011, Martinez was one of 28 influential business figures in the community whose personal commentaries were included in the Paso del Norte Entrepreneurship Oral History Project, coordinated by UTEP's Institute of Oral History.

## Lester L. Parker

**BBA in Finance, 1967;  
MBA, 1977**  
*College of Business Administration*



Founding president, CEO and chairman of United Bank of El Paso del Norte, Lester L. Parker received his BBA in finance from The University of Texas at El Paso in 1967. He entered the Army that same year.

"The lessons in business and management complimented my military education and greatly contributed to my success as an Army officer," he said. "Those same lessons were crucial in my subsequent entry into the business world and as an entrepreneur."

The local financial pioneer returned to UTEP for his MBA in economics and finance, which he completed in 1977.

Parker's first professional experience was farming a single acre and selling his produce door-to-door when he was 14 years old.

"It taught me the rewards of hard work, good planning and salesmanship," he said.

Parker has a legacy of volunteerism with dozens of organizations. His honors include the City of El Paso's Conquistador Award, Financial Services Advocate of the Year for the State of Texas from the Small Business Association, and the Silver Beaver Award from Boy Scouts of America.

"The lessons learned at UTEP were equivalent to those which I could have learned at any university," he said.



## Juan Rivera **B.S. in Electrical Engineering, 1975** | *College of Engineering*

Born and raised in El Paso, Juan Rivera was a first-generation college student who began his path toward excellence in engineering at UTEP.

"The UTEP professors mentored and challenged me to perform at a world-class level," Rivera said. "They showed me that I could become better than what I had ever imagined."

After graduating from UTEP with a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering, Rivera worked on the F-111 and F-16 jet fighters at General Dynamics Corporation (now Lockheed Martin). Afterward, he enrolled at The University of Texas at Austin to pursue a graduate degree. He obtained an engineering Ph.D. in 1982.

"The guidance and trust from UTEP professors created

a foundation that later allowed me to pursue a master's and doctoral degree," he said.

Currently, Rivera is the director of Mission 1 Advanced Technologies and Applications at Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems. He is responsible for the development of electronic and payload space and airborne technologies for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) programs.

Rivera also is the vice chairman of the Board of Directors of Great Minds in STEM, a nonprofit group that encourages STEM education in underrepresented communities. He hopes to continue his successful engineering career while being a role model for young Hispanic professionals, all while inspiring American youth to participate in STEM education. 📌



For someone who has spent more than 50 years of his career interviewing and writing about other people, Dale Walker is reluctant to put himself in the spotlight.

But when you've written 23 books and hundreds of magazine articles and have been inducted into the Western Writers of America Hall of Fame alongside Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), John Steinbeck, Jack London and other iconic American writers, it's hard to stay too far in the shadows.

# Dale Walker:

## MAN OF MANY WORDS

By Jenn Crawford

Pictured above: Dale Walker in the early 1980s, pictured with a book on writer Jack London. Walker is a world-renowned expert on London's literature. File photo.



Walker's contributions to UTEP also have been significant. He helped shape and communicate UTEP's story through his role as news and information director and editor of what is now UTEP Magazine for more than 25 years. He played a significant role in moving UTEP's relationship with Bhutan from a borrowed architecture to a personal correspondence with the royal family that resulted in the first Bhutanese student enrolling at UTEP, and he has contributed hundreds of books and manuscripts to the University Library's collection.

"Books, words are the cornerstone of his life," said Walker's friend of more than a half century, fellow El Paso writer Elroy Bode. "I have long admired his talent, productivity, devotion to the written word."

Dale Walker is a biographer, historian, anthologist, newspaper book columnist, reviewer and editor. He specializes in Western American history, military history, 19th and early 20th century journalism and war correspondence, and is a world-renowned expert on writer Jack London.

"Dale is content to be a person who writes and is very affable and courteous, but is just not a guy who wants to be the center of attention," Bode said.

Candy Moulton, executive director of the Western Writers of America (WWA), has known Walker for almost 25 years through his association with the WWA and as the editor of one of her own books. She commended Walker for his knack for research and ability to find sources and stories that others do not.

"He takes really in-depth research and he develops a story that is nonfiction, but it's popular nonfiction and it's written and created in a way that appeals to any reader," Moulton said. "He is a true master wordsmith."



The humble Walker, who was inducted into the WWA Hall of Fame in June 2015, graciously agreed to be interviewed by UTEP Magazine. Perhaps he agreed because he felt a special connection to the publication that he had edited for 23 years when it was called Nova – from its fourth issue in 1966 to its 100th issue in 1989.

Even at 80 years old, Walker’s memory of his 27 years at UTEP is incredibly sharp, and he can recall in detail events and people from that period of his life and before.

One of the most important events of his tenure at the News and Publications office, now called University Communications, and later his years as director of Texas Western Press, was his correspondence with the queen of Bhutan that began in 1967. Walker was the first from UTEP to write to the Bhutanese royal family and make them aware that the University’s unique architecture was designed to look like that of the Land of the Thunder Dragon.

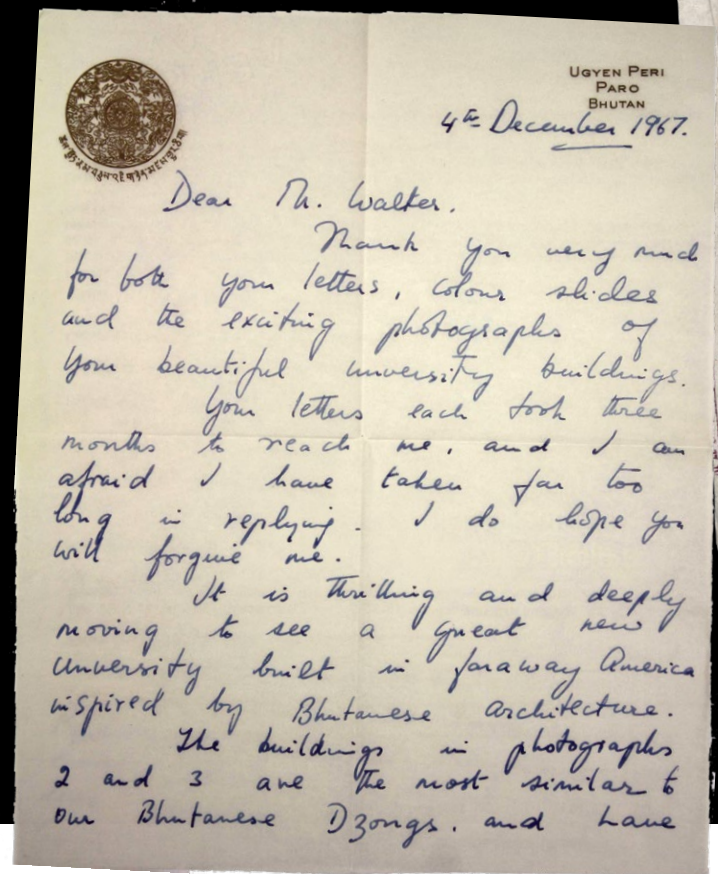
UTEP President Joseph Ray had asked Walker to put together a history of the University’s architecture. As part of his research, he sent a letter and a selection of photographs of the campus buildings to Her Majesty Queen Ashi Kesang Wangchuck. It was months before the package reached the queen and more months until her first response reached Walker, but the two struck up a correspondence that eventually led to UTEP’s first student from Bhutan enrolling at the university.

In her first letter to him, sent in December 1967, she said: “It is thrilling and deeply moving to see a great new university built in faraway America inspired by Bhutanese architecture.”

In another letter received in January 1972, the queen wrote, “The similarity of design and architecture to our dzongs is truly amazing. In the harmonious blending of the old with the modern, there is much to inspire us in turn in the construction of our new buildings and towns in Bhutan.”

In 1973, a letter arrived from the royal family requesting that a Bhutanese student enroll at UTEP. Jigme Dorji arrived on campus in the fall of 1973 to study engineering.

## Letters to the Queen



Dale Walker early in his career at the University. File photo.

“Dale gave the University community a magazine worth reading...”

Wynn Anderson, former assistant to the UTEP president

He is believed to be the first citizen of Bhutan to attend an American university and the first to graduate from one.

Dorji would regularly visit Walker in the News and Information offices, which at that time were located in a former Lambda Chi Alpha lodge facing Hawthorne Street near the Liberal Arts Building.

Walker recalls fondly the smaller, more intimate campus of that time.

“It was a nice little school, very pretty, easy to get around in, the people that I met were all very friendly,” he said. “I still think the prettiest buildings on the campus are the old ones, the ones that are patterned after Old Main.”

Walker had come to Texas Western College, as UTEP was called in the late 1950s, as a student after four years in the Navy. He had grown up in Decatur, Illinois, but came to El Paso to visit his father, who was stationed at Fort Bliss.

“I was getting ready to go back to Decatur, maybe go to the [University of Illinois]. [My father] said, ‘We’ve got this wonderful, pretty little campus out here,’” Walker recalled. The two men visited the college, and when the registrar told him he qualified for the GI Bill and most of his expenses would be covered, Walker was sold and enrolled at Texas Western.

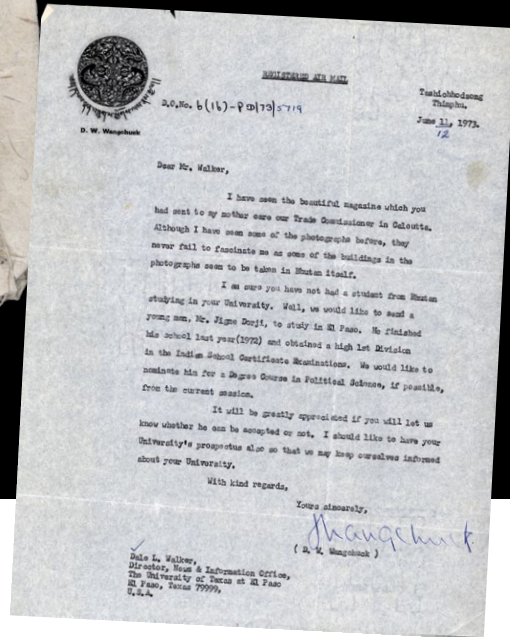
He worked at a local TV station writing news, which paid about \$100 a week, while attending school. He graduated in 1962 with a bachelor’s degree in journalism. After three years, he was married and had two children with a third on the way.

Texas Western hired Walker in 1966 as the college’s news and information director and editor of Nova magazine. Nova, which means





UTEP President Joseph Ray had asked Walker to put together a history of the University's architecture. As part of his research, he sent a letter and a selection of photographs of the campus buildings to Her Majesty Queen Ashi Kesang Wangchuck. It was months before the package reached the queen and more months until her first response reached Walker...



"new," was a quarterly publication finishing its first year in print when Walker took over. More than once, the magazine was named the outstanding college magazine in the region by CASE, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, said Wynn Anderson, former assistant to the UTEP President who shared an office in the Administration Building with Walker when they were both hired in 1966.

"Dale gave the University community a magazine worth reading," Anderson said. "Nova was truly a very informative piece about the university. It gave all of our audience information about the university that was not heavy handed; it was not just PR. It was a news magazine. This was not just a magazine for people who worked at the university or who graduated from here."

In addition to his editorship, Walker "knew everybody and knew how to get a story out, and he was a great adviser to [UTEP Presidents] Arleigh Templeton and Haskell Monroe," Anderson said. He was also instrumental as director of UTEP-based Texas Western Press from 1985-89.

"He was so highly regarded in publications, he was able to get works that

might have gone to other presses," Anderson added. "I think [Texas Western Press] had its heyday under Dale."

Since his retirement from UTEP in 1992, Walker has continued writing. He published his last book in 2005 a Civil War biography titled "Mary Edwards Walker: Above and Beyond," but he still writes book reviews for the Dallas Morning News and articles for magazines "that don't pay anything but were good to me when I was trying to get in print," he said.

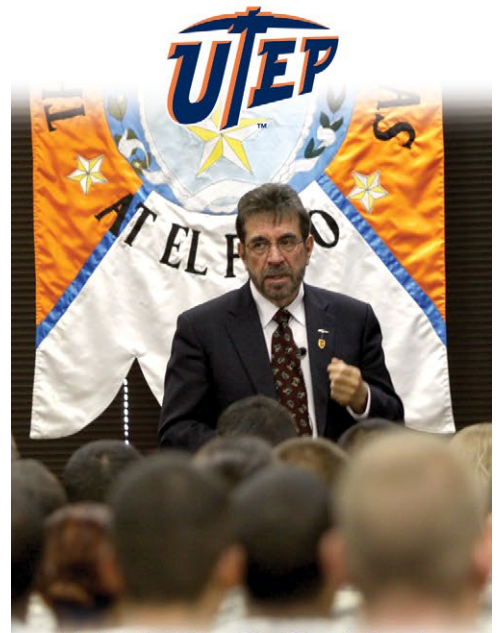
"I think I've written myself out, pretty much," he added. "I'm too old to want to tackle anything on a long-term basis."

But he still looks back fondly on his time at UTEP.

"It's an excellent place to work," he said. "It's the best job I ever had. I love the University and I owe it a lot."

And the University owes him a lot, too, for his impact over almost three decades.

"He never toots his own horn, and he never has gotten enough recognition, in my opinion," Anderson said. "He truly is one of the greatest writers in El Paso." ✉



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# TURNING ON THE VALVE

Water Pipeline Revitalizes **Rio Bosque Wetlands Park**

By Laura L. Acosta • Photos by Laura Trejo

**AS THE SUN ROSE** ABOVE THE RIO BOSQUE WETLANDS PARK, JUST NORTH OF THE RIO GRANDE IN EL PASO'S LOWER VALLEY, JOHN SPROUL DELIVERED TANKS OF RECLAIMED WATER TO THE DROUGHT-THIRSTY COTTONWOOD TREES STRUGGLING TO GROW ALONG THE PARK'S DRY RIVERBANKS.

The flow of water to the 372-acre park from the neighboring Roberto R. Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant varied from year to year, prompting Sproul, the park's manager for more than 15 years, to improvise during the summer growing season.

"We have been trucking water to the park since 1999," said Sproul, as he looked at the sedges and marsh grass peeking out of the water in the river channel. "It was a manageable activity until 2011, when the combination of drought, lack of available water from the Bustamante plant and a big drop in the water table forced us to begin trucking water full-time during the growing season."


Rio Bosque is a wetlands and wildlife preserve owned by the Public Service Board, which oversees El Paso Water Utilities (EPWU). The park has been under the management of the Center for Environmental Resource Management (CERM) at The University of Texas at El Paso since 1996. Sproul joined CERM as the park's manager in 1999.

A major challenge for Sproul was getting water to the park during the growing season because after the winter, the treated wastewater from the Bustamante plant was diverted to farmers for irrigation.

That changed when EPWU finished construction of a new underground pipeline in March 2015 that released reclaimed water from the Bustamante plant into the wetlands.

The new pipeline can potentially deliver water to the park at any time of the year, Sproul said.

Since May 1, 4.3 million gallons a day of treated wastewater have flowed into the Rio Bosque, which has helped to revitalize the wetlands and re-



Treated wastewater flows into the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park through an underground pipeline constructed by El Paso Water Utilities in March 2015.



establish the native habitats that once thrived in the Rio Grande valley. Instead of Sproul having to deliver water to the entire channel five days a week, the new pipeline has reduced his deliveries to smaller areas once a week.

“By next year it will be noticeably greener along the channel,” Sproul said confidently. “We got a nice head start last year when we had water in the channel all summer. But the real obvious changes will be in those wetland cells. One of them has been dry for over a year. Now they’re going to be flooded consistently for the next five months. Things will get real lush and green out there.”

## IN THE BEGINNING

**I**n 1996, a coalition of partners including UTEP, the City of El Paso and the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) embarked on an ambitious project to restore the environmental conditions at Rio Bosque that existed in the El Paso-Juárez river valley before the first Europeans settled in the region.

Prior to the river being channelized in the 1930s, a wide bend in the Rio Grande wound through the site, creating a fertile floodplain ecosystem of riverside forests, mesquite woodlands, and other native habitats that provided refuge and nourishment for animal life.

“The foundation for everything we’re trying to accomplish here is healthy native river valley ecosystems,” Sproul said. “They are a really important part of the natural heritage of this region. They were just tremendously productive areas biologically and they’re almost completely gone in the river valley today.”

The project to restore wetlands and other native habitats at Rio Bosque began with extensive site preparation by the IBWC in 1997 to offset the environmental impacts of building the concrete-lined American Canal Extension.

With the help of students and volunteers, Sproul began clearing the area of nonnative vegetation and planted cottonwood and willow trees that once dominated the Rio Grande valley.

“We did selective plantings, but Mother Nature has done most of the work,” Sproul said referring to the mixture of native shrubs, trees and grass that have sprung up

near the flood channel.

Restoration efforts also gave life to a bird lover’s paradise. Today 224 species of nesting and migratory land and water birds have made Rio Bosque their home at different times of the year.

A few hours after water began flowing from the new pipeline in May, mallards, black-necked stilts and white-faced ibises returned to the newly flooded wetlands.

With an influx of water reviving the wetlands, migrating birds like Wilson’s Phalaropes returned to nest at Rio Bosque this summer.

“When you see them flying from one ponding area to another, you have to be pretty quiet,” advised Mark Worley, a retired middle school teacher who has volunteered at the park for four years. “To see ducks and geese in the quantities that they show up down here, it’s something that you would have to travel to Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico to usually see.”

## TURNING ON THE VALVE

**D**uring the winter, a sufficient amount of water flowed from the Bustamante plant to fully flood the wetland cells.

The rest of the year, the park struggled to obtain water from other sources. Drought conditions in 2011 caused the water table at the park to drop approximately 13 feet. For the past five years, Rio Bosque has experienced unfavorably low groundwater levels, causing trees and other vegetation to decline.

In 2013, a joint resolution between the City of El Paso and the Public Service Board transferred the land to El Paso Water Utilities, which created new opportunities for EPWU to provide reclaimed water from the Bustamante plant as needed to restore the wetland habitats.

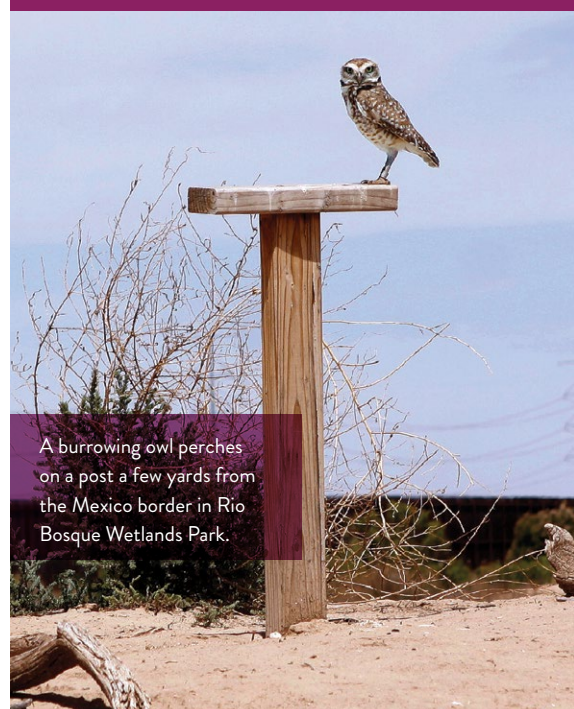
“Years of river drought and hot, dry summers left little water for irrigation (at Rio Bosque),” said Christina Montoya, EPWU communications and marketing manager. “Our pipeline will provide water from May through September. This water will help restore wetlands and re-establish native habitats.”

The pipeline, which discharges water into the river channel and wetland cells through three outlets, is expected to deliver water to the park through Sept. 30.

John Sproul, the park’s manager, stands next to the pipeline’s valve which was turned on May 1, 2015.

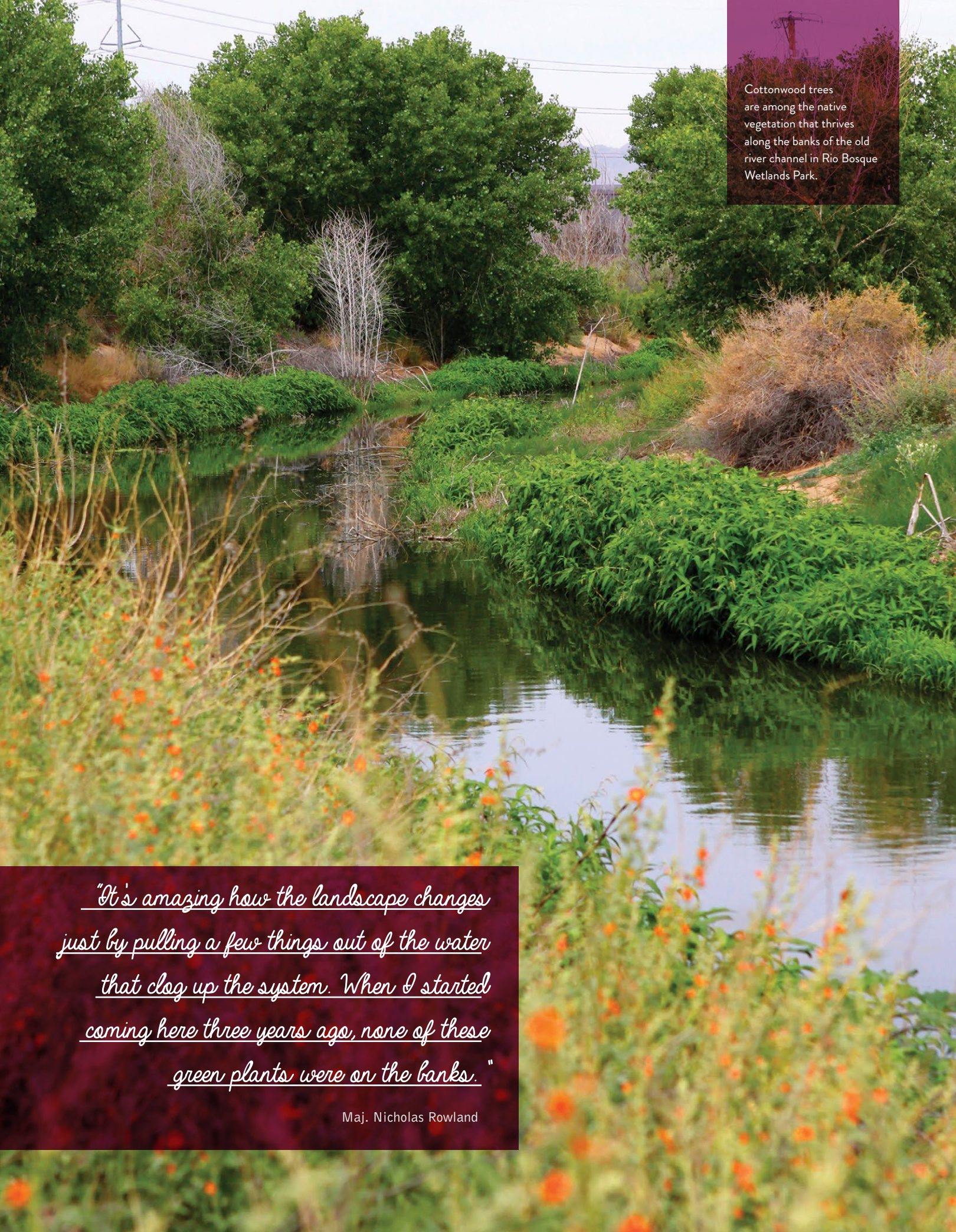


*Since May 1, 4.3 million gallons a day of treated wastewater have flowed into the Rio Bosque, which has helped to revitalize the wetlands ...*



A burrowing owl perches on a post a few yards from the Mexico border in Rio Bosque Wetlands Park.





Cottonwood trees are among the native vegetation that thrives along the banks of the old river channel in Rio Bosque Wetlands Park.

*"It's amazing how the landscape changes just by pulling a few things out of the water that clog up the system. When I started coming here three years ago, none of these green plants were on the banks."*

Maj. Nicholas Rowland



## EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES

**T**o spur the park's restoration efforts, CERM developed a Biological Management Plan for Rio Bosque, which outlined the goals for returning the park to its diverse ecosystem.

The restoration also set the foundation for several environmental benefits, including educational programs, research opportunities, recreation activities and ecotourism.

In March 2015, the wetlands served as a living laboratory for 35 UTEP undergraduate students in the environmental science practicum class taught by Elizabeth J. Walsh, Ph.D., in the College of Science. Students collected surface water samples from the wetlands for a study monitoring water quality at the park. They also collected samples from the park's groundwater monitoring wells.

Now that the park has a permanent water supply, Walsh will use the baseline data from the students' samples and compare it to the water quality at Rio Bosque over the next few years.

Walsh, a biological sciences professor, was on the Rio Bosque's initial scientific advisory board when the park was developed.

She has mentored several graduate students who conducted a large part of their research at Rio Bosque. A recent project focused on a new species of rotifer – microscopic aquatic animals – found in the wetlands.

"Most people don't realize that wetlands are teeming with all forms of life and how many of these organisms have really interesting adaptations that allow them to live in aquatic habitats in the desert," Walsh explained. "They also make important contributions to the overall biodiversity of our region. Having students do research in the

field is really important because it reconnects them with nature. They can see firsthand how natural processes work and how complex and interesting they are."

## REVIVING THE WETLANDS

**R**io Bosque has become a focal point in the community's natural landscape. The park relies heavily on a loyal brigade of volunteers who participate in community workdays on the third Saturday of every month. They spend half a day on a variety of projects, from building a wheelchair-accessible trail to clearing tumbleweeds.

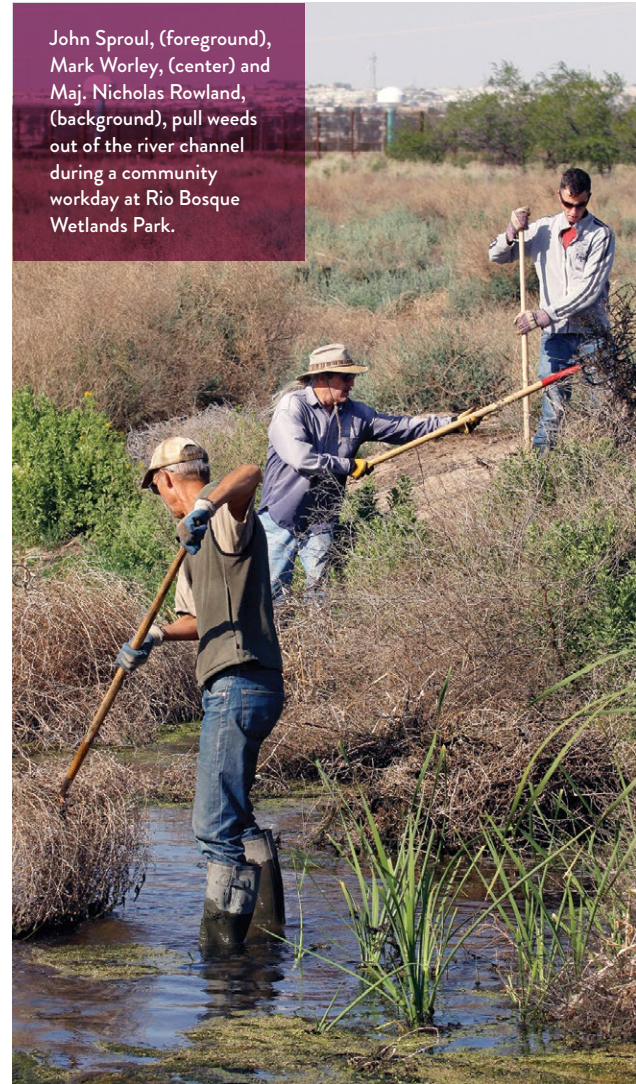
"It's amazing how the landscape changes just by pulling a few things out of the water that clog up the system," said Maj. Nicholas Rowland as he pulled tumbleweeds out of the river channel to clear a path for the water to flow during a recent community workday. "When I started coming here three years ago, none of these green plants were on the banks."

For Sproul, the new pipeline reduced the number of trips he had to make this summer to fetch water. However, a lot of work remains to be done.

"By its nature, the restoration work at Rio Bosque is a long-term undertaking," Sproul said. "Natural systems develop over time. We've had a lot of ups and

downs over the years, a lot of challenges. Throughout, UTEP's commitment to the project has never wavered. Without that steady commitment, we wouldn't be enjoying all the positive developments we are seeing today." 📸

John Sproul, (foreground), Mark Worley, (center) and Maj. Nicholas Rowland, (background), pull weeds out of the river channel during a community workday at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park.



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# THE PLACE I FOUND ME

## Renowned Spanish Dance and Culture Professor Rita Triana Retires

By Lisa Y. Garibay

Administrative Secretary of Track Katie Jensen doesn't know what she's going to do without the thumping above her office that she heard regularly for three decades.

The resounding steps came from the dance shoes of adjunct professor and Spanish dance expert Rita Triana, who retired in spring 2015. She began teaching at The University of Texas at El Paso in 1980.

"In Spain that used to be the only noise a female could make – her heels on the floor, the castanets in her hand," Triana explained of the flamenco that she taught hundreds of students during her career.

Triana's course was cross-listed under Chicano Studies and Kinesiology. It attracted a range of students from football players to science majors, as well as faculty. Some of them were shocked that they were asked to dance during class, but many of them were happy to do so by the end of the semester.

"I never asked them to perform for me because that's so personal," Triana said. "That way they weren't afraid to come and think they would be judged. I always said, 'Don't worry what you look like on the outside; it's what you feel on the inside that counts.'"

Dennis Bixler-Márquez, director of Chicano Studies, was grateful that Triana developed and offered a Spanish dance curriculum, which enabled students to learn or further develop a key dimension of Hispanic culture.

"She attracted not only people who gave something a shot but also those who never would have had a chance to do something like this as well as people who'd had some dance training and mastery of body language," Bixler-Márquez said.

Born to Spanish parents in New York, Triana started ballet training with noted Russian dancer-choreographer Michel



Photo by J.R. Hernandez



Fokine at the age of eight. Her professional career began when she was chosen by famed choreographer David Lichine to tour Europe with his company. While performing in Madrid, Triana became fascinated with Spanish dance.

Performers there told her that if she wanted to learn from the best, she had to go back to the United States and find Antonio Triana, a Spanish immigrant who had taught many of them. She became the pupil, partner and later the wife of the renowned Antonio Triana, who was arguably the first to create a formal Spanish dance company that took this cultural tradition out of its native land.

The two earned critical acclaim both in the U.S. and abroad over their 25 years of dancing together. They even appeared in films and television specials, including "Around The World In 80 Days" and NBC's "Gene Kelly Special."

The Trianas made many friends passing through El Paso and Juárez while driving from Los Angeles to Mexico City. They thought it would be the perfect place to retire. They also wanted to get away from the smog of Los Angeles and raise their children in a smaller place. And so the family relocated to the border and Rita Triana began teaching almost immediately at UTEP.

She was invigorated by the opportunity, recalling that she had always been known as a wife and mother before then but that UTEP was "the place I found me." She joked that as she approached age 80 toward the end of her teaching career, she would always write "911" before anything else "in case I didn't make it through class."

"But the dance itself gives you energy," she continued. "Students would tell me, 'I was a little depressed today, but now I feel better.' That to me is the joy and the triumph of teaching."

Along with dance, Triana's family was her main source of joy. Her son Antonio Jr. plays flamenco guitar for companies that pass through Los Angeles and dance instructors who teach there. Her daughter Felipa, who is also a strong dancer, was a longtime local news anchor and now is the executive director of El Paso Pro Musica.

"My children thought that everyone danced," she said, describing how friends who were dancers, guitarists and pianists would visit their home and play long into the night.

The only break that Rita Triana took from teaching at UTEP was during the year when her husband was ill. He died in 1989.

To honor his work and life, Triana gathered his memorabilia and wrote "Antonio Triana and Spanish Dance: A Personal Recollection" (Hardwood Academic Publishers, 1993). The book was incorporated not only into

her classes, but also other dance classes at institutions both within the U.S. and around the world.

"I couldn't let my husband go without a flourish," she said. "It was not only his own personal history, it was a history of a time."

Before and after Antonio Triana's death, Triana worked hard off campus, too, choreographing the Spanish and Flamenco dance sequences of "Viva El Paso," the annual outdoor drama depicting the history of the borderland. As chair of the Dance Division of the Texas Association of Physical Education and Dance, she presented lectures and workshops at their conventions in Corpus Christi and Dallas, Texas, and Anaheim, California.

Triana has no intention of bringing things to a full stop despite her retirement. She wants to write another book and still dances constantly, at least at home.

Her vivacity and flexibility belies Triana's age and the fact that she has been dancing for almost 80 years. What keeps her going?

"It's that love of the bam bam," Triana said, stomping her heel on the floor of Holliday Hall one more time with passion. 📍

*“STUDENTS WOULD TELL ME, I WAS A LITTLE DEPRESSED TODAY, BUT NOW I FEEL BETTER.’ THAT TO ME IS THE JOY AND THE TRIUMPH OF TEACHING.”*

Rita Triana

Bottom, left: The Trianas' children Antonio II and Felipa grew up immersed in Spanish dance, music and culture. Photo courtesy of Rita Triana.

Bottom, right: Rita and Antonio Triana dancing together during their professional heyday. Photo courtesy of Rita Triana.





# Public Art Contributes to Campus Transformation

By Esmeralda Treviño

In celebration of its Centennial, The University of Texas at El Paso completely revamped the atmosphere of its now pedestrian-friendly campus. However, the remodel did not stop at construction and renovation – several public art pieces have been added to the aesthetic of the University.



Mandala Sunrise

Photo by Laura Trejo



Millenium Marker

## The Millennium Marker

Designed by retired art professor Willie Ray Parish, the “Millennium Marker” was a gift to the University for its Centennial Celebration. The blue and white sculpture with wings that move in the breeze stands tall on the grass knoll outside the Health Sciences and Nursing Building at Wiggins and Rim roads.

“I’m hearing that people are liking it as a sculptural form,” Parish said of the initial reaction to his piece. “I didn’t have a particular desire or expectation for the viewer except for the hope that they would find it interesting and compelling in some way.”

Cognizant of 20th century modern art, Parish created a work of art that would bridge the artistic themes of the 20th and 21st centuries.

“It seemed significant that we were leaving one segment of time and entering another,” he said.

Installed in March 2015, “Millennium Marker” was dedicated to the University in celebration of its 100-year anniversary.

## The Mandala Sunrise

Located in the roundabout at Glory Road and Sun Bowl Drive, “Mandala Sunrise” represents a Tibetan sand mandala carried by the wind, returning to nature as a kaleidoscope of colors in the sky.

Thirty-six powder-coated aluminum poles of different lengths are topped with translucent, crescent-shaped resin substrate hands of various colors that appear to reach up and change color throughout the day. Colorful light-emitting diode (LED) lights illuminate the structure at night. The work is set in native rocks within a 32-foot diameter.

Seattle artist Koryn Rolstad was inspired to create “Mandala Sunrise” after she visited UTEP in the spring of 2013. The Bhutanese architecture, multicultural setting and student-centered atmosphere

continued on page 37



Pullout



Centennial plaza pullout



Centennial plaza pullout



Centennial plaza pullout



allowed her to envision the work.

Rolstad has a background in architecture, engineering and fine arts, and her public art can be seen internationally.

"I think 'Mandala Sunrise' is fun, and I see the looks of the people who post their pictures (with it) on Instagram," she said. "They look happy."

"I knew exactly what I was going to do," Rolstad said at the ceremony for the completion of the \$4.8 million expansion and enhancement of Sun Bowl Drive. "This whole project is not only dedicated to the Bhutan culture and the Latin culture with the bright colors, but also to engineering, which exemplifies UTEP."

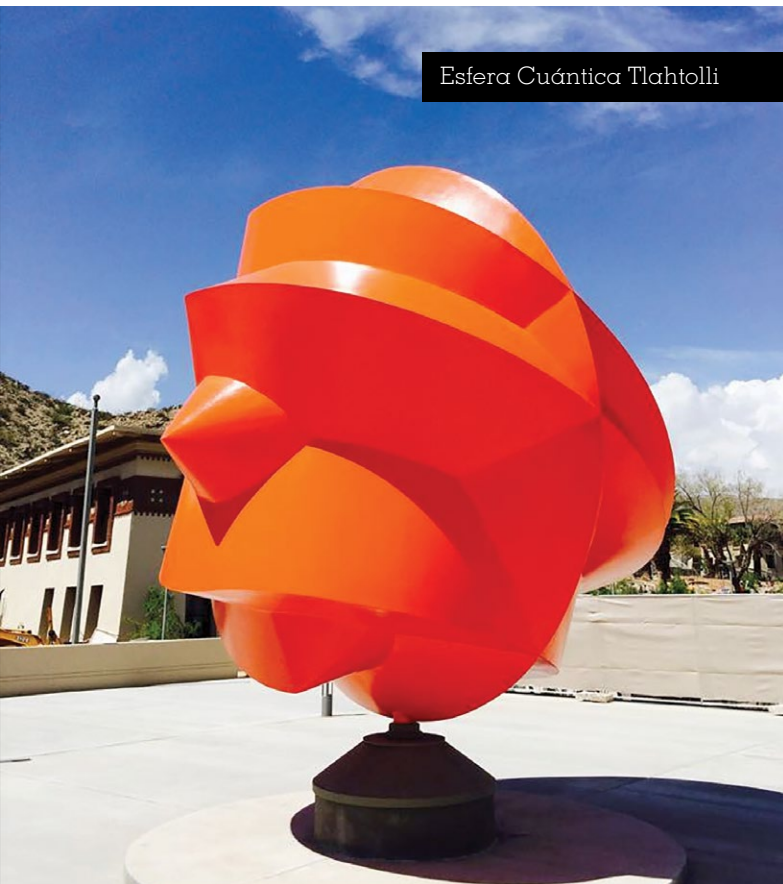
### Esfera **Cuántica Tlahtolli**

A

Centennial gift to the University from the people of Mexico, "Esfera Cuántica Tlahtolli" is one of UTEP's newest public art pieces to be displayed on campus. World-renowned Mexican sculptor Sebastián designed the work specifically for UTEP.

Located in front of the Fox Fine Arts Center, "Tlahtolli" is a spherical orange sculpture with a surface resembling swirl shapes similar to that of a rolled-up scroll. The orb-like sculpture has intersecting lines forming two X's that intertwine to symbolize the relationship between UTEP and Mexico as well as the X's in the names of Texas and Mexico.

On the opposite side of the globe, edges of pointed surfaces shape a spiral portraying the ancient Aztec, Toltec and Mayan symbol of verbal communication. The monument stands about 13 feet tall and is 13 feet wide. Sebastián has a range of talents such as architectural design, painting, jewelry making, public art, costume design and multimedia production. The sculptor's unique, large-scale pieces have carried his reputation as a groundbreaking artist across the world.



Esfera Cuántica Tlahtolli



Rendering courtesy of Donald Lipski

### The **Cloud**

T

he Schuster roundabout located at Spur 1966 will soon be home to a new sculpture. The City of El Paso selected award-winning artist Donald Lipski to create the public art for the centerpiece of the roundabout.

"The Bhutanese architecture of the campus inspired me," Lipski said. "The idea of the moving panels was inspired by Bhutanese prayer flags and the dramatic skies of El Paso."

Lipski is creating a floating, shimmering cloud of steel. The structure will emerge from the sunken roundabout that acts as a below-grade pedestrian crossing. The work's three cloud-shaped panels will be formed from thousands of small, steel flaps that move with the wind.

Lipski enlisted Artist in Residence and UTEP alumna Xochitl Rodriguez to help him create the piece. To ensure the sculpture resembled a perfect cloud, Lipski asked Rodriguez to photograph clouds around El Paso. He chose what he thought was the perfect shape to transform into what will be known as "The Cloud."

"Bhutan is known as the kingdom in the clouds," said Patricia Dalbin, public art program manager for the City of El Paso. "It's a great piece for the University setting. Clouds cross borders; they don't belong to anybody. They belong to everyone." ☞



# New Student Housing Complex Promotes Student Engagement

UTEP senior Alexis “Lexie” Lubbers said her decision three years ago to live on campus has paid off socially, academically and even professionally. The latest benefit was being hired to work in The University of Texas at El Paso’s newest student housing complex.

By Daniel Perez



◀ The 103,606-acre compound borders a natural arroyo about a stone’s throw from UTEP’s Helen of Troy Softball Complex. Photo by J.R. Hernandez



The \$23 million Miner Canyon opened in August 2015 on 6.2 acres at the north end of campus beyond the Helen of Troy Softball

Complex. The two four-story residential buildings located adjacent to a winding arroyo have a combined 83 furnished units that will accommodate 352 students.

The 103,606-square-foot complex, which includes a large one-story commons building, combines the latest in technology with a traditional dormitory design that promotes more face-to-face contact as requested in student surveys.

An El Paso native and biochemistry major, Lubbers is among the few students to have lived in all three of UTEP’s existing residences. The other complexes are the more apartment-like Miner Village and Miner Heights, which opened in 2001 and 2010, respectively.

“Living on campus is one of the best things that ever happened to me,” said Lubbers, who will serve as a program assistant at Miner Canyon. Her proximity to campus facilitated her weekly meetings

with her faculty mentor and allowed her to become more involved in student groups such as SACNAS (Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science), the Miner Ambassadors and the UTEP chapter of the American Chemical Society.

“I am very excited to be living in Miner Canyon,” she said. “I think the dorm layout will create a greater sense of community. I’m grateful to be part of this new experience.”

Construction began in spring 2014 and finished in summer 2015 just in time for students to move in. They filled the units that ranged from one-bedroom efficiencies to four-bedroom suites that accommodate up to six students. The living areas have vinyl flooring and textured walls, the cabinets have dark wood veneer and the bathrooms have tiled floors and showers. Each room comes with a bed, desk, desk chair and three-drawer chest.

Among the highlights of Miner Canyon is its \$215,000 state-of-the-art audiovisual package that includes Wi-Fi and Internet Protocol television that allows residents to record and replay shows at their leisure. The

same service allows information to be stored on mobile devices and shared in classrooms.

The commons building includes a 10-seat computer lab and a 1,320-square-foot meeting hall that will have 5.1 surround sound, three 55-inch high-definition televisions and a retractable 139-inch projection screen.

“It’s a little over the top, but this place was designed to be a recreation area,” said Glen Kelley, UTEP audiovisual supervisor. “It’s a little bigger and better than watching TV in your room.”

The residence halls’ common areas – centrally located lounges and corner study rooms – are among the campus’ best wireless access points. Students can hook into the 48-inch video screens during impromptu meetings for fun or academics. When not in use, the screens default into UTEP Today message boards. The study areas, or “collaboratories,” also have movable furniture so students can create their own workspace. The living areas are hardwired for those with desktop computers or gaming systems.

“This is state-of-the-art housing,” said Charlie Gibbens, Ed.D., director of





*"This is state-of-the-art housing. It has all the amenities that the students asked for that they will need to be successful."*

Charlie Gibbens, Ed.D., director of Residence Life

The two four-story residential buildings, including the distinctive boomerang-shaped Residential Hall One, will accommodate 352 students and boost the number of students living on campus to almost 1,000. The complex includes a community building that was designed with a kitchen, computer lab, staff offices, conference room and a 1,320-square-foot meeting hall that will have a retractable 55-inch screen, surround sound and built-in microphone system. It is part of the complex's robust \$250,000 audio-visual package that includes Wi-Fi and Internet Protocol television, which uses Internet cable to provide lower-cost, higher quality reception.  
Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Residence Life. "It has all the amenities that the students asked for that they will need to be successful."

The residential buildings, including one shaped like a boomerang, follow UTEP's signature Bhutanese architecture. Each has laundry facilities on the second and third floors and are secured with self-locking doors to the buildings, dorms and bedrooms. Miner Metro Shuttles serve the students, who also will have access to a bike share plan.

Gibbens pointed out that students who live on campus often earn better grades, complete their degrees faster and get more involved in campus and community service activities. He said positive peer pressure and ready access to academic resources are possible reasons.

His assertions are backed by a 2013 study by UTEP's Center for Institutional Evaluation, Research and Planning that showed living on campus positively affects student graduation rates, especially among at-risk students. The investigation found students were more focused on their studies, more involved in campus research and took more semester credit hours than they may have otherwise attempted.

Students gave numerous reasons for their decisions to live on campus. Among them were to create a larger, more diverse circle of friends, enhance access to classrooms and academic resources such as the University Library and the copy centers, and improve academic focus while saving money by not having to worry about a vehicle. Others described desires to "spread their wings" and "become more responsible."

The list does not surprise Gary Edens, Ed.D., vice president for Student Affairs. He lived in UTEP's Kelly Hall (1985) and Barry Hall (1986) while earning his bachelor's in business administration in 1990. He came to El Paso from Germany where he lived with his U.S. military family. The self-described former introvert said moving away from his parents was difficult.

"Living on campus helped with the transition and allowed me to become fully engaged in the campus experience," Edens said. "I made many new friends and was involved in student organizations and the Union Programs Office. Being on campus 24 hours a day really focused my energies and efforts on school. I had a lot of fun, but I always knew that academics came first."

Fabian Barragan said he wanted to live on campus to expand his comfort zone. The 2011 Clint High School graduate sought to be around people from different cultures and philosophies to gain their perspectives. The senior multidisciplinary studies major lives in Miner Canyon and will serve as a residence life intern.

He said the experience has helped him mature. He excelled in academics and joined several student groups and served as UTEP chapter president of the Alpha Lambda Delta honor society. He also has spent time as a residence assistant in Miner Heights as a sophomore.

"I thought it was exciting," Barragan said. "I think of it as the start of a new century of housing at UTEP."

The opening of the new complex brings the number of students living on campus to 988. The University is creating a neighborhood master plan that it expects to complete by the end of 2015. ❏



*Terry Scholarships are well-known across Texas for providing a truly exceptional educational experience for talented, high-achieving students, and UTEP is extremely pleased to join the Terry Scholarship family.”*

Diana Natalicio, UTEP President



The Terry Foundation Board of Directors helps continue the legacy of Howard and Nancy Terry by enabling deserving young people across the State of Texas to achieve their dream of a higher education. Photo courtesy of the Terry Foundation.

# THE TERRY SCHOLARSHIP

**GENEROUS GIFT FUNDS 15 FUTURE MINERS**

By Nadia M. Whitehead

Fifteen high school seniors received extraordinary news in the spring when they learned they had earned full-ride scholarships to The University of Texas at El Paso.

Dubbed Terry Scholars, the students represent some of the El Paso area’s finest emerging talent and were selected based on leadership potential, character, scholastic record and ability, and financial need.

The new opportunity is possible because of the generous support of the Terry Foundation, whose goal is to support student attendance at the state’s finest public universities. The foundation hopes selected scholars will have a significant impact on the future leadership of Texas and the nation.

“We are delighted to announce the wonderful opportunities created for entering UTEP students through our new partnership with the Terry Foundation,” said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. “Terry Scholarships are well-known across Texas for providing a truly exceptional educational experience for talented, high-achieving students, and UTEP is extremely pleased to join the Terry Scholarship family.”

As long as the students maintain strict scholastic requirements, the scholarships will cover their tuition, fees, books and room and board through all four years at UTEP. The 15 Terry Scholars also will have the opportunity to request additional funding for a study abroad semester.

The Terry Scholarship will continue being offered to incoming freshman for the next four years. By 2018, a total of 64 Terry Scholars will be enrolled at the University.

“Having Terry Scholars on the UTEP campus will give a huge boost to our academic and extracurricular efforts,” said Gary Edens, Ed.D., vice president for student affairs. “I truly appreciate the Terry Foundation’s commitment to invest in the talented young people of Texas and, in particular, in high-achieving students who will be attending UTEP.”



## THE TERRY SCHOLARSHIP

# MEET THE SCHOLARS

### Mariah Alvarez

Valle Verde Early College High School  
Intended Major: Microbiology



#### What are you most looking forward to at UTEP?

"All the opportunities, like meeting new people, working in labs, being a part of student government and jumping into classes that apply to my major. Oh and living on campus. It will be like I'm an official adult; I'll have to fend for myself."

#### Why did you decide to attend UTEP?

"At the beginning of my senior year, I had wanted to go to Texas Woman's University in Denton, but after touring colleges during spring break, I fell in love with the UTEP campus."

### Joselyn Contreras

Mountain View High School  
Intended Major: Business



#### What are you most looking forward to at UTEP?

"After obtaining a master's degree, I hope to someday open my own nonprofit organization that will be for the sole purpose of helping needy families in El Paso. I then would like to expand my organization to a nationwide level. Later in life, I plan to go back to school to obtain a degree in missionary studies to someday fulfill my dream of traveling the world, while at the same time preaching the word of God to developing nations and aiding them with basic needs such as food, clothing and possibly shelter."



### Andrea Arizpe

Montwood High School  
Intended Major: Biology  
or Biochemistry

#### What are some of your greatest skills?

"I'm fluent in four languages: English, Spanish, French and Turkish. I rank 10th out of a class of 660 students, am a member of Mathletes and am captain of the school's varsity swimming team."

#### What are you most looking forward to at UTEP?

"I'm looking forward to getting to know the campus and being very involved in student organizations and clubs to help animals. My tour of UTEP got me really excited to be a part of the great research that takes place there. Researchers are studying things like cancer and I'm excited to get hands-on experience."



### Yessica Delgado

Clint High School  
Intended Major: Biology

#### What are some of your greatest skills?

"I'm a natural leader and an outspoken person who stands for what I believe in. I have an undying faith in the ability that you can accomplish whatever you set your mind to. I know UTEP can help me fine tune these abilities as well as benefit from them once I start joining organizations."

#### What are your career goals?

"I've been accepted into A-PRIME TIME, UTEP's premedical program. I plan to earn an M.D. in the field of obstetrics and gynecology and hope to one day open my own practice."



## MEET THE SCHOLARS

**Alejandro Diaz**  
Parkland High School  
Intended Major:  
Math and Biochemistry



### What are your career goals?

"I wish to pursue a career as a research scientist in the field of biostatistics, through which I hope to accomplish my aspiration of making a positive change in our world. The prospect of immortalization in the form of a discovery, as well as my obsession with learning, makes becoming a research scientist an attractive future."

### What are you most looking forward to at UTEP?

"I am looking forward to being a part of the BUILDing SCHOLARS program at UTEP. It comes with a promise of research opportunities under a mentor. Furthermore, we will be given the chance to conduct a 10-week research project at one of the program's partner institutions."

**Daniel Garcia**  
Parkland High School  
Intended Major: Engineering



### What are you most looking forward to at UTEP?

"One of the main things I'm looking for this upcoming year is being an active participant of the Terry Foundation at UTEP. I think it's going to be a great experience. Being part of the foundation for the first year at UTEP is breathtaking. The fact that I'm in great company with other amazing students and professionals is surreal."

### Why did you decide to attend UTEP?

"Besides UTEP being one of the top research universities, I wanted to go to UTEP because there is so much growth and potential on this campus. I personally believe UTEP has grown so much and is a top university. I want to be a part of the ongoing growth and development at the University."

**Carlos Diaz**  
El Paso High School  
Intended Major: Engineering



### What is your intended major? Why?

"I'm pursuing mechanical engineering. I really like machines and the different aspects involved in designing them. My dad is in a motorized wheelchair, so I know that I want to build things that could better peoples' lives."

### What has been your biggest accomplishment so far?

"I'm interning at a local engineering and architecture firm assisting with the design of a solar-powered farm that could provide electricity to the El Paso International Airport. I also was nominated by a Texas state senator to attend NASA's High School Aerospace Scholars class."

**Marcel Gilley**  
Parkland High School  
Intended Major: Mechanical Engineering



### What's your intended major? Why?

"This fall I plan to major in mechanical engineering, which will be a building block for my master's and eventual doctoral degree in aerospace engineering. Ever since I can remember, I have always been fascinated with space and the miraculous secrets it holds. I dream that maybe one day I can be one of the people to discover something astonishing."

### What are your greatest skills? What do you bring to UTEP?

"My greatest skill set would have to be that I am a well-rounded individual. I have the ability to grasp concepts quickly and with ease. I am no stranger to hard work and dedication as I experienced high school varsity sports as well as the challenge and rigor of Parkland High School's T-STEM academy and AP courses."





As long as the students maintain strict scholastic requirements, the scholarships will cover their tuition, fees, books and room and board through all four years at UTEP.

**Fernanda Guerra**  
Franklin High School  
Intended Major: Nursing



**What's your intended major? Why?**

My intended major is nursing. I chose this because of my sister. She was born with a brain tumor and had to go through chemo ever since she was a baby. The nurses who helped her inspired me to do the same with other children. My grandmother and my aunt also inspired me to become a nurse since they also are nurses who I look up to.

**What are your career goals?**

"I would like to become a nurse in pediatric oncology in order to help other children who are going through treatment — the way that my sister was helped in her time of need."

**Elizabeth Martinez**  
Jefferson High School  
Intended Major: Civil Engineering



**What are you most looking forward to at UTEP?**

"I am looking forward to studying outdoors at UTEP's Centennial Plaza."

**What's your intended major? Why?**

"I am majoring in civil engineering because I love utilizing my math skills and creativity to create massive structures. My career goals include earning a master's degree in civil engineering and rendering my services to the gorgeous and growing city of El Paso or the state of Texas."

**Melissa Murillo-Sanchez**  
Clint High School  
Intended Major: Education



**What's your intended major? Why?**

"I chose a degree in education and interdisciplinary studies because of the numerous rewards that it gives in the long run. Teachers get the incredible joy of seeing the difference they make in a student's life — both academically and mentally. As a teacher, I will aid my future students to gain new insights, become more interested in subjects and learn about themselves and others."

**What are your greatest skills?**

**What do you bring to UTEP?**

"I consider myself a leader who likes to take charge when it comes to making things happen. I enjoy working in groups of people, interacting with others, and most importantly, being a volunteer to make a difference in my community."

**Victoria Nevarez**  
Chapin High School  
Intended Major: Nursing



**What's your intended major? Why?**

"My intended major is nursing. I debated over whether becoming a doctor or a nurse was the right path for me and I finally set my mind on nursing because of the close connection a nurse has with his or her patients. I truly want to help babies and children, along with their families, not only medically, but emotionally and spiritually as well. I am thrilled to work under the supervision of Dr. Elias Provencio-Vasquez and to experience the amazing nursing program UTEP has created."



## MEET THE SCHOLARS

**Rebecca Ortiz**  
Andress High School  
Intended Major: Math



### What are you most looking forward to at UTEP?

"I am eager to continue my education, something I am grateful to have the opportunity to do with the support of the Terry Foundation. I also am eager to grow closer to my fellow colleagues and create memories as well as contribute to the community through service."

### What are you most looking forward to at UTEP?

"My career goals might come off as simple: get my degree, pass the placement exam for a teaching certificate and finally, get a job. But my craving is to be more than a teacher. I want to be a mentor, or someone my future students look up to. I want to be an encouraging figure in a student's mind so that they accomplish what they are meant to accomplish."

**Angel Rodriguez**  
Jefferson High School  
Intended Major: Political Science



### What are your greatest skills? What do you bring to UTEP?

"Some of the most valuable skills that I possess and intend to bring to UTEP were inherited from my JROTC participation and experiences. These skills include my ability to cooperate with others effectively, my leadership capabilities and the fact that I am willing to apply myself to any situation where my assistance is required."

### What is your intended major? Why?

"After an abundance of research and contemplation, I've decided to major in political science with a focus on international affairs. The reason I'm taking this route is because I plan on joining the U.S. Army with an aim of becoming a Military Intelligence Officer."

**Leanna Peru**  
Mission Early College High School  
Intended Major: Speech Language Pathology



### What are you most looking forward to at UTEP?

"I am most looking forward to living in the new dorms, Miner Canyon, this upcoming fall. I believe that living on campus will make it easier for me to become highly involved on the UTEP campus. I look forward to the accessibility of making new friends, joining organizations, visiting the Student Recreation Center and the short commute to classes that the dorms will allow."

### What are your career goals?

"I plan to become a speech-language pathologist at a military hospital or facility. Growing up with strong military roots, I've learned that every day there are soldiers who fight for their lives in order to protect our country and many of them come back as wounded warriors. Many soldiers suffer from brain damage, strokes, heart attacks and various other conditions that could possibly affect their speech. I am grateful for the things that service members do for our country, and the fact that I could make a positive contribution to their well-being and help restore them to their original conditions in terms of speech is something that I really want to be a part of."

“

*"I truly appreciate the Terry Foundation's commitment to invest in the talented young people of Texas and, in particular, in high-achieving students who will be attending UTEP."*

Gary Edens, Ed.D., vice president for student affairs



*Established in 1986, the Terry Foundation is the enduring legacy of its founders Howard and Nancy Terry, a couple committed to higher education in Texas.*



## PROFILE IN GIVING

# THE TERRY FOUNDATION

By P.J. Vierra


Howard Terry's dedication to academics and football in the midst of the Great Depression earned him a rare scholarship that allowed him to attend The University of Texas at Austin.

Following his graduation in 1938 with a Bachelor of Business Administration, Howard Terry never forgot the assistance that the scholarship provided him. He spent the first part of his career building several businesses in real estate, oil, lumber and banking. Nancy Terry, who studied nursing at the University of Rochester, joined Howard to begin a philanthropic partnership that lasted more than 40 years.

During the second part of their lives, the couple made it their mission to ensure that deserving Texas high school students received the same opportunity as Howard Terry had to attend and excel in college free from financial worry. The idea, Howard Terry once declared, "is that the student won't have to take out loans or work through his four years in college, so that he can concentrate on school."

The Terry Foundation awarded its first scholarships in 1986. By 2015, the foundation had grown to include 13 Texas universities, including The University of Texas at El Paso, and was the largest single private source of scholarships in Texas. For the 2015-16 academic year, the Terry Foundation will award 353 four-year awards and 200 three-year awards totaling more than \$20 million, of which 15 awards went to UTEP students. The value of the foundation's contribution to UTEP alone should total over \$3 million by the time the first cohort graduates in 2019.

This spirit of philanthropy defines the core values of the Terry Foundation. Applicants must possess not only strong academic credentials in high school, but also demonstrate leadership at school and in the community. All recipients must be Texas residents, commit to live on campus their freshman year and remain on a four-year graduation track. Terry Scholars must attend three mandatory events each semester hosted by the organization. Designed to foster comradeship, these gatherings serve to create a lifelong network among Terry alumni.

Both Howard and Nancy Terry passed away in 2012. At the time of their deaths, the couple had already given away more than \$100 million in scholarships to over 2,600 Texas college students. Their continued legacy, which now includes UTEP, lives on in each new generation of Terry Scholars. 





# UTEP Alumni Shine in Texas Legislature

By Lisa Y. Garibay



**Whether stationed full-time in Austin or splitting time between the state capitol and their hometown, graduates from The University of Texas at El Paso tirelessly contributed to the work of Texas' 84th legislative session.**

"As a UTEP graduate, I have been able to take my skillset and my education to serve my community in many capacities," said Texas Rep. César Blanco (District 76). He graduated from UTEP in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in political science.

In June, Blanco was named one of Texas Monthly magazine's Best Legislators and Freshman of the Year by the Mexican-American Legislative Caucus. Fellow UTEP alumni working in his office are field representative Brandon Guzman, a 2011 bachelor's in psychology recipient, and Karla Muñoz, a policy analyst who graduated in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in political science.

Doriana Torres, who received her bachelor's and master's degrees from UTEP in 2011 and 2013, respectively, served as a Moreno-Rangel Fellow for Rep. Mary Gonzales (District 75). Gabriella Marquez, who received a bachelor's degree in political science in 2014, and Joshua Baca, a 2012 bachelor's and 2014 master's graduate, were awarded the Sen. Gregory Luna Legislative Fellowship. Marquez worked for Sen. Carlos Uresti (District 19), and Baca served in Lt. Governor Dan Patrick's office.

While at UTEP, Baca spent the first half of his senior year as one of 32 UT System Bill Archer Fellows, earning college credit while interning and taking classes on policy, economics and persuasion in Washington, D.C.

"My education at UTEP instilled in me a pride in community and a genuine desire to serve the greater El Paso community and our state," Baca said. He said his volunteer experience on and off campus not only helped his career but also gave him a greater awareness of the pressing issues in his community.

Alumni working in the office of Sen. José R. Rodriguez (District 29) were district and

communications director Sito Negron, who received a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism in 1990; legal intern Ana Martinez, a 2012 political science bachelor's degree recipient; and deputy legislative director Daniel Collins, who received his bachelor's degree in communication in 2008 before completing law school at The University of Texas at Austin.

Collins previously worked for two other senators as an analyst and communications director. He credited his UTEP experience with helping him secure his first job in the legislature right out of college.

"During my course of study I not only developed strong professional writing skills, but also learned important problem-solving skills," Collins said. "I learned how to ask difficult questions, research and analyze different sources of information, and develop a nuanced point of view on disparate subjects. These are the bedrock skills of a policy analyst."

Ana Gonzalez, who received her bachelor's in political science in 2010 and is now district director for Rep. Joe Moody (District 78), credited her success to UTEP's quality education provided to a diverse student population.



“We have a binational location that helps us experience multicultural issues in the U.S.-Mexico border region, unique qualities that UTEP graduates have.”

Ana Gonzalez, district director for Rep. Joe Moody (District 78)

“We have a binational location that helps us experience multicultural issues in the U.S.-Mexico border region, unique qualities that UTEP graduates have,” Gonzalez said.

Rounding out the strong group was Summer Luciano, who received her bachelor’s degree in English in 2005, and served as a legal intern with the office of Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer (District 116).

UTEP alumni also served outside the offices of elected officials. Jennifer Fidler, a 2011 bachelor’s in criminal justice graduate, worked as a document processing technician with the Texas Legislative Council. Caroline Stone, who graduated in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in communication, was a bill analyst.

For UTEP students seeking to follow this path, Blanco advised, “Get involved, either by volunteering or participating in an internship. I started off interning in a legislative office after joining the military and using my GI Bill to attend UTEP. That experience allowed me to see all the work that goes into working the legislature first through casework and talking to constituents.”

Many of the alumni stressed the importance of having an open mind. Marquez recalled expressing her interest in health care on her first day in the office, but was assigned to work on bills in oil, gas and elections, which ended up becoming her biggest accomplishments.

When thinking back on what helped to prepare him most for his role in the state capitol, Collins said, “I most value the work and internship opportunities my professors encouraged me to apply for.” He said his prelaw studies at UTEP helped him get accepted to law school and secured him internships with a legal nonprofit, with a federal judge and with the Texas Senate. His Senate experience turned into a full-time job.

“Taken together, these experiences helped me appreciate my home state like never before, and instilled in me a profound feeling of connection and responsibility to Texas and El Paso,” Collins said.

Blanco added, “I am grateful for the opportunities provided to me that came from earning a high-quality education at home. UTEP taught me that is important to give back to the community that I grew up in.”

1. Senior staff from Rep. Joe Moody’s office outside the Capitol include from left to right: Chief of Staff and General Counsel Ellic Sahualla, State Rep. Joe Moody, Legislative Director Jen Shugert, and District Director and UTEP alumna Ana Gonzalez. Photo by Adrienne Riley Photography.
2. Daniel Collins, left, with Sen. José Rodriguez.
3. Gabriella Marquez, Sen. Gregory Luna Legislative Fellow, serves with the office of Sen. Carlos Uresti (District 19). Photo courtesy of Gabriella Marquez.
4. Joshua Baca, left, poses with Lt. Governor Dan Patrick. Photo courtesy of Joshua Baca.
5. Texas State Rep. César Blanco. Photo courtesy of César Blanco.
6. Sito Negron, right, with Sen. José Rodriguez. Photo courtesy of Sito Negron.



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# A Lasting Legacy:

## Research Center Continues to Thrive After 20-Plus Years

By Nadia M. Whitehead • Photos by Laura Trejo

**S**oheil Nazarian, Ph.D., had big dreams when he started a transportation-focused center at The University of Texas at El Paso.

“We were to start off small and very concentrated,” said Nazarian, reflecting back on 1993, the year that he and Miguel Picornell, Ph.D., founded UTEP’s Center for Transportation Infrastructure Systems (CTIS). “But the goal was to slowly build ourselves up by expanding our scope and strengthening our research. At the same time, we wanted to remain dedicated to our students.”

Twenty-two years later, it’s safe to say the dream has blossomed.

CTIS consistently brings in \$2 million of research funding a year for projects related to pavements, railroad tracks, tunnels, bridges and highway safety. A playful advertisement mimicking Uncle Sam’s famous poster “I want you for the U.S. Army” calls UTEP undergraduates to action, encouraging them to get involved with this research. That

approachable demeanor has made CTIS a hit with young engineers; the center supports and trains as many as 50 students at a time to assist with its hefty stack of research projects.

CTIS laboratories are equipped with modern soil, pavement and geotechnical testing equipment for conducting advanced dynamic and static laboratory tests.

“I always tell people that we have the best facilities between College Station and Phoenix,” Nazarian said.

In 2014, the center received its biggest national recognition yet – it was chosen by the U.S. government as the only research center in the country to be a member of both a national and regional university transportation center. The designation means CTIS is capable of tackling research related to national and regional transportation infrastructure.

“This is one of the longest-standing centers at UTEP that demonstrates a consistent level of success year after year,” said Cesar Carrasco, Ph.D., chair of the Department of

Civil Engineering. “A lot of times, centers pop up and then disappear, but this one has been sustained for more than 20 years.”

CTIS’ success can be attributed to a number of things – good leadership, innovative faculty – but its influential research and the impact it has on budding engineers may be key.

### Research that Counts

Its national and international reputation and CTIS’ faculty experience in transportation, specifically in the area of pavements and nondestructive testing, is a major reason why the center has maintained its long standing.

In his early career, Nazarian and his partners at UTEP developed the Portable Seismic Pavement Analyzer (PSPA), a hand-held device used to obtain the properties of concrete and asphalt pavements in a matter of seconds. The PSPA technology received a Top 10 Research Innovation award from the Texas Department of Transportation and its patent is owned by UTEP.

Nazarian’s research efforts have supported six full-time research engineers and produced more than 80 graduates to date.

One of his recent projects involved evaluating new roadway technology for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

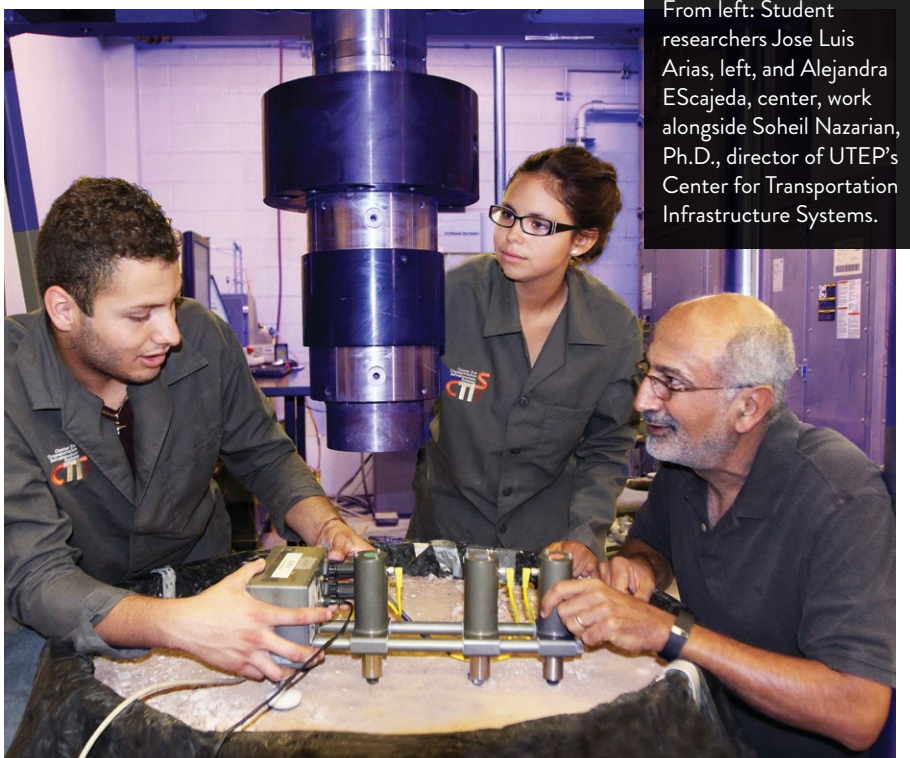
Highway pavement evaluations are normally conducted at night so traffic won’t be stalled. Bright orange cones pop up after sunset to protect engineers as they evaluate the health of some of the country’s busiest roadways.

Nazarian’s team looked at equipment that could be used without impeding traffic.

“Along with other partners, we spent time evaluating a special vehicle with lasers that analyzes the road’s health as it drives,” Nazarian said. “The U.S. government is interested in this technology, but they wanted someone to evaluate its effectiveness first.”

By driving at the same speed as traffic, the vehicle doesn’t hinder traffic flow and keeps workers safe. But best of all, it works. The study found the vehicle was quite effective at highway speeds.

CTIS submitted their findings and recommendations to the FHWA. The decision of the technology’s uptake now rests in FHWA’s hands.



From left: Student researchers Jose Luis Arias, left, and Alejandra EScajeda, center, work alongside Soheil Nazarian, Ph.D., director of UTEP’s Center for Transportation Infrastructure Systems.





Other UTEP faculty who significantly contribute to transportation-related research are Vivek Tandon, Ph.D., associate professor of civil engineering; Reza Ashtiani, Ph.D., assistant professor of civil engineering; and Ruey "Kelvin" Cheu, Ph.D., associate professor of civil engineering.

Carlos Chang, Ph.D., associate professor of civil engineering, also burrowed into his fair share of CTIS research over the years. He currently studies the consequences of delaying highway maintenance, including its impact on users and the physical condition of highway assets.

Budget constraints often delay road maintenance and lead to transportation infrastructure deterioration. Chang likens this to preventive medicine gone awry.

"If someone wants to be in good condition when they're 80 years old, they don't start taking care of themselves when they are in their 70s; by then, it's too late."

Chang's study will quantify the impacts of neglecting infrastructure, like weakening bridges and increased vehicle emissions, to help highway agencies make better decisions. Transportation agencies could improve their road regulations based on CTIS' findings.

### Student Success

Undergraduates involved in this research come out ahead when they graduate. UTEP engineering alumni Monica Jurado and Brett Haggerty can attest to that.

"CTIS opened several doors for me," said Jurado, who holds a B.S. and M.S. in civil engineering from UTEP. "Books don't teach you everything, so what I learned in the classroom, I got to carry out and perform in the lab."

That hands-on experience impressed



employers after she graduated. Jurado is now a pavement and materials engineer working for the FHWA. She oversees the state of Colorado's highway division.

Haggerty, who now is San Antonio's district materials and pavement engineer, oversees a staff of 17.

"Now that I'm a supervisor making hiring decisions, I see how competitive it is out there," said Haggerty, who holds a B.S. in industrial engineering and M.S. in civil engineering from UTEP. "I look for people with more than a degree, but practical experience. CTIS gives students that opportunity."

Both Jurado and Haggerty worked within CTIS as student researchers, but they did more than assist with studies. They took field trips to the Texas Department of Transportation, networked during FHWA conferences and visited potential employers like Jobe and Cemex.

Faculty like Nazarian and Imad Abdallah, Ph.D., associate director of CTIS, continue to provide mentorship to the two alumni who say

CTIS consistently brings in \$2 million of research funding a year and is able to support and train as many as 50 students at a time. Together, students and faculty conduct research related to pavements, railroad tracks, tunnels, bridges and highway safety.

the professors are some of the smartest people they have ever met.

After graduating, Jurado and Haggerty didn't just disappear and move on with their lives, even though they live across the country. They frequently come back to visit campus and share big life events like wedding dates and new little family members.

"I really do owe a lot to the center," Jurado said. "There's a real sense of camaraderie in CTIS, so much so that I still have a good relationship with everyone there; you can't find that just anywhere." 📍

# COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO





# Researchers Dig for Information About Border Tunnels

By Laura L. Acosta

In the early morning of June 25, 2010, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents discovered an underground smuggling tunnel connecting a drainage ditch in Juárez, Mexico, to a storm drain in El Paso, Texas. The crude 2-by-2-foot tunnel, which stretched 130 feet underneath the concrete-lined section of the Río Grande, is the only documented cross-border tunnel found in El Paso.

Yet, tales of tunnel smuggling in the region date back to the early 1900s when Mexican revolutionary Francisco “Pancho” Villa was rumored to have used passageways hidden beneath the streets of El Paso to travel to and from the United States undetected.

“If you look at how close Sunset Heights in El Paso is to the border of Mexico, it wouldn’t be too far to assume that it could have happened,” said Emilio Morales, a graduate from The University of Texas at El Paso, referring to a geocoded map that pinpointed a suspected tunnel in Pancho Villa’s former home in the historic Sunset Heights neighborhood near UTEP.

In 2014, Morales, then a graduate student in the University’s Intelligence and National Security Studies program, collaborated with researchers in UTEP’s National Center for Border Security and Immigration (NCBSI) to create a comprehensive geospatial database of interconnecting tunnels in the El Paso region.

Under the direction of principal investigator Kyle Susa, Ph.D., a former UTEP faculty member, and Víctor M. Manjarrez Jr., associate director of NCBSI, Morales applied his investigative training to identify subterranean tunnels along a 60-mile stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border from Santa Teresa, New Mexico, west of El Paso, to Fort Hancock, Texas, east of El Paso.

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), a division of the Department of Homeland Security’s U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), commissioned the study to aid in their efforts to investigate and apprehend individuals who use cross-border tunnels for illegal smuggling.

Since 2001, more than 100 tunnels have been uncovered along the U.S.-Mexico border, mostly in Arizona and California. From sophisticated structures equipped with lighting and rail systems to storm and drainage ditches, these underground passageways have increasingly been used to smuggle illegal narcotics, money, weapons and people into the U.S.





This type of clandestine criminal activity prompted the Department of Homeland Security to deem illicit cross-border tunnels located in the Southwest of the U.S. a significant and growing threat to border security.

"ICE was interested in the subterranean features under El Paso," said Manjarrez, a former U.S. Border Patrol sector chief. "There are several entities in the El Paso region that have this information, but no one had ever collected it all until now. We met with everyone from the El Paso County Water Improvement District to conspiracy theorists. Now we know what's going on below us. And the beauty is that ICE can share this information with other law enforcement entities."

For their investigation, UTEP researchers focused on three forms of subterranean tunnels: underground infrastructure, including storm drains and water lines; man-made tunnels created by the criminal element; and mine shafts and caves.

Researchers scoured open-source material on the Internet for any mention of suspected tunnels and gathered pre-existing map and database information of tunnels from agencies including El Paso Water Utilities, the Texas Department of Transportation, the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) and the El Paso Fire Department.

Based on the information they collected, researchers developed a database of addresses and coordinates of subterranean tunnels that included drop inlets, conduits, channels, pump stations, manholes, dams, IBWC gates, culverts and water lines that were 18 inches in diameter or wider.

Using global positioning system software, ICE plotted the latitude and longitude of these tunnels to see their location on geographical software, such as Google Earth.



Photo by J. R. Hernandez

Victor M. Manjarrez Jr., associate director of NCBSI, and UTEP graduate Emilio Morales, created a comprehensive geospatial database of subterranean tunnels in the El Paso region. The database will be used to aid ICE's efforts to investigate and apprehend individuals who use cross-border tunnels for illegal smuggling.

"When this project was completed, we briefed it to a joint group of Department of Homeland Security and federal law enforcement stakeholders and then turned the GIS database over to them," explained Michael Smith, Ph.D., NCBSI director. "They now have, for the first time, a comprehensive, geocoded map of tunnels and underground features that could possibly be exploited by smugglers or other criminal organizations."

Morales spent hours at the UTEP and El Paso public libraries analyzing maps of the region. He read books on Pancho Villa and newspaper articles about underground passages dating back 100 years.

"We brought all these different sources together to make a broad picture of tunnels in El Paso," said Morales, who earned his master's degree in May 2015. "The whole idea behind this was to help ICE get a better understanding of the environment of where they're operating."

Morales also investigated rumors of suspected tunnels, which led to his discovery of a network of interconnected subbasements

in a cluster of buildings in downtown El Paso designed by renowned architect Henry Trost. These basements were believed to have served as opium dens in El Paso's long-forgotten Chinatown, which was located in a section bordered by Mills, Stanton, El Paso and Fourth streets in the heart of Downtown.

In addition to Pancho Villa's former home on Prospect Street, several homes located in the Sunset Heights neighborhood also housed underground basements. The most popular is an apartment building called the Turtle House, which features chambers and hallways that were used to smuggle Chinese immigrants into the U.S. from Mexico in the late 19th century.

For Morales, the project was an excellent opportunity to apply the different analytical techniques and methodologies that he learned at UTEP, while obtaining real-world experience as an analyst.

"I think of intelligence (analysts) as the Sherlock Holmes of the government," Morales said. "They have to think outside the box to find solutions to unique problems. That's essentially what I did." 📧

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# Grants **Roundup**

Between April 2015 and June 2015, The University of Texas at El Paso received research grants to study a range of topics. The following is a sampling of grant research started during that three-month period.



## Science

**Ricardo A. Bernal**, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry, received a grant from the National Institutes of Health National Institute of General Medical Sciences to identify and characterize structural changes that result from point mutations (a single nucleotide base change in DNA or RNA) that lead to hereditary spastic paraplegia and Mit-CHAP-60 disease, which are two neurodegenerative disorders.

In order to seek out, nurture and train honors students in the biomedical disciplines of biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics, **Keith H. Pannell**, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, received a grant from the NIH Institute of General Medical Sciences. The funds will help support the students' research activities in the laboratories of The University of Texas at El Paso's finest research faculty for a period of up to 24 months via stipends, research supplies and attendance at scientific meetings. The ultimate goal of the program is to have the participating students enter and graduate from the finest research institutes in the U.S. with a doctorate in their chosen field.

The National Science Foundation approved a grant for **Elizabeth J. Walsh**, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences, to support one student doing research on the evolutionary relationships among rotifer families. Rotifers are minute multicellular aquatic animals that are important because of their roles in the microbial and classical food webs.

## Education

**Sarah Peterson**, Ph.D., associate professor of educational psychology and special services, received funding from the American Educational Research Association to collect data related to the national "Do the Write Thing" program that uses essays to empower middle school students who witnessed or experienced violence. The work will begin in January 2016.

## Engineering

The National Science Foundation awarded **Fraser Cameron**, Ph.D., research assistant professor of mechanical engineering, a three-year grant to research "CPS: Synergy: Collaborative Research: In-Silico Funcional

Verification of Artificial Pancreas Control Algorithms." He will study computer-based methods to test the safety of artificial pancreas prototypes that deliver insulin to diabetic patients to minimize the need for costly clinical trials.

The U.S. Missile Defense Agency presented **Norman Love**, Ph.D., assistant professor of mechanical engineering, with a three-year grant to study HAN-based advanced hybrid rocket motor technologies. HAN is short for Hydroxylammonium Nitrate, part of a propellant combination. Hybrid rocket motors may enhance propulsion for ballistic missile defense applications. Among the other possible benefits are lower development and production costs. Co-principal investigators are **Ahsan Choudhuri**, Ph.D., department chair and professor of mechanical engineering, and **Evgeny Shafirovich**, Ph.D., associate professor of mechanical engineering.

## Health Sciences

**Delfina C. Domínguez**, Ph.D., professor of clinical laboratory sciences, and co-principal investigator **XiuJun "James" Li**, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry, received a grant from the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science to develop a multiplex microfluidic platform - a device that will integrate multiple DNA sequences onto a tiny microchip - to identify multidrug-resistant organisms.

## Environment

A multidisciplinary team at UTEP has received a grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to study climate change scenarios and their impacts on the Las Cruces, El Paso and Juárez regions that surround the Rio Grande basin. **William Hargrove**, Ph.D., director of UTEP's Center for Environmental Research Management (CERM), is the project's principle investigator. **Josiah Heyman**, Ph.D., director of UTEP's Center for Inter-American and Border Studies (CIBS), serves as the project's co-principal investigator. UTEP will distribute the grant funds among the participating institutions, which include New Mexico State University, Texas A&M University - El Paso, the University of New Mexico, Michigan Tech and the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez. 📍

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# COSMAS BOIT

*Class: Junior*  
*Sport: Cross Country*  
*Hometown: Eldoret, Kenya*  
*Major: Criminal Justice*

Cosmas Boit is key to the cross country and track and field teams' success. The junior has been named to the Conference USA Cross Country First Team during each of his first two years on campus. The Kenyan native will be on a veteran team this fall that is a favorite to win the C-USA Cross Country Championships. In spring 2015, he won his first outdoor conference title in the 800-meter run at the 2015 C-USA Championships with a time of 1 minute 50.57 seconds; he also registered a fourth-place finish in the 1,500-meter and a sixth-place showing in the 5,000-meter run.



# COLINE COESSENS

*Class: Sophomore*  
*Sport: Volleyball*  
*Hometown: Brussels, Belgium*  
*Major: Business*

Coline Coessens was a major contributor on the court last season for the Miners, earning Conference USA All-Freshman honors. The outside hitter started in 26 matches and played all six rotations for UTEP. The Belgium native led UTEP in kills (279), service aces (19) and points (325). As a freshman she tallied a team-high 10 double-double performances and chipped in 224 digs, 43 total blocks and 16 assists. She registered two matches with 20 or more kills and in 13 matches led UTEP in kills. Coessens recorded a career-high 25 kills against UAB and secured a career-best 18 digs versus Florida International University.





Photo by J.R. Hernandez

# BRI BARREIRO

*Class: Junior  
Sport: Soccer  
Hometown: El Paso  
Major: Pre-business*

One of the most skilled players on the roster, El Paso native Bri Barreiro plays a key role for The University of Texas at El Paso soccer team. She has played in 34 career matches, including 28 starts. Last year she battled through injuries to tie for second on the squad in assists (four) while placing third in both goals (three) and points. As a freshman, she pitched in a goal and assist while starting 12 of 15 tilts. Barreiro has been an example in the classroom as well. She is a two-time recipient of the Conference USA Commissioner's Academic Medal (2014 and 2015) while landing on the C-USA Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll both years as well.



# AARON JONES

*Class: Senior  
Sport: Football  
Hometown: El Paso  
Major: Kinesiology*

In 2014, Aaron Jones became the first underclassman to lead the team in rushing in back-to-back seasons since John Harvey (1985-86). The El Paso native was named 2014 Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award semifinalist, All-C-USA second team, Texas Football Running Back of the Year and Texas Football Player of the Year honorable mention. He started in 12 games, helping the team to its first bowl appearance since 2010. The running back led the team in rushing yards (1,321), rushing scores (11), points (84), yards per game (110.1), attempts (242), total touchdowns (14), all-purpose yards per game (134.5) and receiving touchdowns (three). Jones ranked 24th among all Football Bowl Subdivision players in yards per game and 26th in rushing yards. He became the first sophomore in UTEP history to rush for 200-plus yards in a single game. 🏈



**UTEPALUMNI**  
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*Dear Alumni Family:*

As many of you know, the UTEP Campus Transformation is now complete and what better time to return to campus than to celebrate Homecoming. The campus is buzzing with excitement and your presence will only add to the festive environment. I invite you to join me and the rest of the alumni board of directors for Homecoming 2015 for what will be an enjoyable and memorable week.

I am honored to serve as president of the Alumni Association as we begin our second century and look forward to meeting you.

Picks up ... **GO MINERS!**

**John Aranda, '97**  
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**Dear Alumni,**

The Alumni Association is proud to announce the successful launch of new alumni networks across the country, which has enabled the Association to develop more opportunities to engage alumni.

I would like to thank Dr. Willarda Edwards for her leadership and commitment to the Alumni Association as president this past year. Dr. Edwards is the first Alumni Association president to serve from outside of El Paso. Despite residing in Baltimore, Maryland, she logged many miles traveling back to El Paso monthly to attend various alumni and University events. We are so fortunate to have committed volunteers like her as well as our board members, chapter/network officers, committee chairs and committee members who are so gracious in giving of their time, talent and financial resources to serve this great University. We would not be able to successfully advance UTEP without the support of our dedicated and committed volunteers.



Alumni engagement is critical to the University, especially when it comes to keeping us informed about your professional success. It is important for us to know what our alumni are doing and how they are contributing to the nation. Therefore, I am calling on all alumni to update their current information and provide a quick summary of how UTEP has shaped their lives.

Each of you has played an important role in the life of this University and we want to stay connected with you. Please take a moment to share with us information about your career and let us know if you would be willing to serve as a mentor to our current students. You can do this by completing a brief online form at [alumni.utep.edu/mentor-program](http://alumni.utep.edu/mentor-program). I look forward to hearing your stories.

**Go Miners!**

Richard J. Daniel, Ph.D.  
Associate Vice President for University Advancement and Special Projects  
Executive Director for Alumni Relations







A 2011 alumna, Priscilla Trujillo now works at Delphi's Michigan headquarters. Photo courtesy of Priscilla Trujillo.

# Engineering Grad Driving Ahead in Auto Industry

By David Chavez

Since elementary school, Priscilla Trujillo has loved math and science. Although the subjects were difficult for her at times, she enjoyed finding solutions to problems. Once she enrolled in classes in mechanical engineering design and architecture at Franklin High School, Trujillo's love for math transformed into a love for architecture and engineering.

After graduating high school, Trujillo was torn between the two fields. Her decision about a college major was difficult until she spent a summer in Michigan with her uncle, who worked as a mechanical engineer for Delphi, a leading global supplier of technologies for the automotive and commercial vehicle markets.

"He showed me some of his work, job locations and what it's like to work as an engineer," Trujillo said. "That helped me make my decision as I came back to register at the University (of Texas at El Paso)."

When Trujillo graduated with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from UTEP in 2011, she started working at the Delphi facility in Mexico before transferring to Delphi's Michigan headquarters.

Trujillo's passion for engineering has not diminished. The 28-year-old is currently Delphi's data connectivity product engineering manager. She develops and implements electronic-device cables for a variety of uses in automobiles, including

coaxial, USB, low-voltage differential signaling (LVDS) and safety restraint systems.

Trujillo's work has been significant in the underhood electrical centers and prefuse assemblies in General Motors' midsize cars. She received the Detroit Free Press newspaper's Automotive Leadership Award in the Up-and-Comer category in 2015.

Trujillo credits much of her success to her studies at UTEP.

"UTEP provided not just the technical and educational foundation, but also a strong work ethic, which provided me with the foundation to come into the real-world workforce and excel," Trujillo said.

While flourishing as a top engineer at Delphi, Trujillo takes the time to encourage women and Latinos to consider engineering as a career option. She helped develop the Delphi Latino Team in Action, which provides resources for personal and professional growth for Latino employees. She also is an active member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and a contributor to Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) International.

"Being bilingual and able to understand different cultures makes a huge difference," Trujillo said. "What we are able to accomplish helps future generations understand that any human being is capable of making a difference in this world." ▢



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# UTEP Nurses in the Business of Caring

By Laura L. Acosta



Joe Garcia, DNP, left, and Pamela Gearn, UMC assistant nurse manager. Photo by Laura Trejo

**F**or more than 40 years, the graduate nursing program at The University of Texas at El Paso has prepared highly successful health care executives whose knowledge and confidence is transforming the business of health care in the Paso del Norte region.

As the role of nursing expands to meet the delivery of health care services to diverse populations, graduates from the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program at UTEP are shifting their focus from direct patient care to leadership positions in health systems across the United States. Since 2005, 465 professional nurses have prepared for postgraduate roles in advanced practice and specialty areas through UTEP's three MSN majors: nursing education, nurse practitioner and nursing systems management.

In El Paso, MSN graduates serve as nursing executives and hospital administrators of six of the city's acute care hospitals.

"The UTEP School of Nursing has a major role in impacting the health and wellness of our community," said SON Dean Elias Provencio-Vasquez, Ph.D. "Our talented faculty are preparing the next generation of health care providers and nursing leaders who will shape the future of health care in the Paso de Norte region and beyond. We are very proud of our alumni whose success is a validation of the SON's efforts to educate the best and the brightest nurses."

These are a few examples of the many outstanding UTEP nurses who are driving hospital care in our community.

## The Sky's the Limit

Elias Armendariz worked his way from being a bedside nurse to becoming the chief operating officer and chief nursing officer of the El Paso Children's Hospital.



Elias Armendariz, left, and Josue Menchaca, UTEP student assistant. Photo by Laura Trejo.

"The nursing profession has so many opportunities," Armendariz said. "(Nursing) has created so many avenues to expand your roles and responsibilities, to expand your knowledge base, and to expand your experiences. The sky's the limit when you become a nurse."

Earning a Master of Science in Nursing Administration (now nursing systems management) from UTEP in 2006 prepared Armendariz to take his career to the next level.

After serving in various management positions at University Medical Center for 10 years, Armendariz joined the leadership team of the Children's Hospital 10 months before the hospital opened in 2012. In addition to his role as chief nursing officer, Armendariz assumed the responsibilities of the hospital's chief operating officer in 2014, which included managing the day-to-day operations of the 122-bed pediatric hospital.

"I take my role very seriously and I'm certainly honored and humbled to be able to be representing not only the Children's Hospital but also representing the care that we provide the children of this community," Armendariz said.

## The Face of Success

On a wall in Sally Hurt-Deitch's office hangs a picture of a UTEP billboard featuring Hurt-Deitch 15 years ago. At the time Hurt-Deitch was a rising star in the nursing field. The billboard was part of a campaign that featured successful UTEP graduates from all disciplines. For Hurt-Deitch, the billboard was also a sign of great things to come.

Today, Hurt-Deitch has become the top executive at Sierra Providence Health Network. As the network's market chief executive officer, Hurt-Deitch oversees Providence Memorial Hospital, Providence Children's Hospital, Sierra Providence East Medical Center, and the construction of a new hospital in Northwest El Paso.

For Hurt-Deitch, becoming a nurse was more than a job; it was a calling. When Hurt-Deitch was in the fifth grade, her mother was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease which sparked Hurt-Deitch's desire to make a difference in health care.

"When you're called to be a nurse, you're called to step in and hold a hand; (offer) comfort or encouragement at some of the most vulnerable times in people's lives," said Hurt-Deitch, who was awarded UTEP's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2013. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in nursing administration from UTEP and a master's degree in health care administration from Trinity University. "That was what UTEP gave to me, was that purpose behind the degree," she said.

## First Step to Success

Joe Garcia, DNP, began his nursing career more than 20 years ago as a nursing assistant in the emergency room at RE Thomason General Hospital. Since then, the public hospital has changed its name to





Cindy Stout, DNP, left, and Del Sol Scholars from UTEP. Photo by Laura Trejo.

## Preparing Strong Leaders

As the chief nursing officer at Del Sol Medical Center for eight years, Cindy Stout, DNP, directs all clinical areas to ensure the safety and quality of patient care.

"UTEP is the organization that gave me the skills necessary to be a strong leader; to think broadly in terms of project analysis and implementation," said Stout, who graduated from UTEP with a master's in nursing administration in 1994. "I had some great faculty instructors ... they provided a great foundation and gave me the foresight to think more critically in a leadership role."

During her 18 years at Del Sol, Stout has spearheaded collaborations between UTEP and the hospital that have enhanced educational and employment opportunities for new and future nurses.

Most notably is the Del Sol/UTEP internship program, which provides hands-on clinical experiences for nursing students in their final semester of the undergraduate nursing program. To date, more than 100 interns who have gone through the program have been employed by the hospital.

"We want to make sure that our staff understands that we have created an atmosphere that's really family focused and that they feel it's not just a place for them to work, but it's a place for them to come as part of our Del Sol family to take care of our patients," Stout said. 🏠

**Watch these nursing leaders share their stories on the UTEP School of Nursing's YouTube channel at [YouTube.com/UTEPSimLab](https://www.youtube.com/UTEPSimLab)**

University Medical Center (UMC) and Garcia has moved up the proverbial career ladder to become UMC's chief nursing officer, one of the hospital's highest nursing management positions.

The El Paso native credits his education as the stepping stone to a rewarding career.

"The impact that UTEP has had on my life is that it gave me the education and the tools that I needed to succeed in the field of nursing," said Garcia, who has led the daily operations of UMC's nursing department since 2014.

After earning an associates degree in nursing from El Paso Community College, Garcia was promoted to clinical coordinator of UMC's radiology department in 2004, on the condition that he continue his nursing education.

Garcia earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from UTEP and a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Texas Tech University School of Nursing in Lubbock.

At UMC, Garcia oversees 25 departments and more than 1,000 employees. He estimates that 90 percent of the hospital's nursing staff graduated from UTEP.

"At University Medical Center, (nursing students) will see things that they may not see at other hospitals," Garcia said. "When you combine the education that is obtained at UTEP with real life experiences, then you get a true learning experience."



Sally Hurt-Deitch. Photo by J.R. Hernandez

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Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

# ALUMNI PICK-NIC

## Miner Nation Celebrates Fourth Alumni PICK-NIC

By Esmeralda Treviño

Thousands of alumni and friends of The University of Texas at El Paso celebrated Miner pride across the country and around the world at the fourth annual Alumni PICK-NIC. More than 25 PICK-NICs took place internationally from New York to the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Hosted by UTEP's Office of Alumni

Relations, the PICK-NICs took place on Saturday, July 11, 2015. The Miner Nation also celebrated in Alabama, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Mexico and Pennsylvania. The Alumni PICK-NIC is an event where people can come together to celebrate UTEP as well as to connect with fellow Miners.

In El Paso, UTEP alumni and friends gathered at Memorial Park to reminisce about their time at UTEP and create new memories. They had plenty of fun and games with face painting, karaoke, a watermelon-eating contest and water games. There also was a magic show, a balloon artist, and a visit from Paydirt

Continued on p. 62



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Pete and the UTEP Cheerleaders. Everyone enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs while spending time with their Miner family.

In Austin, the PICK-NIC helped reunite a group of alumni who had not seen each other in 46 years.

“People are becoming more aware of the PICK-NICs and are looking forward to engaging with alumni,” said Richard Daniel, Ph.D., associate vice president for University Advancement and Special Projects. “The PICK-NICs create a warm sense of family and left first-time attendees feeling excited to attend this annual tradition each year.”

Alumni in Chicago held their PICK-NIC at the Kane County Cougars Ballpark. Guests enjoyed refreshments as they reminisced on their days at the University. The Kane County Cougars’ mascot joined in on the fun and sang the UTEP fight song with PICK-NIC attendees.

“This event has grown to be a signature outreach event that engages thousands of alumni on the second Saturday of July and we hope it will continue to cultivate friendships and build camaraderie among UTEP Miners everywhere,” said Margie Brickey, coordinator for chapter development at UTEP’s Office of Alumni Relations.

Please continue to follow the Alumni Association at [www.alumni.utep.edu](http://www.alumni.utep.edu) to attend tailgates, viewing parties and receptions in your area. 📍

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# PARTICIPATING CITIES

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## TUCSON



## SEATTLE



## SAN FRANCISCO





## 1950s

**Maureen Lofberg** (B.S. '58; B.S. '63) was inducted into the El Paso Commission for Women's Hall of Fame in the science and health care category. The purpose of the El Paso Commission for Women is to pursue a positive course of action for achieving equal rights and responsibilities for women.

## 1960s

**Harry Flournoy** (B.A. '69), senior captain of the 1966 NCAA championship basketball team, was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. He led the team in rebounding his junior and senior seasons and remains one of the team's leading all-time rebounders.

**Mario T. Garcia** (B.A. '66; M.A. '68), a professor of history and Chicana/o Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, created a collection of oral histories from 13 successful, young, Latino, first-generation college students titled "The Latino Generation: Voices of the New America," published by The University of North Carolina Press.

**Pat Mora** (B.A. '63; M.A. '67), an El Paso native, won the Best Children's Picture Book award from the Texas Institute of Letters for her book "I Pledge Allegiance," which she co-wrote with her daughter.

## 1970s

**Ruben Dominguez Jr.** (BSEE '79), former UTEP track star, was inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame in the Living Athlete category.

**Rich Downs** (B.S.'75, M.Ed.'79) retired from the Hillsborough County Public Schools, Tampa, Florida, in May 2015. Rich was a public educator working at the school, district and state levels. During his 40-year career, he worked with pre-K through graduate school students. Downs began his career with the El Paso Independent School District and was a school counselor for 33 years.

**Bob Geske** (B.S.Ed. '71; M.Ed. '77) was inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Brian Kanof** (B.A. '71) was inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame in the Media Category. He has been a career photojournalist and commercial photographer for nearly 50 years and was the official photographer for the UTEP Athletic Department for more than 30 years.

**Ted Marquez** (BSEE. '79), director of the El Paso Department of Transportation, was named Transportation Manager of the Year by the American Public Works Association. He has 35

years of experience in government, transportation and engineering.

**Manny Ontiveros** (B.A. '71; MPA '85) became the president of the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. In 1997, he joined the hall, whose mission is to honor all athletes who have brought great credit upon themselves and El Paso County through their athletic fields of endeavor.

**Paul Pearson** (B.S.Ed. '75; M.Ed. '78), All-American track athlete and long-time educator, was inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame in the Living Athlete category.

**William G. Putnicki** (B.A. '70) recently retired after 21 years as District Clerk in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas and 36 years of combined federal service. He is now engaged in the exclusive practice of immigration and nationality law with his wife, San Juana, in San Antonio, Texas.

## 1980s

**Rey Chavez** (B.A. '87) was named new director at KTSM Channel 9. Over his 30-year career, he has worked at Telemundo, Univision and other new channels around the country.

**Roger Gonzalez** (BSME '86; M.S. '90; Ph.D. '94), professor and chair of engineering education and leadership at UTEP, was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering. He was selected for his innovation in engineering education and the development of low-cost prosthetics for the developing world.

**Wallace Hardgrove** (BBA '88) was promoted to the budget executive director for El Paso County. He has more than 25 years of experience in finance and as budget manager in the Auditor's Office.

**Sheryl Maxsom** (B.S.Ed. '89; Ph.D. '14) received the Hispanic Research Issues SIG Outstanding Dissertation Award from the American Educational Research Association. Maxsom retired as the principal at Gonzalo and Sofia Garcia Elementary last year.

**Marcela Navarrete** (BBA '89), the vice president of strategic, financial and management at El Paso Water Utilities, was appointed to the board of directors for The Borderplex Alliance, a nonprofit group that promotes economic development in the region.

**María Almeida Natividad** (B.A. '82; M.A. '95) was inducted into the El Paso Women's Hall of Fame

in the art category. As an artist and educator, her career has focused on celebrating Chicano culture by representing the common bonds of cultural practices, heritage, family values and religion.

**Irene D. Ramirez** (BSCE '82) was appointed as the city engineer of El Paso, becoming the first woman to hold this position. She has more than 30 years of experience with the city and has served as interim city engineer since 2013.

**Alma Trejo** (B.S. '87) was elected as the administrative judge for the Council of Judges, composed of the county and district judges. During her two-year term, she will conduct the council's meetings, establish committees and serve as the spokesperson for the judges.

## 1990s

**David Almonte** (BBA '91; MBA '04) retired from the El Paso City Manager's office after a 20-year career working for the city in budget and finance positions, most recently as the deputy city manager.

**Bob Bassuk** (BSN '91) joined Sierra Providence Health Network as the market director of occupational health. He has 10 years of experience and previously served as nursing supervisor of occupational health for William Beaumont Army Medical Center.

**Ismael de Anda III** (UTEP, BFA '96; California Institute of the Arts, MFA '00), visual artist and educator at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Museum of Latin America, has been selected to exhibit his work at Sala Subterráneo in Chihuahua for the 2015 Pasaje Victoria Contemporary Art Festival as well as the 2015 SUR: Biennial at the Torrance Art Museum in California. De Anda exhibits internationally and is included in the collections of the El Paso Museum of Art and the Museo de Arte Sonora MUSAS. He is represented by La Estación Arte Contemporáneo, Chihuahua, Mexico.

**Miguel Fernandez Jr.** (BBA '98), president and CEO of Transtelco Inc., was nominated to join the University Medical Center of El Paso Board of Directors.

**Mirna Garcia** (BSN '99) was named unit director of labor and delivery at Sierra Providence. She has been with the hospital since 2008 and has experience as a registered nurse and clinical coordinator.

**Angela Henderson** (M.Ed. '91) was appointed to serve as the principal of Coronado High School in El Paso. Her previous role with El Paso Independent School District was as principal of Hornedo Middle School.





**Tasha Hopper** (BSN '98; MSN '12) was promoted to the associate administrator for Sierra Providence Health Network's Transmountain Campus, where she will provide operational leadership, coordination and support of the new hospital.

**Pamela Howard** (M.Ed. '97), assistant superintendent for special education and special services for El Paso Independent School District, was appointed to the board of the Emergence Health Network, a community-based mental health and intellectual disabilities center serving the El Paso community.

**Thalia Martin** (BSN '99; MSN '02) was promoted to market director of quality and patient safety at Sierra Providence Health Network. She has been with the hospital since 2008.

**Liliana Miranda** (BBA '98) was promoted to first senior vice president and chief risk officer at WestStar Bank. She also was elected to serve as treasurer for the board of directors for Hospice of El Paso.

**Robert Moore** (B.A. '98), the editor of the El Paso Times, won first place in the editorial writing awards from the Texas Associate Press Managing Editors convention as well as the 2014 School Bell Award presented by the Texas State Teacher's Association.

**Nohemi Rubio** (B.A. '99; MPA '03), associate program officer at the Paso del Norte Health Foundation, was one of only 11 individuals in the county selected to the 2015 Leaders Across Borders advanced leadership program from the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission.

**Lisa Saenz** (BBA '97) was promoted to executive vice president and chief financial officer for WestStar Bank. She will direct the bank's financial goals, strategic objectives, interest rate risk, investment strategies and budget.

**Imelda Siegelson** (BSIE '99), an industrial engineer at General Motors Spring Hill, Tennessee, Manufacturing, was among 34 young Latino professionals recognized for their leadership qualities by the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility during its Young Hispanic Corporate Achievers Program in Atlanta.

**Blanca Varela** (BBA '99) was promoted to first vice president at WestStar Bank, where her responsibilities will include reviewing commercial loan underwriting, structuring, approval and assignment of credit risk grades.

**Al Velarde** (BBA '92) was elected as a trustee for the El Paso Independent School District. He is the executive director of the Child Crisis

Center of El Paso, which provides shelter for children whose families are experiencing crises, such as homelessness, stress, incarceration or hospitalization.

**Michael Warmack** (B.A. '93; MIT '02; Ed.D. '08) took over as principal of Bowie High School. Prior to this appointment, he served as principal of Lincoln Middle School.

## 2000s

**Patricia Aduato** (BBA '00) was named the public works director for El Paso County.

**Roberto Coronado** (BBA '00; M.S. '02) was named to the newly created Borderplex council of the World Affairs Councils of America, a nonpartisan, nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to educating and engaging the public on global issues.

**Yvonne Dorado** (BBA '04) was promoted to deputy controller with WestStar Bank. At WestStar Bank, she has served in various roles including, most recently, vice president.

**Orlando Hernandez** (MBA '09) was promoted to chief information officer at WestStar Bank. Hernandez started his career at WestStar Bank in 1999 as a Network Technician/Systems Analyst.

**Sonia Lopez** (BSN '01) was promoted to director of women's and children's services at Sierra Providence East. She has been with the hospital since 2008 and started as a registered nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit.

**Linda Medina-Lopez** (BIS '01), of Austin, Texas, was honored as a 2015 Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of Central Texas, celebrating women who have distinguished themselves as outstanding members of their community through individual excellence and high levels of achievement.

**Leila Melendez** (MBA '08) joined the staff of Workforce Solutions Borderplex as the finance and administrative services manager. She has worked with El Paso's Economic Development Department and as chief of staff for the former city manager.

**Andres Rodela** (BSMME '08) was awarded a Ph.D. from Rice University in Materials Science and NanoEngineering. His doctoral dissertation was titled "Evaluation of Cold Spray Processing as a Novel Approach to Fabricate Bulk Nanocrystalline Al Alloys."

**Robert Rodriguez** (B.A. '04) joined the staff of the Minnesota Vikings as the assistant defensive line coach. As a student, Rodriguez was a Miner football team linebacker. More recently, he worked

as an assistant coach at UTEP for two years before accepting his new position.

**Micaela Varela** (M.Ed. '01) was appointed as the principal of Hornedo Middle School in West El Paso. She has been with El Paso Independent School District for 17 years, previously serving as the principal of Polk Elementary.

## 2010s

**Arthur Aranda** (BSCE '14) was promoted to graduate engineer at the El Paso office of Professional Service Industries, a nationally recognized consulting engineering and testing firm.

**Mauricio Lastra** (BBA '10), an El Paso native, was promoted to account executive responsible for business sales and production with HUB International Insurance Services of El Paso.

**Julio Lopez** (B.A. '11), former UTEP football player, was hired as the new football coach at Eastwood High School.

**Luz E. Marquez** (MPA '11) joined the staff of Stanton Realty as a business development consultant. She has 13 years of experience in real estate and acquired her broker's license in 2008.

**Joy Martinez** (MBA '10), CEO of Nazareth Living Care Center, was appointed to the University Medical Center of El Paso Board of Directors.

**Wesley Miller** (BBA '14), former University of Texas at El Paso football safety, was signed by the National Football League's team the Buffalo Bills.

**Fernando Ortega** (MBA '10), senior vice president with GECU, was elected to serve as the president-elect of the board of directors for Hospice of El Paso.

**George Moreno Pineda** (B.S. '13; BSCS '13) was recognized by the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition with an Emergent Investigator award. He was among only a few awardees selected out of the 35,000 scientists and engineers in the Department of the Navy.

**Anthony Venegas** (BSN '12) was promoted to unit director of surgical at Providence Memorial Hospital. He has been with the hospital since 2006. 📍



**Mousa T. Al-Alami (BSCE '77)**  
El Paso; September 20, 2014

**Andrew S. Everest (B.A. '51)**  
Arlington, Texas; Dec. 21, 2014

**Wanda Faith "W.F." Veneberg (B.A. '66; M.A. '72)**  
Mesa, Arizona; Dec. 22, 2014

**Galen Eads Palmore (BSEE '59)**  
El Paso; Feb. 5, 2015

**Magdaleno "Leno" F. Díaz (B.A. '53)**  
Los Angeles, California; Feb. 10, 2015

**Carley Deane Shirley (BBA '79)**  
Arlington, Texas; Feb. 20, 2015

**Santiago "Jim" H. Duran (B.A. '61)**  
Roseville, California; Feb. 22, 2015

**Sallie Conn Fairall (BBA '58)**  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Feb. 25, 2015

**Charles "Charlie" Sharp (BBA '67)**  
Carlsbad, California; Feb. 27, 2015

**William "Bill" Clifford Patrick Hilbert (B.S. '62)**  
El Paso; Feb. 28, 2015

**Billy Harold Morrison (B.S. '52)**  
Montgomery, Texas; Feb. 28, 2015

**Jeffrey Kent Lucas (Ph.D. '06)**  
Lumberton, North Carolina; March 1, 2015

**Gloria Irene Loweree (B.A. '52)**  
El Paso; March 2, 2015

**Silvia Yolanda Jaramillo (BIS '94; M.Ed. '96)**  
El Paso; March 3, 2015

**Francis Marion Brooks (M.Ed. '68)**  
Tornillo, Texas; March 4, 2015

**Cynthia Means Steinbreder (B.A. '53)**  
Sonoma, California; March 4, 2015

**Ernst Edward Roberts II (M.A. '75)**  
El Paso; March 5, 2015

**Robert De La O (BBA '73)**  
El Paso; March 8, 2015

**Albert S. Adkins Jr. (BBA '48)**  
El Paso; March 10, 2015

**Denise Daye Bean (B.S. '86)**  
El Paso; March 10, 2015

**Ruben Frausto (BBA '95)**  
El Paso; March 10, 2015

**Kennedy "Ken" T. McAnally (B.S.Ed. '69)**  
Roman Forest, Texas; March 12, 2015

**Eloisa Aspeitia (B.A. '51)**  
El Paso; March 13, 2015

**Edward C. Ney (BBA '76)**  
El Paso; March 14, 2015

**Leticia E. Gomez de Hernandez (BBA '89)**  
El Paso; March 15, 2015

**Sharley Carpenter Randal (B.A. '47)**  
El Paso; March 19, 2015

**David Earl Combs (B.M. '73)**  
Amarillo, Texas; March 20, 2015

**Anthony Fred Salem (B.A. '47)**  
Garden Grove, California; March 22, 2015

**Rex Alvin Wiesenthal (B.A. '90; M.Ed. '07)**  
El Paso; March 24, 2015

**Robert Nelson Crye (B.A. '51)**  
McMinnville, Oregon; March 25, 2015

**Rollie Charles Quinn (BSEE '73)**  
El Paso; March 26, 2015

**Ina Florence Kurland (B.A. '57)**  
El Paso; March 27, 2015

**Vera Lee Medlin (B.S.Ed. '66)**  
El Paso; March 27, 2015

**Lloyd Allan Heineman (BBA '51)**  
Midland, Texas; March 31, 2015

**Sidney K. Gibson (B.M. '59; M.Ed. '68)**  
El Paso; April 1, 2015

**Armando "Muggins" Ruiz (B.S.Ed. '66; M.Ed. '69)**  
El Paso; April 2, 2015

**Xerxes German Wolff (BBA '73)**  
El Paso; April 6, 2015

**Julieta Montalvo Chacon (B.S.Ed. '69)**  
El Paso; April 7, 2015

**David Lopez (B.S.Ed. '72)**  
El Paso; April 8, 2015

**June Maria Sadowski Kruszewski (B.A. '75; M.A. '79)**  
El Paso; April 10, 2015

**Charles Woodrow "Woody" Duree (B.A. '75)**  
El Paso; April 11, 2015

**Karen Ann Propst Boozer (B.A. '66)**  
El Paso; April 12, 2015

**Walter Alvarez (BSCE '97; M.S. '00)**  
Lewisville, Texas; April 13, 2015

**Lorena Day Caviness (B.S.Ed. '70)**  
El Paso; April 14, 2015

**Arturo Blas "Bachi" Sanchez (B.S.Ed. '72; M.Ed. '77)**  
El Paso; April 15, 2015

**Martha Elva Montoya (B.A. '75)**  
El Paso; April 18, 2015

**Steven Lee Jensen (B.A. '72)**  
Fort Worth, Texas; April 19, 2015

**Mark Waltermire (B.S. '70)**  
El Paso; April 19, 2015

**Leonard Eugene Pacha (MBA '82)**  
El Paso; April 26, 2015

**Joseph Nicholas Di Benedetto (Ph.D. '08)**  
Helper, Utah; April 27, 2015

**Antonio R. Scandiffo (B.S. '88)**  
El Paso; April 28, 2015

**Frederick Ray Bunn (BBA '72)**  
El Paso; April 30, 2015

**Edward Lee Ewing Sr. (B.A. '80)**  
El Paso; May 1, 2015

**Sandra "Sandy" Jean Kelton Pitts (B.A. '55)**  
Mountain Home, Idaho; May 1, 2015

**Marla Ehrlich Summerour (B.S.Ed. '78)**  
Duluth, Georgia; May 1, 2015

**Nancy Mattinson (BBA '57)**  
Genoa, Nevada; May 3, 2015

**Christopher Flores Cochrane (B.S. '98)**  
El Paso; May 5, 2015

**Enrique Delgado (BSEE '72)**  
El Paso; May 7, 2015

**Alejandro Moreno (B.S. '76)**  
El Paso; May 7, 2015

**Marie Esquivel Hudek (B.A. '79)**  
El Paso; May 9, 2015

**Hawley M. Richeson (B.A. '51)**  
El Paso; May 10, 2015

**Griselle del Carmen Zelaya Vargas (B.A. '94)**  
Herber City, Utah; May 12, 2015

**Bernard Joseph "Joe" Ward Booth (M.A. '58)**  
Ruidoso, New Mexico; May 15, 2015

**Marian Ilgenstein (M.Ed. '75)**  
El Paso; May 15, 2015

**Richard "Dick" Poe (BBA '56)**  
El Paso; May 16, 2015

**Jean Craven Hayes (M.Ed. '70)**  
Surprise, Arizona; May 18, 2015

**David Delgado Sr. (B.A. '50; M.A. '54)**  
El Paso; May 20, 2015

**John Benton Gean (BBA '53)**  
Palestine, Texas; May 21, 2015

**Dorothy Caroline Brock (BBA '53)**  
San Antonio, Texas; May 24, 2015

**Antonio "Tony" M. Lindau (BBA '99)**  
El Paso; May 24, 2015

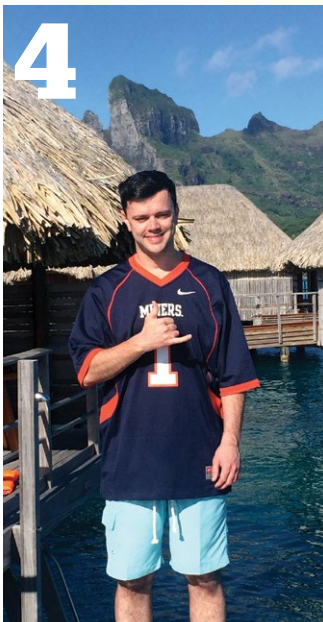
**Carol Lynne Bertrand (BBA '06)**  
El Paso; May 25, 2015

**Lynn Randolph Slater Sr. (BBA '58; MBA '80)**  
Austin, Texas; May 28, 2015 📍



# 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. Beverly Kelly (M.Ed. instructional specialist, 1996) proudly shows off her UTEP shirt during her first trip to Europe. Here she is standing by the mural, "History of Men and Stone" by Silvio Benedetto in Riomaggiore, Italy.

2. UTEP biology student Mariel Soto shows her UTEP spirit while studying abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina. During her stay, she ventured to breathtaking Mount Fitz Roy in Patagonia.

3. Frederica Yoshawirja (B.A. art, 2015) and her dad, Benny (BSEE, 1979), journeyed to China in Miner style. The UTEP alumni visited one of the most impressive architectural feats in history – the Great Wall of China.

4. Ben Kelly (BSEE, 2003) soaked in the turquoise lagoon of Bora Bora in French Polynesia and proudly displayed his UTEP pride while there.

5. Don Loftis (B.A. sociology, 1968) proudly wears his Miner colors at the Christ the Redeemer sculpture in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He said repairs on the statue were evident as Brazil prepares for the 2016 Olympics.

6. Robert Rodriguez (B.A. media advertising, 2010) made sure to pack his Miner pride while he and his family vacationed in Ixtapa, Guerrero, Mexico, to enjoy the many beautiful beaches there. 📧

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





**The University of Texas at El Paso**  
University Communications  
500 W. University Ave.  
El Paso, Texas 79968-0522  
www.utep.edu

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# Miner Dash

6th Annual 5K Run/3K Walk and Family  
Fitness Fiesta



***Fun for the whole family!***

Rock-Climbing Wall | Passport to Fitness Challenge  
Tricycle Track for Toddlers and much more!

8 a.m.-Noon | Sunday, September 27, 2015 | UTEP campus and Kidd Field  
Register at [chs.utep.edu/runwalk/](http://chs.utep.edu/runwalk/)