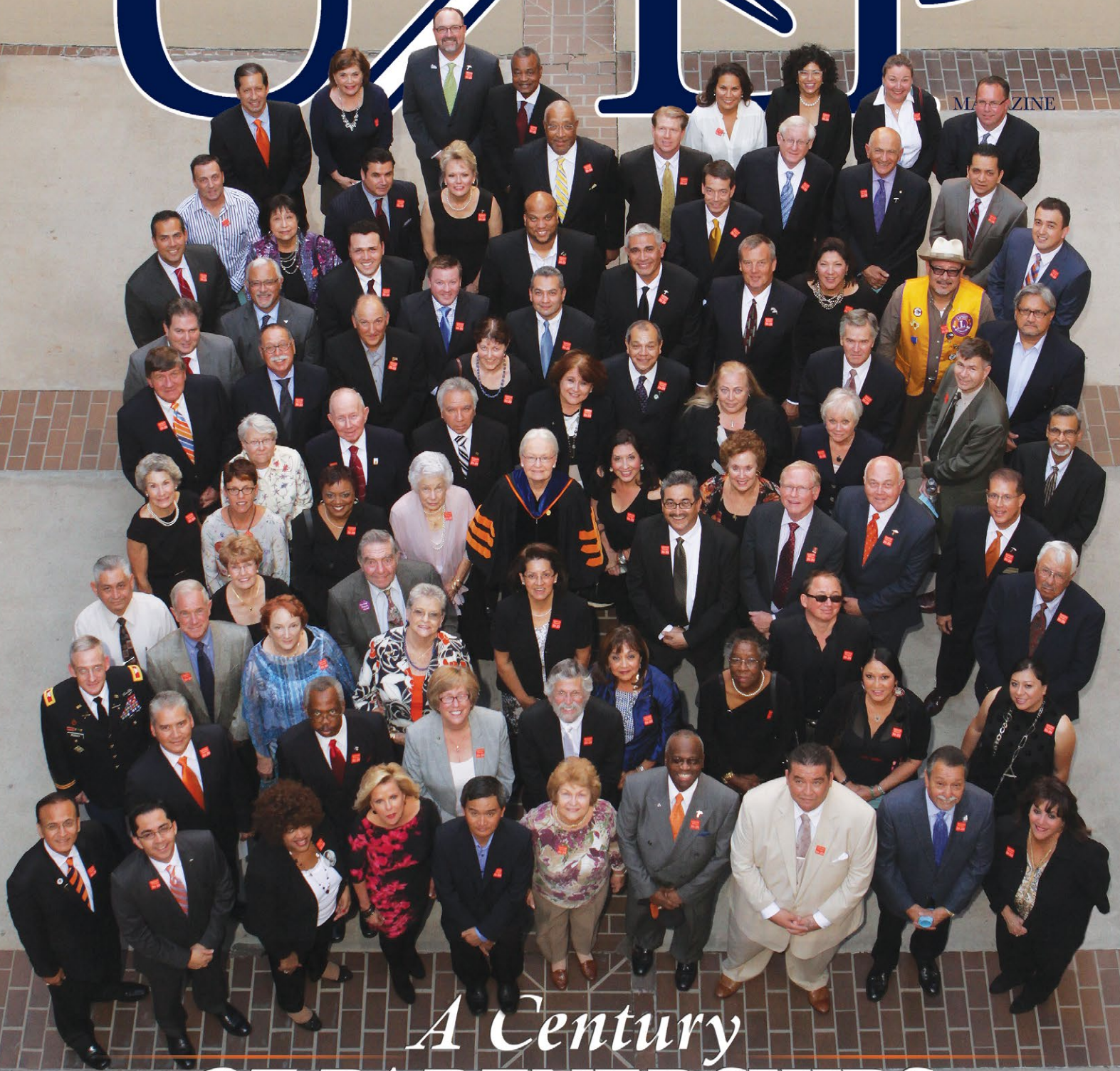


*Centennial Series*

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO WINTER 2015



*A Century  
OF PARTNERSHIPS*



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

# WHO'S WHO?

Photo by J.R. Hernandez



1. Ed Escudero, 2014 Commission
2. Ruth Ellen Jacobson, El Paso Symphony Orchestra
3. Juan Cabrera, El Paso Independent School District
4. Bob Wingo
5. Veronica Escobar, El Paso County Judge
6. Selena N. Solis, El Paso Community College
7. Deborah Kastrin, representing Harrison Montgomery "Hal" Daugherty Jr.
8. Harrison Daugherty III, representing Harrison Montgomery "Hal" Daugherty Jr.
9. Dennis Berger, Phelps Dodge/Freeport-McMoRan
10. Xavier de la Torre, Ysleta Independent School District
11. Rebecca Whitaker, Phelps Dodge/Freeport-McMoRan
12. Irving McPhail, Ed.D., National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering
13. Joseph "Jody" Mullings, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
14. Gerald Rubin
15. Richard Dayoub, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
16. Jose Espinoza, Socorro Independent School District
17. Tommy Gonzalez, City of El Paso
18. Jenny Giron, El Paso Community College
19. Andre Trotter, Lockheed Martin
20. Eric Pearson, KTSM
21. Mike Espinoza, ADP
22. Robert Ash, Paso del Norte Health Foundation
23. Luis Zayas, The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work
24. David Otero, Hunt Family Foundation
25. Dennis Bly, IBM
26. Luis H. Rodriguez, IBM
27. Al Griffin, Texas Instruments
28. Ian Brownlee, United States Consulate in Ciudad Juárez
29. Sally Hurt Deitch, Sierra Providence Health Network/Tenet Healthcare Corp.
30. David Zarazua, El Paso Downtown Lions Club
31. Ralph Adame, UTEP Alumni Association
32. Togo Railey, 1966 NCAA Championship Team
33. Carlos "Charlie" Villa
34. David Rapisand, Lockheed Martin
35. Mary Carolan-Olah, Ph.D., Victoria University
36. Robert McKnight, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, El Paso Branch
37. Louann "Cita" Sanders, Robert and Louisiana Hoover Family
38. Barbara Alspaugh, contract and compliance officer, YWCA El Paso del Norte Region
39. Willie Quinn, UTEP Heritage Commission
40. Roberto Caldera, Mexican Consulate in El Paso
41. Rosaura Corral-Perez, The Boeing Company
42. Mike Acosta, MAES: Latinos in Science and Engineering
43. Nancy Lowery, MAES: Latinos in Science and Engineering
44. Carolyn Utsey, Ph.D., University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
45. William McIntyre, The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy
46. Kamlesh Lulla, NASA
47. Rebecca Krasne, YWCA El Paso del Norte Region
48. Sandra Braham, Ed.D., YWCA El Paso del Norte Region
49. Louann Feuille, Robert and Louisiana Hoover Family
50. UTEP President Diana Natalicio
51. Felipa Solis, El Paso Pro-Musica
52. Gilbert Moreno, Community en Acción
53. Susan Elias, Woman's Auxiliary of UTEP
54. Jesse Allen, Rotary Clubs of El Paso County
55. Russell Autry, UTEP Alumni Association
56. John Aranda, UTEP Alumni Association
57. Cesar Garcia, League of United Latin American Citizens
58. Briane Carter, UTEP Heritage Commission
59. Maynard Haddad, H&H Car Wash and Coffee Shop
60. Terri Garcia, Community en Acción
61. Anthony Trujillo, Ysleta Independent School District
62. Army Col. Thomas E. Munsey, Fort Bliss
63. Bill Hooten Jr., representing Richard Fenner Burges
64. Barbara Hooten Clawson, representing Richard Fenner Burges
65. Anita Haddad, H&H Car Wash and Coffee Shop
66. Stephen J. Wolslager, The Wolslager Foundation
67. Armando Aguirre, Region 19 Education Service Center
68. Harold Howell, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
69. Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Ph.D., National Science Foundation
70. Luis Echegoyen, Ph.D., Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science
71. Liz Carl, El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
72. Rebecca Rhodes, Thelma White Network
73. Rosemary Martinez, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán
74. Criselda Lopez, Las Artistas
75. Ray Mancera, League of United Latin American Citizens
76. Roberto Coronado, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, El Paso Branch
77. Waltina Hill, 1966 NCAA Championship Team
78. Laura Tate Goldman, 2014 Commission
79. Tobgay Tobgay, Ph.D., Kingdom of Bhutan
80. Mayre Sue Overstreet, Woman's Auxiliary of UTEP
81. Don Williams, Thelma White Network
82. Roman Velazquez, Housing Authority of the City of El Paso
83. Joe Fernandez, Housing Authority of the City of El Paso
84. Cindy Ramos-Davidson, El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

# Message from the President:



Texas Monthly, "Far From the Madding Crowd," December 2014



Washington Monthly, College Guide, September/October 2014



American RadioWorks, The New Face of College, www.americanradioworks.org/documentaries

Four years ago, a group of alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends came together for the first time to begin brainstorming how best to commemorate UTEP's 100th anniversary. The collective ideas, creativity and commitment of all who participated in the extensive planning of the Centennial celebration, and the talents and hard work of those responsible for the imaginative execution of its many events and activities, made 2014 a truly memorable year for all of us.

We celebrated our 100th birthday in every way imaginable, involving the entire campus family, residents of the surrounding community and our alumni across the globe, whose unfailing support has been an integral part of UTEP's success in serving the Paso del Norte region over the past 100 years.

This fall alone, we celebrated our century-long ties to the Kingdom of Bhutan with the performance of *Acis and Galatea*, an evening of music and dance that melded traditional Western opera with Bhutanese musical and cultural elements. With the engagement of world-class performers, we converted our annual "Minerpalooza" back-to-school celebration into a bigger and better "Party of the Century." Creating a special version of Fall Convocation, we recognized nearly 100 University partners – individuals and organizations – for their role in helping shape UTEP's transformation over the past 100 years. In early October, more than 1,000 UTEP students, faculty, staff and alumni fanned out to 260 schools in the surrounding region to engage 180,000 students in our 100th birthday celebration, and share with them an energetic message about the importance of going to college. And we recognized another large cohort of Centennial year UTEP graduates with the conferral of more than 2,300 degrees at our Winter Commencement. I hope you'll enjoy reading about and browsing photographs of these and many more Centennial events in the following pages.

It's especially exciting that our 100th birthday has occurred at such a propitious time in UTEP's development. In addition to providing an opportunity to have fun and recognize people and organizations that have contributed to our success, 2014 has also been a year of validation for the nationally recognized public research university that we have become – a time for UTEP to shine proudly in the spotlight.

Just as the fall semester of our Centennial year got underway, UTEP made national headlines when *Washington Monthly* ranked us for the second consecutive year among the top 10 research universities in the United States. And for the third year in succession, the magazine ranked UTEP #1 among all U.S. colleges and universities in promoting student social mobility – enabling students from the most modest backgrounds to set and attain the highest educational and life aspirations.

In a *Texas Monthly* column about the ratings, writer Dan Salamon commented that, "it's surprising to see a relatively under-the-radar school like UTEP recognized by a national magazine." Not so surprising to us! We're proud that in 2014, UTEP received growing attention from both Texas and national media for our success in achieving our access and excellence vision.

An hour-long American RadioWorks documentary that recently aired on National Public Radio stations featured UTEP's success in developing innovative strategies to attract, support and educate nontraditional students who are becoming this country's majority: those who are older, work and go to school part-time and may be the first in their families to attend college.

Another *Texas Monthly* article described UTEP's successful work as "quietly reinventing higher education."

Closer to home, the *El Paso Times* published a special section on UTEP's Centennial in September. Its editorial that day captured UTEP's mission:

*In its quest to become a Tier One university, UTEP is trying to answer a critical question – can a 21st-century university provide a first-class undergraduate education to a historically underserved population while also being an internationally recognized research institution? Either mission alone is challenging. Tackling both is staggering.*

UTEP recognizes its many challenges, but like our 1966 NCAA Championship team, we are not daunted by them. Future generations of UTEP students – including the 180,000 young people we visited in area schools this fall – can be confident that the UTEP of their future has become a model for successfully combining highly competitive academic and research programs with an authentic commitment to educate the 21st century U.S. demographic.

As we begin our second century of service to this region, our state and nation, UTEP is a higher education force to be reckoned with, and our future, like that of the students who earn their degrees here, is filled with promise.

Go Miners!

*Diana Natalicio*  
Diana Natalicio, UTEP President



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## CENTENNIAL SERIES

This issue of UTEP Magazine marks the sixth of six special collector's editions commemorating The University of Texas at El Paso's 100th anniversary in 2014. Each Centennial edition features a Centennial Series banner on the cover. Inside, content related to the Centennial Celebration fills the front of the magazine, followed by the other features, research, news, athletics and alumni stories. For more on the Centennial Celebration, visit UTEP100Years.com.

## STAY CONNECTED TO UTEP





# WINTER COMMENCEMENT CAPS CENTENNIAL YEAR

Graduates belonging to the Winter 2014 class helped bring The University of Texas at El Paso's Centennial year to a close on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014. More than 2,300 summer and fall graduates were eligible to participate in the day's three Commencement celebrations, bringing the total number of Centennial year graduates to 5,121.

"The major milestone that this day represents for each of you is made all the more significant because you have the unique honor of belonging to the Winter 2014 class that caps off UTEP's Centennial Year," UTEP President Diana Natalicio told graduates during her opening remarks.

The President led each of the ceremonies and lauded the graduates for their efforts and achievements that have brought national recognition to the University, such as being named a Top 10 university by *Washington Monthly* magazine for the second year in a row.

As the 133rd Commencement ceremonies came to a close, graduates watched a special video that featured highlights of UTEP's Centennial year. The video ended with a shot of the class of 2014 being showered in orange, blue and white balloons as they stood up to join their families as proud UTEP graduates.

"The tremendous milestone that this day represents for each of you is made all the more significant because you have the unique honor of belonging to the Winter 2014 class that caps off UTEP's Centennial year," President Natalicio told the graduates. "Together, you stand at the forefront to lead UTEP and future generations of Miners into a new era marked by UTEP's continued rise as a distinct and, indeed, disruptive force in U.S. public higher education, challenging and overturning the old paradigms that placed limitations on student achievement." 📷



"THE TREMENDOUS MILESTONE THAT THIS DAY REPRESENTS FOR EACH OF YOU IS MADE ALL THE MORE SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE UNIQUE HONOR OF BELONGING TO THE WINTER 2014 CLASS THAT CAPS OFF UTEP'S CENTENNIAL YEAR."

Diana Natalicio,  
UTEP President





CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



# CELEBRATING A CENTURY *of* CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS

*“As part of UTEP’s Centennial Celebration, we have chosen to honor the individuals and organizations that have had an especially significant impact on UTEP and its mission.”*

By Daniel Perez • Photos by Ivan Pierre Aguirre







In a small room in The University of Texas at El Paso's Centennial Museum, away from the hundreds of revelers celebrating the University Partners Convocation, Ray Mancera's voice cracked as he spoke about UTEP's impact on him and his family.

Mancera had just received an award from UTEP on behalf of the El Paso chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). The organization was recognized for its role in a statewide effort in the 1980s along with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund to fight funding disparities and graduate program constraints at Texas public universities.

The ensuing lawsuit helped increase the number of doctoral programs at UTEP to 20 in 2014 from one in 1990. One of today's doctoral students is Mancera's wife, Bibiana, who is earning her degree in health sciences.

The University honored 86 people, programs, organizations and institutions during an afternoon convocation ceremony in Magoffin Auditorium, a reception at the Centennial Museum and a VIP dinner at the Hoover House on Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2014.

"As part of UTEP's Centennial Celebration, we have chosen to honor the individuals and organizations that have had an especially significant impact on UTEP and its mission," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "Over the past 100 years, The University of Texas at El Paso's road to success has been traveled in the company of great visionaries who shared in our commitment to create opportunity, open doors, increase diversity, and build our capacity to achieve the highest levels of excellence in service to our students, our region and the world. Weaving together the narrative of how these partners have contributed to UTEP tells the story of how the University came to become today the first national research

university with a 21st century student demographic."

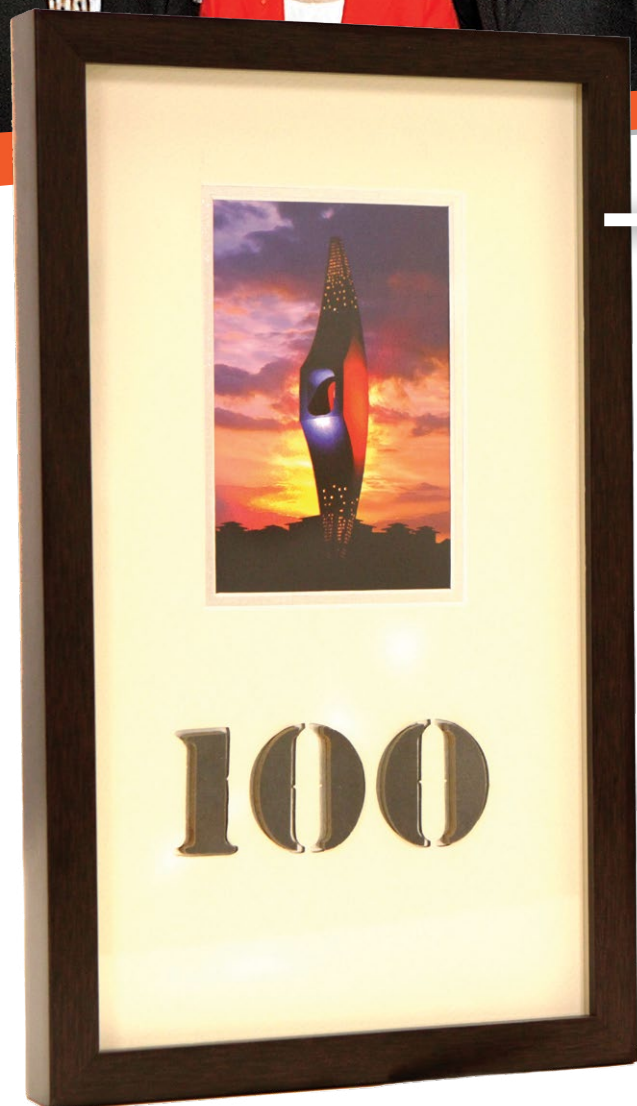
Approximately 400 people attended the ceremony and received a history lesson of the varied partners who helped the University and its students to achieve artistically, culturally, economically and academically.

"I was the first in my family to get a degree," said Mancera, who earned a bachelor's in business administration in 1979. Now he has lost count of the number of degrees his family and extended family have earned from UTEP. "I cried the day I took my last exam because I had done something that very few people think about. That's what drove me to LULAC – to make sure others had that feeling of joy and accomplishment."

Honorees in different categories were called onto the Magoffin stage decorated by green plants with orange and blue bows and banners representing the University, its Centennial Celebration and its colleges and schools. Seated on the stage were University

Continued on page 6





**THOSE RECOGNIZED – MANY OF WHOM WERE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES – WERE GREETED BY UTEP PRESIDENT DIANA NATALICIO AND PRESENTED WITH A LIMITED-EDITION, FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ICONIC MINING MINDS SCULPTURE AND CUTOUT STEEL ONES AND ZEROES FROM THE SCULPTURE’S BINARY CODE THAT FORMED THE NUMBER “100.”**

officials and representatives of UTEP’s 2014 Commission. Those recognized – many of whom were University graduates – were greeted by UTEP President Diana Natalicio and presented with a limited-edition, framed photograph of the iconic *Mining Minds* sculpture and cutout steel ones and zeroes from the sculpture’s binary code that formed the number “100.”

“On behalf of The University of Texas at El Paso, I express our lasting gratitude to each of our honorees,” President Natalicio said. “As we move forward together, the optimism, resolve and synergy that you demonstrate as a network of University partners will continue to invigorate our work, strengthen our resolve, and shape our future.”

Afterward, many of the participants crossed University Avenue to enjoy light hors d’oeuvres and a special performance by The Flautistas student ensemble led by Melissa Colgin-Abeln, D.M.A., associate professor of flute, at a reception at the Centennial Museum.

Longtime El Paso businessman Maynard Haddad, owner of H&H Car Wash and Coffee Shop, 701 E. Yandell Drive, chuckled at being honored in the Local and National Visibility category for his support for the University.

“This is beyond anything we would have dreamed of,” said Haddad, who was accompanied by his wife, Anita. The business,



established in 1958, is decorated with Miner memorabilia and Haddad often can be found wearing UTEP shirts. "What we do for the University is because we love it. We're grateful for what we're able to do to show what a gorgeous campus this is."

Barbara Hooten Clawson and her brother, Bill Hooten Jr., accepted the award for their great-grandfather Richard Burges, an El Paso lawyer and former Texas state representative who advocated for the creation of the El Paso campus despite opposition from other House of Representatives members.

Clawson, a 1979 alumna who earned a bachelor's in business administration, said she was honored that UTEP recognized the contribution of her ancestor who also served on the relocation committee after a fire destroyed much of the first campus near Fort Bliss, and helped with the decision to build the new campus using Bhutanese architecture. Burges Hall at the corner of University Avenue and Sun Bowl Drive bears his name.

"It means a lot to us that the school spent time investigating his role in the history of the University," Clawson said. "(Burges) was among those who planted the seeds for this place."

Harold Howell, a retired Army sergeant major, represented the El Paso chapter of the NAACP at the event. UTEP and the chapter

celebrated their 100th birthdays in 2014.

The NAACP, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, has a history of advocating for academic, social, political and economic equality. In 1955, the group's El Paso chapter helped Thelma White challenge the Texas Constitution's segregation clause that kept African-Americans from enrolling at Texas Western College (now UTEP). A federal district judge ruled the clause unconstitutional.

"We've come a long way and grown together," Howell said.

As a research partner, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has helped build and sustain UTEP's research infrastructure for years. The NSF enhanced the University's capacity through a host of programs that raised interest in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) among students who are traditionally underrepresented. The NSF's strategic investments have boosted the number of minority students participating in STEM research.

Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Ph.D., assistant director of the NSF's directorate for education and human resources, said she was delighted to represent her organization at the convocation.

"The NSF has had a strong series of

investments at The University of Texas at El Paso for many, many years. There's been a lot of great work done here," Ferrini-Mundy said. "I congratulate the University on its wonderful efforts and for its incredible, inclusive culture that is making a difference for Hispanic students here and across the country."

Among the Pioneering Partners honored was the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce. The chamber gathered the support of 80 businesses to back the purchase of the buildings at the first campus for \$50,000, or \$1.2 million in 2014 dollars. The organization was recognized for understanding that education is a driver for economic development.

Richard Dayoub, chamber president and CEO, said he was proud of that initial leap of faith by those visionary individuals.

"It is an overwhelming feeling," Dayoub said. "It means a lot to us that our predecessors had the foresight to recognize the importance of having an institution of higher education here. We're the beneficiaries of that legacy." ✈



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

# 180,000

## LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN JOIN IN THE 100-YEAR FUN

By Lisa Y. Garibay • Photos by Ivan Pierre Aguirre



Volunteers lead a pep rally at Bel Air High School as part of the citywide UTEP Celebrates effort.



**“EVEN MONTHS AFTER THE PRESENTATION, WE CAN SEE MANY SCHOLARS SAYING THEY PLAN TO ATTEND UTEP, AS SEEN IN THEIR WRITING OF FUTURE GOALS AND MAKING OF COLLEGE PENNANTS.”**

Rosie Rodriguez,  
counselor for James P. Butler Elementary School

On Friday, Oct. 3, 2014, faculty, staff, students and alumni volunteers took The University of Texas at El Paso’s Centennial Celebration to local schools to share the fun while getting kids committed to a college education.

Described by organizers as a “mega-outreach” effort, the UTEP Celebrates event brought volunteers to 260 schools with a combined pre-K through 12th grade population of more than 180,000.

UTEP Vice President for Student Affairs Gary Edens, Ed.D., wanted the event to spread a message urging students to dream big and continue their education beyond high school. The UTEP Celebrates event was the culmination of lots of hard work and planning that personnel and departments across the University began in January 2014.

“It was quite the logistical challenge, but it paid off when our 1,230 UTEP volunteers saw the excitement and energy at each school,” Edens said.

Jeannie Meza-Chavez, Ph.D., superintendent of the Tornillo Independent School District, was grateful for the presentations and for the inclusion of the schools in her district, despite their distance from the UTEP campus.

“Our students had the opportunity to learn about UTEP’s history, to think about college as a reality, and to have fun in the process,” Meza-Chavez said.

“Even months after the presentation, we can see many scholars saying they plan to attend UTEP, as seen in their writing of future goals and making of college pennants,” said Rosie Rodriguez, counselor for James P. Butler Elementary School.

Rodriguez was among the dozens of faculty and administrators who sent notes, posters and other handmade tokens to the UTEP Celebrates organizers in thanks for the effort. An exhibit of these thank-you gifts was on display in the Union Gallery throughout November.

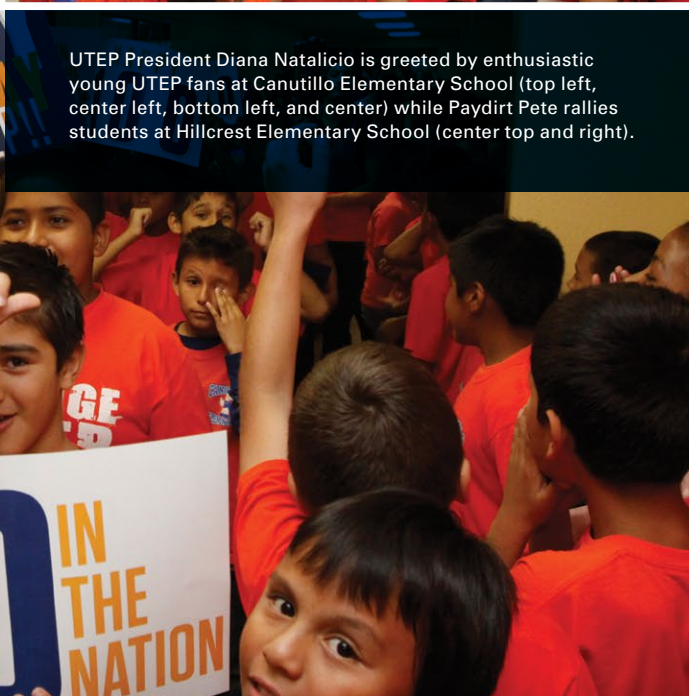
For Principal Leslie Thomas of Elvida P. Chavez Elementary, the whole year has been “Minerific,” with the University’s Centennial incorporated into many of the youngsters’ activities.

“Our students were able to be up front and center during UTEP Celebrates, making that college connection a reality,” she said.

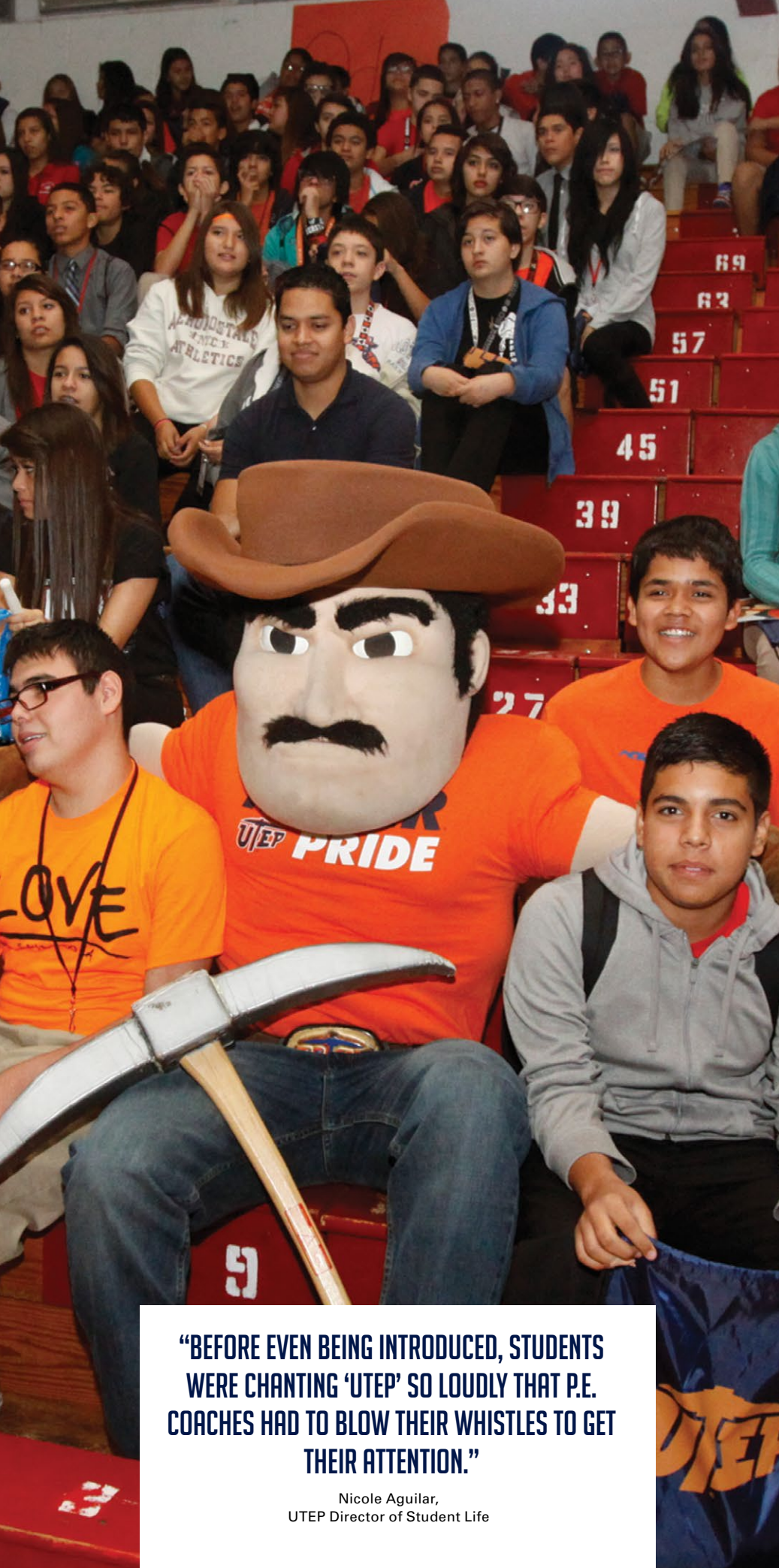
Many of the schools proudly spotlighted numerous faculty and staff who are alumni of El Paso’s university, which added a special touch to the Centennial visit.

“It meant so much to me personally because I am a proud product of UTEP with bachelor’s

*Continued on page 11*



UTEP President Diana Natalicio is greeted by enthusiastic young UTEP fans at Canutillo Elementary School (top left, center left, bottom left, and center) while Paydirt Pete rallies students at Hillcrest Elementary School (center top and right).



**“BEFORE EVEN BEING INTRODUCED, STUDENTS WERE CHANTING ‘UTEP’ SO LOUDLY THAT P.E. COACHES HAD TO BLOW THEIR WHISTLES TO GET THEIR ATTENTION.”**

Nicole Aguilar,  
UTEP Director of Student Life

and master’s degrees and currently a doctoral student,” said Sun Ridge Middle School Principal Ignacio Estorga. He said his students continue to display Miner pride by wearing UTEP gear whenever the school has college dress day.

Participating schools spanned 12 districts in Texas Education Agency Region 19 over 5,095 square miles. The biggest school in terms of student enrollment was El Dorado High School at 2,820, while the smallest was El Paso Bridges Academy with 52 students. The furthest school from UTEP to receive a visit was Dell City School, 93.6 miles away from campus.

Every grade level received a 30-minute presentation that opened students’ minds to the multitude of educational opportunities offered at UTEP. Audience participation games, impromptu cheerleading, special guests, trivia contests and giveaways tailored to each group of children made every presentation unique.

Teachers and staff at the schools who attended UTEP were given special recognition during the presentation. Volunteers then enlightened children about their own experiences as employees, students and educators. Alumni who signed up to take the UTEP Celebrates message back to their old schools talked about how UTEP or college in general helped them achieve their goals.

For UTEP Associate Dean of Students Ryan Holmes, Ed.D., witnessing the impact that UTEP has on the community firsthand was most powerful.

“Gaining a better understanding of the number of alumni in the community while also helping youth to understand what it means to go to college serves as a reminder that UTEP gives us all a chance to make a difference,” he said.

Holmes was not the only one surprised by the positive energy that welcomed volunteer teams at each school.

“I honestly did not know what to expect upon arriving, but seeing how ready the entire student body and administration were for our visit was exciting,” said UTEP Director of Student Life Nicole Aguilar. “Before even being introduced, students were chanting ‘UTEP’ so loudly that P.E. coaches had to blow their whistles to get their attention.” Most schools gave students the choice to wear UTEP orange, which they did in abundance.

Aguilar’s team created a star for every student at their elementary school, asking each child to write their name on it as a pledge to

Continued on page 13



Bel Air High School students were some of the 180,000 schoolchildren who celebrated UTEP's local legacy and message of college accessibility.





**WHILE EXITING THE CAFETERIA AFTER HER PRESENTATION, THE ENTIRE SCHOOL LINED UP IN THE HALLWAYS TO GIVE HER HIGH-FIVES AS THEY CHANTED, "LET'S GO MINERS!"**

go to college. Since Oct. 3, every student's star has been hung on a wall in the school, where they will remain on display.

"I can't think of a better way to assess this event than with powerful images like that," Aguilar said.

As a District Lead and school presenter himself, UTEP Director of the Student Engagement and Leadership Center Corey Bailey categorized UTEP Celebrates as the largest undertaking he had ever been a part of.

"This was way beyond Minerpalooza," he said.

Major challenges included the communication needed to pull it off, not only between UTEP and local schools but also within the University as volunteer teams were recruited and prepped. District Leads were charged with ensuring that every school among the dozens in their district was matched with a team of volunteers. Team leaders worked with their school to organize distribution of a UTEP drawstring bag to each child, audio and visual needs, presentation times, and school rules. Team leaders were then responsible for communicating all of the above to their volunteer group. They set up rehearsals before Oct. 3 and rallied their troops for action.

Region 19 students enjoyed a video created specifically for UTEP Celebrates. Young children cheered at the appearance of Paydirt Pete on the screen, while older ones screamed at the sight of boy band One Direction, which performed at the Sun Bowl in September.

Every student greeted the news that they were being gifted with a blue UTEP drawstring bag with enthusiasm and gratitude.

President Diana Natalicio and Paydirt Pete made special stops at Canutillo Elementary School, El Paso High School and Hillcrest Middle School and were surprised by gifts and good spirit in return. Canutillo Elementary presented President Natalicio with a pen set, mug and shirt emblazoned with the elementary school's logo. While exiting the cafeteria after her presentation, the entire school lined up in the hallways to give her high-fives as they chanted, "Let's go Miners!"

El Paso High School shared a giant birthday cake lit with candles, which President Natalicio blew out at the end of her presentation.

Visits were made to Socorro Independent School District campuses on Sept. 25.

Holmes believed UTEP Celebrates helped the schoolchildren embrace their identities while understanding that there are no limits to what they can achieve. ❏



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

# OPERA BHUTAN'S U.S. PREMIERE

## CELEBRATES UTEP CENTENNIAL

By Lisa Y. Garibay • Photos by Ivan Pierre Aguirre



Bhutanese dancers present their unique art form as part of Opera Bhutan's staging of *Acis and Galatea* at the Don Haskins Center on Aug. 30.



ON AUG. 30, TALENTED PERFORMERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD CAME TOGETHER FOR THE U.S. PREMIERE OF AN UNPRECEDENTED EVENT.

STAGED AT THE DON HASKINS CENTER, OPERA BHUTAN'S ACIS AND GALATEA ADAPTED THE MUSICAL WORK OF COMPOSER GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL WITH A NEW SETTING AND THE ADDITION OF BHUTANESE COMPONENTS.

Approximately 6,000 attendees of all ages from the El Paso-Juárez border region enjoyed the one-of-a-kind live event, describing it after afterward as "more than I ever imagined," "exquisite" and "something I will always remember." Some departed the venue smiling and singing pieces of the opera.

UTEP was integral in the creation of this first-ever combination of Western opera and Bhutanese music and dance, both in tribute to its longstanding relationship with the Himalayan kingdom and as part of the university's goal of providing its students with powerful educational experiences both within and outside of the classroom.

The Opera Bhutan chorus was made up solely of UTEP students and recent graduates as well Associate Professor of Choral Music and Voice Elisa Fraser Wilson, D.M.A. It was a big load for the students, but they pulled off not only the world premiere of the production in Bhutan last October flawlessly, they also did so back home for friends and family after close to three years of preparation.

Senior multidisciplinary studies major Joshua Lintz is grateful for the reunion between artists. "There was no chance I was going to see the Bhutanese performers ever again unless they came here. They're just such lovely people. We have a community of people who love music and every time we get together it's nothing but fun," he said.

Continued on page 16

# UTEP'S COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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Left: UTEP student vocalists and chorumaster Elisa Wilson, D.M.A., (kneeling, center) perform in Opera Bhutan's *Acis and Galatea*.

**“WE ARE SO HAPPY TO BE CELEBRATING THE UNIVERSITY’S 100 YEARS BY SHARING OUR CULTURE WITH WESTERN PEOPLE. THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO DO THIS.”**

Sangay Wangmo,  
Bhutanese vocalist and dancer

Jessica Barney, who graduated in May 2014 with her bachelor’s degree in music education, added, “They were so amazing to us and I wanted to show them the same hospitality that they showed. It was the best trip that I’ve ever experienced. It was life-changing. I want to give back to them what they did for us.”

The orchestra accompanying Opera Bhutan’s singers also was comprised of UTEP students and faculty. Wilson was emphatic that this opportunity was ultimately about giving UTEP students the best possible education, stressing that the opportunity for students to work alongside professionals was unheard of for a production this big.

Along with the UTEP talents, the cast was rounded out with world-class opera vocalists Francesca Lombardi Mazzulli of Italy as Galatea, Thomas Macleay of Canada as Acis, Brian Downen of the United States as Damon and Jacques-Greg Belobo of Cameroon as Polyphemus.

“Having a university sponsor a project like this means they understand that this kind of mix of art and culture is important,” Belobo said. “If young people are learning this in school, they will continue it later on and build a better world.”

Mazzulli hoped the passion she and her artistic colleagues felt for the project touched those in the audience.

“This project changed so much in

me,” she said. “It was unlike any other work I’ve done. After Opera Bhutan, I understand what is important in life.”

The event’s visitors from the Land of the Thunder Dragon hailed from the Royal Academy of Performing Arts in Bhutan.

Bhutanese performers not only contributed unforgettable performances to the show; they also took much from this unprecedented collaboration back home to fuel future artistic work.

“I have learned so much and gotten so many ideas,” said vocalist and dancer Sangay Wangmo.

In October 2013, The University of Texas at El Paso made history when its students and faculty participated in the first Western opera ever performed in Bhutan, and the first opera in the world to incorporate Bhutanese music, dance and other cultural elements.

Both productions were presented as part of the University’s Centennial Celebration and highlighted the history between El Paso’s university and the distant mountain kingdom of Bhutan, which includes architecture, cultural exchange, educational opportunities and research.

On behalf of her Bhutanese contingent, Wangmo added, “We are so happy to be celebrating the University’s 100 years by sharing our culture with Western people. Thank you for helping us to do this.”



Below: Opera Bhutan featured Francesca Lombardi Mazzulli and Thomas Macleay as lovers Galatea and Acis in an adaptation of the Handel classic set in the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan.



Francesca Lombardi Mazzulli of Italy transforms her lover into a river during the final scene of *Acis and Galatea*.



# PREPARING LEADERS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY



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# ORANGE YOU READY?

By Elizabeth Ashby • Photos by Ivan Pierre Aguirre and Laura Trejo

Minerpalooza, an annual celebration marking the start of the school year at The University of Texas at El Paso that began in 1993, has evolved from its initial intent to welcome freshman.

Its growth was evident as thousands arrived at the Minerpalooza site on the north side of Sun Bowl Stadium Sept. 6 in time to watch the pep rally that officially kicked off the 2014 football season.

Dubbed “The Party of the Century” in honor of the University’s Centennial Celebration, Minerpalooza delivered a festive atmosphere that connected upwards of 40,000 students, faculty, staff, alumni and members of the El Paso community.

While the event’s broad scope caters to a diverse base — carnival games for young families, a beer garden for the over-21 set, electronic dance and hip hop acts for the college students — organizers said Minerpalooza continues to grow while serving the student body.

“Staying true to the primary purpose of the event, in this case student engagement, promoting campus pride and community collaboration enables traditions like Minerpalooza,” said Catie McCorry-Andalis, Ed.D., associate vice president and dean of students. “Listening to the needs of students, collaborating with supportive partners and challenging a planning team to think outside the box has allowed Minerpalooza to grow year after year.”





# ENTERTAINERS AND MUSIC LEGENDS SHARE IN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

By Lisa Y. Garibay • Photos by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

Purveyor of monster truck shows Feld Entertainment, country music legend Alan Jackson, pop sensation One Direction, heavy metal band Judas Priest and Mexican rockers Belanova and Moderatto all lent a hand in celebrating UTEP's Centennial.

UTEP's Office of Special Events commemorated the University's Centennial Celebration by creating a unique award for major performers visiting the University Special Events venues during 2014.

"The intent was to give them a memento of their visit to our venues in such a special year," said Executive Director of Special Events Jorge Vazquez.

The award is a one-of-a-kind crystal pickaxe tinted with the University's orange hue, which represents UTEP as a beacon of knowledge, productivity and inspiration.

"We aimed to do this via an award that is full of the University's iconology and early history as a mining school," Vazquez said. "We are proud to share the meaning behind it with the world."

On Sept. 19, UTEP was lit up when One Direction's "Where We Are" tour took over the Sun Bowl. The world's most popular boy band and top touring act in the world broke ticket sales records for the Sun Bowl. With more than 50,000 fans in attendance, it has been officially charted as the biggest show in the stadium's history, ending a record previously held by the Rolling Stones. 📍



## ONE DIRECTION

UTEP Special Events Technical Coordinator Brad Thomas (left), Executive Director Jorge Vazquez (third from left), Business Manager Eileen Laidler (center), Marketing Manager Julian E. Valdes (second from right, standing) and Assistant Director Ricky Nichols (far right) pose with members of the band One Direction.



## BELANOVA

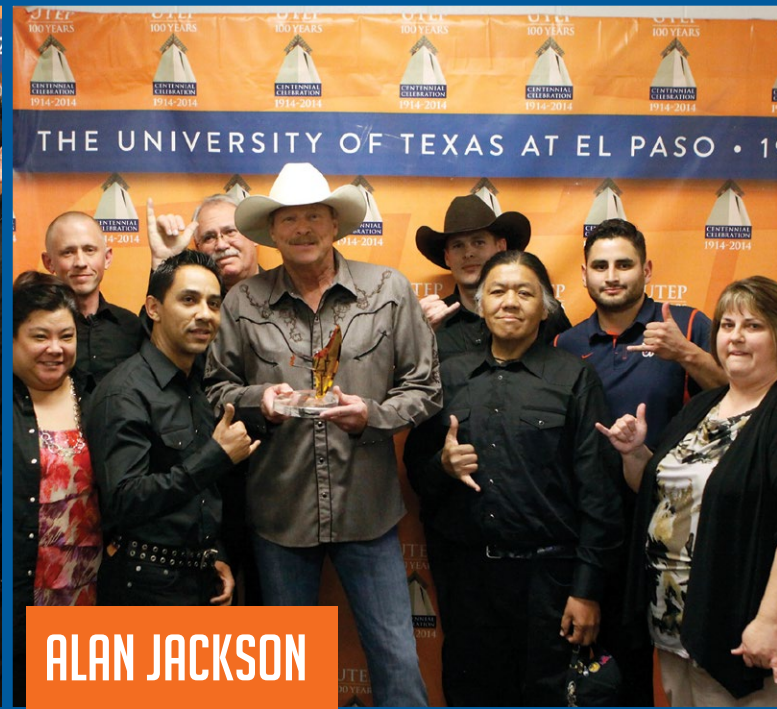
UTEP Special Events Administrative Assistant Araceli Llanas (far left), Executive Director Jorge Vazquez (third from left), Marketing Manager Julian E. Valdes (second from right) and Supervisor Julio de la Vega pose with Belanova.





## MODERATTO

UTEP Special Events Supervisor Julio de la Vega (far left), Executive Director Jorge Vazquez (third from left), Administrative Assistant Araceli Llanas (second from right) and Marketing Manager Julian E. Valdes (far right) pose with Moderatto.



## ALAN JACKSON

UTEP Special Events Business Manager Eileen Laidler (left), Technical Coordinator Brad Thomas (second from left), Executive Director Jorge Vazquez (third from left), Director of Special Facilities Management Mike Spence (fourth from left), Assistant Director Ricky Nichols (fourth from right), Technical Supervisor Fernie Mabini (third from right), Building Services Housekeeping Supervisor Martin Arvizuo (second from right) and Director Jerri Herrera pose with Alan Jackson.



## JUDAS PRIEST

UTEP Special Events Executive Director Jorge Vazquez (far left), Director of Special Facilities Management Mike Spence (third from right) and Executive Director of Auxiliary Services Lilly Gallegos-Martinez (second from right) pose with Judas Priest.



## FELD ENTERTAINMENT

Feld Entertainment, promoters of the popular Monster Truck Jams held at Sun Bowl Stadium, celebrated UTEP's Centennial by demolishing an extra large birthday cake.



# UTEP 2014 COMMISSION GUIDES A SUCCESSFUL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

By Laura L. Acosta • Photos by J.R. Hernandez

**O**ne hundred years in the making, The University of Texas at El Paso's 2014 Centennial Celebration was chock-full of unforgettable moments.

From Opera Bhutan to Orange Fridays, the UTEP 2014 Commission contributed the creative ideas behind planning the University's Centennial, from special ceremonies and festive celebrations to community service befitting the University's distinguished history.

Planning began in 2010 when UTEP President Diana Natalicio established the commission – a group of 100 stakeholders, alumni and campus leaders who worked behind the scenes to design and execute UTEP's 100th anniversary.

Led by honorary chair Paul L. Foster and co-chairs Laura Tate Goldman and Edward Escudero, commission members succeeded in planning activities that extolled the University's milestones and bright future.

"It's been amazing to see the ideas we have been discussing for the past three years come to the point of execution," said Escudero, a 1992 graduate from UTEP's College of Business Administration and president and CEO of Sierra Finance. "I'm very proud of all the hard work and dedication that the members of the 2014 Commission and staff have exhibited. It has been inspiring and fulfilling to be a part of this committee."

For the past four years, commission members were busy proposing ideas for events, keepsakes and publications, marketing and outreach.

They were out in the community spreading UTEP pride with Orange Fridays, a tradition that started at the University in 2011 that encourages people to dress in Miner orange on Fridays.

In October, commission members were among more than 1,000 UTEP representatives who took the celebration to more than 180,000

AS THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO BEGINS ITS NEW CENTURY, THE MAGNIFICENT COMMEMORATION OF ITS CENTENNIAL WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE DEDICATED AND ENTERPRISING EFFORTS OF UTEP'S 2014 COMMISSION.

UTEP IS INDEBTED TO THESE 100 STAKEHOLDERS, ALUMNI AND CAMPUS LEADERS FOR THEIR VISION AND SUPPORT IN LAUDING UTEP'S FIRST 100 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT AND FOR THEIR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO UTEP'S SUCCESS IN ITS SECOND CENTURY.





Top: 2014 Commission co-chairs Laura Tate Goldman and Edward Escudero oversaw the festivities commemorating UTEP's Centennial Celebration.

Left: UTEP 2014 Commission members, from left, Edward Escudero, Alan Russell, Russ Vandenburg and Laura Tate Goldman are four of the 100 stakeholders, alumni and campus leaders who worked behind the scenes to design and execute UTEP's 100th anniversary celebration.

elementary, middle and high school students in the community.

"A girlfriend called me and said, 'My son came home from elementary school and he was talking about UTEP and talking about going to college,'" recalled Goldman, who received her bachelor's in theatre arts and communication and master's in theatre arts from UTEP. "To me that was very touching. We know that if we reach children at that age, they have a better chance of wanting to go forward with their education."

When President Natalicio asked Escudero and Goldman to join the commission four years ago, neither knew what to expect. Looking back, both UTEP alumni feel fortunate to have been involved in commemorating the University's first century.

"My involvement has allowed me to get to know so many of the students, alumni and staff of the university," Escudero said. "More importantly, it gave me the opportunity to get back in touch with UTEP and become engaged in a very meaningful way." 📍



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# REGENTS CELEBRATE UTEP'S CENTENNIAL

By Laura L. Acosta • Photos by J.R. Hernandez



The University of Texas System Board of Regents held its November meeting at UTEP in celebration of UTEP's Centennial anniversary. The event also marked Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa's last meeting at the helm of The University of Texas System.

The nine-member board, including Board of Regents Chair Paul L. Foster, lauded UTEP's efforts in transforming lives through higher education during the past 100 years. The board, which rarely meets outside of Austin, made the trip to El Paso for the first time since 2008.



Left: The UT System Board of Regents held its November meeting at UTEP to commemorate the University's Centennial anniversary.

Right: Board of Regents Chair Paul L. Foster, right, presents Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa, left, a plaque in recognition of the chancellor's years of service.



The UT System Regents stop for a photo after viewing the progress of UTEP's Centennial Plaza. The regents include, from left, Robert L. Stillwell, Board of Regents Chair Paul L. Foster, Brenda Pejovich, Alex M. Cranberg, UTEP President Diana Natalicio, Wm. Eugene Powell, Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa, R. Steven Hicks, Ernest Aliseda, Wallace L. Hall Jr., and Jeffery D. Hildebrand.

Among the highlights of the two-day meeting and gala Nov. 5 and 6 was the announcement that UTEP's Centennial Campaign had exceeded its goal of raising \$200 million.

"The UTEP story is a story I love to tell," UTEP President Diana Natalicio said during her presentation to the board about the University's efforts to increase degree attainment among Hispanic students and secure more federal research funds. "I feel we are at the forefront of some exciting developments and I look forward to working with all of you to make that happen." Continued on page 26



“WE HAVE TRULY MADE HIGHER EDUCATION MORE ACCESSIBLE AND WE HAVE MADE IT MORE AFFORDABLE TO HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS WHO SEEK A BETTER FUTURE.”

Francisco Cigarroa, chancellor of The University of Texas System



Top: UTEP President Diana Natalicio shows the regents artistic renderings of what Centennial Plaza will look like when completed in 2015.

Bottom: UTEP President Diana Natalicio accompanies the UT System Regents to view the transformation of UTEP's Centennial Plaza.

Cigarroa reminisced about writing his mission statement in the UTEP library six years earlier when he became chancellor of the UT System. He was determined to work with the regents to find solutions to prepare students in Texas to become the global leaders of tomorrow.

“Together we have created and we have implemented many important initiatives that have strengthened The University of Texas System Board of Regents,” Cigarroa said. “We have truly made higher education more accessible and we have made it more affordable to hundreds of thousands of students who seek a better future.”



Dozens of items collected for UTEP's planned Centennial Time Capsule were displayed Dec. 3, 2014, in the Centennial Museum during a celebration that included more than 200 students. Among the revelers were members of the registered campus group, Students of the Centennial, who led the time capsule campaign.



By Daniel Perez • Photos by J.R. Hernandez

# UTEP TIME CAPSULE TO PROVIDE WINDOW TO PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

UTEP students who wanted to do something special to recognize the 100th anniversary of The University of Texas at El Paso celebrated their class project at the end of the semester with refreshments, a collection of soon-to-be "artifacts," and a sentiment of achievement.

More than 200 students, staff and faculty attended the Time Capsule Showcase Dec. 3, 2014 in the Discovery Gallery in UTEP's Centennial Museum and Welcome Center. The event promoted the eclectic items that departments across the University donated for a time capsule that will be buried during the spring 2015 semester and exhumed in 2039 – UTEP's 125th anniversary.

Participants examined time capsule donations that included art, books, pins, military coins and patches, signed athletic memorabilia, and a porcelain "Florence Nightingale" lamp that School of Nursing graduates use for their professional oath ceremony. The items were on display in two large glass cases in the middle of the room.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio thanked the registered campus group, Students of the Centennial, for turning their idea into a window for a future generation to see who we were and what we thought was important in 2014, when UTEP was recognized as a national leader in higher education and a national model for social mobility.

"It's a wonderful contribution that will have a lasting impact," President Natalicio said. "Twenty-five years from now when it's extracted from Centennial Plaza ... it will serve as a reminder of UTEP Miner pride that all of you, our students, feel at this particular moment." 📧



## CENTENNIAL POSTMARK COMMEMORATES CENTURY OF UTEP

By Rodrigo Castañeda

In the spirit of the Centennial Celebration, the U.S. Postal Service created a personalized postmark to honor The University of Texas at El Paso's first 100 years.

The Postal Service offers personalized postmarks to different organizations to mark their significant celebrations.

"We believed UTEP's Centennial Celebration definitely fit into that category," said Maribel Villalva, director of the Centennial Museum and executive director of the Centennial Celebration.

The concept for a commemorative postmark came about when Russell Autry, a member of UTEP's 2014 Commission, presented the idea to the Centennial Office.

Containing the Centennial logo and the cancellation date, the stamp's design was the work of John Downey, a senior graphic designer with UTEP's Office of University Communications.

Friday, Oct. 10, 2014, was designated Centennial Celebration Postmark Day. The Postal Service set up a booth inside the UTEP Union Building where people could receive the unique piece of Centennial memorabilia in addition to buying postage, stamped envelopes and Centennial postcards.

More than 250 individuals asked for the special postmark on the day of the event and many others requested it at El Paso's main post office, where the special cancellation mark was available until Monday, Nov. 10.

"The positive response to the postmark was great," Villalva said. "We had people from the El Paso community arrive early and wait in line to get their items postmarked. The community – both on and off campus – has been amazing this year, helping us celebrate our 100th birthday. This was a small project, but with a huge impact." 📧

# BOOSTING DIVERSITY IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH:

## \$22.6 Million Grant Will Help UTEP Diversify Nation's Workforce

By Nadia M. Whitehead • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Today, it is much harder to have a successful grant application than it was 10 years ago. But while federal funding across the board continues to be scaled back, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) invested a hefty \$22.6 million in The University of Texas at El Paso in October 2014.

The massive grant is part of the NIH's plan to diversify the nation's biomedical research workforce – a goal in which UTEP can play a role.

"This major investment by the NIH reflects its confidence in The University of Texas at El Paso to inspire, train and support underserved and underrepresented scientists and engineers," UTEP President Diana Natalicio said.

With the funds, the University will create Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity: Southwest Consortium of Health-Oriented Education Leaders and Research Scholars (BUILDing SCHOLARS), a consortium made up of 19 institutions with UTEP at the helm.

BUILDing SCHOLARS will transform the workforce from the ground up by generating interest in biomedical research from a young age, said Lourdes Echegoyen, Ph.D., one of eight principal investigators at UTEP who helped develop the center's concept.

"There is a critical need to maintain U.S. competitiveness in science, technology, medicine and of course, the economy at a global scale," explained Echegoyen, director of UTEP's Campus Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives. "Undergraduate research has been demonstrated to be the educational practice with the highest impact on student success and UTEP has taken a leadership role in that regard. NIH has recognized this with this award to our team and we are all very excited to get this project off the ground."

Qualifying high school seniors in the El Paso region who demonstrate enthusiasm for the biomedical engineering, biomedical or socio-behavioral sciences will be encouraged to apply for the competitive program. If accepted, students will receive BUILD scholarships to cover all four years of tuition at UTEP, plus

a stipend. Immediately after graduating from high school, students will begin their involvement in BUILDing SCHOLARS by participating in an intensive, pre-college boot camp to hone fundamental academic skills.

"Our program will train students who will eventually become research scholars," Echegoyen said. "Beginning the summer before their freshman year, students will start developing a professional identity and begin to think of themselves as research scientists and engineers."

During their four years at UTEP, BUILD scholars will take special, research-intensive courses and also participate in mentored research projects. They will be required to conduct summer research at a partner institution with opportunities available at multiple locations: The University of Texas at Austin, Baylor College of Medicine, Rice University, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, the University of New Mexico, the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, the University of Connecticut, Clemson University and the pharmaceutical company Novartis.

The 18 other partner institutions making up BUILDing SCHOLARS are designated as either research or pipeline partners. Research partners will provide research opportunities for BUILD scholars; faculty at UTEP and pipeline institutions also will be able to collaborate with these research partners. Pipeline partners will feed students to UTEP. For instance, sophomores and juniors who transfer from El Paso Community College or the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute will have the opportunity to receive BUILD scholarships.

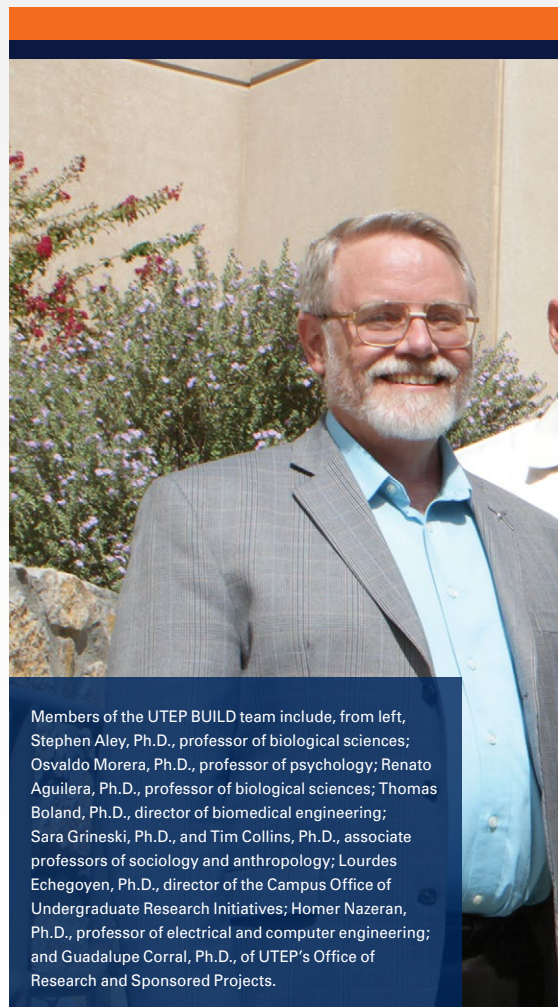
By the time BUILD scholars graduate, they will have developed close-knit relationships with faculty who conduct their own research; these mentors should inspire students to pursue doctoral degrees in the biomedical sciences and engineering.

The center's emphasis on mentorship is one of the reasons Nancy Street, Ph.D., associate dean of UT Southwestern Medical Center's

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, agreed for her school to become a partner in the consortium.

"One of the things I'm most excited about is the plan to build long-term mentoring relationships," Street said. "To have someone who knows you and is committed to staying in touch can be really impactful; it can make the difference between success and failure."

More than 300 UT Southwestern Medical Center faculty will be potential mentors for incoming summer research students. BUILD scholars will be paired with faculty with whom



Members of the UTEP BUILD team include, from left, Stephen Aley, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences; Osvaldo Morera, Ph.D., professor of psychology; Renato Aguilera, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences; Thomas Boland, Ph.D., director of biomedical engineering; Sara Grineski, Ph.D., and Tim Collins, Ph.D., associate professors of sociology and anthropology; Lourdes Echegoyen, Ph.D., director of the Campus Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives; Homer Nazeran, Ph.D., professor of electrical and computer engineering; and Guadalupe Corral, Ph.D., of UTEP's Office of Research and Sponsored Projects.



they share an interest – be it cancer biology, genetics, or Alzheimer’s – and then go on to conduct independent research for 10 weeks. They’ll learn, be challenged and have an eye-opening summer, Street said.

Faculty development, particularly in research, mentoring and teaching, also is a key aspect of BUILDing SCHOLARS. A new innovation space that is specially designed for a Student Centered Active Learning Environment for Undergraduate Programs (SCALE-UP) will be constructed to establish a highly collaborative, hands-on, technology-rich environment for BUILD-related courses.

UTEP’s well-rounded program will shape successful students who then go on to thrive in the biomedical sciences and diversify the nation’s graduate schools, postdoctoral researchers and faculty. The hope is that the number of biomedical and socio-behavioral scientists and engineers who succeed at securing the flagship NIH grants, known as RO1s, will one day reflect the evolving demographics of the United States.

“The NIH doesn’t just want to have a few token success stories about minorities in the sciences and engineering,” Echegoyen explained. “They want to transform how [education is] being delivered and how we are training the next generation of researchers to achieve a minority representation that is parallel to that of the U.S. population.”

According to the NIH, UTEP was selected based on the strength of its innovative approach to training and mentoring, which reviewers felt had the highest potential to have a substantial impact on enhancing the diversity of the biomedical workforce.

Street is encouraged by the NIH’s investment in diversity, saying that it’s important that everyone has an equal opportunity in the sciences. She is also excited UTEP will play a major role in the mission.

“In the last five or so years, I have seen a renewed commitment at UTEP – from new buildings to new faculty – to build its focus on the sciences,” Street said. “UTEP has been on my radar, so when asked to join BUILD,

everything I knew about the University made me extremely excited. They’ve already created high-success programs; this will allow them to take it to the next level.”

BUILDing SCHOLARS began recruiting students in December and will make decisions about the first cohort of BUILD scholars in the spring of 2015.

The UTEP team that developed the award-winning plan consists of seven additional investigators: Renato Aguilera, Ph.D., and Stephen Aley, Ph.D., professors of biological sciences; Thomas Boland, Ph.D., director of biomedical engineering; Tim Collins, Ph.D., and Sara Grineski, Ph.D., associate professors of sociology and anthropology; Osvaldo Morera, Ph.D., professor of psychology; and Homer Nazeran, Ph.D., professor of electrical and computer engineering. Guadalupe Corral, Ph.D., helped with the project by developing an evaluation plan for BUILDing SCHOLARS. Staff from UTEP’s Center for Institutional Evaluation, Research and Planning (CIERP) also assisted. ☒



# IMMIGRATION EXPERTS PREDICTED 2014 BORDER CRISIS

By Nadia M. Whitehead  
Photo by Laura Trejo

In the summer of 2014, more than 66,000 unaccompanied minors were apprehended as they tried to cross the U.S.-Mexico border illegally. President Barack Obama called the massive influx of immigrant children an “urgent humanitarian situation.”

But national media, including *The Washington Post* and Fox News, criticized the White House when they learned of a study by University of Texas at El Paso researchers. Months before the waves of minors peaked at the border, UTEP immigration specialists had predicted the growing problem and shared their findings with the Department of Homeland Security.

“There had been a huge increase in unaccompanied children crossing the border over the course of three years [between 2010 and 2013],” said Kyle Susa, Ph.D., a research assistant professor who contributed to the study. “Our goal was to identify and define the scope of the problem.”

A year before the 2014 border crisis,

researchers from UTEP’s National Center for Border Security and Immigration (NCBSI) visited Border Patrol stations in south Texas and Arizona to observe the dilemma firsthand.

“It was a dire situation,” Susa said. “There were lots of children being held in holding stations that weren’t set up to house so many of them.”

With so many kids at the stations, border patrol personnel were getting sidetracked from their primary patrol duties. Instead, they devoted their time to caring for the children. They made runs to laundromats to wash clothes, took trips to grocery stores, and smeared slices of bread with peanut butter and jelly. They even provided videos and games for entertainment.

“Yes, the children crossed the border illegally,” Susa said. “But they were still children who needed to be taken care of; they didn’t have their parents.”

After interviewing numerous border patrol personnel, the NCBSI team concluded that the

situation was likely to get worse. According to interviewees, unaccompanied immigrant children wanted to get caught by agents on the U.S. border.

Victor Manjarrez, associate director of the NCBSI, had the opportunity to chat about the findings with Fox News reporter Greta Van Susteren in “On The Record.”

“Our report indicated one of the primary factors of this was the perceived lack of consequence on the individuals that were crossing,” Manjarrez told Van Susteren in the televised interview.

That was because smugglers of children understood that once a child was apprehended for illegal entry into the U.S., the minor would be reunited with family in the states until an immigration hearing.

These and other findings were officially published in a 41-page report in March 2014, right before the summer onslaught.

Media got word of the report during the crisis, and the University soon was in the spotlight.

WITH SO MANY KIDS AT THE STATIONS, BORDER PATROL PERSONNEL WERE GETTING SIDETRACKED FROM THEIR PRIMARY PATROL DUTIES. INSTEAD, THEY DEVOTED THEIR TIME TO CARING FOR THE CHILDREN. THEY MADE RUNS TO LAUNDROMATS TO WASH CLOTHES, TOOK TRIPS TO GROCERY STORES, AND SMEARED SLICES OF BREAD WITH PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY. THEY EVEN PROVIDED VIDEOS AND GAMES FOR ENTERTAINMENT.

Victor Manjarrez (left), associate director of the National Center for Border Security and Immigration, and Research Assistant Professor Kyle Susa, Ph.D., predicted the 2014 border crisis and warned government officials about the impending mass influx of children.

"The visibility it provided to UTEP was absolutely phenomenal," said Manjarrez, who conducted more than a dozen media interviews about the report. "It put us on the map for something we should be leaders in: border security. There's no better place that's better situated for this research than UTEP."

Later, when the news died down, the NCBSI examined the circulation and public viewership that the report had received. They learned that it wasn't just mentioned by news media, but by other universities and institutes of higher education, multiple government agencies, and by high-ranking public officials, including Speaker of the House John Boehner.

The team estimated that nearly 92 million people may have potentially viewed the report. That's counting the more than 800,000 *Washington Post* subscribers who saw it on the front page of their Sunday paper.

The 60,000-plus minors who illegally crossed into the U.S. during the summer are now awaiting their appearance in court. But

like the smugglers suspected, many have been released to their families here in the U.S. until their individual court date.

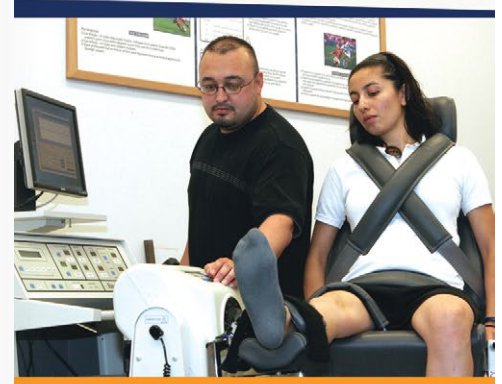
So far, Manjarrez says, 70 percent of the children have missed their scheduled appearances in court.

"They know there's a chance that they're not going to get to stay in the U.S., so many are now avoiding the authorities," the former Border Patrol agent said. "For the children who do not have parents here, the vast majority get returned to their country of origin."

Manjarrez and Susa are hoping to conduct a study on the immigration court processes these children are currently going through.

"We want to see what the impacts of this flood of children are on the other parts of the system," Manjarrez said. "This wasn't just going to affect the border stations; I think it's going to have a big impact elsewhere, too." ❏

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# GRADUATE AND DOCTORAL STUDENTS TACKLE CONCUSSION RESEARCH

By Laura L. Acosta • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

A helmet-to-helmet hit during a football game in high school resulted in an undiagnosed concussion in Daniel Schobner, a first-year graduate student in the Speech-Language Pathology Program at The University of Texas at El Paso.

"I remember blacking out for a few seconds and then coming back up feeling kind of dizzy, but I continued to play," recalled Schobner, who was unaware at the time that he had experienced the symptoms of a concussion - a mild traumatic brain injury, or TBI, which is caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head that affects normal brain function.

In UTEP's Concussion Management Clinic, graduate student researchers in speech-language pathology and doctoral students in the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences (IHS) doctoral program are using the facility's resources to make an impact on concussion research.

Under the guidance of Anthony P. Salvatore, Ph.D., the clinic's director, student researchers like Schobner use data from the baseline concussion test called ImPACT to increase their understanding of traumatic brain injuries in order to treat, prevent and manage concussions in high school and college athletes.

For more than a year, Schobner has been evaluating pre- and post-concussion test results of athletes in the clinic to see if concussed athletes have problems perceiving three-dimensional objects.

"When a concussed athlete, or anyone who's concussed, goes to the hospital, typically they're checked through a CT scan, but the scan only shows if structural and intracranial bleeds are ruled out, but not concussion," Schobner explained. "A concussion ... is more of a chemical imbalance in the brain."

Concussion symptoms such as dizziness, nausea, headache and light-sensitivity range from mild to severe and require immediate attention.

For the past eight years, students in the Concussion Management Clinic have performed baseline neurological assessments of more than 3,000 athletes in contact sports, including UTEP athletes, to compare their neurological function before and after a concussion. ImPACT measures verbal memory, visual memory, reaction time and processing speed.

"The vision of the Concussion Management Clinic was to provide an educational and research opportunity for our graduate students, specifically speech-language pathologists,





In UTEP's Concussion Management Clinic, graduate student researchers in speech-language pathology, from left, Daniel Schobner, Paulina Mejia, John Pfirman, Kara Greco, clinic director Anthony P. Salvatore, Ph.D., and Kylie Marshall, are researching traumatic brain injuries in order to treat, prevent and manage concussions in high school and college athletes.

who can make a difference in the schools where they work by collaborating with coaches and trainers to develop a concussion management program to keep their student-athletes safe and healthy," said Salvatore, who also is the chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences at UTEP.

Among the clinic's priorities is to increase awareness of second-impact syndrome. After a concussion, the brain is more sensitive to re-injury. If an athlete returns to play before the brain is properly healed, a second concussion could cause rapid and severe swelling in the brain, which often is followed by catastrophic results.

The factor driving John Pfirman's research in the clinic is to improve the safety of athletes by reducing their risk of second-

impact syndrome.

Pfirman, who is in his second year of the speech-language pathology program, is no stranger to TBI. As a teenager, he suffered concussions after separate skateboarding, BMX cycling and snowboarding accidents.

For more than a year-and-a-half, Pfirman's research has focused on whether there are any factors, such as not knowing the signs and symptoms of a concussion or pressure to stay in the game, that prevent athletes from reporting concussions.

"The only way we know if athletes have a concussion is if they self-report because there are no biological markers (to look at)," Pfirman said. "You can't draw blood to find out if they've had a concussion. There are a lot of other factors that influence them to

play. So we want to rule out different factors because that information enables us to keep them safe whether or not they've had a concussion."

Separate studies also are being done on the effects of concussions on verbal fluency and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in athletes.

Kylie Marshall, a second year Speech-Language Pathology student, is investigating which symptoms of PTSD and post-concussion syndrome overlap in college and high school athletes. Her research involves data gathered from Salvatore's previous study on PTSD, which compared soldiers with a history of TBI and athletes with a history of concussion.

Before completing his doctoral studies in the IHS program in 2014, Nicholas G. Murray, Ph.D., an assistant professor and director of concussion research at Georgia Southern University, studied balance control in concussed adults with Salvatore and his dissertation adviser, Rebecca Reed-Jones, Ph.D., a former assistant professor of kinesiology at UTEP.

Doctoral student Mrudula Raparla is studying biomarkers in patients with second-impact syndrome. Raparla and her dissertation adviser Delfina C. Domínguez, Ph.D., professor of clinical laboratory sciences, Murray and Reed-Jones co-authored articles about their research for a special edition of the August 2014 journal, *Seminars in Speech and Language*.

Titled "Concussion 101 for SLPs," the special edition featured articles on concussion management, treatment and prevention from UTEP faculty in speech language pathology, pharmacy, clinical laboratory sciences, physical therapy and kinesiology.

"It's really a team approach across multiple disciplines to properly care for these patients," said Salvatore, the journal's guest editor. "The topics that we covered are important in the adequate assessment and treatment in concussed patients." ❏

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# GRANTS ROUNDUP

*Between July and October 2014, The University of Texas at El Paso received research grants to study a range of topics. The following is a sampling of grant research in each college started during that four-month period.*

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

**Eileen Aguilar**, University Wellness Manager in the College of Health Sciences, in collaboration with **Thenral D. Mangadu, M.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor in UTEP's Department of Public Health Sciences, received a grant from the Paso del Norte Health Foundation's "Two Should Know" initiative to fund "The Healthy Miner Sex Positive Peer Education Program" at UTEP. The program will focus on UTEP student sexual health with the primary aim of increasing self-efficacy among students to successfully engage in healthy relationships and prevent unintended pregnancies, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention awarded **Mangadu** and co-principal investigator **João Ferreira-Pinto, Ph.D.**, director of research and special projects in UTEP's College of Health Sciences, a grant from SAMHSA's Minority Serving Institutions Partnerships with Community-Based Organizations initiative to form a partnership for integrated substance abuse, HIV and Hepatitis C virus prevention.

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) awarded UTEP's Department of Social Work a grant through the Title VI-E program to continue the Child Welfare Training Project in collaboration with Child Protective Services in El Paso through July 2015. In 2013, **Mark Lusk, Ed.D.**, professor of social work and the project's principal investigator, received a grant from the DFPS's Title VI-E program to start the training program at UTEP. The project's director is **Adam McCormick, Ph.D.**, Master of Social Work program coordinator.

**McCormick** and co-principal investigators **Candyce Berger, Ph.D.**, chair of the Department of Social Work, and **Donna Cude-Islas**, social work clinical assistant professor, received a Health Resources and Services Administration grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide scholarships to students in the Master of Social Work program who are committed to working

in the field of child and adolescent behavioral health.

**Connie Summers, Ph.D.**, and co-principal investigator **Vanessa Mueller, Ph.D.**, assistant professors in the Speech-Language Pathology program, were awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs for their grant titled, "Preparing Bilingually Certified Speech-Language Pathologists."

## COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

**Carlos M. Chang, Ph.D.**, associate professor of civil engineering, is leading a multidisciplinary team to evaluate how a road's condition affects vehicle emissions. The research project includes participation from Texas Southern University (TSU) and is funded by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). By the end of the study, Chang's UTEP-TSU team will provide TxDOT with a detailed guide of road maintenance strategies that could help mitigate emissions.

The U.S. Department of Education has funded **Roger V. Gonzalez, Ph.D.**, director of Engineering Leadership and professor of mechanical and biomedical engineering, and co-principal investigator **Peter Golding, Ph.D.**, professor of metallurgical and materials engineering, to establish a partnership with the nationally recognized Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering. The grant will create novel classroom pedagogical paradigms in the new Engineering Leadership program. By working with and learning from the college, UTEP also hopes to increase the number of Hispanic engineering students, particularly women, resulting in higher graduation rates.

Professor of civil engineering **Austin Marshall, J.D.**, and co-principal investigator **Adeeba Raheem, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of civil engineering, received a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to provide local, non-English-speaking construction workers and employers with training on fall protection. Sessions will be conducted in classroom settings and on work sites, educating workers on how

to recognize fall hazards and how to properly inspect and wear equipment that can prevent accidents.

**Raymond C. Rumpf, Ph.D.**, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, will use funding from the Naval Postgraduate School to develop all-dielectric, or non-metallic, antennas. Avoiding metal will allow the antennas to operate at a higher power, survive in chemically hostile environments and be integrated into plastic enclosures more easily.

**Calvin M. Stewart, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, received funding from Sandia National Laboratories to create a novel modeling and characterization approach for the multiaxial response of energetic materials. Current characterization techniques are highly complex, requiring expensive instrumentation, but Stewart's new system aims to be simpler, relying on 3-D imaging to determine the surface deformation of energetic materials.

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Principal investigator **Stephen B. Aley, Ph.D.**, professor of biological sciences, has received funding from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to develop the UTEP Program to Educate and Retain Students in STEM Tracks (UTEP PERSIST). With the help of co-principal investigators **Lourdes Echevoyen, Ph.D.**, director of the Campus Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives; **Eli Greenbaum, Ph.D.**, associate professor of biological sciences; **Arshad Khan, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of biological sciences; and **Dino Villagran, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of chemistry, the program will focus on providing incoming freshman with authentic research experiences. The goal is to significantly increase the number of exceptionally trained science and engineering graduates from underrepresented and financially disadvantaged groups.

NASA has given a team of researchers at multiple universities, including UTEP's principal investigator **Thomas Gill, Ph.D.**, associate professor of geological sciences, a grant to help create a record showing how dust storm activity



has changed in the southwestern United States over recent decades. Dust activity is a crucial indicator of regional climate change in dry regions, so the project results are expected to assist with future national climate assessments.

**Chunqiang Li, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of physics, has received a grant from the National Science Foundation to develop advanced optical microscope technology for molecular and cellular imaging. Co-principal investigator **Wei Qian, Ph.D.**, professor of electrical and computer engineering, will assist with the invention, while **Kyung-An Han, Ph.D.**, associate professor of biological sciences; **Jorge Gardea-Torresdey, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of chemistry; and **Chuan Xiao, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of chemistry, will use the technology to further their own individual studies.

The National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities awarded principal investigator **Robert Kirken, Ph.D.**, dean of the College of Science, a multimillion-dollar grant to build key infrastructure in the laboratories of the Border Biomedical Research Center. The funds also will be used to hire six disease-expert faculty members, to support travel to international science conferences, to provide technical support personnel and to purchase research equipment and supplies.

**Juan C. Noveron, Ph.D.**, project lead and associate professor of chemistry, will work with **Heidi Taboada, Ph.D.**, and **Jose Espiritu, Ph.D.**, associate professors of industrial, manufacturing and systems engineering, to create the multi-institution program I-Discover. Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the goal is to accelerate student research on time-critical, global sustainability issues, like clean water recycling, green energy systems, food safety and food sustainability.

#### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Edward Castañeda, Ph.D.**, professor of psychology, was awarded a supplemental grant from the National Institutes of Health's

National Institute on Drug Abuse for the Vulnerability in Drug Abuse (VIDA) project. The grant will fund a three-year stipend for postdoctoral trainee **Luis Carcoba, Ph.D.**, who will be co-mentored by Castañeda and Associate Professor of Psychology **Laura E. O'Dell, Ph.D.** Carcoba received his doctorate in biology from UTEP. His work on the VIDA project will develop his skills at a behavioral, neurochemical and molecular level, and ensure he is competitive for faculty positions at the end of his training.

**Ernesto Chavez, Ph.D.**, associate professor of history, received a grant from the University of California, Los Angeles to examine the life of Ramón Novarro, a Mexican-born, Catholic, gay silent screen actor. Chavez's project will focus on how Novarro deployed his race and religion while masking his sexuality in order to gain success in the film industry from the Jazz Age through the Vietnam era.

The Paso Del Norte Health Foundation awarded a grant to **Theodore V. Cooper, Ph.D.**, associate professor of psychology, to continue providing individual and group interventions for light and intermittent smokers and provide all smokers with cessation resources offered throughout the community.

**Craig Field, Ph.D.**, associate professor of psychology, received a grant from the Paso Del Norte Health Foundation for screening and brief motivational intervention to reduce binge drinking in the Paso del Norte region by implementing and evaluating this type of intervention in medical and community-based settings.

The National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Child Health and Human Development awarded a grant to **Wendy Francis, Ph.D.**, professor of psychology, to research the mechanisms by which bilingualism and language proficiency impact verbal memory.

**Brenda Risch, Ph.D.**, director of women's studies, received a grant from Humanities Texas for "Engendering Community," an exhibit for the UTEP Centennial Museum, which will present objects and oral histories recounting

gender experiences in El Paso, particularly among the local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

**Silvia A. Torezani, Ph.D.**, visiting assistant professor of sociology and anthropology, and co-principal investigator **Josiah Heyman, Ph.D.**, professor of sociology and anthropology, were awarded a grant from the Health Initiative of the Americas' *Programa de Investigación en Migración y Salud* at the University of California, Berkeley. Their project aims to map the health status of elderly Mexican migrants and identify major health problems, identify the target group's current health care access and gaps in that access, and identify strategies used by elderly persons to navigate the health care system.

**Larry Valero, Ph.D.**, director of the National Security Studies Institute and an associate professor of security studies, received a grant from the Office of the Secretary of Defense to establish the National Security Studies Institute – an Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence – within the College of Liberal Arts. The major components of the grant proposal include: 1) a Bachelor of Arts in strategic intelligence and analysis; 2) an Open Source Intelligence Graduate Certificate; 3) a Center for Intelligence and Security Research; 4) strategic partnerships for study abroad; 5) strategic language funding; 6) support for student professional development; 7) an annual national security colloquium; 8) support for the employment of new faculty; and 9) funding for faculty professional development. The new National Security Studies Institute will prepare a diverse cohort of qualified students for future U.S. government employment through leading and innovative intelligence education and scholarship.

**Ronald Weber, Ph.D.**, associate professor of history, was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a four-week summer institute for 25 teachers and graduate students in the humanities, classics, history and social sciences to study in Rome. 📍

# UTEP RANKED AMONG THE NATION'S

# TOP 10 SCHOOLS

By Rachel Anna Neff, Ph.D.

The 2014-15 school year started on a high note when *Washington Monthly* magazine released its 2014 rankings and The University of Texas at El Paso once again was listed among the top 10 universities in the nation.

UTEP stayed in the top 10 for a second year, placing it in the company of universities including Stanford; The University of California, Berkeley; Texas A&M; the University of Washington and Harvard, and validating UTEP's continued success in blazing a unique trail in higher education by serving a 21st century student demographic.

The University continued to be recognized for its mission of access, affordability and excellence as it remained #1 in *Washington Monthly's* social mobility category for a third consecutive year.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio revealed the rankings to the campus Aug. 26, 2014 during an event at Union Plaza. Surrounded by students wearing orange and shaking pom-poms, President Natalicio greeted the crowd.

"It is so exciting to think about the fact that among all the universities – 3,700 of them – around the country, that UTEP is in the Top 10," she said.

*Washington Monthly* rates schools based on their contribution to the public in three broad categories: social mobility (recruiting and graduating low-income and first-generation students), research (producing cutting-edge scholarship and doctoral graduates) and service (encouraging students to give something back to their region and nation).

Each category holds equal weight in the ranking system. For the first time since *Washington Monthly* began collecting data for its rankings, the magazine used a three-year average rather than data from the previous year. The decision was made to average the data to protect smaller schools from having wild swings in rankings from year to year.

President Natalicio went on to describe the importance and significance of the social mobility category.

"What social mobility really means is that we punch above our weight, that we outperform all the predictions about what we ought to be able to accomplish on this campus," she said. "People set often very low expectations and we've said, 'No. We're not willing to do that. We're going to set real high expectations and then we'll work as hard as it takes to achieve them.' And that's what we've done here."

Part of UTEP's high ranking in social mobility comes from the fact that more than 60 percent of UTEP graduates are the first in their families to earn a bachelor's degree, and one-third report a family income of \$20,000 or less. UTEP's success in recruiting, retaining and graduating these students demonstrates that talent crosses gender, ethnic and socioeconomic boundaries, and that an investment in a UTEP degree yields high returns.



**“WHAT SOCIAL MOBILITY REALLY MEANS IS THAT WE PUNCH ABOVE OUR WEIGHT, THAT WE OUTPERFORM ALL THE PREDICTIONS ABOUT WHAT WE OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH ON THIS CAMPUS.”**

Diana Natalicio  
President, The University of Texas at El Paso



# NATIONAL RANKINGS PLACE UTEP AMONG TOP UNIVERSITIES

UTEP's recognition by *Washington Monthly* magazine was one of several 2014 rankings that placed UTEP among the top schools in various categories. The following summarizes the highlights of those rankings.

- *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* ranked The University of Texas at El Paso No. 1 in conferring bachelor's degrees to Hispanic students in education, mathematics and statistics; No. 2 in awarding degrees to all minorities in education and No. 3 in awarding bachelor's degrees to Hispanics in all disciplines combined.
- UTEP also was ranked among the top 3 in awarding degrees to Hispanics in biological and biomedical sciences; registered nursing, nursing administration, nursing research and clinical nursing; parks, recreation, leisure and fitness studies; engineering; finance and financial management services; and history.
- *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* ranked UTEP No. 1 in awarding graduate degrees to Hispanics in health professions and related programs and No. 2 in computer and information sciences and support services, and in engineering.
- UTEP was ranked among the top 10 in all disciplines combined for Hispanics earning graduate degrees and in total number of minorities earning graduate degrees in computer and information sciences and support services.
- A report by the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) in July ranked UTEP No. 1 in percentage of engineering doctoral degrees awarded to women. The College of Engineering earned this distinction by awarding 40.5 percent of its doctoral degrees in 2013 to women, which is almost twice the national average of 22.4 percent.
- In the same ASEE report, UTEP was ranked No. 2 in awarding engineering bachelor's degrees to Hispanics in the U.S. (excluding Puerto Rico) and No. 4 for the number of Hispanic tenured and tenure-track faculty in engineering.
- The College of Business Administration and the College of Engineering received accolades from *HispanicBusiness.com*, where they were rated among the best graduate schools in the country for Hispanics. The College of Business Administration was ranked No. 1 for the fifth consecutive year while the College of Engineering was No. 4, marking its 10th straight year in the top five.
- In August 2014, several national magazines recognized The University of Texas at El Paso's M.B.A. program in their annual "Best of the Best" lists: *Professional Woman's Magazine*, *Hispanic Network Magazine* and *Black EOE Journal*. This is the second year the program has been acknowledged by *Hispanic Network*, which also named UTEP as a top school for Hispanics.
- The M.B.A. program also was ranked among the world's best by European-based *FindyourMBA*.
- UTEP was named among the Top Veteran-Friendly Schools by *U.S. Veterans Magazine*. 📄

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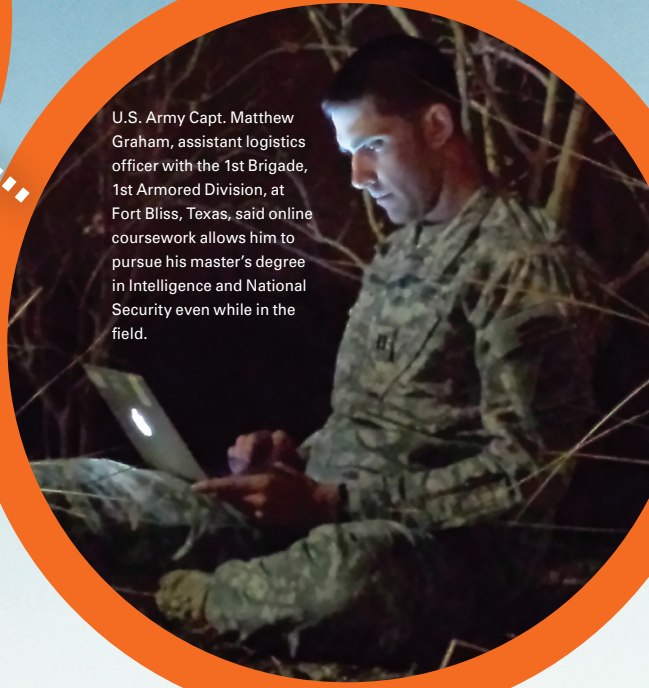
By Daniel Perez  
Photography by  
Laura Trejo

# UTEP Ready to Market Online Programs Nationally - and Beyond



**“If I can earn my master’s while working in Iraq, what’s your excuse?”**

Cmdr. Glenn Barnes  
Retired Navy Lt.



U.S. Army Capt. Matthew Graham, assistant logistics officer with the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, at Fort Bliss, Texas, said online coursework allows him to pursue his master’s degree in Intelligence and National Security even while in the field.

**A**fter long days of training with his troops at McGregor Range, Army Capt. Matthew Graham would hunker down with his laptop computer to work on a presentation about the National Security Council for an online intelligence course.

Graham, an assistant logistics officer with the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas, is pursuing his master’s degree in Intelligence and National Security Studies through a hybrid degree plan offered through The University of Texas at El Paso. Starting in May 2015, most online degree plans will consolidate under UTEP’s Extended University, an administrative umbrella organization that oversees the institution’s nontraditional academic offerings.

The Army officer praised the University and his course faculty for easing his transition to online learning.

“My instructors were phenomenal,” said Graham, who used an unclassified military network to connect to his coursework during downtime in the New Mexico desert. “When I had a question, their responses were quick and helpful. I told them when I would be in the field to keep them in the loop, so it was not an issue.”

Extended University, in partnership with Pearson Online Learning Services, recently

began to roll out a multimedia advertising campaign to promote UTEP Connect, home to the University’s growing portfolio of online undergraduate and graduate degree plans aimed at students like Graham, adults who want a quality education but cannot always attend scheduled classes in a brick-and-mortar setting.

UTEP is responsible for the local and regional campaign components, such as billboards, newspapers, radio, television and social media to advance the University’s overarching message of access, support and excellence, regardless of a student’s location. There also will be a concentrated effort to get the message out at military posts around the region. The campaign should hit full stride in early 2015.

Pearson, one of the world’s premier education service providers, will focus on the national online marketing such as pay-per-click and online educational directory listings.

Prospective students will be encouraged to visit the UTEP Connect website – [online.utep.edu](http://online.utep.edu) – to learn more about the new and existing programs. They can fill out an inquiry form and request to be contacted by a representative from a campus-based UTEP Connect call center. The initial contact will be for enrollment counseling that involves applications and admission. Subsequent calls will be fielded by student success advisers who will serve as advocates, motivators and conduits to campus information as the

students progress through their degree plans.

This effort capitalizes on the growing trend toward online education. A 2014 U.S. Department of Education study stated that almost 26 percent of the nation’s 21.2 million college students took all or part of their courses online. On a related note, a 2011 survey by the Babson Survey Research Group of chief academic officers at more than 2,500 U.S. colleges and universities found that 65 percent considered online education “critical” to their long-term strategy. Academic experts believe those numbers will increase because of cost and convenience.

The most recent UTEP numbers confirm a growing interest in online courses. Data from the University’s Center for Institutional Evaluation, Research and Planning (CIERP) show the campus offered 630 fully online courses that were taken by 9,219 students during the 2013-14 academic year, compared to 319 such courses taken by 4,419 students four years earlier.

Mike Smith, J.D., Ph.D., dean of Extended University, said 25 percent of UTEP’s undergraduates – about 5,000 students – are enrolled in online courses. He added that students fill those available courses and demand more.

The courses, most of which were developed by UTEP’s School of Nursing and colleges of Education and Liberal Arts, have resonated with UTEP Connect’s target audience: self-directed adults with jobs and families, those



**“Online is an important part of the future of higher education.”**

Mike Smith, J.D., Ph.D.,  
dean of Extended University



in the military and law enforcement, and people who want to finish degrees, enhance their skills in the workplace, or transition to new careers as companies downsize.

The Extended University dean called online learning efficient and well aligned with the University’s mission of access and excellence.

“Online is an important part of the future of higher education,” Smith said. “UTEP Connect is a terrific addition to the University’s legacy of what it has provided to the men and women of this region. This is part of the next evolution and that is very exciting.”

The UTEP Connect course offerings are made up of graduate degrees in nursing, bilingual and early childhood education, and defense and strategic studies. UTEP Connect also offers undergraduate degrees in criminal justice, health promotion, security studies, organizational and corporate communication, multidisciplinary studies and pre-business. A graduate certificate in technical and professional writing also is available. Additional programs are in the works.

Whitney Teeluck, managing director of Pearson’s Academic Partnerships, said the affiliation aligns well with Pearson’s charter of increasing access to high-quality online degree programs for nontraditional students and underserved markets. Pearson will provide UTEP Connect with technology solutions, course development, marketing services, delivery of digital content, and online tutoring to support growth and student success.

“(These) will allow UTEP to drive student achievement and track learning outcomes,” Teeluck said.

The UTEP-Pearson collaboration is strengthened by the services provided by UTEP’s Academic Technologies (AT), which provides instructional technology and development services to faculty interested in teaching technology-enhanced, hybrid and fully online courses. AT plays a key role in working with faculty to implement best practices and innovative technologies for online instruction.

Extended University officials stressed that UTEP Connect works in conjunction with the mission of the main campus that promotes hands-on research and the college experience to undergraduates. Their shared goal is to enhance the opportunities for higher education for people around the region and the nation.

“We’re just expanding opportunities for those who cannot be here,” said Arathi Kylasam, Extended University marketing director.

Among those who have benefited from UTEP’s online courses is Glenn Barnes, a retired Navy lieutenant commander who earned his Master of Science in Nursing in 2010 while working as a civilian in northern Iraq for the U.S. Department of State. The registered nurse continues to serve in a medical support role in Iraq.

Barnes said he enrolled in UTEP’s online program because it allowed him to work and go to school. The first-generation college

student said he enjoyed the experience and praised the University for providing the necessary infrastructure and technology.

“If I can earn my master’s while working in Iraq, what’s your excuse?” he asked rhetorically.

The School of Nursing is at the forefront of the University’s online degree offerings. Its first totally online program was the R.N.-B.S.N. that was offered in fall 2004. In 2013, the school enrolled 117 R.N.-B.S.N. students and 299 graduate students, said Debbie Sikes, R.N.-B.S.N. director.

Sikes, who earned her Master of Science in Nursing degree from UTEP in 2009, marvels at the diversity of the students in the online classes as they participate in discussions about patient care. She recalled one student in Germany who took his final on Skype. He evaluated an actor posing as a patient while the faculty observed.

“The School of Nursing is fully invested with Extended University,” Sikes said. “They keep us up with technology and guide us on the necessary license restrictions. That’s very important. The whole relationship is highly effective.”

Smith, the Extended University dean, is confident of the future success of UTEP Connect. He showed a rollout calendar of additional degree plans that stretches to the end of the decade. It includes offerings from the colleges of Engineering and Business Administration and a doctorate from the College of Education. Just as important are the last two words on his calendar: “... and beyond.”



# CROSS-BORDER PARTNERSHIP

## BORDER IS CONNECTING, NOT DIVIDING LINE

By Laura L. Acosta • Photos by Ivan Pierre Aguirre and Laura Trejo

Top: On Dec. 11, 2014, UTEP President Diana Natalicio and Jacob Prado, Consul General of Mexico in El Paso, presented 17 students from Mexico a scholarship from the IME *Becas* Scholarship Program to study at UTEP.

Bottom: The sculpture *Esfera Cuántica Tlahtolli* by Sebastián was a gift from the people of Mexico to UTEP.

**A**mong the 27 students who started the first day of classes at the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy (now The University of Texas at El Paso) on Sept. 28, 1914, was Raul Barberena, the first student from Mexico.

A native of Tampico, Mexico, Barberena also earned the distinction of being the University's first Hispanic instructor. Dean Steve H. Worrell hired Barberena to teach Spanish while he completed his studies to become a mining engineer.

Since 1914, thousands of talented and highly motivated students from Mexico have followed Barberena's example and come to UTEP in pursuit of a world-class education in the United States.

"This institution of higher education has become the alma mater of thousands of people in my country, and today UTEP is the American university with the highest number of Mexican students," said Mexican Ambassador to the U.S. Eduardo Medina Mora during the dedication ceremony of the sculpture *Esfera Cuántica Tlahtolli* by Mexican artist Sebastián at UTEP in September 2014. "This continuous exchange has contributed significantly to strengthening our bilateral ties and consolidating regional cooperation in an increasingly globalized world," he added.

UTEP's location on the U.S.-Mexico border has been the catalyst for many partnerships with programs and people in Mexico involving student engagement, research collaborations, cultural exchanges and academic initiatives.

These partnerships have allowed students on both sides of the border to develop their talents and contribute to the social and economic advancement of the Paso del Norte region.

"Many of our achievements over the past century are the result of strong partnerships with others, including our good friends in Mexico," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "Together, we have worked hard to raise the aspirations and educational attainment of this region's young people, and to enhance our collective quality of life."

### ACCESS TO EXCELLENCE

UTEP's commitment to provide students an affordable and high quality education prompted Cecilia Osornio Tokunhaga to pursue her bachelor's degree in nursing from UTEP. Tokunhaga was one of 1,085 Mexican nationals pursuing their academic careers at the University during the fall 2014 semester.

UTEP enrolls more undergraduate Mexican students than any other university in the nation.

Tokunhaga's dream to study at an American university became a reality thanks to the *Programa de Asistencia Estudiantil* (PASE) at UTEP.

Implemented at UTEP in 1987 by the Texas legislature, the PASE program has enabled Mexican students to pay in-state tuition.

About 97 percent of Mexican nationals studying at UTEP benefit from the program.

Without the program's assistance, Tokunhaga estimates that she would have paid \$7,000 more per year in tuition, prohibiting



her from continuing her education.

"Paying for tuition out of pocket is hard, especially if you are an international student," said Tokunhaga, a PASE Peer Adviser with UTEP's Office of International Programs. "UTEP is one of the best universities in the country. I would highly recommend to other students from Mexico to come and study here."

### SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

In collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, UTEP has helped to foster the higher education goals of students from Mexico by providing them with financial resources through the Institute of Mexicans Abroad (IME)-Becas program. *Becas* is the Spanish word for scholarship.

In December, UTEP received \$20,000 from IME-Becas to award scholarships to 17 students from Mexico who are enrolled full time at the University. Paola A. Ramos Villegas, a cellular and molecular



The cry of independence, or *El Grito de la Independencia*, is performed at the UTEP Union Plaza to commemorate Mexico's Day of Independence on Sept. 16.



biochemistry major from Chihuahua City, was one of the recipients.

Villegas has taken full advantage of the research opportunities UTEP offers undergraduate students. Her experience working on prostate cancer research at the University helped her earn an internship at Princeton University in molecular biology during the summer of 2014.

"Getting my bachelor's degree in the U.S. for me was a good start," said Villegas, who expects to graduate in May 2015 and plans to pursue master's and doctoral degrees.

"I think it's really great that (IME-Becas) encourages students to go to foreign places to learn."

IME-Becas was established in 2005 through a bilateral agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico through IME and the University of California, Berkeley.

Since 2010, IME has funded the scholarship gift to UTEP through the Consulate General of Mexico in El Paso to provide and improve access to academic opportunities for Mexican students who want to attend adult education programs and universities in the United States. Recipients use the funds to develop skills in high-demand fields that will enhance their job opportunities in this country.

To date, 32 students have received new and renewed scholarships for a total of \$85,000, including Jorge Baños Gomar, whose scholarship was renewed from 2010 to 2014.

"Without IME-Becas, I am most certain that I would have needed to reduce my course load or simply not continue with my degree," said Gomar, a native of Mexico City who earned bachelor's and master's degrees from

UTEP. "The scholarship allowed me to cover part of my tuition costs and give back to the community and focus on academics and leadership."

### PROMOTING BINATIONAL UNITY

On Sept. 10, 2014, UTEP and the Consulate General of Mexico in El Paso celebrated the enduring relationship between the University and the people of Mexico with the unveiling of the sculpture *Esfera Cuántica Tlahcalli* in front of the Fox Fine Arts Center.

A gift from the people of Mexico to commemorate the University's 100th anniversary, the sculpture symbolizes the bonds of friendship and partnership between the people of Mexico and the University.

"It is great news to learn that the work of Sebastián, one of Mexico's most distinguished contemporary artists, will have such a prominent place at UTEP, an academic institution that since its inception has welcomed Mexican students," said the Honorable Jacob Prado, Consul General of Mexico in El Paso.

The Mexican Consulate in El Paso has become one of the University's most engaged partners.

Through the years, both have worked collaboratively on several projects related to U.S.-Mexico border issues, the arts and cultural programming.

Since 2013, the College of Health Sciences at UTEP has provided health-related resources to Mexican nationals and their families at the Mexican Consulate in El Paso through the *Ventanilla de Salud*, a health collaborative established by the Mexican government.

Services include health information and

education, referrals to health and social services in the community, health fairs and more.

"The partnership between the Consulado General de Mexico in El Paso and the College of Health Sciences provides an excellent venue to improve the physical and mental well-being of Mexicans who live in the U.S., and to increase their access to primary and preventive health care, (Seguro Popular) health insurance coverage, and delivering these services in a culturally sensitive and appropriate fashion," said Eva Moya, Ph.D., assistant professor of social work.

From July 2013 to June 2014, the program's health and education presentations attracted 16,714 participants. During the same time span, the program made more than 1,200 referrals to health and human services agencies.

"*Ventanilla de Salud* is an excellent venue for UTEP students, faculty and staff to practice and model collaboration, education and service," Moya said. "Together we strive to achieve a holistic approach and create a culture of health focused on prevention."

The Mexican Consulate also is a frequent co-sponsor of the University's Centennial Lecture series, which included the first Centennial Lecture of the fall 2014 semester by Mexican Ambassador Eduardo Medina Mora.

Each year, the consul general of Mexico in El Paso performs *El Grito de la Independencia*, or the cry of independence, at the UTEP Union Plaza to enable Mexican nationals to commemorate Mexico's Day of Independence on Sept. 16.

"All these things make you feel like (this is) home," Paola A. Ramos Villegas said. "(UTEP) keeps a lot of traditions and that helps a lot. I got to learn more about my own country while being here." 📧

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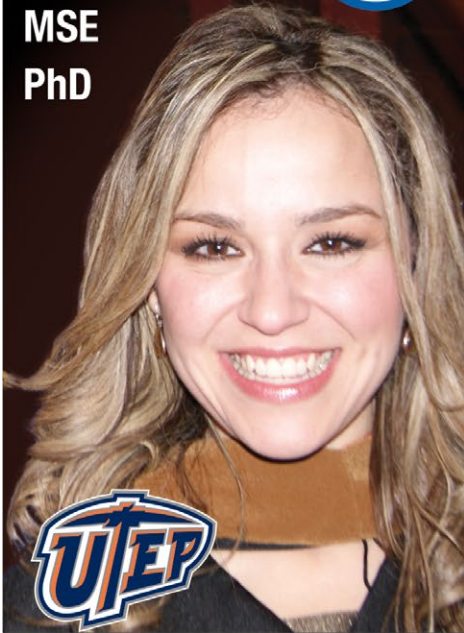
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# B.S./M.B.A. PROGRAM BRIDGES BUSINESS AND ENGINEERING

By Lisa Y. Garibay

One alum's gift keeps on giving back to The University of Texas at El Paso.

This fall marks the first semester for the University's B.S./M.B.A. program, which bridges the colleges of Business Administration and Engineering. This unique course of study addresses a gap within professional sectors that UTEP students are eager to fill.

Past M.B.A. graduates who also received a Bachelor of Science degree from UTEP have repeatedly mentioned how business education made a true difference in helping differentiate them within the workforce and rounded out their skill sets.

"This isn't just theoretical for us," said Laura Uribarri, assistant dean for M.B.A. Programs at the Graduate Business Center. "We have these examples of students who have done the two programs and employers absolutely love them."

UTEP mechanical engineering graduate Mike Loya put the wheels in motion for the program via his \$10 million gift to the University in 2011, which helped to establish the Mike Loya Center for Innovation and Commerce. This dual-degree program is part of the center's commitment to engage in faculty- and student-led research at the intersection of business, engineering sciences and the arts.

Daniela Noriega, a B.S. in industrial engineering candidate, and B.S. in electrical engineering candidate Jorge Martinez are two of the three students currently enrolled in the B.S./M.B.A. joint degree program.

"Ever since I was younger, I always tried to sell things to people – picture the six-year-old in the neighborhood selling chocolates," Noriega said. "I guess there was an entrepreneur inside me wanting to come out. The passion for having my own future business brought that entrepreneurial spirit out and pushed me to go ahead and apply for the program."

Martinez was considering master's programs when he heard about the new B.S./M.B.A. joint degree program in an electrical engineering junior professional orientation class.

"The ability to work on my B.S.E.E. program concurrently with the M.B.A. was more than enough to persuade me to apply," he said. "Going through the final stages of the B.S.E.E. degree, ideas and opportunities for entrepreneurship are not scarce, and having the business knowledge to see them through is invaluable."

Noriega refers to what she has learned thus far as "incomparable," adding she has a new appreciation for how business and engineering processes are connected to one another.

A few more students are expected to join the program in the spring semester. The window for applications has been kept open beyond fall due to the strong interest expressed by students.

The program was able to provide Loya Fellowship Funding to some of the current enrollees to help them pay for their education. New students will be considered for this funding as they move into full M.B.A. status.

Additional Bachelor of Science programs will be considered in the future, too, as long as there can be a balance between science-oriented course requirements and those on the business end.

"We have heard from students in other majors who really want the opportunity to do it," said Uribarri, who refers to the program as a work in progress.

Involved departments are excited about the merger, with faculty enjoying the diversity science-oriented majors bring into business classes. Along with the program's organizers, these faculty are continually inspired by the chance to fill this niche with prepared, professional UTEP graduates.

"We are setting these students up to step into management rotation programs within different companies or to start their own company," Uribarri said. "Having them leave here with a graduate degree means that they are stepping into the job market with a very different set of opportunities than their (Bachelor of Science) colleagues, and that's a really wonderful thing. Their pay potential is much higher and their professional opportunities are much broader." 📧

# UTEP PIONEERS NATION'S FIRST ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP BACHELOR'S DEGREE

By Nadia M. Whitehead  
Photo by J.R. Hernandez



The University of Texas at El Paso is set to offer the first Bachelor of Science in Engineering Leadership in the country.

"We believe this program will change the paradigm for engineering education," said Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., College of Engineering dean and pioneer of the idea of the degree.

The innovative new bachelor's is in response to the ever-changing role of engineers in society, Schoephoerster explained, from businessperson and entrepreneur to leader and communicator.

As the first Bachelor of Science in Engineering Leadership (E-Lead) in the country, the specialized degree will help students enter the workforce as well-rounded, confident individuals. While a technical engineering education will remain key, the program will focus on teaching rising engineers business, communication, leadership and entrepreneurial skills. The curriculum is intended to capture the interest and imagination of talented, young students who are looking to turn their ideas into reality.

Roger V. Gonzalez, Ph.D., a mechanical and biomedical engineer, will serve as E-Lead's director.


"It's not all about calculus and physics – even though I love those subjects – but about the breadth you can communicate with others," he said. "We need to extend the reach of engineering beyond technical matters."

To do so, E-Lead will focus on three core values that are the foundation of a strong engineering leader: character, competence and capacity. Courses will revolve around nurturing independent, caring characters, and encouraging students to master their field of study. They'll also be presented with diverse challenges to learn how to incorporate multiple disciplines in day-to-day work.

In addition, E-Lead will collaborate with the nationally recognized Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering and West Point, a military institution renowned for forging leaders, for guidance on designing curriculum that will transform the experience of students. The hope is to go beyond course content and focus on applying and integrating students' skills and knowledge in real-world scenarios.

UTEP alumnus Bob Malone, former president and chairman of British Petroleum (BP) America, strongly supports the new program, which he says represents a shift in how engineering is taught across the country.

"Early on in my career it became obvious that a strong engineering foundation was not enough," Malone said. "Engineering schools need to broaden strong engineering backgrounds with additional critical skills."

The Engineering Leadership program was made possible by a \$1 million gift from Malone and his wife, Diane, in 2011 along with a matching gift of \$1 million from the Halliburton Foundation. 

**Pictured above: Minutes after the campus announcement about the new Engineering Leadership degree, students within the College of Engineering who planned to switch over to the new degree walked outside and released handfuls of bright balloons into the El Paso sky.**

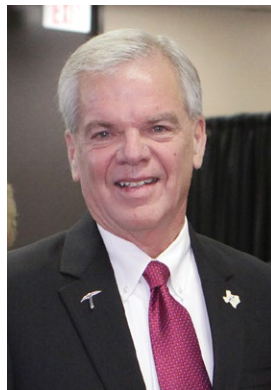
# DISTINGUISHED GUESTS



**NEW MEXICO GOV. SUSANA MARTINEZ**  
UTEP alumna and New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, the nation's first female Hispanic governor, discussed her political career and opportunities for young people to engage in the political process during her visit to UTEP in September.



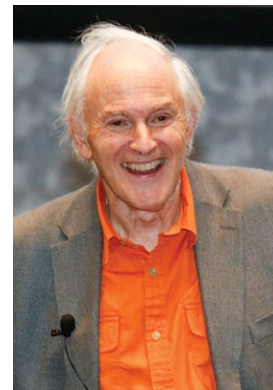
**EDUARDO MEDINA MORA**  
Mexico's ambassador to the United States, Eduardo Medina Mora, talked about education and border trade during the fall's first Centennial Lecture in September.



**TED HOUGHTON**  
Texas Transportation Commission Chair Ted Houghton visited UTEP to celebrate the completion of the Sun Bowl Drive expansion project in October.

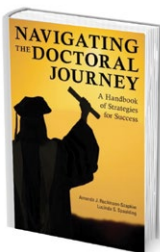


**SUSAN HASSMILLER, PH.D.**  
Susan Hassmiller, Ph.D., senior adviser for nursing at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, spoke to undergraduate nursing students about becoming America's future nursing leaders in the Health Sciences and Nursing Building in October.

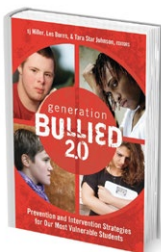


**SIR HAROLD WALTER KROTO**  
British chemist Sir Harold (Harry) Kroto, one of three recipients of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, talked about "Chemistry in Nano and Outer Space" with UTEP students at the Undergraduate Learning Center in November as part of the Centennial Lecture Series.

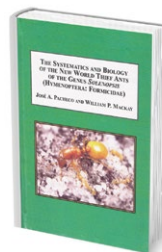
## FACULTY MUST-READS



*Navigating the Doctoral Journey: A Handbook of Strategies for Success*, contributor Lawrence M. Lesser, Ph.D., professor of mathematical sciences (Rowen and Littlefield, 2014)



*Generation BULLIED 2.0: Prevention and Intervention Strategies for Our Most Vulnerable Students*, contributor Rodrigo J. Rodriguez, Ph.D., assistant professor of English (Peter Lang Publishing Group, 2013)



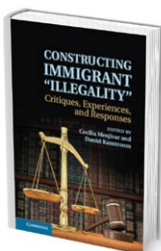
*The Systematics and Biology of the New World Thief Ants of the Genus Solenopsis (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)*, by William P. Mackay, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences, et al. (Edwin Mellen Press, 2013)



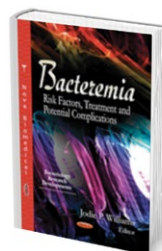
*Action Science: Relevant Teaching and Active Learning*, by William H. Robertson, Ph.D., associate provost and professor of teacher education (Corwin, 2014)



*The Dance Experience: Insights into History, Culture, and Creativity*, by Myron Howard Nadel, professor of dance, et al. (Princeton Book Co., 2014)



*Constructing Immigrant 'Illegality': Critiques, Experiences and Responses*, contributor Josiah M. Heyman, Ph.D., professor of anthropology (Cambridge University Press, 2014)

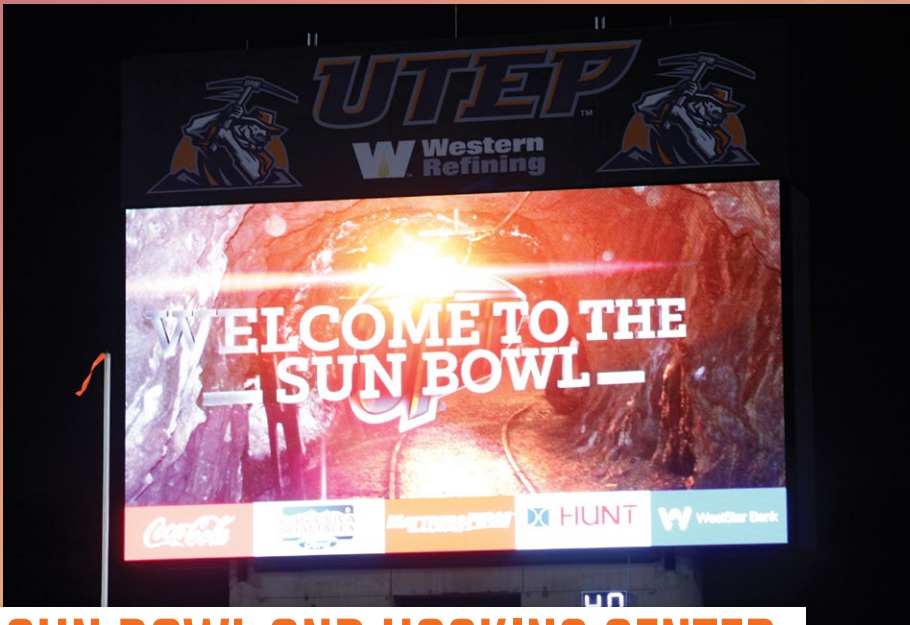


*Bacteremia: Risk Factors, Treatment and Potential Complications*, contributor Delfina C. Dominguez, Ph.D., professor of clinical laboratory sciences (Nova Science Publishers, 2014)



*The Aggregates Handbook*, contributor Reza Ashtiani, Ph.D., assistant professor of civil engineering (The National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, 2013)





## SUN BOWL AND HASKINS CENTER GET NEW VIDEO BOARDS

By Rachel Anna Neff, Ph.D. • Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

In addition to its major campus transformation projects, The University of Texas at El Paso spruced up in other ways during its Centennial year, and Sun Bowl Stadium and the Don Haskins Center were not left out of the campus update.

During summer 2014, the University partnered with Daktronics to install new light-emitting diode (LED) displays for the Sun Bowl and the Haskins Center. Sun Bowl Stadium received four new LED displays and the Don Haskins Center received two. An additional marquee display was installed outside the University Ticket Center, replacing the former light bulb display with a modern LED screen.

The new, larger video boards are designed to need minimal maintenance and to consume less power.

Removal and salvage of the old video boards began in late May. Daktronics finished the installations in time for the opening of the football and basketball seasons.

In Sun Bowl Stadium, Miner fans were treated to a new, south end zone LED display measuring 34 feet by 60 feet, which nearly quadrupled the area for digital display as compared to the old board. This end zone display is now the largest of any Conference USA football stadium.

Football fans now enjoy a main screen capable of dividing into separate windows to show multiple types of data, statistics,

graphics and animation, scoring information and sponsor messages. The LED technology provides wide-angle visibility and excellent image clarity and contrast.

Two auxiliary displays were installed in the corners of the end zone on either side of the main display. Measuring 6 feet by 90 feet, each display offers a high-definition pixel layout. At the north end zone, a 4-foot by 96-foot ribbon display provides supplemental game statistics, graphics and animation.

In addition to the new video displays, the stadium received a custom Daktronics audio system, which was integrated with the video and scoring system for full-range sound reproduction capable of delivering clear and intelligible speech.

Inside the Don Haskins Center, two LED video displays measuring approximately 13 feet by 40 feet were installed. The Don Haskins Center also received locker room clocks, shot clocks, a backboard lighting kit and a Daktronics software interface capable of managing and displaying game, season and career statistics.

"The video boards have certainly enhanced our game-day experience with state-of-the-art sound, high definition replays and a stats interface that have brought fans closer to the action than ever before," said Bob Stull, director of athletics. "It's great to see them in action!"

## UTEP BASKETBALL C-USA HOME SCHEDULES

### MAKE HISTORY

JAN. 8	LOUISIANA TECH	7:00 PM
JAN. 10	SOUTHERN MISS	7:00 PM
JAN. 29	UAB	7:00 PM
JAN. 31	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	7:00 PM
FEB. 12	CHARLOTTE	7:00 PM
FEB. 14	OLD DOMINION	7:00 PM
FEB. 21	UTSA	7:00 PM
MARCH 5	NORTH TEXAS	7:00 PM
MARCH 7	RICE	2:00 PM

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

### MAKE HISTORY

JAN. 2	NORTH TEXAS	7:00 PM
JAN. 4	RICE	2:00 PM
JAN. 17	UTSA	2:00 PM
JAN. 22	WESTERN KENTUCKY	7:00 PM
JAN. 24	MARSHALL	2:00 PM
FEB. 5	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	7:00 PM
FEB. 7	FIU	2:00 PM
FEB. 26	LOUISIANA TECH	7:00 PM
MARCH 1	SOUTHERN MISS	2:00 PM

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

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# FOOTBALL TEAM ENDS WINNING





# SEASON WITH BOWL GAME

By Mark Brunner • Photos by J.R. Hernandez

Changing the culture of a football team is not an easy task, especially when the environment at a school has been stagnant when it comes to consistent success. Factor in the increasingly large amounts of pressure on head coaches to win in a short amount of time, and you begin to understand just how difficult a task it is to accomplish.

Yet that is what former Miner offensive lineman (1984-88) Sean Kugler has accomplished at The University of Texas at El Paso in two brief years.

The Orange and Blue had endured eight straight losing seasons, including a 2-10 mark in Kugler's first year on the sidelines in 2013. Memories of back-to-back winning seasons and bowl bids (2004 and 2005) under former coach Mike Price – who Kugler replaced upon his retirement – were becoming more distant.

Rather than trying to replicate the past, though, Kugler and company were intent on penning a new chapter of success for UTEP football. They wanted to usher in a new era, one of consistent success, year in and year out.

Generally speaking, teams can't both win in the short-term while also laying a foundation of success for years to come, but that's exactly what the Miners achieved in 2014. UTEP

rolled to its first winning record at the school (7-6) in almost a decade while never losing track of the bigger picture. So at the 2014 Gildan New Mexico Bowl against Utah State in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on Dec. 20, 2014, they still made history despite the 21-6 loss.

Sophomore Aaron Jones was a catalyst throughout the campaign. He finished with 1,321 rushing yards, making it the fourth-best in a single season in program history. He was named to the All-Conference USA team, along with kick returner Autrey Golden and offensive lineman Jerel Watkins to give UTEP its most such selections in a year since 2009.

The Miners finished 5-1 in the Sun Bowl, including 4-0 in league play to match their most wins in the conference since 1988. UTEP also enjoyed some success on the road, highlighted by a season-opening triumph at I-25 rival New Mexico and a 34-0 whitewashing in front of a nationally televised audience at C-USA foe UT San Antonio.

"All the things those guys have been through here in this program, to have the toughness to overcome that and stop the bleeding, I couldn't be prouder of them," Kugler said. "These guys have already learned

how to work, they've learned how to practice and now they're learning how to win. That's how you build a program."

Given the fact that UTEP had a rough first year under Kugler, it would have been easy to abandon the long-term picture and try to just win for 2014. Yet Kugler had a vision when he was hired by UTEP Director of Athletics Bob Stull, and he was not going to abandon that plan after one year.

"The object coming in wasn't for a quick fix," Kugler said. "We didn't go out and sign 21 JC (junior college) players and try to win right now and have to retool every year. We want to recruit high school players. We'll plug in a JC player here or there to fill a need or a spot, but it's not going to be the basis of our program. When you look at the signing sheet every year, you're going to see 10 linemen every year. We're going to build our program on that. We really feel we've got the right formula for building a program long-term."

As far as what the future holds, only time will tell. There is a reason to believe that the success achieved in 2014 is just the beginning of a new century in Miner football. ☒

WHETHER IT'S THE SOFTBALL FIELD, THE GOLF COURSE, THE BASKETBALL COURT OR THE CLASSROOM, THESE ATHLETES GIVE IT THEIR ALL.

Photos by J.R. Hernandez

# CAMINO SARDINERO

**SPORT:**

Golf

**CLASS:**

Senior

**HOMETOWN:**

Villanueva De La Canada, Spain

**MAJOR:**

International Business and Finance

A senior from Villanueva De La Canada, Spain, Camino Sardinero has been the catalyst of the UTEP women's golf team for the last two-and-a-half years. During that span she has been the Miners' top finisher in 19 of 26 tournaments. She is no slouch off the course either, having garnered a Conference USA Academic Medal three times for earning a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or better.



# STACIE TELLES

**SPORT:**

Basketball

**CLASS:**

Senior

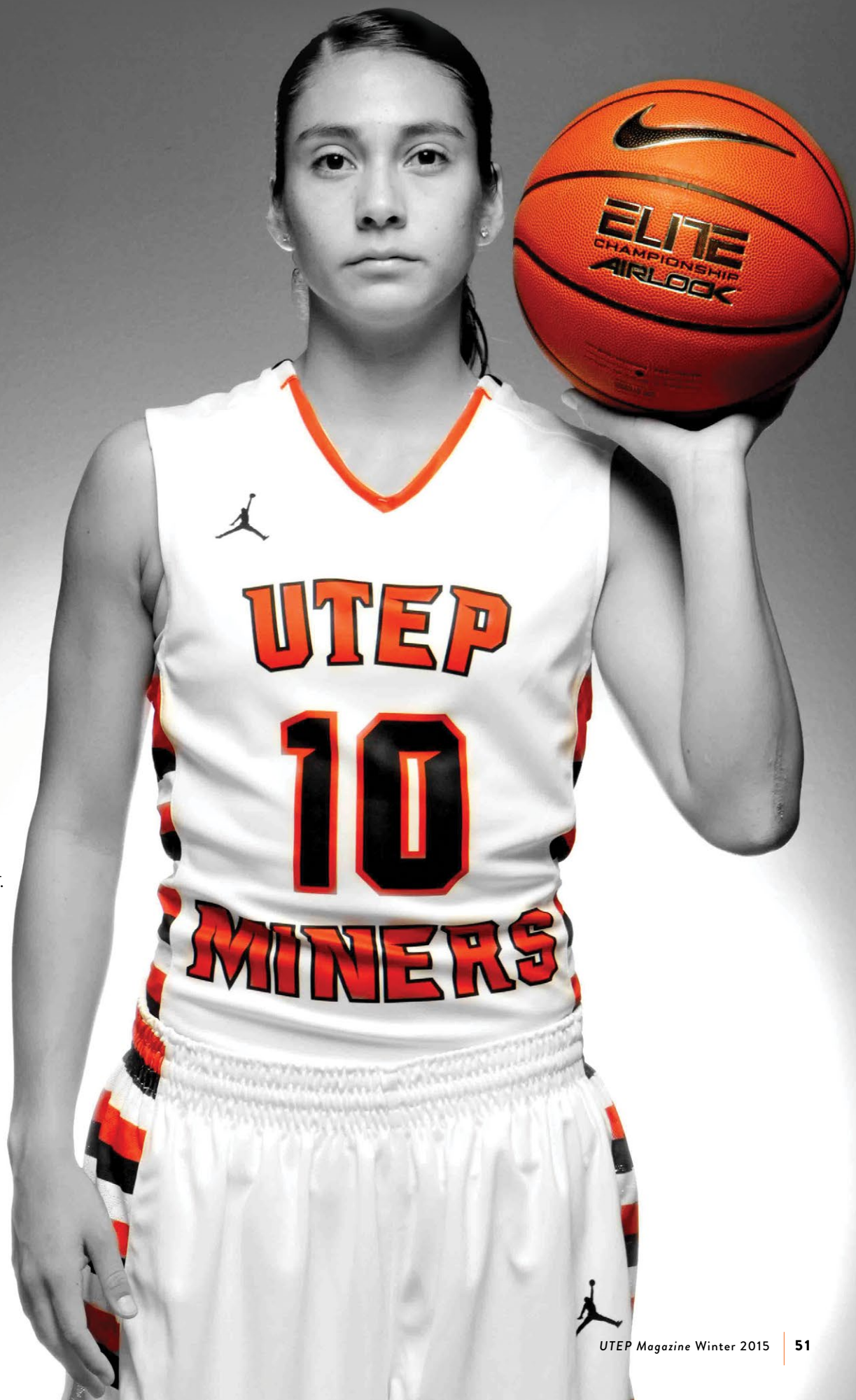
**HOMETOWN:**

El Paso

**MAJOR:**

Criminal Justice

Stacie Telles has proven it is never too late to come home. A native of El Paso, Telles returned home to join the UTEP women's basketball team for the 2013-14 season after two years in the junior college ranks. In a script seemingly out of Hollywood, Telles played an important role for a squad that captured the heart of the city on the way to earning runner-up honors at the 2014 WNIT. Telles headed into the 2014-15 season as one of the team leaders while living out her childhood dream of playing for the Miners.



A full-page photograph of Ashley Eldridge, a softball player, in a batting stance. She is wearing a red and navy blue uniform with a patch on the sleeve that reads "UTEP SOFTBALL 1972-2014". She has long dark hair and is looking towards the camera. A softball bat is visible in the upper left corner.

# ASHLEY ELDRIDGE

**SPORT:**

Softball

**CLASS:**

Senior

**HOMETOWN:**

Las Vegas, Nevada

**MAJOR:**

Kinesiology

Senior Ashley Eldridge begins her fourth season with the Miners in 2015. She produced a breakout season in 2014, leading the team in multiple categories. The native of Las Vegas led the team in RBI, runs scored, doubles and stolen bases. Eldridge's 17 doubles were tied for the Conference USA lead. She also has excelled in the classroom, being named to the C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll the last two years.

# JULIAN WASHBURN

**SPORT:**

Basketball

**CLASS:**

Senior

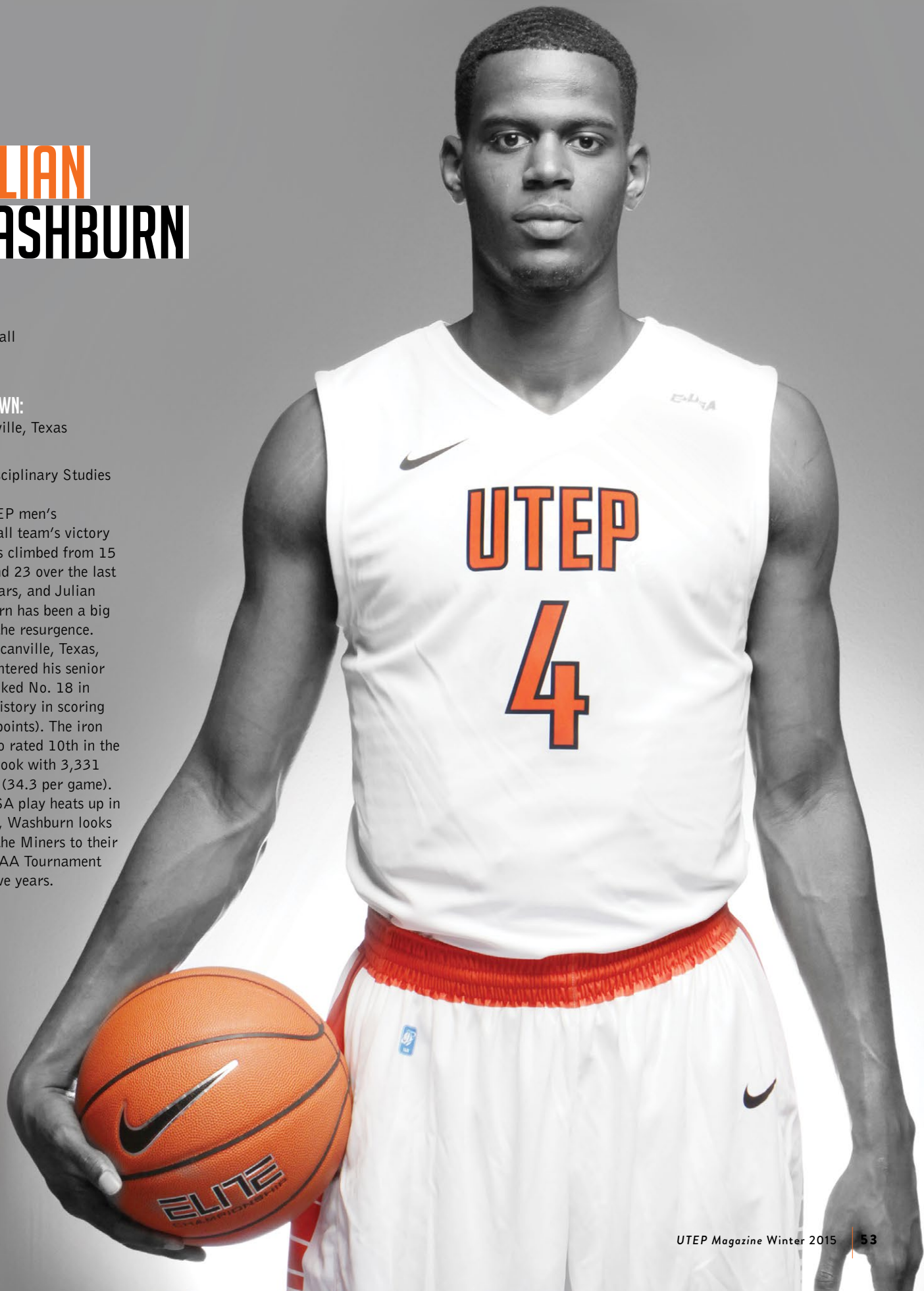
**HOMETOWN:**

Duncanville, Texas

**MAJOR:**

Multidisciplinary Studies

The UTEP men's basketball team's victory total has climbed from 15 to 18 and 23 over the last three years, and Julian Washburn has been a big part of the resurgence. The Duncanville, Texas, native entered his senior year ranked No. 18 in school history in scoring (1,186 points). The iron man also rated 10th in the record book with 3,331 minutes (34.3 per game). As C-USA play heats up in January, Washburn looks to lead the Miners to their first NCAA Tournament bid in five years.



UTEP ALUMS







Oct. 5-11, 2014

# CENTENNIAL *Homecoming*

By Lisa Y. Garibay • Photos by Laura Trejo and Ivan Pierre Aguirre

UTEP alumni from locations near and far returned to campus Oct. 5-11, 2014, for Centennial Homecoming activities.


The celebration kicked off with the College of Health Sciences' Fifth Annual Commitment to Fitness 5K Run / 3K Walk, attracting hundreds of participants of all ages.

Throughout the week, alumni continued to descend upon campus for college-specific activities, while events like the College of Business Administration's Military Appreciation Breakfast were open to the public in celebration of the University's close ties with Fort Bliss.

On Oct. 9, Golden Grads from the class of 1964 were honored at a luncheon in the Geology Reading Room. That evening, the University invited alumni, friends and the community to a Centennial Homecoming Block Party – an all-inclusive alumni event held for the first time – welcoming hundreds of people, food, live entertainment and Centennial birthday cake.

The next evening, Distinguished Alumni and Gold Nugget Award recipients from past years reunited for a gala in their honor at the Don Haskins Center.

The Centennial Homecoming football game between UTEP and Old Dominion resulted in a big win on Saturday, Oct. 11 at Sun Bowl Stadium. Another first took place when the winner of the RS Olympics – a traditional Homecoming competition pitting registered student organizations on campus against each other in a wide range of physical, cerebral, entertaining and philanthropic challenges – was announced on the field at halftime.

The annual Homecoming Parade and pep rally preceded the football game, with enthusiastic Miner supporters on creative floats interacting with the UTEP marching band, cheerleaders and students. 





Oct. 5-11, 2014

# CENTENNIAL *Homecoming*





*Dear Alumni Family:*

Thank you for your support during this momentous year. UTEP had an amazing Centennial as we celebrated our first 100 years with our accomplished and dedicated alumni. Your collective success adds value to everyone's UTEP degree, just as UTEP's recognition as a Top 10 university by *Washington Monthly* magazine raises the University's national visibility. I am honored to be your president and look forward to the bright future that is unfolding as we begin our second century.

Picks up.... GO MINERS!

**Dr. Willarda V. Edwards, '72  
President  
UTEP Alumni Association**

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# MULTI-CAREER ALUMNUS CREDITS COLLEGE FOR 'GREAT LIFE'

By Daniel Perez • Photo by Laura Trejo



Tom Hope, a 1942 Texas College of Mines alumnus, captured a moment with UTEP President Diana Natalicio during the 2014 Distinguished Alumni and Gold Nugget Centennial Celebration on Oct. 10, 2014.

Texas College of Mines alumnus Tom Hope shared the stories of his life during the 2014 Centennial Homecoming celebration in October, and he credited TCM, now The University of Texas at El Paso, for providing him with the foundation for much of his success.

At age 94, the New Yorker continues to author books about soldiers during World War II. It is his fifth career after being an Army photographer and filmographer, industrial film and television producer, state department consultant who helped rebuild France after the war, and owner of a media market research company.

"I'm a loyal Miner," Hope said. The University "helped me get started with the great life that I've had ... UTEP was a wonderful school to me."

Affable and energetic, the St. Paul, Minnesota native quickly immersed himself in the college culture. For example, he helped form and lead Phi Kappa Tau, the campus' first chapter of a national fraternity; chaired the 1941 Homecoming committee; was managing editor of the yearbook; and was president of the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association. He was named to the Men of Mines in 1942 for his outstanding service to the college.

His familiarity with his family's 16 mm movie camera earned him the job as the

first student to film Miner football games and practices.

"It's just in my nature to be involved," he said by phone from his home in Rochester, New York.

Hope, a business major with a journalism minor, was drafted into the Army three weeks before the spring 1942 Commencement.

He helped produce films while in the military that prepared troops for the invasion of Europe. One of his films changed the method of parachute landing and decreased the number of jump injuries. He recalled being aboard Gen. Omar Bradley's plane as a photographer in France and stepping on Gen. George Patton's foot. Ready for the worst, 1st Lt. Hope was surprised after Patton apologized to him for being in the way.

General Mills hired him after the war to promote the food conglomerate known for Wheaties and Cheerios. The company asked him to oversee the transition of *The Lone Ranger* radio program to the fledgling television medium.

Hope, along with Mabeth, his wife of 65 years, has lived with a personal directive to leave the world a little better than he found it. He has done so one day, film reel, audiotape and page at a time. 📷

# ALUMNA SHOOTS TO STARDOM

By Laura L. Acosta • Photos courtesy of Elaine Lafon

## SINGING SENSATION CRISTINA EUSTACE'S POWERFUL VOICE AND VIVACIOUS ENERGY WOWED CONCERTGOERS AT UTEP'S MINERPALOOZA 2014.

Accompanied by her 15-member brass band, Banda Sinaloense, and UTEP's Mariachi Los Mineros, the 2006 UTEP graduate thrilled fans with her fresh and lively take on traditional Mexican music.

"I used to arrange the chairs for the concerts (at UTEP) and I would say, 'One day I'm going to be on stage,'" recalled Eustace, referring to her time as a volunteer in UTEP's Office of Special Events more than a decade ago. "I feel so humbled."

Born in Chihuahua, Mexico, Eustace was destined for a career in music. At 14, she started singing at parties and other social events.

But education came first in her family. The aspiring singer put her dreams of stardom on hold until she earned a university education.

With the help of a scholarship for foreign students, Eustace, who did not speak any English, enrolled at UTEP, where she supplemented her finance and economics classes with electives in voice and music. She graduated from UTEP with honors and a bachelor's degree in business marketing.

"(Music) is just a very, very hard career," Eustace said. "It's definitely not just talent. It has to be many things and education is just one of the major tools that you have to have for success."

Jorge Vazquez, executive director of special events at UTEP, was taken with Eustace's amazing voice and stage presence when she sang and won "La Voz Hispana," a student talent competition at UTEP several years ago.

Vazquez, who was one of the judges, asked Eustace if she planned to sing professionally.

"I will never forget her answer," said Vazquez, who has been best friends with Eustace ever since. "She said, 'I have to finish my degree first,' and I thought, 'Really? That's awesome!'"

In 2008, Eustace auditioned for and won the fifth season of *Objetivo Fama*, a televised



Puerto Rican singing competition, which led to her first record deal.

In 2011, Eustace's album *Golpes de Pecho* was nominated for a Latin Grammy for Best Banda Album. But the news was bittersweet. That same year, Eustace was diagnosed with cancer in her vocal cords.

During her convalescence, Eustace did not sing or talk for a month.

Triumphant over cancer, Eustace came back full force, relying on her education at UTEP to launch her own marketing business called Labroxican Entertainment Group LLC. Her clients include former major league baseball pitcher Esteban Loaiza.



UTEP alumna and Latin Grammy nominee Cristina Eustace returned to campus in September to perform at Minerpalooza 2014. Eustace will release her first mariachi album, *Proximamente Con Mariachi*, in spring 2015.

In September 2014, Eustace received her second Latin Grammy nomination for her album *Grandes Canciones*.

"Cristina's success is a reflection of years of hard work and immense talent," said Gary Edens, Ed.D., vice president for student affairs. Edens met Eustace when she was a student at UTEP and welcomed her back with a bouquet of flowers at Minerpalooza. "We always tell our students at UTEP to dream big. Cristina did just that and, for me, it's so rewarding to now be a fan watching her succeed in a career that is tough for so many." 📌

# PEABODY AWARD WINNING ALUMNUS RETURNS HOME TO KTEP

By Daniel Perez • Photo by Laura Trejo



**"SAM DONALDSON AND I ARE THE ONLY UTEP GRADUATES TO EARN THIS AWARD. SAM HAS THREE. I'M HAPPY WITH MY ONE."**

John Carrillo

John Carrillo, the new development director at KTEP-FM (88.5), looks forward to helping the station build its revenue stream and boost its reputation. He earned his bachelor's degree in mass communication in 1979 and master's in communication studies in May 2014 from UTEP.

**JOHN CARRILLO, A PEABODY AWARD WINNER WHOSE EAR FOR SOUND TOOK HIM AROUND THE WORLD, LISTENED TO HIS HEART IN FEBRUARY 2014 WHEN HE RETURNED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO TO SERVE AS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AT KTEP-FM (88.5).**

Carrillo, an El Paso native and first-generation college graduate, caught the broadcasting bug at Bel Air High School and became a mass communication major at UTEP. He made an early connection with the late Charles Stanley, a longtime music faculty member who started the University's electronic music program in the early 1970s.

He said Stanley encouraged him to experiment with the department's state-of-

the-art multitrack audio equipment. Carrillo, who started working at commercial radio stations as a freshman in college, credits the experience he received under Stanley for helping him become a recording engineer and land a job with National Public Radio (NPR) in 1988.

The 1979 UTEP alumnus earned his Peabody Award in 1995 as project engineer and technical producer of NPR's "Making the Music with Wynton Marsalis." The award is given for journalistic excellence in electronic media.

"Sam Donaldson (award-winning retired ABC News reporter/anchor) and I are the only UTEP graduates to earn this award. Sam has three. I'm happy with my one," Carrillo said during an interview in his third floor office in Cotton Memorial. Although on the job since February, his walls and shelves are bare except for the Peabody Award.

He was based in Washington, D.C., during his 10 years with NPR, but his assignments took him into the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant while it was under construction in Carlsbad,

New Mexico, and to the jungles of southern Belize. His expertise as a recording engineer also earned him a spot covering national political conventions in the 1980s and '90s.

Carrillo returned to El Paso for family reasons in 1997 and since then has taken leadership positions with a public radio station, a school district and several local, regional and national government agencies. He earned his master's degree in communication studies from UTEP in May 2014 and looks forward to helping El Paso's public radio station build its reputation and revenue stream.

Patrick Piotrowski, KTEP general manager, said Carrillo comes with a wealth of experience that will benefit the station. He said a big advantage is his familiarity with the difference in fundraising for a public radio station versus other kinds of nonprofits.

"John has great experience and he understands the system," Piotrowski said. "He gets what we do." 📺

# MICROBIOLOGIST BATTLES EBOLA ON THE FRONT LINE

By Nadia M. Whitehead • Photo courtesy of Jose Garcia



Jose Garcia, Ph.D., earned a doctoral degree in pathobiology from UTEP and is working as a U.S. Navy scientist in Liberia to contain Ebola's spread.

**"UTEP PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN MY OVERALL GROWTH AS A SCIENTIST. IT WAS IN LLANO'S LAB WHERE I DEVELOPED THE FOUNDATION OF MY SCIENTIFIC TRAINING, WITHOUT WHICH I WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DO THE INCREDIBLE THINGS THAT I HAVE DONE SO FAR."**

Jose Garcia

**THREE LAYERS OF LATEX GLOVES, BRIGHT WHITE HEAD-TO-TOE COVERALLS AND A FACE PIECE WITH A PERSONAL RESPIRATOR ARE ALL THAT STAND BETWEEN LT. JOSE GARCIA, PH.D., AND A VIRUS THAT HAS KILLED MORE THAN 7,500 PEOPLE.**

As a U.S. Navy scientist based in Liberia – the West African country hardest hit by the past year's Ebola epidemic – Garcia comes in direct contact with hundreds of contagious samples every day. For the last three months, he has diligently tested blood samples of locals living in Monrovia to see if they are carrying the virus. The work is part of the U.S. military's effort to help contain Ebola's spread.

"My parents are very proud of the work

I am doing over here," the 30-year-old University of Texas at El Paso alumnus said. "Of course, mothers and fathers will always worry about their children going into harm's way, but they are reassured by the fact that I am out here for a reason; my team's skill sets are desperately needed now more than ever here in Liberia."

Before Garcia and the small team of scientists were deployed in October, health workers waited up to seven days for test results. Now, the process takes just under five hours, allowing doctors to treat infected patients earlier and quickly separate them from those who are not infected.

"Jose is a prime example of the quality of our graduate school program," said Manuel Llano, Ph.D., associate professor of biological sciences.

At UTEP under Llano's guidance, Garcia studied HIV and earned a doctoral degree in pathobiology. Garcia graduated in 2010 and went on to conduct postdoctoral work at The Scripps Research Institute before being commissioned in the Navy.

He never imagined his science career would take him to Liberia, but he was glad he could put his skills to service.

"UTEP played a pivotal role in my overall growth as a scientist," Garcia said. "It was in Llano's lab where I developed the foundation of my scientific training, without which I would have never been able to do the incredible things that I have done so far."

After a 12-hour shift in the lab – a three-bedroom home that sits beside an Ebola Treatment Unit – Garcia prepares to wind down. Before removing his coveralls, he is doused with bleach. Then, his one-time-use suit is incinerated.

Unless his deployment is extended, Garcia's days will continue like so until he completes 90 days of service. The Department of Defense has stated they will begin to reduce the number of personnel in West Africa once Ebola case numbers begin to drop and display a consistent downward trend. ➤

# UTEP SCHOOL OF NURSING



As the American health care system undergoes change, the UTEP School of Nursing is leading the way in educating nurses to meet 21st century health care standards by:

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EXCELLENCE, INNOVATION, DIVERSITY



## COUPLE'S AFFECTION FOR UTEP BASED ON AFFINITY FOR EDUCATION

By Daniel Perez

Julian and Elayne Bernat were two El Paso transplants who were passionate about The University of Texas at El Paso because they were raised to value education.

The couple moved to El Paso in 1944 and began a tradition of community service that encompassed a wide range of worthwhile causes.

Julian Bernat died Sept. 23, 2014, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was 97. His wife passed away in 2008 at the age of 91. The couple's legacy of giving remains an inspiration in the El Paso community.

Julian Bernat was a lawyer, community leader and devoted friend to UTEP for the better part of 70 years. Together with Elayne, he generously shared his time and resources to benefit the campus and its students through his involvement on committees, his family's numerous endowments and scholarships, and his cheering at UTEP athletic events. Bernat retired in 2011 and moved to Denver before settling in Cambridge in the fall of 2014.

"(My father) wanted to leave the world a better place and saw education as the major means to that end," said Andrew Bernat, Ph.D., the youngest of the Bernat's three children. He is a former chair and professor of computer science at UTEP.

Julian Bernat served 40 years on UTEP's Development Board as a member and chair, served on the University's first major fundraising campaign – the Legacy Campaign – and chaired the campaign's Planned Giving Committee. In 2000, UTEP honored him with the Gran Paseño Award, one of the highest

honors bestowed upon friends of the University.

Marc Bernat, a retired lawyer living in Austin, said his father's lifelong love of sports drew him to UTEP athletics. His parents were among the fans who traveled to Maryland to see the Miners win the 1966 NCAA basketball championship game, which was historic because the team used an all African-American starting lineup for the first time in championship history.

As time went on, Julian Bernat learned more about the needs of the institution and its students. He enjoyed reading the thank-you notes from those who earned one of his family's scholarships.

Marilyn Aleman, a senior multimedia journalism student and recipient of the Elayne and Julian Bernat Endowed Presidential Scholarship, said she used the Bernats' generosity to push herself to academic success.

"The opportunities I've had are because of (them)," she said.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio lauded the Bernats for their all-encompassing support of the University.

"We will be forever indebted to Julian and his late wife, Elayne, for their generous commitment of time, wisdom, financial resources, and unflagging devotion to UTEP and our students," she said.

The Bernats are survived by their daughter, Juli Furgeson, Ph.D., a retired clinical psychologist, their two sons, seven grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and other extended family members. ☞





# 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. Gloria E. Gutierrez, (B.S., 1988; B.S.N. 1991; M.S.N. 2014) walks the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall of China – the longest fortification ever built.
2. Michael Kral (B.S. Education, 1973) shows his UTEP pride in the port of Kotor, Montenegro – the birthplace of his grandparents. 3. Laura Rodriguez-Ponce (B.A. English Literature, 1992) and Gerardo Ponce (B.S. Criminal Justice, 1993) show their Miner pride in front of St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City while visiting their daughter, Bianca, who was studying abroad in Rome.
4. Victoria Barrios Lane (B.I.S. Education, 2006) shows off her Miner spirit at Glacier National Park, which borders Canada.
5. Penny Wallace (M.S.N., 1981) proudly wears her 1981 UTEP shirt at Oktoberfest in Munich in 2013.
6. While on a summer backpacking trip, Leandro Salazar (M.A. Latin American and Border Studies, 2009) visits Pacaya volcano, an active volcano about 20 miles from Guatemala City. "The lava was actually burning my arm," he said. ☒

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).

## ALUM NOTES

Compiled by Marsha Hansen

## 1950s

**Gerald Georges** (B.B.A. '59), a member of the El Paso Duplicate Bridge Club, in August 2014 achieved the rank of Platinum Life Master, earned by collecting 10,000 master points and 100 platinum points.

## 1960s

**Don Burgess** (B.A. '61; M.A. '63), of Tucson, Arizona, and Chihuahua, Mexico, is the co-author of *Sierra Challenge: The Construction of the Chihuahua al Pacifico Railroad*, about one of the most challenging engineering feats in railroad construction history.

**Patrick B. "Pat" Haggerty** (B.A. '67; M.A. '80), a former El Paso city councilman and a Texas state representative for more than two decades, was inducted into the El Paso County Historical Society Hall of Honor on Nov. 2, 2014, in recognition of his singular achievements that have influenced the course of history in El Paso County, brought honor and recognition to the El Paso community, and contributed to the fulfillment of the region's most worthy goals.

**Nolan Richardson Jr.** (B.A. '65), of Fayetteville, Arkansas, the only coach to win the National Invitation Tournament, the National Junior College Athletic Association and the NCAA men's basketball division I titles, was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in August 2014. He also served as grand marshal of the 78th FirstLight Federal Credit Union Sun Bowl Parade in El Paso on Thanksgiving Day.

## 1970s

**Margaret Arreola** (B.A. '71) in July 2014 was named center director at the David L. Carrasco Job Corps Center in El Paso. She previously was the center's deputy director.

**Dennis Bixler-Marquez** (B.A. '71; M.Ed. '73), director of the Chicano Studies Program at UTEP, was honored for his outstanding contributions to the discipline at the Texas League of United Latin American Citizens District IV 2014 Hall of Fame Banquet in September 2014.

**Katherine Brennand** (M.B.A. '79) was named vice chair of the El Paso Museum of Art Foundation's 2014 board of directors in July 2014.

**Vernon Butler** (B.A. '71; M.S. '74) was named interim superintendent for the Beaumont [Texas] Independent School District in July 2014.

**Richard Castro** (B.S.Ed. '70), El Paso's largest McDonald's franchise owner, opened his 23rd El Paso-area McDonald's in September 2014.

**Blanca Estela Enriquez** (B.S.Ed. '75; M.Ed. '85), executive director of the Education Service Center - Region 19 Head Start program in El Paso, was elected to an interim position on the Texas Association of School Boards, representing Region 19A. She began her term in September 2014.

**Peggy Feinberg** (B.S.Ed. '74) is a 2014-15 board member for Kids Excel El Paso, a nonprofit that uses dance to educate and empower elementary school children.

**Ruben Guerra** (B.S. '74) is serving as a 2014-15 board member for Kids Excel El Paso, a nonprofit that uses dance to educate and empower elementary school children.

**Janet Kincaid** (B.S.Ed. '74), a member of the Unitarian Universalist Community of El Paso's Program Council, received a Racial Justice Ambassador Award from the YWCA El Paso del Norte Region on Sept. 11, 2014.

**Patrick "Pat" O'Neill** (B.S.Ed. '74; M.Ed. '75) was appointed associate superintendent of operations for El Paso's Ysleta Independent School District in September 2014.

**Virginia Tena** (B.A. '71; M.P.A. '90), director of the Texas League of United Latin American Citizens' District IV, was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in the community service category in June 2014. She has served four years as the District IV director and been a member of LULAC for two decades.

**David Terrill** (B.A. '73), of Everett, Washington, has retired after a 41-year career in engineering, 35 of which were served at the Boeing Company.

**Michael J. Trammel** (B.S. '79) was promoted in March 2014 to vice president of government and environmental affairs at Excelebrate Energy L.P., in The Woodlands, Texas.

**Oscar Venegas** (B.S.C.E. '73), of El Paso, was named the Texas Hispanic Businessman of the Year by the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce in July 2014. His company, Venegas Engineering Management and Construction, was named the Minority Construction Firm of the Year by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency in August 2014.

## 1980s

**Donald Belknap** (B.B.A. '81), a science and math teacher at Marguerite Lundy Elementary School in El Paso, was named the 2015 Elementary Teacher of the Year by Education Service Center - Region 19 in August 2014.

**Allen Gilmer** (M.S. '87) was honored as the 2014 Best CEO of a large company by the *Austin Business Journal* on Sept. 25, 2014. Gilmer is co-founder, chairman and CEO of Drillinginfo, an oil and gas intelligence, tools and services company headquartered in Austin.

**Susan Guerra** (B.S.Ed. '81) was named a vice president for the YWCA El Paso del Norte Region board of directors in August 2014.

**Susana Martinez** (B.S. '81), governor of New Mexico, was recognized by *Latino Leaders* magazine in October 2014 as one of the 101 Most Influential Leaders in the Latino Community.

**Hector Morales** (B.S.N. '85; M.S.N. '90; D.N.P. '13) in August 2014 was named director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at UTEP's School of Nursing.

**Joseph W. "Jody" Mullings** (B.B.A. '84) in September 2014 was named president and a director of Capital Bank in El Paso.

**Marcela Navarrete** (B.B.A. '89), vice president for strategic, financial and management services at El Paso Water Utilities, was presented with a Hispanic Business Advocate of the Year award by the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce in August 2014.

**Tania Schwartz** (B.A. '89; M.Ed. '96) was named a 2014-15 board member for Kids Excel El Paso, a nonprofit that uses dance to educate and empower elementary school children.

**Felipa Solis** (B.A. '83), executive director of El Paso Pro-Musica, which showcases chamber music in the El Paso region, on May 9, 2014, received the 2014 Humanitarian Award from Project Amistad, which provides services to the elderly, disabled and other at-risk El Paso residents. Solis was recognized for her life-long contributions to the betterment of the community.

**John A. Wenke** (B.S. '89) was one of only five El Paso attorneys named in September to the Texas Super Lawyers' list of the Top 50 Attorneys in Central and West Texas.

**Steve Yellen** (B.S. '81) was named a 2014-15 board member for Kids Excel El Paso, a nonprofit that uses dance to educate and empower elementary schoolchildren.

#### 1990s.....

**Sandra Sanchez Almanzan** (M.P.A. '97) is the 2014-15 vice chairperson for Kids Excel El Paso, a nonprofit that uses dance to educate and empower elementary school children.

**Brandi Watkins Brown** (B.S. '94) joined El Paso staffing and recruiting firm RMPersonnel as a business development professional in July 2014. She also serves as the firm's liaison to the Women's Business Enterprise National Council, a third-party certifier of women-owned businesses in the United States.

**Victoria Gonzalez** (B.B.A. '99) was named assistant chief financial officer for El Paso's Sierra Providence Health Network in September.

**Karen L. Hart** (B.A. '97), a partner at the law firm of Bell Nunnally & Martin in Dallas, has been named to *Texas Lawyer's* "Winning Women" list, which recognizes the top 20 female litigators in Texas.

**Ruben Hernandez** (B.B.A. '92) is a 2014-15 board member for Kids Excel El Paso, a nonprofit that uses dance to educate and empower elementary school children.

**Tasha Hopper** (B.S.N. '98; M.S.N. '12) was promoted in September 2014 to interim chief operating officer at Providence Memorial Hospital in El Paso.

**Augustin Montes** (B.B.A. '99) was named vice president of commercial lending for Capital Bank in March 2014. He also is the 2014-15 treasurer for Kids Excel El Paso, a nonprofit that uses dance to educate and empower elementary school children.

**Franklin "Frank" Muñoz Jr.** (B.A. '90) is a supervisor and trainer for the El Paso office of Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, a community-based program that recruits, trains and supports citizen-volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and the community.

**Angela P. Navarette** (B.B.A. '94) is the owner of APN Photography in Plano, Texas. Photographs by Navarette were accepted into the general and loan collections of the Professional Photographers of America 2014 International Photographic Competition, and her work will be displayed at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee, in February 2015.

**Jody Oxford-Coward** (B.S.N. '96), the military liaison at Sierra Providence Health Network in El Paso, has been appointed vice president for retirees and veterans for the General of the Army Omar Bradley Chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

**Lorena Schall** (B.S.N. '93) was promoted to Labor and Delivery Unit Director at El Paso's Providence Memorial Hospital in August 2014.

**Jesus "Jesse" Teran** (B.A. '97; M.Ed. '02), of El Paso, was appointed principal of Socorro High School in August 2014.

**Leslie E. Vélez** (B.A. '98), head of the U.S. Protection Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Washington, D.C., authored the March 2014 U.N. report *Children on the Run*, an exposé based on firsthand accounts of more than 400 children from Central America who fled their homes alone to search for safety in the United States.

**Leslie Wingo** (B.B.A. '96), managing partner at Sanders\Wingo Advertising in Austin, Texas, was honored with a Profile in Power award by the *Austin Business Journal* at an award ceremony on Aug. 7, 2014. The award recognizes women of influence in Central Texas.

**Tracy Yellen** (M.P.A. '95), executive director of the Paso del Norte Health Foundation, in August 2014 was named by *El Paso Inc.* as a 2014 Woman of Impact for her two decades of work to improve health and health resources on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

#### 2000s.....

**Felix Castor** (M.Ed. '07), coach of the Jefferson High School girls' golf team, was named the *El Paso Times'* All-City Girls Golf Coach of the Year in June. He led the Jefferson Silver Foxes to a second straight District 1-4A championship in 2014.

**Will Davis** (B.S.M.M.E. '02; M.S.'05), a materials and processes quality engineering at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, was re-elected in June 2014 as national president of MAES - Latinos in Science and Engineering.

**Rafael Garcia** (B.B.A. '02) in February 2014 joined the information technology consulting firm Varay Systems in El Paso as systems administrator.

**Stephen Ingle (B.F.A. '04)**, co-founder and creative director of Creative Kids, a community-based arts education organization in El Paso, was selected to participate in the National Guild for Community Arts Education's 2014 Community Arts Education Leadership Institute, a seven-month leadership development program.

**Edgar Montiel** (B.S.M.E. '01; M.B.A. '09), president and CEO of Palo Verde Homes in El Paso, was installed as the 2015 president for the El Paso Association of Builders in December 2014.

**Claudia Ordaz** (B.A.'08) was elected in May 2014 to serve as the District 6 representative on the El Paso City Council.

**Edgar Ortega** (B.B.A. '07) became a Chick-fil-A operator and opened a new store on El Paso's Westside in June 2014.

**Mark Paz** (B.A.'01; M.Ed. '11) was named principal of Canutillo [Texas] Middle School in August 2014.

**Punya Prakash** (M.S. '09), a business manager with Texas Instruments' Catalog Processors business unit in Dallas, was recognized in June as one of the 2014 Most Influential Women in Embedded Computing Design by *Embedded Computing Design* magazine.

**Tracy Speaker** (M.Ed. '06) was named principal of El Paso's Northwest Early College High School in August 2014.

**Olivia Zepeda** (B.B.A. '05; M.B.A. '10) was named a director of development at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso in August 2014.

#### 2010s.....

**Jennifer Korkosz** (D.N.P. '14), of Clarksville, Maryland, is deputy director for the Women's Health Care Nursing Practice Program at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. She has been accepted into the American Association of Nurse Practitioners Future Leaders Program, a year-long program developed for nurse practitioner leaders who are relatively early in their careers; currently serving in clinical, administrative and educational roles; and who demonstrate the potential to assume roles of increasing national leadership both within AANP and throughout the nation.

**Andres Payan** (B.F.A. '11) was appointed as coordinator of the temporary art space project called CUADRO at UTEP's Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts.

**Kelli Willingham** (B.S. '14), a four-year captain for the Miners' women's basketball team, was named assistant coach for the Lady Saints at Seward County Community College in Liberal, Kansas, in August 2014.

# IN MEMORIAM

Compiled by Martha Trottier

**Berman D. Corbell** (B.A. '57)  
Georgetown, Texas; Jan. 31, 2014.

**Roger Mac Parks** (B.B.A. '66)  
White Hall, Maryland; Feb. 11,  
2014.

**Carmen Casillas Scott** (B.A. '68;  
M.A. '69) San Diego, California;  
April 14, 2014.

**Elizabeth Ann "Beth" Hassman  
Ackerman** (B.S.Ed. '73) El Paso;  
May 7, 2014.

**Kenneth Lewis "Ken" Rice Jr.**  
(B.B.A. '66) Tyler, Texas; May 16,  
2014.

**Maybelle Beahler O'Leary** (B.B.A.  
'43) Oklahoma City; May 19, 2014.

**Weldon Duval Donaldson** (B.B.A.  
'58) San Diego, California; May  
23, 2014.

**Dennis Economy** (B.A. '50)  
Bedminster, New Jersey; May 25,  
2014.

**Honora Finkelstein** (M.A. '70)  
Grayville, Illinois; May 27, 2014.

**Harold W. Cole Sr.** (B.A. '66)  
Ruidoso, New Mexico; June 2,  
2014.

**John Patterson "Pat" McKean**  
(B.S. '60) Corvallis, Oregon; June  
2, 2014.

**Marilyn Keith Black** (M.Ed. '67)  
Grants, New Mexico; June 3, 2014.

**Arthur Sanders** (B.A. '63) El Paso;  
June 4, 2014.

**Jose M. "Joe" Minjares Jr.** (B.S.  
'59) Monterey, California; June  
5, 2014.

**Patricia Suarez Garibay** (B.S. '91)  
El Paso; June 10, 2014.

**Russell Winfield Young** (B.A. '52)  
Mission, Texas; June 11, 2014.

**George Hill Bounds Jr.** (B.A. '58)  
Mexia, Texas; June 15, 2014.

**Susanne I. Wilczek** (B.S.W. '00)  
Salem, Wisconsin; June 17, 2014.

**James Mack Stacy** (B.A. '40)  
Boise, Idaho; June 18, 2014.

**Maria Teresa "Terri" Martinez**  
(B.S.Ed. '71) El Paso; June 19,  
2014.

**Joanna Franklin Dodge** (M.A.  
'57) El Paso; June 20, 2014.

**Joe A. Dominguez** (B.B.A. '70) El  
Paso; June 20, 2014.

**Robert Aubrey Douglas Jr.**  
(B.B.A. '51) El Paso; June 20, 2014.

**Shari Ann Happe Ritter** (B.S.Ed.  
'66) El Paso; June 22, 2014.

**Mary "Lynn" Moncus** (M.A. '71)  
Tucumcari, New Mexico; June 23,  
2014.

**Rudy Hody Ortiz** (B.A. '54) El  
Paso; June 24, 2014.

**Phillip Don Cothroll** (M.Ed. '77)  
El Paso; June 25, 2014.

**Mary Ellen Makelky** (B.B.A. '47)  
El Paso; June 28, 2014.

**Rubina Rodriguez** (B.A. '74) El  
Paso; June 30, 2014.

**Elmer Curtis "Junior" Strachan  
Jr.** (B.B.A. '57) Corinth,  
Mississippi; July 1, 2014.

**Paul Edward Hines** (B.B.A. '63)  
Scottsdale, Arizona; July 5, 2014.

**Carlo Alberto Passaseo** (B.B.A.  
'01) El Paso; July 6, 2014.

**Gary L. Boggs** (B.F.A. '87) El  
Paso; July 10, 2014.

**Willie Ellen Tinnin** (B.A. '71) El  
Paso; July 10, 2014.

**Daniel Archuleta** (B.B.A. '93)  
Danville, Illinois; July 13, 2014.

**Nettie Virginia Reveles** (B.A. '49)  
El Paso; July 13, 2014.

**Martin E. Lampshire** (B.B.A. '71)  
El Paso; July 14, 2014.

**Walter J. Reeves Sr.** (B.B.A. '89)  
New Orleans; July 15, 2014.

**Edwin A. Murdoch** (B.S.E.E. '54)  
Pocatello, Idaho; July 18, 2014.

**Robert Resendez** (B.B.A. '77) El Paso;  
July 19, 2014.

**Ruby Grant** (B.A. '37) El Paso; July  
26, 2014.

**Mario Maldonado** (B.S.Ed. '73)  
Las Vegas; July 27, 2014.

**Alicia "Alice" Arteaga Farrell** (B.A.  
'73) Carlsbad, California; July 29,  
2014.

**Cheryl Baker Heller** (B.A. '82; M.A.  
'93) El Paso; Aug. 1, 2014.

**Francisco Puentes** (B.A. '79) El Paso;  
Aug. 2, 2014.

**Frankie Ritta Tanzy** (M.A. '56)  
Little Elm, Texas; Aug. 3, 2014.

**Raymond G. "Buzz" Clarke**  
(M.S.C.E. '68) Las Cruces, New  
Mexico; Aug. 4, 2014.

**Billy Donald "Bill" Looney** (B.B.A.  
'66) Amarillo; Aug. 4, 2014.

**Phillip L. Marr** (B.A. '63; M.A. '73)  
El Paso; Aug. 7, 2014.

**Mauricio Montes Jr.** (B.A. '66) El  
Paso; Aug. 8, 2014.

**Klaus Christian Wiemer** (B.S. '63;  
M.S. '65) Dallas; Aug. 8, 2014.

**Joseph Anthony Lorio Jr.** (B.S.Ed.  
'67) El Paso; Aug. 9, 2014.

**Fannilee Zollars Collard Witt** (B.A.  
'39; M.A. '57) El Paso; Aug. 9, 2014.

**Wanda E. Creamer** (B.A. '59) El Paso;  
Aug. 11, 2014.

**Sandra Ware Thorne** (B.A. '58) El  
Paso; Aug. 12, 2014.

**Eugene Irving "Gene" Finke** (M.P.A.  
'81) El Paso; Aug. 23, 2014.

**Nicholas R. Tate** (B.A. '59) Niagara  
Falls, New York; Sept. 4, 2014.

**Lu Etta Frances Holmsley Johnson**  
(B.A. '60) Alvin, Texas; Sept. 5, 2014.



## BEN WESLEY COLLINS

By Veronique Masterson

Ben Wesley Collins was an integral part of academics and athletics during his time at The University of Texas at El Paso.

He was an assistant coach at Texas Western College, now UTEP, from 1946-56, then served as athletic director and head football coach until 1961. Among his accomplishments were guiding TWC to a 6-3 record in 1957 and hiring future Hall of Fame Coach Don Haskins.

"He was a fine gentleman that anybody would want to meet," said Eddie Mullens, former UTEP sports information director. "He had a great sense of humor and was probably the best storyteller I've ever been around."

Collins graduated from the Texas College of Mines, now UTEP, with a bachelor's degree in physical education in May 1948. That same year, he joined the school as an assistant instructor in physical education.

In 1950, after receiving a master's degree from the University of Utah, Collins rejoined the faculty as an assistant professor of health and physical education, and served as acting head of the department from 1964-65. He was appointed an associate professor in 1966, and continued to teach until his retirement in the early 1980s.

Collins and Mullens both were inducted into the UTEP Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008.

Mullens said Collins was a big country music fan. "His secret ambition was to be a country music singer – we used to laugh about that."

Collins, 93, and his wife Mary Gene, 86, died Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014 after being struck by a truck while crossing North Mesa Street in El Paso. They had three children.

"I have lost a good friend. The world lost a real good person," Mullens said. ☞



## JUAN A. CONTRERAS

By Rodrigo Castañeda

After teaching and serving as a writer-in-residence at The University of Texas at El Paso for 15 years, Juan Alberto Contreras, a Chicano activist, author and educator, died of cancer Oct. 20, 2014. He was 64.

Known for his humanity and dedication to education, the community and to equality, Contreras was born as the eldest of 12 siblings on Dec. 13, 1949 in El Paso, Texas. He spent his early life in the *Segundo Barrio* – one of the most underprivileged neighborhoods in the country – and graduated from Bowie High School in 1968.

He earned a bachelor's degree in 1972 from UTEP, and returned to the University for a master's degree in education in 1990.

For more than 40 years, he guided and molded the minds of students throughout various public and private schools, and later served as principal of The Plato Academy and Tejas School of Choice in the Ysleta Independent School District.

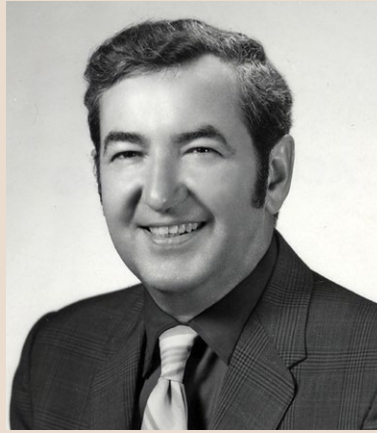
Dennis Bixler-Márquez, Ph.D., professor of multicultural education and director of Chicano Studies at UTEP, described Contreras as a "very positive experience for his students."

Contreras and Bixler-Márquez met as undergraduate students at the University, where they became friends as their lives and trajectories intertwined.

"Juan was a huge asset to Chicano Studies and the greater El Paso region," Bixler-Márquez said. "He represented the culture of our community and its people authentically as a poet and writer."

Since his youth, Contreras devoted his time with several community groups and activists focused on housing issues, along with many other matters affecting disadvantaged people.

Contreras is survived by his wife, three sons and three daughters, and four grandchildren. 📧



## KENNETH BRUCE SHOVER

By Laura L. Acosta

Professor emeritus of history Kenneth Bruce Shover, Ph.D., a member of the greatest generation, died Oct. 7, 2014, at the age of 89.

Shover was the youngest of Tressa and John R. Shover's three children. The family lived in Kansas City, Missouri, where Shover developed a passion for learning about history at Westport High School.

Shover transformed his love for history into a distinguished teaching career at Texas Western College, now UTEP, where he taught for 31 years.

Before joining UTEP in 1969, Shover served in the United States Navy from 1943-46. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Kansas and a doctoral degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Shover taught at Santa Barbara City College for seven years before he accepted a teaching appointment at UTEP in 1969. A respected scholar and dedicated professor, Shover served twice as chair of the history department before retiring in 1993.

Sandra McGee Deutsch, Ph.D., professor of history at UTEP, remembers Shover's welcoming and encouraging demeanor when she was a new faculty member at the University.

"Ken was kind enough to include me in the lunches he had with our colleague (history professor) Wayne Fuller," Deutsch said. "He visited one of my classes once and gave me some useful teaching tips."

Like his high school history teacher, Shover hoped to make a lasting impression on his students at UTEP.

"He was very popular with his students," Sue Wilson Shover said about Kenneth Bruce Shover, her husband for 24 years. "He was such a good man. He wanted to teach his students. It was not just a job; he wanted to make a difference." 📧



## KEVIN E. SHANNON, J.D.

By Rodrigo Castañeda

Photo courtesy of El Paso Inc./Melody Parra

Former criminal justice professor Kevin Emmet Geoffrey Shannon, J.D., died Oct. 4, 2014, following a battle with Parkinson's disease. He was 69.

Born in Birmingham, England, in 1945, Shannon lived throughout Europe as a child before moving to the United States in 1952. Shannon proudly served with the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam from 1968 to 1970.

After his tour of duty, Shannon graduated from Texas Tech University and Texas Tech Law School. He later settled in El Paso, where he practiced law for 25 years.

Besides his love of law, Shannon taught for the Department of Criminal Justice at The University of Texas at El Paso, where his talent and passion for teaching molded the minds of lawyers for 30 years.

"What I remember him most for is his passion for the law, his commitment to our students' learning, and his concern with maximizing their performance," said Harmon Hosch, Ph.D., professor emeritus of psychology. "His classes were never dull. He had an impressive, sharp wit."

Shannon always stressed the importance of education and in doing so, touched the life of every student who entered his classroom.

"Shannon was an excellent teacher who was devoted to his students and his department. With great wit and even greater knowledge, experience and expertise, he was able to communicate with students so that they not only learned the material, but enjoyed the process of learning," reflected Patricia Witherspoon, Ph.D., dean of UTEP's College of Liberal Arts.

Shannon is survived by his wife, his mother, four sisters, two sons and seven grandchildren. 📧



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# ~ THANK ~ YOU

FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN  
**AND** SUPPORT OF UTEP'S  
CENTENNIAL  
CELEBRATION.

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