

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO • FALL 2011

UTEP

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**LOOKING
AHEAD:**

UTEP'S
CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION

the HOMECOMING *issue*



Message from the President

Dear UTEP Alumni and Friends,

In 2014, UTEP will celebrate a major milestone — our 100th birthday. It's truly exciting to consider the enormous impact of the University's 100 years of work to create educational opportunities for residents of the Paso del Norte region, and of the more than 100,000 graduates who have seized those opportunities and pursued successful careers across the world.

In this issue of *UTEP Magazine*, we debut a new section which will feature information about our forthcoming centennial celebration in 2014. Between now and our 100th birthday, we'll use this section to look back at UTEP's history and impact during its first 100 years and look forward to our bright future as the first national research – or Tier One – university with a 21st century student demographic.

In this issue, we include a history of Homecoming on this campus, as well as UTEP 2011 graduate Mike Martinez's firsthand account of how in 1949 the Texas College of Mines became Texas Western College.

Martinez will be honored at UTEP's Homecoming 2011 as one of 12 Gold Nugget Award recipients. These outstanding alumni are recognized by the University's colleges and schools for their many accomplishments and their continued commitment to UTEP. We feature them, along with our Distinguished Alumni, in our Homecoming section beginning on page 43.

As we look forward to celebrations such as Homecoming 2011 and our centennial in 2014, we also reflect on our progress toward reaching another important milestone: becoming the first national research (or Tier One) university with a 21st century student demographic.

I'm very pleased to say that we are well on our way toward achieving that goal. We are successfully conducting highly competitive research and increasing the number of doctoral programs across the campus. We are increasingly competitive in recruiting high-performing faculty and doctoral students, as well as this region's top high school graduates. As our new Health Sciences and Nursing Building convincingly attests (page 30), we are constructing world-class facilities with state-of-the-art technology and research instrumentation, and our future campus expansion will respond to UTEP's enrollment and research growth and be guided by our updated Master Plan (page 33). Most important of all, UTEP is unique in seeking to build all this excellence on our fundamental commitment to promoting access to enriched educational opportunities for residents of the historically undereducated Paso del Norte region we serve.

Excitement continues to grow at UTEP as we plan the celebration of our centennial while concurrently building momentum toward becoming a nationally competitive research university. We trust that our alumni and friends are equally excited about all that is in store for your University over the next several years. For starters, we look forward to seeing many of you on campus in October as we celebrate Homecoming 2011.

Go Miners!



DIANA NATALICIO
UTEP PRESIDENT



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
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UTEP Homecoming 2011

Cover photo
by Laura Trejo

STAY CONNECTED TO UTEP:



UTEP President

ADDRESSES GEORGETOWN GRADUATES

The power of education was the focus of a commencement address offered by UTEP President Diana Natalicio to hundreds of graduates from Georgetown University's School of Continuing Studies.

During her May 20 speech, Natalicio told the candidates how she quit her job as a switchboard operator out of high school to enroll at her local university. She became the first member of her family to complete a bachelor's degree.

"I hope most of all that you will make a commitment to young people in our society whose potential is boundless, but whose prospects are too often severely constrained by life's harsh realities," she said.

Natalicio was appointed president of The University of Texas at El Paso in 1988 and found the students much like her: first in their families to attend college, lacking confidence in their potential and working tirelessly to earn money to pay tuition.

Since then, the University has experienced phenomenal growth in student population, with enrollment exceeding 22,000. UTEP is the only U.S. doctoral research university with a Mexican-American majority student population.

The University's budget also has increased by \$318 million to \$383 million in the last 23 years. During that time, the University has built a reputation of providing access and excellence to its students as the institution strives to become the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic.

Natalicio was one of 15 prominent individuals from the fields of education, law, health care, armed forces, government service, and business and economics who were asked to address Georgetown's 5,455 graduates.

"(She) has devoted her life to creating opportunities in higher education for minorities and nontraditional students who otherwise had no chance to fulfill their life's potential," said James O'Donnell, Ph.D., Georgetown provost and professor of classics.

Georgetown awarded Natalicio a Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, degree during the ceremony. 🏆



Students at the SEED School of Maryland show their Miner spirit with UTEP President Diana Natalicio and Willarda Edwards, M.D. '72, in the school's UTEP House.

NATALICIO PLANTS SEED for the Future

> Diana Natalicio also captivated about 200 sixth through eighth grade students at the SEED School of Maryland as she emphasized the importance of education. She was honored with the first key to the school.

Willarda Edwards, M.D. '72, former president of the National Medical Association and a 2009 UTEP Distinguished Alumna, joined Natalicio. According to its website, the SEED School prepares underserved students for success in college and beyond.

The women visited the school's UTEP House, a dormitory named after the University. The name was proposed by UTEP alumna Loretta Rodriguez, who works at the SEED School.

The main room is decorated in orange and blue, with pictures of Natalicio, the University's popular mascot, Paydirt Pete, and the campus.

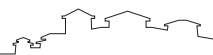
"We're touching people at different points in their lives," said Richard Daniel, Ph.D., assistant vice president for alumni and constituent relations. He hopes the students will keep UTEP in mind when choosing a college.

The Office of Alumni Relations plans to maintain a connection with the SEED School, the University and the estimated 500 UTEP alumni in the greater Washington, D.C., area. 🏠



"(Natalicio) has devoted her life to creating opportunities in higher education for minorities and nontraditional students who otherwise had no chance to fulfill their life's potential."

James O'Donnell, Ph.D., Georgetown University provost and professor of classics



Bottom: Julio Diaz, senior Latin American and border studies major at UTEP, led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance before President Barack Obama's speech at the Chamizal National Memorial. Ryan Holmes, left, director of UTEP's Office of Student Life, sang the national anthem at the event.

Obama Gets 'Picked'

Miners took center stage when President Barack Obama spoke at El Paso's Chamizal National Memorial in May.

Obama's speech was closed to the public, but 500 tickets for the event were distributed to UTEP faculty, students and staff. Several hundred Miners lined up outside Union Building West two days before the event to claim tickets that were gone in about 45 minutes.

Seated in the second row at the Chamizal was Eva Moya, Ph.D., UTEP assistant professor of social work, who was among 15 borderland residents picked for a "meet and greet" with the commander-in-chief after his speech.

As she walked up to the president, Moya removed her UTEP pickaxe pin from her lapel and handed it to him.

"That's how I started the conversation," said Moya, who earned her bachelor's in social work and

doctorate in interdisciplinary health sciences from UTEP. "For me, that was the best introduction."

During their three-minute conversation, the El Paso health activist told Obama about UTEP's historic graduation on May 14, where it awarded the 100,000th degree in its history, and about the University's centennial celebration in 2014. She also discussed immigration reform, education and health disparities.

As part of the event's activities, Ryan Holmes, director of UTEP's Office of Student Life, sang the national anthem, and Julio Diaz, senior Latin American and border studies major at the University, led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

"It's not every day you get to sing for the president of the United States," said Holmes, who has sung for about 13 years. "It's a blessing." 📌

Clinton Fellow Meets Former President

After UTEP's Arvind Singhal, Ph.D., was named a William J. Clinton Distinguished Fellow at the Clinton School of Public Service in January 2010, he remarked that he hoped his path would cross with the former president someday.

It happened earlier this year when former President Clinton visited with the 70 master's students in the program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Singhal, the Samuel Shirley and Edna Holt Marston Endowed Professor of Communication at The University of Texas at El Paso, was part of a "meet and greet" with the former president on April 15.

The UTEP professor, who directs the social justice initiative in the Department of Communication, said Clinton gave him a wink as he was introduced as a Clinton Distinguished Fellow and quipped, "That is a fine title."

The two-year graduate school offers a "real-world" curriculum that builds leadership in civic engagement and enhances the students' abilities to work across ethnic, racial, disciplinary and geographical boundaries as they further their careers in nonprofit, governmental, volunteer or private sector service.

Singhal, who was selected as a Clinton Distinguished Fellow for his research, writing and teaching on the dynamics of social change, said the former president thanked him for his efforts to "expand the minds" of the students at the school. It was the first academic institution in the country to offer a Master of Public Service degree.

"I felt deeply honored to meet him formally, and also to represent UTEP," the professor said. 📌

UTEP Professor Arvind Singhal, Ph.D., left, met former U.S. President Bill Clinton in April at the Clinton School of Public Service at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



Renowned Speakers Address Contemporary Topics



* Monsignor Primitivo Sierra Cano

To build on a new relationship with The University of Texas at El Paso, the Rector of Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana-Bucaramanga in Bucaramanga, Colombia, met with President Diana Natalicio and other officials in June to learn more about the University.



* Kerry Cox

The vice chancellor and president of Edith Cowan University in Western Australia visited UTEP in early July to learn more about promoting access and excellence in education. Cox heard testimonials from UTEP students and learned about the University's push to become the first national research institution with a 21st century student demographic.



* Kati Haycock

During her Millennium Lecture in April, the longtime educational advocate and president of The Education Trust outlined her organization's plan for how to close the gaps in opportunity and achievement that relegate too many low-income students and students of color to lives on the margins of the American mainstream.



* D. Bruce Johnstone

The distinguished service professor of higher and comparative education emeritus at the State University of New York at Buffalo offered his perspective on how students and schools can perform more effectively during a Millennium Lecture titled "Higher Education's Worldwide Dilemmas" in May. It was the final lecture of the 2010-11 series.



UTEP on the Cover

Young students can expect to cover a lot of material once they return to school, and The University of Texas at El Paso will help them.

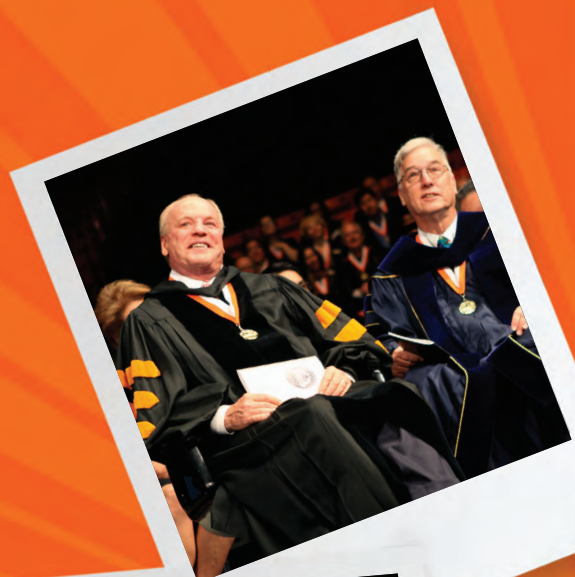
This fall, the University worked with the El Paso, Ysleta and Socorro independent school districts to provide elementary and middle school students with specially designed UTEP book covers.

"The UTEP book covers are important because they promote college readiness and awareness, especially at the elementary level," said Bonny Schulenburg, Partners in Education specialist at Ysleta ISD.

Graphic artists in UTEP's Office of University Communications designed the covers.

Beto Lopez, associate vice president for university relations, agreed that the book covers would serve as a constant reminder to children that UTEP supports them in their pursuit of a college degree.

"Being a proud Miner begins early, and the book covers communicate that The University of Texas at El Paso is their university," Lopez said. 📖



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO CLASS OF 100,000

On May 14, The University of Texas at El Paso was joined by UT System Board of Regents Vice Chairman R. Steven Hicks to award its 100,000th degree to the spring 2011 graduating class.

"Awarding UTEP's 100,000th degree marks a major milestone in our quest to become the first national research university serving a 21st century student demographic," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "Reaching this milestone demonstrates the huge impact that UTEP has had on this region, the State of Texas and the nation as we prepare graduates who are ready to make a positive difference in a world that asks more of us than ever before." ▢





NATALICIO PART OF White House Hispanic Policy Conference

While the nation's lawmakers met to discuss the best way to solve the country's economic crisis, UTEP President Diana Natalicio gathered with top national leaders to urge President Barack Obama to spare programs important to the Hispanic community.

Natalicio was among 160 leaders invited to Washington in July for a two-day conference at the White House to share concerns, information and methods toward collaboration with key administration decisionmakers from a variety of policy areas.

Participants discussed Obama's agenda and its probable impact on Hispanics. One of the strongest messages the group shared was that important programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, Pell grants and Social Security should not be cut, Natalicio said.

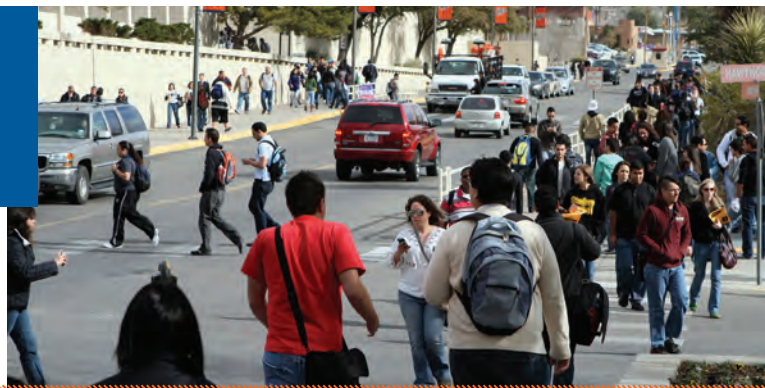
"One of the biggest questions facing our nation is: are we willing to risk jeopardizing our future by not investing in our next generation's education? Higher education is absolutely critical to the future economic competitiveness and quality of life of the U.S.," Natalicio said. "If we fail to invest in the education of the next generation, the U.S. will not have the capacity to compete in the global economy."

More than 60 percent of UTEP students receive federal or state aid, said Craig Westman, Ph.D., associate vice provost for enrollment management. Any cut in financial aid, specifically Pell grants, would hurt UTEP students.

"If Pell grants are cut or changes are made, it will impact our students immediately," he said. "It either becomes an institutional problem to find dollars ... or it puts the burden back on students to work more to fund their educations." 📌

Students and Alums Help Save Pell Grants

At UTEP, more than 60 percent of students receive federal or state aid, including Pell grants.



Bibiana Mancera has a passion for education. Immediately after high school, she enrolled in college, hoping to be the first in her immediate family to earn a bachelor's degree. She was quickly overwhelmed by the cost of school and dropped out. But at age 25, with the encouragement of her future husband and the help of Pell grants, she enrolled at The University of Texas at El Paso. She completed her bachelor's degree and has since earned a master's degree.

As the nation's economy continues to flux with great uncertainty, more and more students are depending on federal and state aid, including Pell grants for low-income students, to pay for their education.

"There are many people like me out there that ... don't qualify for scholarships and can't afford to pay for college," she said. "All

they need is an opportunity."

At UTEP, more than 60 percent of students receive federal or state aid, including Pell grants, according to Craig Westman, Ph.D., associate vice provost for enrollment management. When the nation's debt threatened to derail the program in late July, members of the UTEP community took action.

Mancera told her story to Young Invincibles, a group that helps give people ages 18-34 a voice in the federal government. The group worked with the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) to gather profiles of Hispanics who graduated from college with the help of Pell grants in an effort to keep Congress from cutting funding for the federal program.

Just weeks before Congress agreed to

continue funding Pell grants – for now – UTEP President Diana Natalicio voiced her concerns at a Hispanic policy conference at the White House (see story above).

Student Government Association President Pablo Padilla was one of more than 120 student body presidents who signed a letter sent to Obama and congressional leaders that expressed concerns about the ongoing federal budget debate and called for a bipartisan solution for the debt crisis. He also was part of a surprise conference call with Obama on the topic in July.

"[Obama] said that it was important that underrepresented groups like college students stand up to enact change. He was proud of us to get together," Padilla said. "It shows that people at UTEP can get to experience these great things." 📌



National Magazine Recognizes UTEP's Impact Among Hispanics

The University of Texas at El Paso earned high marks in 2011 from a national magazine for its success in graduating large numbers of Hispanics.

The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education posted its findings in its May 2 and June 6 issues. The rankings were based on the number of degrees awarded to Hispanics according to information from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics.

The University earned numerous top 10 finishes, including No. 1 in nursing and education as academic programs. It also ranked No. 2 and No. 4 overall in awarding bachelor's and master's degrees, respectively, to Hispanics.

These accomplishments speak to the dedication and focus of the University's staff, students and faculty, said UTEP Provost Junius Gonzales.

"UTEP is truly a national leader that is, as these rankings demonstrate, renowned for continuously creating innovative, robust and valued academic solutions to complexities of learning that face our 21st century demographic," he said. 📌



Junius Gonzales
UTEP Provost

"THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS SPEAK TO THE DEDICATION AND FOCUS OF THE UNIVERSITY'S STAFF, STUDENTS AND FACULTY."



Students to Have More Access to Medical Education

As The University of Texas at El Paso enters the new school year, some professors and administrators are planning a transformation that will make medical education more accessible for students who want to be doctors.

UTEP was awarded a \$1.5 million grant to help develop a pilot program that increases medical student enrollment and decreases the time and expense required to complete medical school. The funds are part of \$4 million awarded in May by The University of Texas System Board of Regents in support of the Transformation in Medical Education (TIME) initiative.

The plan addresses challenges in physician education such as duplication of undergraduate and graduate courses and the high cost of earning a medical degree. The medical education model has not changed in 100 years, said Susan L. Franzen, director of the UT System Leadership Institute.

UTEP heads up one of four partnerships in the UT System that will create pilot programs in the next two years. The UTEP collaborative had its first meeting in July to discuss the model, which will be implemented in fall 2013.

Donna Ekal, Ph.D., associate provost for undergraduate studies and primary investigator for the UTEP grant, said

the institutions in her partnership are working to come up with ideas and programs that will benefit students.

The initiative complements UTEP's mission of access and excellence in education and aligns closely with the University's drive to become the first national research (Tier One) institution with a 21st century student demographic, said Kristin L. Gosselink, Ph.D., assistant professor for the Department of Biological Sciences at UTEP and a member of Ekal's team.

"We already have increased our research performance and expenditures, and we're now moving that into clinical forums where students are better trained to become better physicians," she said. 📌

TIER ONE

THE INITIATIVE COMPLEMENTS UTEP'S MISSION OF ACCESS AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION.



iPhone App Offers On-the-Go Access

To download the free app, go to the App Store on your iPhone, iPod touch or iPad and search for "The University of Texas at El Paso."

A new iPhone app for The University of Texas at El Paso is a fast and convenient information portal for Miners on the move who want to know the latest happenings around campus and the borderland.

UTEP's Office of University Communications and the Information Resources and Planning department collaborated to create the app to give the University community easy access to campus and community news, calendars of athletic and academic events, campus maps, a directory of faculty and students, photos and videos, and a look toward UTEP's 100th anniversary in 2014.

"For today's and tomorrow's students, mobile devices such as smart phones are preferred ways of staying connected digitally to all of their communities," said Chester Jacinto, former associate vice president for university communications. "The UTEP app is a fantastic feature that lets users wire in and access University- and El Paso-related content from anywhere."

To download the free app, go to the App Store on your iPhone, iPod touch or iPad and search for "The University of Texas at El Paso." ➡

Workforce Solutions Awards Scholarships for Early Childhood Education

"Scholarships such as these help UTEP achieve its mission to provide access and academic excellence ..."

Diana Natalicio, UTEP President

Forty-eight juniors and seniors at The University of Texas at El Paso have been awarded nearly \$1,200 from Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande to continue their pursuit of a degree in Early Education and Childhood Development.

"We are truly grateful to Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande, one of our most valued community partners, for this generous gift to benefit many highly deserving and hard-working students," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "Scholarships such as these help UTEP achieve its mission to provide access and academic excellence to all talented students."

The scholarships are intended to help students reach their educational goals and can be applied toward any education-related costs, including textbooks, lab fees and other charges associated with their studies.

"As the local workforce development board focusing on education, employment and economic development, it is rewarding to assist students who have demonstrated a commitment to their education and the education of our region's children," said Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande CEO Lorenzo Reyes Jr. "As educators, these students will play a critical role in moving our region forward by beginning the path to success for children at an early age."

The funds are part of an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Quality Expansion Grant to enhance child care.

The University has partnered with Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande on numerous occasions. The two organizations solidified their commitment more than a year ago with the establishment of a Workforce satellite office on the UTEP campus. ➡



Miners at the Movies

It was a summer of the silver screen at The University of Texas at El Paso. In June, the Office of Special Events launched the first "Movies on the Lawn" event of the summer-long series.

"This has been, without a doubt, one of the most rewarding things we have done in a very long time," said Jorge Vazquez, interim director of Special Events.

A typical night at the weekly event included children of all ages running around barefoot on the soft grass of the Geology Lawn, while parents and friends sat in front of a large inflatable screen.

According to Vazquez, the event brought nearly 3,000 people to campus to see classics such as *Toy Story 3* and *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*.

Considering the success of its inaugural

run, Union Services officials hope to expand in 2012 and provide an even better experience for patrons.

"We'll meet with Special Events to get their input on what we can do for next year," said Nicole Gallegos, assistant director of Union Services. "We would like to see the festival grow."

People of all ages commented on the organization and accessibility of the festival, and many looked forward to attending next year's festivities.

"I think events like this unite the community and offer up another alternative," said recent graduate Sharon Navar, who attended several of the movies with her family. "I definitely look forward to next year's movie lineup." ➡

'Circus' Dazzles, Promotes Physics



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Eric Hagedorn, Ph.D., associate professor of physics, lays on a bed of nails (1), has a cinder block placed on his chest (2) and has the block smashed with a sledge hammer wielded by a student assistant (3).

With a combination of enthusiasm and intellect, Eric Hagedorn turns into a scientific ringmaster before another performance of The University of Texas at El Paso's "Physics Circus."

Hagedorn, Ph.D., associate professor of physics, schedules about 20 of the hour-long shows each year to demonstrate how physics, the study of matter and energy, can be fun.

He makes his point with lightning-inducing Tesla coils, a small vat of minus-320-degree liquid nitrogen, and a bed of nails.

The circus is a mobile show that he and

his student assistants take to neighboring schools districts or present within the Physical Sciences Building at UTEP.

"We do these shows to build interest in physics because it often gets a bad rap for being boring or hard," he said. "We want to show that it can be fun and interesting."

During a summer performance on campus, Hagedorn and two student assistants dazzled a group of incoming high school freshmen with a combination of visual displays and physical reactions.

"The students aren't that familiar with this kind of science so they enjoy the experiments," said Robert Barrueta, a

chaperone and 2003 UTEP education graduate. "They think it's awesome."

The goal of the circus is to enlighten, but also to recruit future physics majors to the University, Hagedorn said. The concept seems to be working. Two years ago the department had around 15 majors. Today, it boasts 70, he said.

Among them is sophomore Arturo Andujo, an El Paso native who tries to recruit for the department as a speaker and circus participant.

"Physics is my world," he said. ☑



Photo by Chad Puerling

SUCCESS BREEDS Positive Changes for Marching Miners

Band Director T. Andre Feagin gets the Marching Miners ready for the next exciting season in his second year at the helm.

When T. Andre Feagin landed at The University of Texas at El Paso in 2010 as the new director of the UTEP Marching Miners, he set out to make dramatic changes that would take the band program to a higher level.

The ensemble of musicians, now called the Marching Miner Regiment, wowed the crowds with their excellent musicianship, entertaining halftime shows and enthusiastic attitude. Feagin's goal as he starts his second season in command: to take it up a notch.

"Like what the fans saw last year, the group is going to explore some new musical genres," Feagin said. "We are excited about some fantastic opportunities that have arisen this year."

Due to their newfound popularity, the regiment has been invited to perform the exhibition at the Texas University Interscholastic League State Marching Band Competition in San Antonio in November. This appearance will allow the band to perform for a huge audience of music fans and help introduce UTEP to high school musicians, Feagin noted with enthusiasm.

"The finest band programs in the state will get to see this ensemble," Feagin said. "All eyes will be on the UTEP Band."

Among some of the other changes planned for the band in 2011-12 are an extended 12-minute show and an updated, modern look for the drum majors' uniforms, which Feagin said he hoped would lead to more attention for his group. ☑



UTEP and La Fe Team Up to Fight Child Obesity

Members of The University of Texas at El Paso have become involved in a food fight in the *Segundo Barrio*. The enemy: unhealthy lifestyles. The ammunition: concepts and recipes aimed at giving children and their families longer and happier lives.

Kathryn Reveles, instructor in clinical nursing at UTEP's School of Nursing, teamed up with Centro de la Salud Familiar La Fe to usher in a new health and fitness program in El Paso to increase the value of each student's meal at the clinic's preparatory school.

"Many of these families are limited in their options of food choices, which is where we come in," Reveles said.

The growing number of overweight adults in the United States is staggering, according to Reveles. However, far more alarming is the growing number of children with obesity, particularly in low-income families.

According to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly one-third of the 3.7 million low-income children ages 2 to 4 are either obese or overweight.

Reveles utilized the help of dozens of her students enrolled in UTEP's School of Nursing. They carefully measured the progress of each student, checking their body mass index (BMI) and observing their daily eating habits.

Randi Marshall, cafeteria manager for La Fe's Preparatory School, stands among the many nourished children she serves on a daily basis. Marshall encourages healthy eating with a wide variety of food options, including fresh fruits and vegetables.

"It was a process," said Karina Silva, principal of La Fe's prep school. "It took some time for (the students) to adjust to fresh foods, such as fresh baked bread and produce."

The students were taught about healthy eating and the routines of healthy lifestyles, with an emphasis on physical activity and stress management.

"Everything that they learn (in the cafeteria) is important to the development of growth and healthy living," said Cynthia Cano, assistant principal for La Fe's Preparatory School.

According to Randi Marshall, the school's cafeteria manager, many of the recipes went off successfully.

"We did simple things, like add carrots to their spaghetti sauce, or offered fresh fruit instead of potato chips," she said. "When it comes to food, kids are generally easy to satisfy – just so long as the food tastes good."

The project's goal was to increase awareness of the potential downfalls of obesity in society. Those involved with the project hoped the children would take what they learned and apply that knowledge at home and beyond.

"We want the kids to have a healthy living, given the opportunities and experiences necessary to build better lives," Reveles said. 📌



Nachtmann Appointed to Federal Reserve Bank

Robert Nachtmann, D.B.A., dean of UTEP's College of Business Administration, was appointed in April to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas Board of Directors, El Paso branch.

His role on the board is to provide input on regional economic conditions as part of the Federal Reserve's monetary policy functions.

"I am honored by this appointment and will work in an effort to contribute to the best of my abilities," he said.

Nachtmann serves on the governing board for the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, is immediate past-chair of the board of directors for United Way of El Paso County, and serves as a board member of the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Better Business Bureau of El Paso. 📌



Antiques Roadshow appraiser John Buxton, UTEP Centennial Museum Curator Scott Cutler and *Roadshow* host Mark L. Walberg show off a shaman vessel and a smoker effigy pot from the museum's Casas Grandes collection.

Antiques Roadshow Stops at Centennial Museum

The lobby of UTEP's Centennial Museum was transformed into a sound stage when the popular PBS program *Antiques Roadshow* rolled into El Paso in June.

The *Roadshow* crew, along with host Mark L. Walberg and appraiser John Buxton, spent nearly four hours at the Centennial taping a segment on its unique collection of Casas Grandes pottery for an upcoming episode of the public television show.

"Casas Grandes and Paquimé was an important center for ideas, trade and culture, and to have objects that are as rare as the objects that are here in the Centennial Museum, that is something that just can't be passed up," Buxton said. "We've never done something like this on the *Roadshow*."

Among the items that Buxton examined were a shaman vessel shaped like a hunchback and a smoker effigy pot, which he appraised between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

The pieces are part of larger collections donated by Gertrude W. Smith and E.C. Houghton, who lived in the Casas Grandes area of Mexico in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The items were among the first donations accepted at the museum, which opened in 1937.

"At the Centennial, UTEP's move to Tier One status through its 'access and excellence' model will mean looking for more ways to connect with the public, and working with programs such as *Antiques Roadshow*, which does truly excellent work, is a great way to accomplish that," said Bill Wood, Ph.D., Centennial director. 📺

THE FOOTAGE FILMED IN EL PASO IS EXPECTED TO AIR SOMETIME BETWEEN JANUARY AND JUNE 2012. VIEWERS CAN CHECK PBS.ORG/ANTIQUES FOR THE SHOW'S 2012 BROADCAST SCHEDULE.

Special Events Brings in Special Performances

Big things are on the horizon for the city of El Paso. In fact, every year The University of Texas at El Paso's Special Events team goes out of its way to provide the region with the top-caliber acts it deserves, according to Jorge Vazquez, interim director of special events.

"We work tirelessly in bringing the acts that the city and UTEP want to hear," he said. "We always try to keep things fresh and exciting, giving them something they've never seen before."

How fresh and exciting? Just this past spring, Vazquez and company brought in acclaimed circus troupe Cirque de Soleil for the first time, underneath the roof of the Don Haskins Center.

That's not all.

Students, faculty, staff and the rest of Sun City enjoyed high-profile national acts such as progressive rockers Rush, legendary R&B collective The Temptations and even the traveling Star Wars concert.

For the month of September, El Paso once again is gearing up for another night with superstar guitarist Carlos Santana, and it doesn't stop there.

Vazquez teased that there is a great variety of acts on the burner, though he cannot say which ones.

"I can give a few hints: one of them will be a sporting event and the others will be the biggest names in the music and entertainment industry," Vazquez said.

So who could they be? Only time will tell. The rest of us will just have to keep our ears to the ground and our eyes on the UTEP marquee on Mesa Street. 📺



Photos by Niki Rhynes and Joshua Garcia



Photo by Joshua Garcia

UTEP Group Offers Warmth and Security

EL PASO PROJECT LINUS MEMBERS meet at 9:30 a.m. the first Saturday of every month at University Presbyterian Church, 244 N. Resler Drive. The UTEP group meets at 11 a.m. Fridays in the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects on campus. To donate supplies, handmade blankets or cash, contact Annette Wooters at twooters@elp.rr.com or 915-474-2845.

A small but dedicated group of staff, students and faculty from The University of Texas at El Paso provide warmth and comfort to children and youth involved in heart-wrenching situations.

These Miner Nation members crochet blankets for the El Paso chapter of Project Linus, a national organization that donates handmade blankets to children who experience traumatic situations or suffer a serious illness.

For Sandra R. Hurley, Ph.D., associate provost at UTEP, making blankets is her way to reach out to children in need.

"This is my way to give a warm hug to a child who is sick or lonely or hurting or scared or all of those," Hurley said. "It's very rewarding and satisfying."

The group is named after the *Peanuts* comic strip character Linus, who often carries a security blanket.

The program's El Paso chapter, which has more than 50 members, donated more than 2,300 blankets last year to children and youth at area hospitals or foster care facilities, and to law enforcement officers who come in contact with children in distress.

Brandi Gurrola, a community partners' coordinator for Rainbow Room, a resource center for Child Protective Services, said the Linus blankets donated to the center are given to children when they enter foster care.

"The blankets are great for the little ones because they are comforting, but the big ones love them just as much because it's something that is actually theirs," she said. "Their lives, unfortunately, are very transitory for a while, so everything that is actually theirs and they know is theirs becomes very important for them." 📌



Miner Nation Creates Birds of 'Pray' for Japanese Relief

According to Japanese culture, anybody who folds 1,000 origami paper cranes will be granted a wish.

For the hundreds of students, staff, faculty and visitors who folded cranes in April at The University of Texas at El Paso, that wish was for relief and recovery for the people of Japan who suffered a devastating earthquake and tsunami the month before.

1,000 Cranes for Japan united several UTEP student organizations and departments as well as the El Paso chapter of the American Red Cross to raise money and awareness for the ongoing disaster relief efforts in Japan. The event's main attraction was the folding of more than 1,000 orange or blue origami cranes by participants.

"Individual students, student organizations

and departments at UTEP wanted to make a difference and did not hesitate to lend their support to the American Red Cross for Japanese relief," said Catie McCorry-Andalis, assistant vice president for student life and associate dean of students.

The cranes were sent to the Consulate General of Japan in Houston as a sign of UTEP's support for the disaster victims. Members of the consulate's office decided to display the symbolic orange and blue artwork in their lobby.

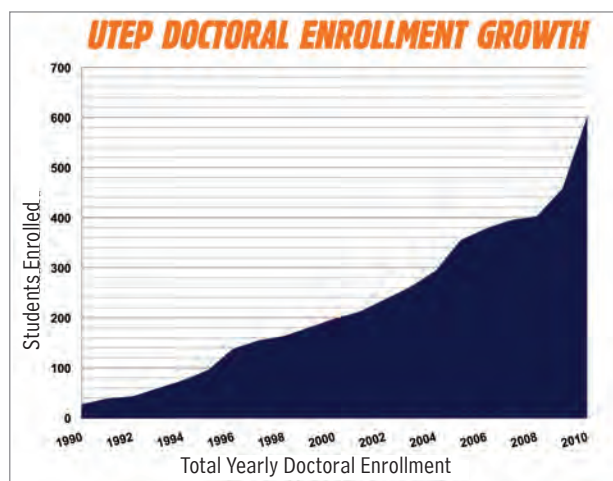
"We were moved," said Akiko Sato Fredricks, event coordinator for the Japanese Consulate's office. "The cranes were made nicely — the colors were beautiful. We felt how much [UTEP] cared about us." 📌

Top: Atsushi Yonezawa, consul of the Consulate-General of Japan in Houston, and Ryan Pauley, information and cultural affairs specialist, stand near cranes made by different schools, including UTEP. Photo by Stephanie Sanchez. Bottom: Saori Aono Wilson volunteered to teach UTEP students the proper way to make origami cranes at the 1,000 Cranes for Japan event. Photo by Laura Trejo.



UTEP AT KRISPY KREME

From left, Student Government Association President Pablo Padilla; students Amparo Beltran, Daniel Parga, Mercedes Guevara, Paydirt Pete, Laura Cueva, Daniel Gloria and Pablo Perez; and Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Gary Edens, Ed. D., were part of the UTEP team that won first place in the doughnut cake-making contest.



Students at The University of Texas at El Paso can take a closer look into the impact global climate change has on plants and animals, and their evolutionary fate, thanks to UTEP's 19th doctoral program.

The new Ph.D. program in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in July.

Doctoral degree programs are critical building blocks as UTEP continues its quest to become the first national research

university with a 21st century student demographic, said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. Students in the program will have opportunities to investigate the impact of a warming and drying climate by studying biodiversity, conservation biology, ecological and evolutionary genetics, experimental ecology, metadata analysis, phylogeny reconstruction, environmental bioassessment, climate change, geographic information systems, and remote sensing.

The students' training and new skills will be important for understanding the world's complex ecosystems and devising innovative strategies and responses to these global trends, said Robert A. Kirken, Ph.D.,

professor and chair of the Department of Biological Sciences.

During the last 10 years, the University developed support programs for the new degree, such as specialized technologies, facilities and field stations positioned around the world to provide students with exceptional educational opportunities, said Carl S. Lieb, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences.

"UTEP already has a number of assets in place for this EEB program. Besides an energetic and committed biological sciences faculty, the University is physically located in the biodiverse Chihuahuan Desert," he said. "This location serves as a platform for the study of extreme environments regionally and in other parts of the world, from the poles to the tropics." ☑

19th Doctoral Degree Approved

New Ph.D. program in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in July.

Witherspoon Named Dean of College of Liberal Arts



Patricia D. Witherspoon, Ph.D., lost something during the summer – her temporary title.

The longtime professor and administrator at The University of Texas at El Paso was named dean of UTEP's College of Liberal Arts effective June 15. She had been the college's acting dean since September 2010.

Witherspoon started at UTEP in 2000 as chair of the Department of Communication and was founding director of the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies. She continues to oversee the center. She also served a two-year tour as dean of the University's Graduate School starting in August 2008.

"Pat Witherspoon brings extensive administrative experience and a deep understanding of UTEP's mission to this position," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "She is very well prepared to

provide strong leadership to the College of Liberal Arts and to enhance its contributions to UTEP's progress in becoming the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic."

Junius Gonzales, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said Witherspoon did an outstanding job as acting dean of the college, taking it in new and exciting directions.

The college has more than 20 departments and programs that cover the social and behavioral sciences, humanities, and fine and performing arts. About 7,000 students are enrolled.

"UTEP is educating future leaders of this region and the nation, and Liberal Arts has a key role to play in that process," Witherspoon said. "Education is the process of helping people's dreams come true, and nowhere is that more evident than at UTEP." 📌



Photo courtesy of Jing Yang

Tom Schmid, Ph.D., associate professor of English, stands in front of a Chinese character for "he," which means "harmony," at the East-West Center in Honolulu.

Grant Promises Fresh Look At Chinese Culture

Twelve professors from different disciplines at The University of Texas at El Paso are part of a three-year, multi-institutional research effort to develop a "fast-tracked" curriculum in Chinese studies.

The grant will involve six academic institutions, including UTEP, that represent a cross-section of American higher education. The goal is to develop workable approaches at each campus to offer a minor at the university level and a certificate/concentration at community colleges. The research is funded through the U.S. Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies & Foreign Language Grant.

"We want the value of our courses to be

with an eye on learning *from* China and not just *about* China," said Tom Schmid, Ph.D., associate professor of English and director of UTEP's Asian Studies program.

The research will be directed by Peter Hershock, Ph.D., coordinator of the Asian Studies Development Program (ASDP) at the University of Hawaii. He said UTEP was selected because of its border location, its large Hispanic student demographic, and the University's previous strong work with ASDP.

Hershock said it will become more important for U.S. representatives to speak the language and understand the culture as China grows as an international economic power.

"Overcoming this language barrier, which puts the Chinese in a superior position, is important in establishing mutual trust," Hershock said.

Among those excited about the new opportunity is R.J. Lambert, a second-year UTEP doctoral student in rhetoric and composition, who was part of a Chinese language class during the spring 2011 semester.

"With the new Chinese offerings at UTEP, we have a great opportunity to start making those connections ... and gaining language abilities that probably will be useful for our careers," he said. 📌

Scholarships Help Create Nursing Leaders



Photo by Laura Trejo

RWJF Scholarship recipients, from left, Jason Longwell, Aracely Hernandez, Edith J. Perales, Heather Tantimonaco, Kenneth Stice

The University of Texas at El Paso is helping to create a more diverse nursing workforce led by culturally competent nurses with help from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF).

The UTEP School of Nursing is one of 63 schools that received funding this year from the foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to award scholarships to students enrolled in the school's Nursing Fast Track program through the highly competitive RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program.

"The program will help us promote our commitment to diversify our student body and to contribute to the next generation of nurse leaders," said School of Nursing Dean Elias Provencio-Vasquez, Ph.D. "We are fortunate to have such great support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing."

Nursing students Aracely Hernandez, Jason A. Longwell, Edith J. Perales, Kenneth A. Stice and Heather J. Tantimonaco each have been awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to enter the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Fast Track Program during the 2011-12 academic year. The program, which graduates registered nurses in 12 months, started its seventh cohort on May 31.

Scholarships are provided to students from groups that are underrepresented in nursing to prepare culturally competent leaders. Students meet with mentors from El Paso area hospitals once a month to work on special assignments.

"This scholarship allows us not only to have mentors but then to go back and have the ability to mentor students in our class, as well," Stice said. "It helps develop our leadership skills and that's key." 📌



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

From left, UTEP President Diana Natalicio, Nita Phillips, Jim Phillips and chamber President and Chief Executive Officer Richard E. Dayoub

UTEP Scholarship Nurtures Talent

A new scholarship at The University of Texas at El Paso will provide a much-needed financial resource to help develop and nurture talent in the El Paso community.

In June, the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce Foundation established the Jim R. Phillips Endowed Scholarship, which will provide annual financial assistance for students pursuing their degrees at UTEP.

The \$25,000 endowed scholarship pays tribute to Phillips, chairman of the Wells Fargo Community Advisory Board.

"I can't think of a better way to honor an individual whom we all hold in such high esteem than to create opportunities for talented young people in this region to pursue career paths that will ultimately enable them to contribute — as Jim Phillips has so consistently done — to the quality of life of this community," UTEP President Diana Natalicio said.

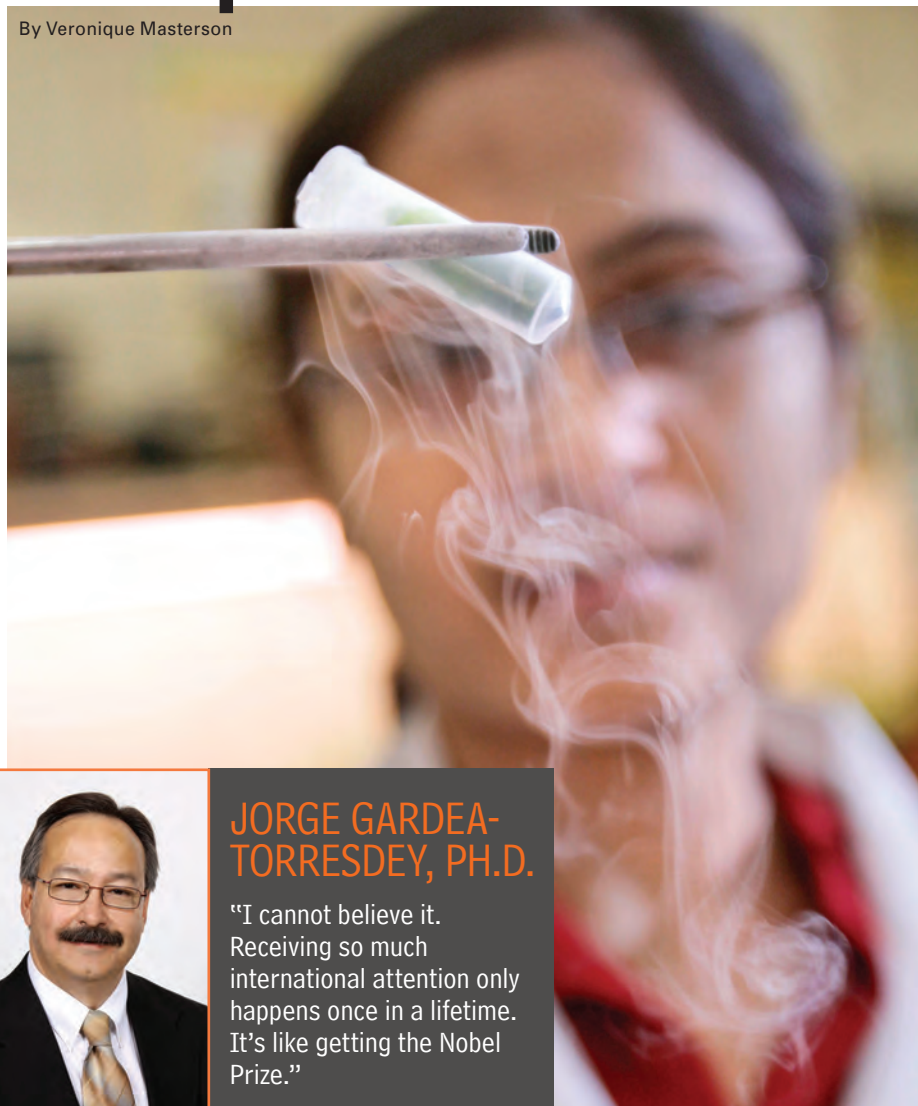
The idea for the fund originated in 2008 when then-chamber board Chairman Richard Fleager and current chamber President and Chief Executive Officer Richard E. Dayoub decided to pay tribute to Phillips' service to the community by establishing a scholarship in his name. They used the 109th annual gala as the springboard for their fundraising efforts, and since then, donations collected from various chamber-sponsored events have been combined to establish the endowment at the University.

"I want to thank UTEP always," Phillips said. "I want to thank Richard Dayoub and the Chamber of Commerce. They are always doing something for somebody else and I like people that do it for somebody else." 📌

CHEMISTRY CHAIR CONTINUES

Nanoparticle Research

By Veronique Masterson



They're extremely small and their risks, such as toxicity, are still unclear. At 1/50,000th the width of a human hair, nanoparticles cannot be seen by the naked eye. They're parts of elements that mainly appear naturally in the environment.

Jorge Gardea-Torresdey, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Chemistry at The University of Texas at El Paso, and his research group have received national and international attention for their research into the safety of nanoparticles in food.

Their article, "Interaction of Nanoparticles with Edible Plants and Their Possible Implications in the Food Chain," was published in the March 2011 issue of the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*.

The article and research also have been featured in more than 150 national and international media outlets, including CBS News and the *Los Angeles Times*.

"I cannot believe it," Gardea-Torresdey said. "Receiving so much international attention only happens once in a lifetime. It's like getting the Nobel Prize."

A \$24 million grant from the National Science Foundation and the Environmental Protection Agency, which funded the University of California Center for Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology (Gardea-Torresdey is a co-investigator), is enabling the UTEP team to learn more about nanoparticles and their possible impact on crops.

"This research will help us be prepared to reduce the risks," said Arturo A. Keller, Ph.D., co-director of the center.

Gardea-Torresdey's research group is composed of 21 additional members, including 14 Ph.D. students. 📌

Photo by J.R. Hernandez



JORGE GARDEA-TORRESDEY, PH.D.

"I cannot believe it. Receiving so much international attention only happens once in a lifetime. It's like getting the Nobel Prize."

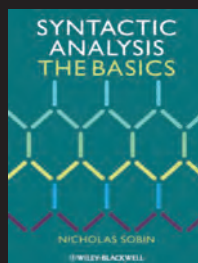
Faculty Must-Reads



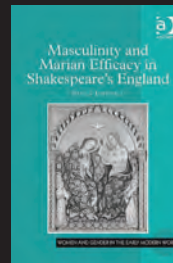
The Great Heart of the Republic: St. Louis and the Cultural Civil War, by Adam Arenson, Ph.D., assistant professor of history (2011)



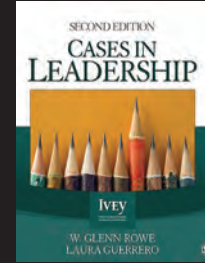
For Those Who Dare to Hope: A Breakthrough Constraints of Time and Hopelessness, by Cesar Rossatto, Ph.D., associate professor of teacher education (2010)



Syntactic Analysis: The Basics, by Nicholas Sobin, Ph.D., professor of languages and linguistics (2011)



Masculinity and Marian Efficacy in Shakespeare's England, by Ruben Espinosa, Ph.D., assistant professor of English (2011)



Cases in Leadership, by Laura Guerrero, Ph.D., assistant professor of marketing and management, et al (2010)



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

NIH Awards \$1.4 Million TO UTEP HIV RESEARCHER

By Daniel Perez

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced in July that it awarded a \$1.4 million, four-year grant to researcher Manuel Llano, Ph.D., to study cellular processes that could be used to develop medicines to block HIV infection.

Llano, assistant professor of biological sciences at The University of Texas at El Paso, will research how the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infects cells so better strategies can be designed to block infection that can lead to acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or AIDS.

His research focuses on identifying cellular processes essential for HIV infection and ways to block the multiplication of the infected cells without causing the person who takes the current medication to experience negative side effects.

Llano has researched HIV since 2000 — the past five years as a faculty member at UTEP. He said studies such as his are needed to develop new treatment alternatives.

“For me, this grant recognizes the good work that my students and I have done at UTEP,” he said. “For my research, it gives me the opportunity to continue my work.”

Approximately 33.3 million people worldwide are infected with HIV, Llano said. Hispanics make up 13 percent of the U.S. population, but 17 percent of the country’s HIV patients.

Llano said a secondary benefit to the

grant is the opportunity to mentor the next generation of primary investigators. He spoke of the many UTEP students who have provided “crucial” assistance in his HIV research. Three of those students have earned doctoral degrees along the way. His current team consists of five undergraduate students and one master’s student.

Longtime colleague Martin E. Fernandez-Zapico, M.D., said Llano provides students with an environment that introduces them to the philosophy of science and exposes them to field research that can impact the health of millions worldwide.

Fernandez-Zapico, assistant professor of biochemistry/molecular biology, and also of medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., has known Llano for 10 years and said many factors make him a successful researcher.

“He has an exquisite combination of talent, dedication, commitment to excellence and outstanding interpersonal skills,” he said.

Significant health research such as that conducted by Llano helps the University in its drive to become a national research (Tier One) institution, said Roberto Osegueda, Ph.D., UTEP’s vice president for research.

“The University is very pleased with the effort of Dr. Llano in securing this competitive award from the National Institutes of Health,” Osegueda said. 📌

Among the UTEP students assisting Manuel Llano, Ph.D., on his HIV research are, from left, Crystal Mendoza, Vanessa Rodriguez, Laura Fernanda Porras, Eduardo Urias, Daniel Reyes and Andre Perez. Other team members are Elizabeth Aguilera and Adarsh Saheba.



NEW TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES

Manuel Llano, Ph. D., has researched HIV since 2000; the past five years as a faculty member at UTEP. Studies such as his are needed to develop new treatment alternatives.



Researcher

FINDS LONG-LOST SPECIES

By Daniel Perez

A UTEP researcher who never outgrew his youthful interest in reptiles and amphibians was lauded in 2011 for his rediscovery of four species of frogs during a recent expedition in Africa.

Eli Greenbaum, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences, and several African collaborators made the discoveries during his fifth venture to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The University of Texas at El Paso funded the expedition.

Those findings came on the heels of a fifth species that he rediscovered during a 2009 trip to the Congo sponsored by the National Geographic Society. The five species were described without photographs from 1950-52, and with a single exception in 1954, haven't been seen since.

Recent assessments concluded that one-third of the world's amphibian species have become extinct or are seriously threatened with extinction, Greenbaum said — so his efforts offer a glimmer of hope.

"This is important for the sake of conservation on a global scale," he said. "Amphibians are like the canaries in the coal mine. If they go, we're next, and they're not doing too [well]."

The UTEP researcher, who specializes in evolutionary genetics, said his team also identified scores of new species of frogs, lizards, chameleons and snakes. He has taught at UTEP for three years.

The findings drew interest from *National*

Geographic Daily News, a website that posted photos and information about the research trip, and colleagues from around the country.

David C. Blackburn, Ph.D., assistant curator of herpetology at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, said the research community was "ecstatic" with Greenbaum's discoveries of the frogs and other species.

"His field surveys and the resulting collections of scientific specimens are an incomparable contribution to the study of biodiversity in this poorly known, but obviously diverse, region of Africa," Blackburn said.

The Congo has received little research attention because of the country's inaccessibility and history of conflict, but Greenbaum has been able to create a niche there. He has teamed with area researchers and learned the proper protocols to maintain his health and safety.

The national interest in Greenbaum's research energizes Frank Portillo, a biology graduate student, who has worked in the professor's lab for a year.

"This is a great opportunity for herpetology students," Portillo said, referring to the study of amphibians and reptiles. "With him you work on species from Africa that are way different from species you would find locally." 📷



Eli Greenbaum and African porters crossed a river during a June 2009 expedition to the Kabobo Plateau in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Photos courtesy of Eli Greenbaum

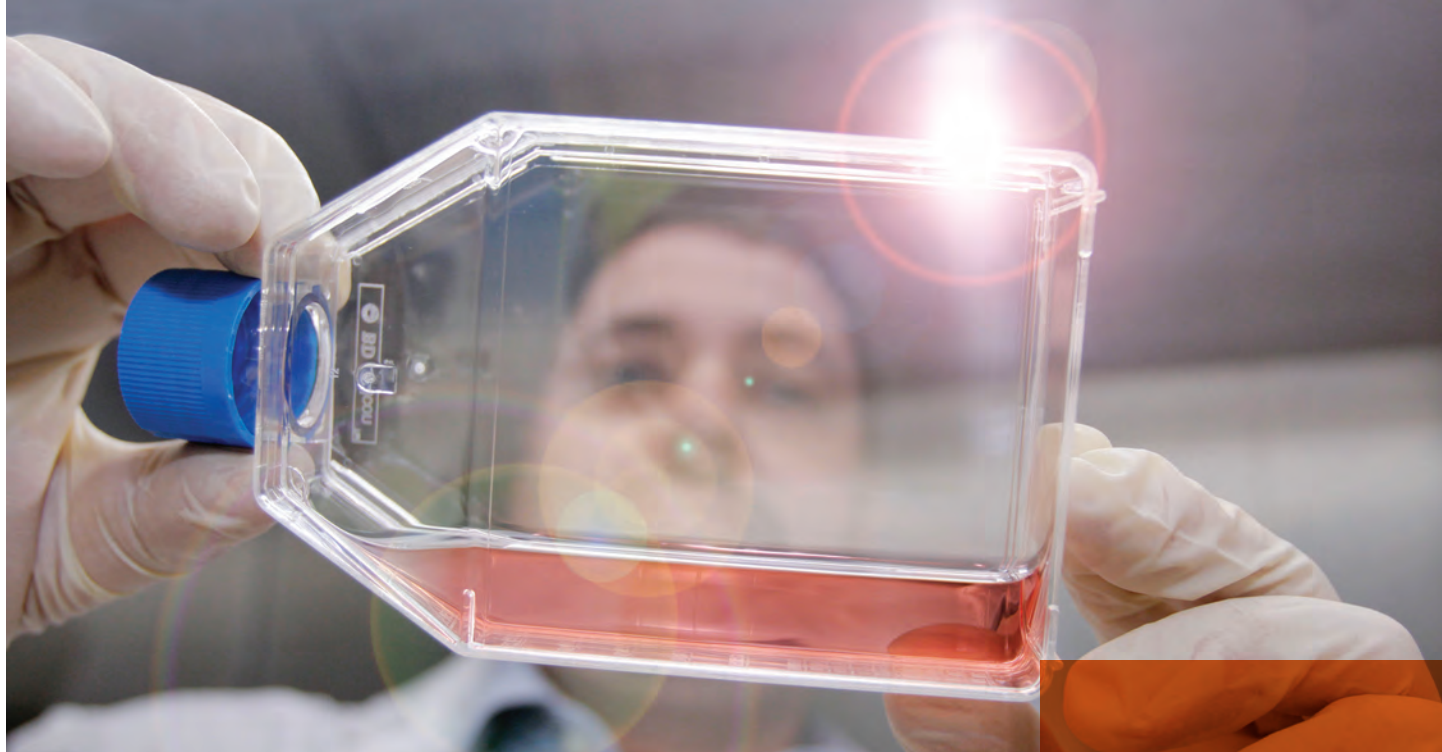


ELI GREENBAUM, PH.D.

"Amphibians are like the canaries in the coal mine. If they go, we're next, and they're not doing too [well]."

VISIT US:

Discover Greenbaum's research at eligreenbaum.iss.utep.edu/default.htm.



Professor Helps Develop

PROSTATE CANCER TREATMENTS

By Stephanie Sanchez

Marc B. Cox, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences, examines material in his research laboratory. He discovered promising molecules to treat the most severe form of prostate cancer.

A professor at The University of Texas at El Paso believes he has discovered molecules to treat the most severe form of prostate cancer.

Marc B. Cox, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences, has been studying molecules that bind to and inhibit a protein involved in prostate cancer since 2003.

To further test the molecules and identify and develop additional novel therapies, Cox received an almost \$1 million grant in late March from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). The institute has funded cancer research, prevention and commercialization in the state since 2010.

"I've taken my basic research on this protein as far as it will go," Cox said. "I've characterized this protein. We know exactly what it will do in the cell and we've targeted it with small molecules. ... [They] look very promising for treating late-stage prostate cancer."

Each year, more than 200,000 men in the United States are diagnosed with prostate cancer and about 30,000 die from the disease. After lung cancer, prostate cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for men, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Early-stage prostate cancer grows and survives on male hormones called androgens. Current treatments target

these hormones, resulting in harmful and unpleasant side effects. In recurrent and severe forms of the cancer, the hormone may become resistant to therapy, enabling tumors to spread and limiting treatment options.

Cox and a research team are working to test new drugs and methods that would slow the growth of early-stage cancer and combat the late stages of the disease. Cox's grant is part of \$5.2 million given to the group.

The team includes Paul Webb, a researcher at The Methodist Hospital Research Institute; Margaret Warner, a biology and biochemistry professor at the University of Houston; and Jan-Ake Gustafsson, Ph.D., also a biology and biochemistry professor at the University of Houston and primary investigator for the grant.

"We're aiming for at least three alternative mechanisms for treating prostate cancer, so we each have a different angle," Cox said.

Cox will test his protein, which seems to effectively and efficiently regulate androgen hormones with the possibility of less harmful side effects. The other researchers will help expedite testing the feasibility of the new treatment methods.

Cox published an article about his research in the July issue of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, a prestigious

journal that publishes articles on cutting-edge research.

Jeff Sivils, a postdoctoral fellow working with Cox, said the professor is doing life-saving research and bringing recognition to the University.

"(His research) puts us on par with renowned research facilities," Sivils said. "This gives us well-deserved recognition." 📌



PROMISING OUTLOOK

"We're aiming for at least three alternative mechanisms for treating prostate cancer, so we each have a different angle."

Marc B. Cox, Ph.D.



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs and research faculty study cancer in Robert Kirken's biological sciences lab.

Personalized Medicine

PROMISING THERAPIES ON THE HORIZON

By Rebecca Downey

KIRKEN'S APPROACH

Kirken's approach for individualized treatment of leukemia and lymphoma can best be described as "personalized medicine."

Someday our signature may save our lives. This lifesaver won't come from our pen, but rather from a blood sample we provide scientists to study our genetic disposition for certain diseases, or to help researchers understand the configuration of the proteins and other unknown molecules in our cells.

The complex study of molecular signatures is taking place right now in the laboratories of UTEP's Department of Biological Sciences. Robert A. Kirken, Ph.D., professor and chair of biological sciences, has challenged his research team to target T- and B-cell leukemia and lymphoma in search of how a patient's molecular pathways inhibit or incite the spread of cancer.

This research should be important to residents of the Paso del Norte region because acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a cancer of the white blood cells, is more prevalent in Hispanic children. Studies show that the prevalence rate is 30 to 40 cases per million, but the rate is 43 per million in Hispanic children.

"We are trying to figure out why," Kirken said.

Kirken said Hispanics make up 9 percent of all deaths from all types of leukemia. And lymphoma, a cancer of the lymphatic system, is the eighth-leading cause of death among Hispanics. Of the 6,000 to 9,000 patients diagnosed with T-cell lymphoma

each year, many are poorly responsive to current therapies. This leads Kirken's team to believe individualized treatments may be more effective.

Kirken believes with our nation's growing Hispanic population, there is an urgency to find out why Hispanics are more at risk to these types of cancers and more resistant to treatment.

UTEP biological sciences researchers hope to gain a distinctive molecular insight into these two diseases by identifying novel pathways for therapeutic intervention and uniquely tailoring anti-cancer therapies for the Hispanic population and others.

Kirken's approach for individualized treatment of leukemia and lymphoma can best be described as 'personalized medicine.' UTEP is building partnerships with local hospitals and the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine clinicians to provide doctors with more facts to consider in the treatment of certain forms of leukemia and lymphoma.

"Most national discussions surround genetics," Kirken said, "but that is only part of the problem. It also involves proteins and signaling pathways inside cells. These are the targets of the cancer drugs, and that is our quest: to better understand these pathways so that novel therapeutics can be developed that could be tailored to each patient." 📌



By Daniel Perez

'VISIT' VIRTUAL TOWN > IT'S JUST LIKE AN INTERACTIVE VIDEO GAME.

The weather is dry but pleasant in Epi Town, a rural border colonia with 113 residents. The few streets, unpaved and cracked from drought, are dotted with homes and shops made of cinderblocks. Look down and you may see a snake slither by. Look up and you might see a soaring vulture.

This is where several UTEP students spent part of their summer to learn how to properly conduct health surveys before they continue their training in Chile, Ecuador and Costa Rica as part of the University's Minority Health International Research Training (MHIRT) Program.

Epi Town is a Second Life cyber creation for UTEP's College of Health Sciences (CHS) by the Office of Instructional Support Services (ISS). Its inhabitants, or "bots" – for robots – answer questions based on results of a 2007 California Health Interview Survey. UTEP students visit the town as avatars, or digital personas.

Past MHIRT students have said they appreciate the opportunity to hone their field research skills for data collection, database management and statistical analysis in Epi Town.

"It's just like an interactive video game," said Cassandra Muro, a social work graduate student and MHIRT scholar who recently spent 10 weeks in Quito, Ecuador, where she researched aspects of nutrition and heavy metal exposure among minority populations. "Your main objective is to search for

participants to interview and collect their data."

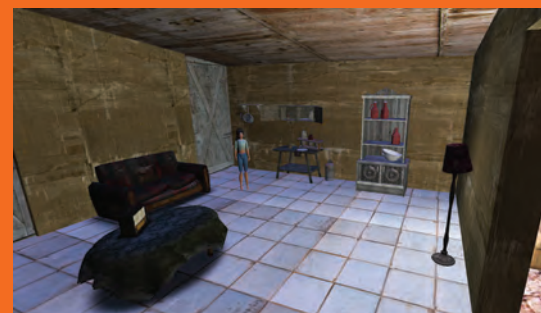
Oralia Loza, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, oversees the course. She said the Second Life training offers students valuable simulation experience for data collection methods when they conduct interviews, and teaches them the value of being consistent and meticulous. To do otherwise would corrupt the quality of the data and render it unreliable.

This year's course, which started in June, marked the University's second use of Epi Town, named after epidemiology, the study of the distribution and determinants of health-related events.

"Those who go on to interview people (in their host country) tell us the relevance of this exercise becomes evident to them," she said.

The idea for the town came from Sunay Palsole, ISS director, who suggested its creation to provide UTEP research students with a safe alternative to conducting surveys in Juárez, Mexico, as they had in past years. The idea was approved by Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D., CHS dean.

Palsole said Epi Town could be used for other University courses such as statistics, and he added that he has been contacted by representatives from other universities interested in having their students learn at the Second Life village. ▢



College of Health Sciences students send their digital personas to Epi Town, a Second Life cyber creation, to hone their health survey skills.

"I REMEMBER BEING TERRIFIED AT UTEP. I FREAKED OUT OVER THE LITTLEST THINGS, LIKE PLAGIARISM, BECAUSE I WASN'T TAUGHT ABOUT THAT IN HIGH SCHOOL."

- UTEP Student Karla Lara

Researchers

LINK STUDENT SUCCESS TO SUPPORT

By Veronique Masterson

The University of Texas at El Paso is nationally recognized for its efforts to promote student achievement, but that did not keep campus administrators from trying to find out what more could be done to help students achieve their academic goals.

UTEP earned a \$250,000 grant in 2005 from the Lumina Foundation for Education, a private, independent institution dedicated to helping people achieve their potential by expanding access and success beyond high school. The funds were used to study ways to increase student success and degree completion, especially among first-time students.

Results of the three-year Student Success Project, conducted by the University's Center for Institutional Evaluation, Research, and Planning (CIERP), have been used by administrators, staff and faculty to increase student success.

One program that resulted from the study is the Accelerated Student Support through Integrated Success Teams (ASSIST), a four-week summer session that helps students build confidence and learn about teamwork, leadership and time management.

The team's methods have saved the academic careers of numerous UTEP students, including Karla Lara. Her 3.7 grade point average in high school plummeted to a 1.9 by the end of her first year at UTEP. Her confidence was shaken.

"I felt like I didn't have the brains for college," she said. "I remember being terrified at UTEP. I freaked out over the littlest things, like plagiarism, because I wasn't taught about that in high school."

She enrolled in ASSIST and became one of the program's many success stories. Lara, a junior English literature major, has a 3.2 G.P.A. and is an ASSIST peer mentor who helps other students overwhelmed by the first year of college.

UTEP's research also found that academic performance during the first year, especially during the first term, was a strong predictor of degree completion, said Roy Mathew, Ph.D., CIERP director.

"If someone failed a course their first term, they were half as likely to graduate as someone who didn't fail a course. Someone who failed more than one course the first term was 10 times less likely to

graduate than someone who didn't," he said.

Mathew added that students who dropped out, even for a short time, were less likely to complete their degrees. Since the study began, the University has seen a 55 percent increase in the number of degrees awarded, according to CIERP.

In 2009, Lumina awarded UTEP \$500,000 for a second three-year grant to explore the factors that explain the success of transfer students and to support the development of similar studies at two other minority-serving institutions in Texas: Texas A&M International University and Prairie View A&M University.

Donna Ekal, Ph.D., associate provost of undergraduate studies at UTEP, is the second grant's primary investigator. She said the study has taken into account that the college experience is evolving.



Photo by Luz Belen Aguayo

Karla Lara, ASSIST peer mentor, helps other students overwhelmed by the first year of college. Here the students build teamwork skills through a ropes course.



UNIVERSITY OF THE FUTURE

“What does the college of the future look like? And that’s online delivery systems, evening and weekend classes and modular components, and all the things we need to figure out to accommodate the challenges of the future for our students.”

Donna Ekal, Ph.D.

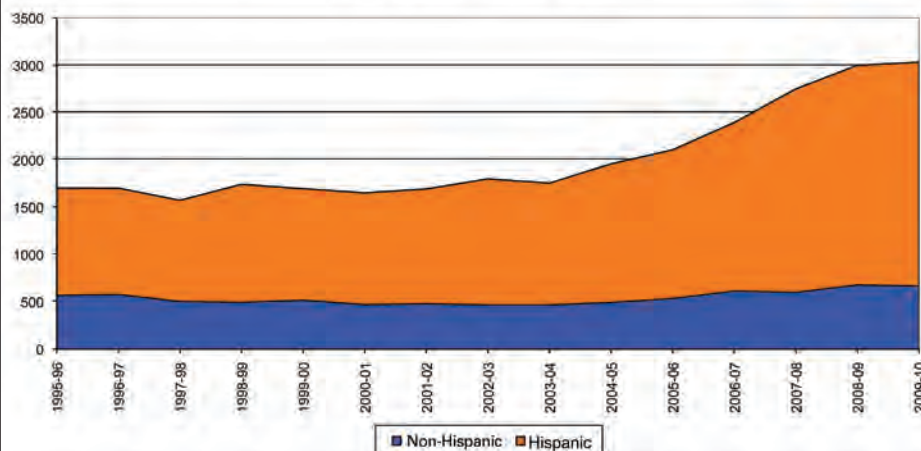
Continued from page 22

“What does the college of the future look like? And that’s online delivery systems, evening and weekend classes and modular components, and all the things we need to figure out to accommodate the challenges of the future for our students,” Ekal explained.

Funding for the grant expires in August 2012.

The University’s past efforts to promote student achievement were recognized in *Student Success in College: Creating Conditions that Matter* (2005) by George D. Kuh and associates, which highlights universities that “create a campus culture that fosters success” and identifies “diverse institutions that do an especially good job of educating students.” UTEP is recognized as one of six national models of excellence for success in pairing a commitment to student access and to research. ☑

Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Growth in Degrees Awarded, AY1995-96 to AY2009-10



UTEP is Well-Prepared FOR 21ST CENTURY DEMOGRAPHIC

By Dennis Soden
Director, Institute for Policy and Economic Development

Among the goals The University of Texas at El Paso has worked toward for more than three decades has been to provide opportunities for its student body, which now reflects a 21st century demographic.

As the 2010 Census has demonstrated, the Hispanic population is the nation’s fastest growing ethnic group and accounts for nearly one in six Americans and half of the nation’s population growth since the 2000 Census.

At the core of UTEP’s mission is to become a nationally recognized research university that serves the Hispanic population.

The University actively began to make strides to become a prominent urban Hispanic-serving institution in the 1990s. The transition made by UTEP indicates that it is at the forefront of this demographic shift.

In 1990, UTEP conferred undergraduate degrees on 613 Hispanic students, 49

percent of the 1,247 undergraduates. During the 2008-09 academic year, the University awarded 2,999 bachelor’s degrees and 2,322 of them were awarded to Hispanics – about 78 percent – which nearly replicates the percentage of Hispanics who reside in El Paso County, 82 percent.

As UTEP moves forward, it is well-positioned to be a leader in Hispanic higher education. UTEP has not only come to match the population it serves in West Texas, but stepped forward in preparing the nation’s scientific and professional workforce that will mirror the population of the nation later in the 21st century.

As a University poised for this demographic shift, UTEP will be a model of how higher education institutions can respond to demographic change as well as maintain access to students while achieving the highest levels of excellence in teaching and research. ☑



MOVING FORWARD

As UTEP moves forward, it is well-positioned to be a leader in Hispanic higher education.

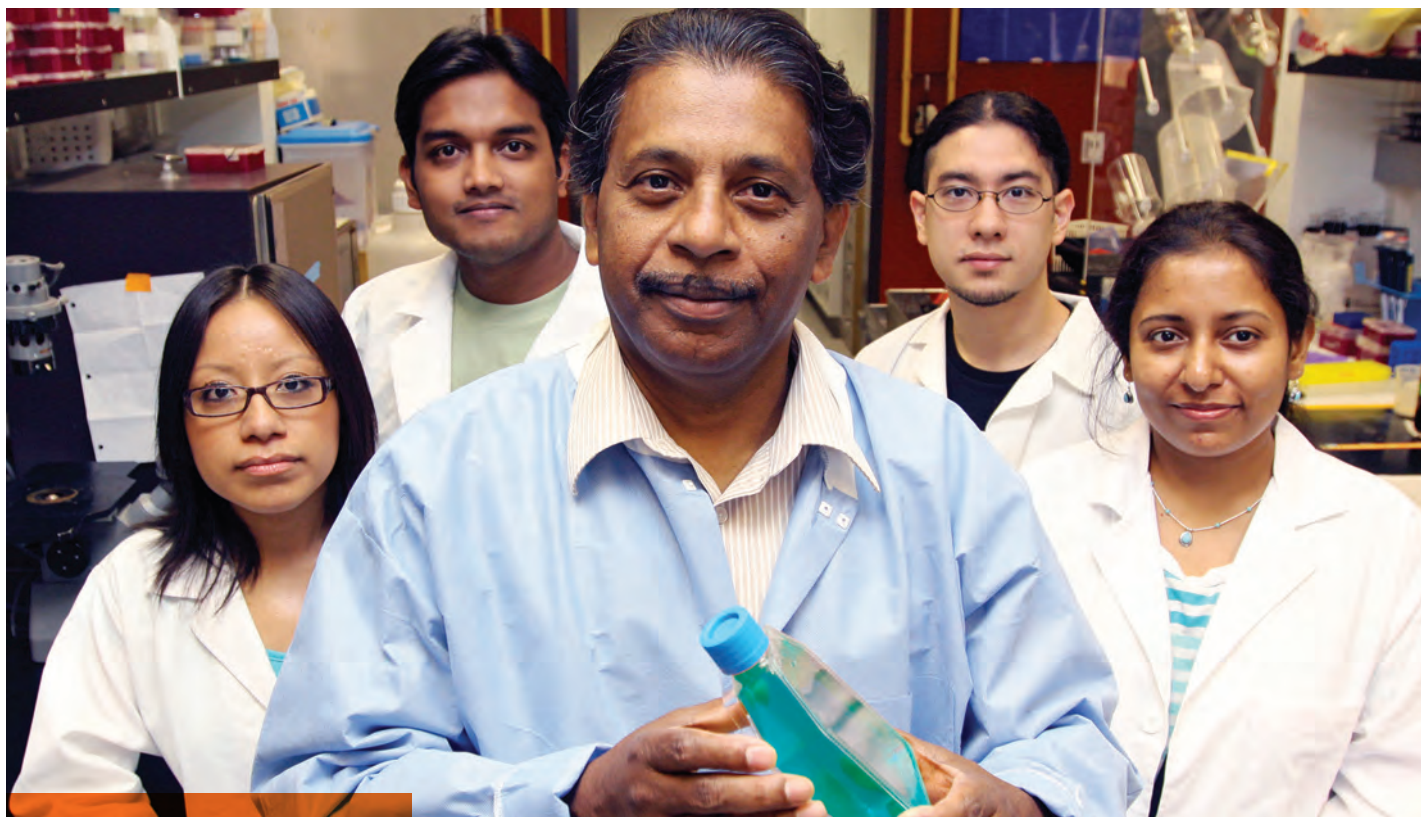


Photo by Laura Trejo

Sid Das, Ph.D., center, and his team of student researchers, from left, Leobarda Robles, Debarshi Roy, Tavis Mendez and Atasi De Chatterjee, work to better understand ways to kill the *Giardia lamblia* parasite.

NIH AWARDS \$2.2 MILLION TO FIGHT

By Daniel Perez

Waterborne Parasites

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded a \$2.2 million grant in June to a researcher at The University of Texas at El Paso to battle a parasite that sickens humans around the world.

Sid Das, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences, said the focus of the five-year grant will be to learn as much as possible about the special molecules that protect the *Giardia lamblia* parasite that lodges in a person's small intestine and creates abdominal discomfort.

"I want to find the right target that will disrupt the protective cyst formation cycle and allow for the development of new drugs that can kill the organism," Das said.

The parasite is found around the world both in developing and developed countries, including areas along the U.S.-Mexico border. It is ingested through drinking water that is not properly purified, fruits or vegetables that are not properly washed, or in lakes and streams where sanitation conditions are poor.

Figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that in developing countries, nearly 2 percent of adults and as many as 8 percent of children can be infected at any one time, and about 33 percent of the population in those

countries will have this parasite in their lifetimes.

That makes Das' research very timely, said Robert Kirken, Ph.D., professor and chair of UTEP's Department of Biological Sciences.

"His work is important because currently used drugs in the treatment of this parasite produce many unpleasant side effects and ultimately lead to drug-resistant parasites that are even harder to eradicate," Kirken said.

Das, who has studied *Giardia* for 16 years, applied for the NIH Research Project Grant (R01) in October 2010. The highly competitive award is the institute's oldest grant mechanism and provides support for its health-related research and development mission. Das will be assisted by a postdoctoral student, a graduate student and a technician.

The grant award reflects the ability of UTEP faculty to compete at the national level, said Roberto Osegueda, Ph.D., the University's vice president for research.

"The University is very appreciative of the effort of Dr. Das in securing this award and of the opportunities this award will bring to employ students to perform the research," Osegueda said. 📌

GRANT FOCUS

"I want to find the right target that will disrupt the protective cyst formation cycle and allow for the development of new drugs that can kill the organism."

Sid Das, Ph.D.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Centennial Celebration Kicks Off

By Stephanie Sanchez

Almost 100 years ago, 27 students rode streetcars and walked nearly a mile through the dusty desert to the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy. It was Sept. 23, 1914, the first day of school at what would become The University of Texas at El Paso.

The University was founded on the site of the former El Paso Military Institute with \$50,000 pledged by local residents and business owners. The new institution would teach students the science of mining and metallurgy in Texas.

Since that time, the University has gone through many transformations, changing its name to the College of Mines and Metallurgy, Texas Western College and now UTEP. Enrollment has increased to more than 22,000 students. But through all the changes, UTEP has remained a place for access and excellence.

Today, as the University approaches its 100th anniversary, it will commemorate this special milestone with centennial celebrations.

To organize the festivities, President Diana Natalicio created the UTEP 2014 Commission, which consists of 100 community and campus leaders led by Honorary Chair and UT System Board of Regents Vice Chair Paul L. Foster and Co-Chairs Edward Escudero and Laura Tate Goldman. The commission's job is to develop activities, events and outreach to celebrate the

University's achievements during the last century.

The group's members have completed a strategic plan, Tate Goldman said. Members also have become more aware of UTEP's drive to become the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic.

"There is so much activity, growth and exciting research (going on). It's been very exciting to engage everyone in the world-class research, excellence and education, and what's going on at UTEP," she said. "We're working hard and have a lot of great ideas. We're moving forward."

The festivities kicked off with the awarding of the 100,000th degree during Spring Commencement 2011, said Richard J. Daniel, Ph.D., assistant vice president for alumni and constituent relations. Several other historic activities will set the stage for the big celebration, added Daniel, the commission's vice chair and liaison to Natalicio.

"As we head toward our centennial year, we have raised our collective expectations once again by accepting the challenge of becoming the first national research – or Tier One – university with a 21st century student demographic," Natalicio said. "This region and the students we serve deserve nothing less, and we can all be proud of the significant progress that we've already made toward achieving that goal."

memories of utep

*A Few Cherished
Remembrances of
John Judy Middagh
(Or How the Texas
College of Mines
became Texas Western)*

**By Mike Martinez,
Class of 2011***

John Judy Middagh was more than just my professor of journalism. He was a fellow World War II veteran who became my dear friend and mentor. Like many survivors of combat operations, John did not make a big deal of his wartime exploits. But gradually, in bits and drabs, we learned about them at the beer sessions that sometimes followed his lectures, often in El Paso, sometimes in Juárez.

John was one of the Army officers who led the first infantry group that fought its way across the famous Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, Germany. That was the only major bridge across the Rhine River that was still intact as the Allied troops moved toward Germany, and the enemy was committed to defend it to the last man.

I mention this only to establish where John stood among the many veterans that made up his first classes in journalism at what was then the Texas College of Mines in El Paso. He was more than just our “prof.” He was also our commanding officer, but one who never pulled rank and never had to because of the respect we had for him.

I wound up studying journalism under John because I had literally been talked into advertising while serving in what was then the Army Air Force. As a fledgling air cadet I had been selected to take the examinations for West Point. Since those were months away, I was assigned to temporary duty with the Office of War Information group attached to the Air Force at Keesler Field, Miss., because I had a knack for drawing cartoons and carrying out photographic assignments.

While there I met a number of ex-advertising executives, art directors and copywriters whose peacetime address was

Madison Avenue. They convinced me that I was cut out to be an ad man and encouraged me to study writing.

The war came to a close before I could make it to West Point, so I wound up in occupation duty attached to the Judge Advocate General’s office in Fürstenfeldbruck, Germany. But as soon as I was discharged and back in El Paso, with the advice and counsel of those “mad men” in the Air Force still firmly in mind, I headed for Mines, as the college was then known, and signed up for Journalism 101. There were no formal classes in advertising or marketing in those days. I have never regretted that decision. It led to my learning how to write under John Middagh.

John was more than your run-of-the-mill journalism professor. Teaching was an important part of his life. He was also a real pro who kept honing his professional skills as a part-time feature writer for the now defunct *El Paso Herald-Post*.

John went way beyond teaching the basics. He taught us to get past the “who, what, where and when.” He urged us to look beyond the obvious and to focus on more than just the bare facts. He trained us to get to the meat of the story and how to communicate with feeling — how to get under the skin of the reader with insights and information that not only conveyed but amplified the moment, the person or the issue at hand and led to greater understanding and appreciation of the real story.

Above all, he inspired us to be bold and innovative, to take pride in what we did and to do it honestly, with both head and heart. Just good enough was not an option with John.

An example of this is the real story of how the Texas College of Mines became Texas Western College and eventually UTEP. This goes back to 1948 or thereabouts. I was doing an article for the campus newspaper, *The Prospector*, on the history of the college, and commented to John that I was not entirely happy that I was going to be graduating with a degree in journalism from the Texas College of Mines.

"So?" said John, with that commanding-officer stare in his eye. "Why don't you do something about it? You're an associate editor of the campus newspaper. Doesn't that give you the perfect forum?"

Coming from John, that was more than a suggestion: it was an open challenge, if not a command — in any case, one I dared not ignore. Out came an opinion piece which a good part of the student body, including most of the fraternities, sororities and numerous members of the faculty, immediately picked up as a battle cry for change. Next thing I know, I am being called to Dean Judson Williams' office.

"What's this you're up to, Mike? The geology and engineering departments are raising hell about this name change you're proposing. Do you really think you can get the name of this college changed?"

"I can try, sir, if there are no regulations against it."

"That's what I wanted to hear. But I want to be sure you are serious and willing to take the lead."

"Serious as I can be and willing to take the lead, Dean Williams."

"Okay. This meeting has not taken place because the engineers will be after my head, do you understand?"

"Yes, sir."

"First, I want an estimate of how much you think it will cost to get this done right. Once I approve that estimate, you will be getting

a phone call from a leading businessman downtown to come pick up a check. Got that?"

"Yes, sir."

"Then do what needs to be done and remember, this meeting never took place."

"Yes, sir."

I gathered my co-conspirators, who included, among others, Lucky Leverett, Hawley Richardson, George Wardy, Scott Thurber, Hugh Appell, Neal Richards and Delo Kimmel — all journalism majors. I believe Ruben Salazar was also involved, if memory serves me right. Ironically, Ruben was later killed during an anti-Vietnam demonstration while working for the *Los Angeles Times*. He was a close friend and dated my sister Arcy. He is still remembered by the many admirers he left, not only in El Paso but throughout the country.

Together, this group got the rest of the liberal arts students to join the name-change movement and organized what was the first of several campus demonstrations. One in particular almost turned into a free-for-all when a contingent of angry engineering students tried to stop us from marching to President Wiggins' office to hand him a petition signed by several hundred students asking for a change in the name of the college.

I should also mention that Virgil Hicks, who originated the KVOF college radio station and taught me a great deal about radio broadcasting, was of enormous help in letting us use the station facilities to recruit name-change adherents and demonstrators.

That's how a challenge from John Middagh led to a student movement that changed the name of the Texas College of Mines to Texas Western College. We tried for "University," but the University of Texas Board of Regents objected. Fortunately, they eventually relented and Texas Western became UTEP.

I am glad to have instigated and led that movement. And now that Dean Williams is at his eternal resting place, I am sure he will forgive me for revealing all that transpired at the meeting that "never took place."

Another example of John's ability to motivate people in thinking out of the box was an interview he did on me years later as my advertising career in New York progressed from account executive with McCann Erickson to vice president of Young & Rubicam, Latin America.

Sometime around 1959, while I was visiting El Paso on home leave, John decided he wanted to do a story on my career in international advertising and public relations. We went through the usual drill, then at the end of the interview John sat back and said, "Now tell me what you really think the U.S. should be doing in Latin America."

Long story short, that led to an intense lunch at the Puerta del Sol in Juárez and a feature story that neither of us expected — one that predicted what eventually became known as John F. Kennedy's Alliance for Progress. A great idea I did everything to promote, but eventually one that unfortunately died on the vine because our national attention and resources were mired down in Vietnam, a war which many in this country opposed.

I could go on about my many experiences with John after I returned to El Paso in 1963 to start MarCom Advertising. He and his close friend, Marshall Hail, a great writer with the *El Paso Times*, and I often would get together for lunch to solve the world's problems, but time grows short. So, as John would say, "That's 30 for now." A newspaperman's way of saying it's a wrap. Usually written like this:

-30-



*Mike Martinez

Mike Martinez should have graduated in 1951, but faced with the choice of graduating or accepting the position of advertising manager for Sears in South America (he had worked previously in Sears' advertising department in Dallas and El Paso), he decided he could get his degree later. He did – 60 years later. At age 84, on May 14, he was the oldest member of the UTEP graduating class of 2011. He is still active as president of Strategic Management Services, an international consortium of business consultants in Dallas.

Texas Western College
Homecoming Parade, 1964



*"Loyal forever we're
standing together,
Onward to victory, orange
and blue!
We will be true!"*

Looking Back on an 82-Year Tradition

By Stephanie Sanchez



The College of Mines and Metallurgy was in its 15th year, Prohibition was in full swing and the Great Depression had just started when the University began a tradition that continues today.

On Nov. 9, 1929, the College of Mines and Metallurgy, now The University of Texas at El Paso, held its first Homecoming at the El Paso High School stadium. *The Prospector* described the event as an opportunity for graduates and upperclassmen to become acquainted.

Today, the ritual continues to be a time when students interact with alumni and share stories about their college experiences. But it has grown from a small gathering to a region-wide tradition. Attendees include returning alumni from all around the world, students and their families, faculty, staff and friends of the University.

For a week, students and alumni show their Miner spirit and pride by wearing orange and blue to various activities, such as the Homecoming parade, pep rally, Distinguished Alumni dinner and game. Each college recognizes the outstanding achievements of notable alumni by giving out the Gold Nugget Award.

At the first Homecoming, students and invited alumni participated in a bonfire rally at Scenic Point the night before the game and then gathered at a Juárez café. The following day, they had a luncheon before 1,700 people flocked to the football game against New Mexico State University, according to *Nova*, now *UTEP Magazine*.

The night of the Miners' homecoming victory, there was a dance at the Woman's Club, and the parking lot was filled with cars decorated with

white and orange streamers. In the midst of the spirit, there were three outcomes: Homecoming became an annual event, an alumni association was started and a fund was established to help the University's athletics department.

During the ensuing years, Homecoming was a place for students and alumni to share memories of their time at the University. Pollard Rodgers, a 1941 mining engineering graduate, told the UTEP Institute of Oral History in 1984. He said although he attended during the Great Depression, students still gathered for Homecoming.

"We didn't have any money but we still had a great time," he said.

Army Col. Raul "Gaby" Garibay, a 1952 mathematics graduate, said he doesn't remember Homecoming events from his time as a student at the University. But the 81-year-old now is very involved with setting up Homecoming activities, attends every year and even cheers with the cheerleaders.

"There is a certain amount of pride, going home and remembering the things that were," he said. "People are very proud."

Gary Edens, Ed.D., interim vice president for student affairs at UTEP, said Homecoming is an opportunity for the entire campus and the UTEP alumni to come together.

"It's a great way for our students to connect with alumni," he said. "As alumni come back for Homecoming, they're interacting with students at all these different events. Our students are seeing what kinds of experiences graduates from UTEP have once they get into the career field. That's a real positive benefit for students."



At the Forefront Donors



Paul Foster
UT System Board of Regents
Vice Chair



Woody Hunt
Member of the Leadership Council
for At the Forefront and former
UT System Regent



Betty Moor Maguire '48



Russell Vandenburg '70
Chair of the Leadership Council
for At the Forefront



UTEP's Tier One Potential Helps Centennial Campaign

By Daniel Perez

The public has responded with energy and enthusiasm to The University of Texas at El Paso's efforts to raise \$200 million by 2014, the University's 100th anniversary, according to leaders of *At the Forefront: The Centennial Campaign* for UTEP.

The campaign – the most ambitious fundraising effort in UTEP history – is necessary to build the University's endowment, advance campus infrastructure, supply financial help for students, and encourage the recruitment and retention of the highly competitive faculty that enhance research and academics on campus.

Another campaign goal is to help the University become a national research (Tier One) institution, said Sylvia Acosta, Ph.D., associate vice president for development and alumni relations.

"Our Tier One objective has resonated within this region and across the nation, resulting in generous gifts from our alumni, friends, corporate and foundation partners nationwide, and the community we serve," she said.

Russell Vandenburg, chair of the campaign's Leadership Council, said people from all walks of life understand the value of this effort that is

focused on campus, but extends well beyond its borders.

"The positive comments I have heard include the fact that UTEP is the catalyst to the growth of El Paso, and the campaign is a vital component to reaching Tier One status," said Vandenburg, a 1970 UTEP alumnus and president and CEO of TVO North America. "The overwhelming support of our community is outstanding."

The University raised \$100 million during the campaign's quiet phase, which started in 2007, and has raised \$25 million in the past year, a University spokesman said.

"The positive comments I have heard include the fact that UTEP is the catalyst to the growth of El Paso, and the campaign is a vital component to reaching Tier One status."

Russell Vandenburg

The University of Texas at El Paso is at the forefront of health professions education with the opening this summer of the new state-of-the-art Health Sciences and Nursing Building on the UTEP campus.

Located on the corner of Sun Bowl Drive and Schuster Avenue, the \$60 million Bhutanese-style structure towers over Interstate 10 and includes laboratory, classroom and research space, and a 16,000-square-foot Simulation Center that will engage future health professionals in “real life” health scenarios.

One of UTEP’s most ambitious construction projects, the University broke ground on the five-story, 130,000+-square-foot facility in November 2008. Today, the building houses undergraduate and graduate health sciences and nursing programs that were relocated from the Hotel Dieu School of Nursing building in Downtown El Paso.

“The new building will be a center for interdisciplinary research projects with the potential to spark new ideas, new technologies, new businesses and new careers for our students,” UTEP President Diana Natalicio said at the groundbreaking ceremony.

This facility provides an optimal environment for educating the next generation of health professionals.

Health Sciences & Nursing Building

By Laura L. Acosta and Chris Lechuga
Photo by Laura Trejo



1.
**Clinical
Laboratory
Science
Teaching
Lab**

2.
**Barbara Price
Curlin and
Jack V. Curlin
Plaza**

3.
**Caprice Marie
Padilla Quiet
Study Room**

1. CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE TEACHING LABORATORY

This laboratory seats about 30 students and will house sophisticated microscopes that can project findings onto monitors to enlarge the view.

2. BARBARA PRICE CURLIN AND JACK V. CURLIN PLAZA

This plaza is a beautiful desert garden environment perfect for outdoor events and informal meetings.

3. CAPRICE MARIE PADILLA QUIET STUDY ROOM

The largest of several student study rooms will provide a quiet environment to study. All rooms come equipped with projector connections, televisions and dry erase boards.

4. STUDENT LOUNGE

Students will be able to meet, study and grab lunch between classes in this area equipped with chairs, tables and a “healthy food” vendor.

5. CASE STUDY ROOMS

This professional education room features desks and chairs grouped in a U-shape to facilitate interactive discussion and critical thinking.



6. CHS/SON BOARD ROOM

Large meetings can be conducted in this state-of-the-art room with a long rectangular table and panoramic views of south campus and the Sunset Heights neighborhood.

7. EXPERIMENTAL FOODS LABORATORY

This lab will be used to produce and develop foods, such as supplements.

8. NUTRIENT ANALYSIS LABORATORY

Students will analyze composition and identify nutrients in food and other biological samples.

9. UTEP'S SIMULATION CENTER

A 16,000-square-foot facility made possible by a \$1.5 million grant from the Paso del Norte Foundation, features nine simulation laboratories, four testing rooms, six standardized patient rooms and an apartment-style setting. (See story page 32)

10. HUMAN IMMUNOLOGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE LABORATORY

Research into infectious diseases, new vaccines and blood technologies will be conducted in this 4,500-square-foot laboratory.

11. FACULTY AND STAFF LOUNGE

With views of Sun Bowl Drive and the Mining Minds sculpture, faculty and staff can enjoy their downtime.

12. MINER LAB (METABOLIC, NUTRITION AND EXERCISE RESEARCH LABORATORY)

Researchers study body composition, bone density and risks for metabolic and cardiovascular disease.

Sim Center

Offers Real-World Experience

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

Future nurses and health professionals are learning how to start intravenous lines, deliver babies and manage patient care in a real-world hospital environment via UTEP's state-of-the-art Simulation Center.

Located on the first floor of the new Health Sciences and Nursing Building, the 16,000-square-foot facility features nine simulation laboratories, four testing rooms, six standardized patient rooms and an apartment-style setting where as many as 1,500 students per semester from the UTEP School of Nursing and the College of Health Sciences train in "real life" scenarios dealing with home health care, maternity, respiratory and cardiovascular care and medical surgical care in a safe learning environment.

The Paso del Norte Foundation provided UTEP with a grant for \$1.5 million for the Simulation Center.

According to center Director Ronnie Stout, the 54-bed facility is one of the largest university-based simulation centers in the country.

"We'll be able to educate our nurses using a simulated hospital and really get them ready before they go into the hospital and see real patients. It's a great opportunity to be very innovative in the way we teach our students," said Elias Provencio-Vasquez, Ph.D., dean of UTEP's School of Nursing.

In addition to practicing on high-tech patient simulator mannequins, students receive hands-on training through the center's Simulation Hospital Days, standardized patient exercises and Virtual Dementia Tour.

"Being able to engage an interdisciplinary team in a clinical simulation to provide care gives our students not only the opportunity to develop their technical skills, but also the team interaction and problem-solving skills so critically needed in today's complex health care environment," said Kathy Curtis, Ph.D., dean of the College of Health Sciences.

The Simulation Hospital Days put students in situations that they will experience in a real-world hospital, Stout said. Nurses take vital signs, give medications and transport patients from the emergency room to the medical surgery room, depending on the scenario. Patients dress in hospital gowns and act out ailments that are messaged to them via Twitter.

The standardized patient area includes four identical clinic-style rooms, two treatment areas

A student prepares to take part in the > School of Nursing's Virtual Dementia Tour.



for physical and occupational therapy, and a patient lounge. Standardized patients are trained to act as real patients to teach students how to evaluate a health history, polish their interviewing skills and conduct a physical exam.

The Virtual Dementia Tour, which gives students a glimpse of what it is like to be an elderly person with dementia or Alzheimer's disease, takes place in the center's apartment-style setting that includes bedroom furniture, a kitchen and an ADA-compliant (Americans with Disabilities Act) bathroom.

"My goal is to be No. 1 in simulation," Stout said. "With the facility we have and the support from the deans and our creative staff, there's no reason we can't be."

Sim Hospital

The Simulation Hospital Days put students in situations that they will experience in a real-world hospital. The students take turns acting as nurses and patients.

Middle photo - Students from the critical care, nurse practitioner, pharmacy and occupational therapy programs participated in the center's first Simulation Hospital Day on July 13.

Bottom photo - The center features programmable mannequins that simulate various life-threatening and non-life-threatening scenarios.

Masterfully Planned

By Daniel Perez

Left: Proposed Hawthorne Street
Right: Proposed plan for Memorial Triangle



The new 10-year master plan for The University of Texas at El Paso combines some of the aggressive building elements of the past with a major dose of environmental friendliness.

The 61-page document includes descriptions and site suggestions for big classroom and research buildings, parking structures and student housing that will serve the 30,000 students expected to attend UTEP by 2020, but the manuscript's overall message is that the University will welcome wide-open spaces.

The Campus Master Plan 2011 promises a core campus that provides unprecedented access to pedestrians and bicyclists along what have been major thoroughfares – University Avenue, Hawthorne Street and Wiggins Drive – with limited access to UTEP and emergency vehicles.

“The plan is not as in-your-face as the previous one (construction wise), but it's the result of a lot of hard work by a lot of people,” said Greg McNicol, associate vice president of facilities. “It puts a lot of the focus on the space between the buildings, and we had to pay more attention to that with 30,000 students coming.”

McNicol stressed that the document's construction elements are just as ambitious as the previous master plan that prepped the campus for a decade of unparalleled

growth. The University spent a record \$383 million on just under 2 million square feet of academic, research and support space. Most, if not all, of the planned projects will be completed by the time UTEP celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2014.

Among the proposed major projects in the new plan are a \$115 million, 276,000-square-foot behavioral sciences building on Wiggins and a \$100 million, 250,000-square-foot interdisciplinary research building at the southeast corner of University Avenue and Sun Bowl Drive.

McNicol described the construction plans as “aggressive” and similar to the 2001 master plan that changed the University's skyline and secured its spot on the road to becoming a national research (Tier One) institution.

The timing of the projects depends on uncertain funding allocations, McNicol said, but the initial “greening” of the campus could start as soon as late fall. One project is a wider, landscaped walkway along the west curb of Hawthorne from University to Rim Road. It should be finished by December 2011. This will be

The Campus Master Plan

The Campus Master Plan 2011 promises a core campus that provides unprecedented access to pedestrians and bicyclists along what have been major thoroughfares – University Avenue, Hawthorne Street and Wiggins Drive – with limited access to UTEP and emergency vehicles.

Continued on page 34



Proposed Memorial Triangle and Hawthorne Street renovations

Continued from page 33

followed by improvements to the Wiggins streetscape from the University Library south to the new Health Sciences and Nursing Building.

The proposed shaded walking paths with seating areas and additional green space will create meeting points where students can gather for business or pleasure, said Pablo Padilla, president of UTEP's Student Government Association.

Padilla, who advocated for many of the document's proposals, said one of his favorite projects is the expanded Memorial Triangle.

The popular area would annex the adjacent street and the parking lot next to Union Building West to become a quadrangle. The area would be graded to create a gentler slope to allow for large outdoor activities such as concerts and Minerpalooza, the back-to-school block party that has attracted 25,000 people to the center of campus.

"I believe it should be a priority to give (students) places to congregate," he said.

The transformation of the campus's open space has been high on the to-do list of UTEP President Diana Natalicio. She is adamant that the campus represent the same commitment to excellence outside its buildings as it does inside.

University officials kept that in mind as the master plan process began in fall 2009. The planning team included campus leaders and students who met regularly with representatives from Austin-based

Barnes Gromatzky Kosarek Architects, Boston architecture firm Michael Dennis & Associates, and Martin/Alexiou/Bryson P.C., experts in transportation planning and traffic engineering from Raleigh, N.C.

Among the committee members was Gary Edens, Ed.D., interim vice president for student affairs. He has a long history with UTEP that dates back to his days as an undergraduate in the late 1980s. He has witnessed a lot of campus growth.

Edens said the document integrates a lot of feedback the campus community gave planners and shows an appreciation of the University's unique landscape, the needs of its students and the vision to become a national research institution.

"UTEP's master plan is truly exciting," he said. "When I look at the artistic renderings ... I get emotional. The drawings are what I always imagined our campus to be."

The plan also addresses parking concerns. It calls for nine additional multistory parking structures to be built at strategic locations outside the main campus. Commuters can catch Miner Metro shuttles to get closer to their final destinations. University officials stressed that every effort will be made to accommodate individuals with disabilities to ensure they have access within campus.

The document also focuses on the University's borders and entry points. It suggests "branding" the boundaries, especially on the north end of campus along Sun Bowl Drive near Mesa Street, to

strengthen UTEP's identity within the City of El Paso. That could include Bhutanese architecture or an orange-and-blue color scheme.

While the timing of these projects is dependent on funding from different sources including the state (tuition revenue bonds and the Permanent University Fund), the University has considered an alternative plan that involves private donors to generate funds for some of the green projects.

The concept is tied to the University's ambitious *At the Forefront: The Centennial Campaign for UTEP*, said Sylvia Acosta, Ph.D., associate vice president for development and alumni relations. The campaign is expected to raise \$200 million by the end of 2014 when the University celebrates its 100th anniversary. She said campaign leaders liked the idea on several levels.

"(The projects) help to create opportunities for donors to support a variety of projects, beyond those that are academic," Acosta said. "Additionally, they create opportunities for alumni to re-engage with campus."

Though much of the master plan deals with outdoor enhancements, there are 22 new buildings on the plan's wish list, which will boost the University's momentum toward becoming the first national research (Tier One) university with a 21st century student demographic. 📌

UTEP In The Future



The new 10-year master plan

- Enhance the campus open space structure
- Provide a large outdoor gathering space
- Increase shaded areas on campus
- Transform the arroyo into a positive campus feature
- Create a perception of Schuster as a pedestrian walkway
- Enhance campus gateways



Top: Proposed shade structures along Wiggins Drive
Bottom: Proposed arroyo walkway between the Liberal Arts complex

History in the Making

By Laura L. Acosta

The Center for History Teaching and Learning (CHTL) at The University of Texas at El Paso is preparing teachers to help their students better understand the lessons of the past.

Established in 2009 by the University's history department and directed by Keith A. Erikson, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, the CHTL promotes scholarly teaching among the department's faculty, supports teacher education for the department's students, and provides professional development opportunities for teachers.

"We want to improve our own teaching, we want to prepare future teachers and we want to reach out to teachers in the community," Erikson said.

The center offers lesson plans and other resources for current and future teachers on its website, www.utep.edu/chtl. It also sponsors workshops and summer institutes.



Photo by Laura Trejo

In summer 2011, the CHTL partnered with Humanities Texas to host a four-day teacher institute at UTEP that introduced middle school and high school U.S. history instructors to new ways of teaching their subject from the Reconstruction era to today.

Another of the center's major projects is TEKSWatch.utep.edu, a website created by Erikson and his students in 2009 to monitor the progress of the Texas State Board of Education as it revised the state's social studies standards.

The site attracted national and international media attention from outlets including MSNBC, the BBC, Danish Public Television, *Education Week* and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

"What we really wanted to do was just provide awareness, but it turned out that the whole world wanted to be aware of this story," Erikson said.

Erikson is writing a book about his experiences with TEKSWatch, which he expects will be published in 2012.

With the new social studies standards being implemented in fall

In June, nearly 50 U.S. history teachers attended "The Making of Modern America: 1877 to Present," a summer institute at UTEP sponsored by The Center for History Teaching & Learning and Humanities Texas.

2011, the CHTL's focus has shifted to helping teachers master the topics in the updated curriculum, which include religion and the founding fathers, conservatives in the 1980s, and the role of the Federal Reserve.

Kelley Akins, who is pursuing her master's degree in history, has been involved with the center since 2009. She said it has provided her with a wealth of information to take into the classroom.

"It is a forum for teachers," she said. "It is helping us become the best teachers we can be by taking these standards into the classroom and showing us how to make sure that our students are leaving with a wealth of historical knowledge." 🍏



Museo Urbano

By Chris Lechuga



Photo by Laura Trejo

El Paso's *Segundo Barrio* is one of those throwback neighborhoods where history is around every corner.

The University of Texas at El Paso's Department of History has compiled stories, photographs and other artifacts about that community for Museo Urbano, a small community museum, located Downtown at the corner of South Oregon Street and East Third Avenue.

Much of the legwork was done by a class of graduate students led by Yolanda Leyva, Ph.D., chair of the UTEP history department, and David Romo, author and

doctoral student in history.

The exhibits focus on those who lived in the barrio, including Teresa Urrea, a *curandera* (healer), members of the *pachuco* movement (gangs of Chicano youth in the 1930s), and Henry Flipper, the first African-American graduate from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point.

The museum also is the starting point of a neighborhood walking tour led by UTEP experts who offer their insights into the historical significance of the barrio's people and places. 🍏

LIGHTING THE FUTURE

THEATER DEPARTMENT TAKES LEAD IN ENERGY CONSERVATION

By Chris Lechuga

Photo by Laura Trejo



Professor Hideaki Tsutsui displays one of many LED lights that the Department of Theatre and Dance used during its 2011 production of *The Three Musketeers*.

Like set and costume design, stage lighting has become a vital piece of theater production. Throughout each performance, strategic and precise lighting creates the ambiance of each scene as the mix of colors, shades and intensity guides each viewer's journey into a fictional setting.

However, the use of traditional incandescent bulbs has been linked to high energy consumption, which has industry professionals searching for alternatives, such as light-emitting diodes (LEDs), which can provide the same quality illumination without the excessive electrical usage.

To help with this endeavor, the Department of Theatre and Dance at The University of Texas at El Paso took on the challenge of using 100 percent LED lighting for its May production of *The Three Musketeers*. Led by Hideaki Tsutsui, assistant professor of lighting and sound design, the theater department replaced its traditional incandescent lights with energy-efficient LED fixtures to study its benefits.

"The technology of LED lighting fixtures in the theater- and event-lighting industry has become advanced enough that I felt comfortable to try to use them in a theatrical environment," Tsutsui said.

With help from UTEP electrical engineering students who developed a wireless electrical meter, Tsutsui and University electricians measured and recorded the watt usage for a 24-hour period that included a 2010 performance of *Of Mice and Men*, which used the traditional incandescent lighting.

Tsutsui was able to convince various vendors at an industry conference to loan him LED light fixtures and control units to continue the study during the *Musketeers* production at the Wise Family Theatre.

Upon completion of the second reading, the results were substantial.

"A year ago, we used an average of 30 kilowatts during a two-hour show," Tsutsui said. "This year, we only used 5 kilowatts – one-sixth of the power."

Joel Murray, Ph.D., chair of the UTEP theater department, said that the savings in energy from the two periods of study translated into a savings of about \$5,000 per month. However, the biggest benefit will be to the theater students who will learn the new technology, he said.

"Since LEDs are the wave of the future, students must learn how to work them," Murray said. "Our students can be ahead of the game, which makes them much more employable and more coveted by graduate programs." 📺



< UTEP's Institute of Oral History: The Paso del Norte Entrepreneurship Oral History Project honored business leaders at the Hoover House in June.

HISPANIC
ENTREPRENEURS ALWAYS
HAVE PLAYED AN
INTEGRAL ROLE IN
EL PASO'S BUSINESS AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH

UTEP's Institute of Oral History Partners with Smithsonian Institution

By Stephanie Sanchez • Photo by Joshua Garcia

An oral history project organized by The University of Texas at El Paso will be part of an exhibit featured inside the world's largest museum and research complex.

The Paso del Norte Entrepreneurship Oral History Project, spearheaded by the University's Institute of Oral History, has partnered with the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in its American Enterprise exhibit. The 8,000-square-foot, long-term exhibition is expected to open in 2014 and will showcase a key aspect of the American experience – the history of business and innovation.

This new exhibit will cover U.S. business history from 1770 to 2010 and involve 20 to 50 stations, including biographical stories.

"The University's primary contribution will be the story of Latino entrepreneurs," said Peter Liebhold, chair of the museum's division of work and industry.

"Collaborations, like the one with UTEP, are really important because we bring

people from a different part of the country with different perspectives to the table and diversify the experience," he said.

Kristine Navarro-McElhaney, director of the UTEP institute, said the oral history project includes the entrepreneurs' testimonials about growing up – often in poverty – and relying on hard work to reach what some called unattainable heights.

"In the Smithsonian's exhibition, we want to accentuate what it takes to become a successful entrepreneur," she said. "Our oral history project highlights businessmen and women who have sought the business aspect of the American experience – the American dream."

More than 60 entrepreneurs in the El Paso region have been featured in the oral history project since it started two years ago. The project has identified men and women from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds to tell their stories of overcoming hardship to become influential

business figures.

Graduate and undergraduate students worked under Navarro-McElhaney and Irasema Coronado, Ph.D., associate provost, to conduct interviews and then share the transcriptions, videos and audio files on the institute's website, www.heho.utep.edu. The project is partially funded by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, a Kansas City-based institution devoted to entrepreneurship.

Coronado called the collaboration with the Smithsonian "very exciting," especially for the students who would continue to work on the exhibit at the museum.

"I think it's validating to students that stories that have emanated from our community are being highlighted and showcased throughout the nation," she said. "They will be able to work with people at the Smithsonian, and hopefully be able to build relationships for future internships or employment opportunities." 📌

Meet the Entrepreneurs



John Romero
Romero Consulting



Carlos Eduardo Casillas
E.R. Computer Doctors



Arnaldo Chavarria
Arnaldo Chavarria,
D.D.S.



Gonzalo Rangel
G & R Restaurant



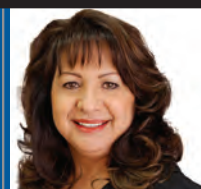
Nan Napier
Tres Mariposas Inc.



Robert V. Wingo
Sanders/Wingo
Advertising



Jose Luis Lopez
Lopez Marketing
Group Inc.



Rosa Santana
Integrated Human
Capital



Jose "Joe" Villanueva
ProTech Global
Solutions Inc.



Raul Ramos
Han-D-Pac
Products Inc.



Kelly Thomas Pacheco
Quality Craft Homes



Lisa Herrera
Corporate Connection



Leigh Kersh
Chocolat'



Mike A. Garcia
Mike A. Garcia Painting



Jorge Vielledent
Synergy Planning
Group



Robert Navarro
Robert Navarro &
Associates
Engineering Inc.



Patricia Holland-Branch
Facilities Connection
Inc.



Julius Lowenberg
Julius Lowenberg &
Associates Construction



Yolanda Diaz
Mirador Enterprises



Don Shapiro
Don Shapiro Inc.



Ruben E. Guerra
Guerra Investment
Advisors



Paul G. Zacour
Zacour and
Associates Inc.



Eliza Sylvia Martinez
Altomar Home
Healthcare



Armando Reyes
Kings Aire Conditioning



Edith Morales
Printek Supplies Inc.



Carlos Guzman
Global Alternative
Fuels, LLC



Adam Nieto
Native Contractors



**Elma R. and
Gustavo J. Rodriguez**
Basil Glass Inc.



◀ From left, Humberto Garcia, Arturo Acosta-Zamora, Rudy Aguirre and Chris Bradley stand in front of the Saturn V rocket, now housed in a hanger at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. The UTEP students interned with NASA during the summer as part of the cSETR program.

Center for Rockets Takes Off

By Joe Velarde • Photo by Chase Pedigo

Engineering students at The University of Texas at El Paso are reaching new heights all across the country as part of the Center for Space Exploration Technology Research (cSETR).

“The center has an active outreach arm to inspire the next generation of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics workforce,” said Ahsan Choudhuri, Ph.D., director of cSETR and associate professor of mechanical engineering.

The cSETR lab was created at UTEP as a way to promote research education in propulsion and energy engineering. Originally established as the Combustion and Propulsion Research Laboratory, it is now a university research center (URC) through the Group 5 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) URC Cooperative Agreement.

Students who work in the lab travel to internships at NASA facilities around the country, including the Johnson Space Center in Houston and the Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama, as well as Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

As interns, they are involved with

projects in structural engineering, energy and propulsion.

Recent graduate and current UTEP master’s student Arturo Acosta-Zamora spent the better part of his summer working at the structural engineering branch of the Johnson Space Center, conducting vibration analysis of physical structures, such as rockets.

It was a hectic summer, as he plunged himself into three large projects, including one with the General Acoustics Facility that involved testing prototypical structures and assessing the integrity of their designs.

“We’ve been able to network directly with people that closely pertain to our research,” Acosta-Zamora said. “(Being a part of the center) has proven to be very useful.”

Many of the cSETR students witnessed the historic liftoff of space shuttle Columbia in July – the final liftoff of the space shuttle program. As emotional as the event was for those who attended, Francisco Pineda, a UTEP master’s student in mechanical engineering, didn’t believe it would have any impact on the future of rocket technology and space exploration.

“Rockets are the hub of space travel, whether it’s a manned space flight or not,” Pineda said. “As long as there is a need to explore, there will always be a need to build a bigger and better rocket.”

Pineda worked on cryogenics propulsion and engineering at the Johnson Space Center. The basis of his research is developing a newer fuel base for future rockets. They will operate on methane and other alcohols instead of oxygen and hydrogen.

His work is directly related to his research at cSETR, where researchers are developing propulsion systems based on nontoxic, or green, propellant combinations.

There is a future for rocket technology, and cSETR is at the forefront, according to Nathaniel Robinson, assistant director of the center.

“The work being produced by our students is taking us to the edge of this technology,” he said. “With new advancements being made (at UTEP) every day, we are growing more as a top-notch institution.” 🚀

Determined Graduate Overcomes Homelessness

By Joe Velarde

"I SAW MY DAUGHTER AND THOUGHT TO MYSELF, 'THIS ISN'T WHAT I HAD PLANNED FOR US.'"

- UTEP Graduate Suzane Tenorio

Recent UTEP graduate Suzane Tenorio found herself underneath an ocean of circumstance six years ago. She had just become a mother, and one unfortunate happening after another led her to become a resident of the Salvation Army's Shelter for Women and Children.

"It was such an overwhelming experience," she said. "I felt lost and discouraged, but I knew I couldn't just lie down and not do anything about it."

Her struggle had just begun, but she would find refuge in her determination.

"Finding myself in that situation was probably the only motivation I needed," said Tenorio, who earned a bachelor's degree in marketing at UTEP's spring 2011 commencement. "I saw my daughter and thought to myself, 'This isn't what I had planned for us.'"

Tenorio began her academic journey at El Paso Community College and transferred to The University of Texas at El Paso. While there she joined the campus chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), and eventually became chapter president.

Among her first ideas for social and charity work was to remodel a room for displaced families at the same Salvation



Army site, 4300 E. Paisano Drive. Tenorio remembered how she broke down and cried upon arrival. It was her first time back since she was a resident.

"I couldn't walk in," she said. "I just froze. Another team member showed me some pictures of the inside of the room. It was a harder ordeal than I thought it'd be."

The SHRM members painted the walls and provided new curtains, furniture, mattresses and box springs. The Salvation Army renamed the room for SHRM to honor its efforts.

John Martin, director of El Paso's Salvation Army, said nearly 1,200 women and children stay at the shelter every year. Tenorio's story of will, success and perseverance has repeated itself many times within the shelter.

"Many of these women end up in horrible situations, and sometimes need a little help getting back on their feet," he said. "There is a message of hope and faith that we try to instill in them, and this room has a very strong message to send."

Richard Posthuma, Ph.D., professor of management, spoke highly of Tenorio's leadership, adding that she had surpassed everyone's expectations.

"She has proven herself to be a true leader in her community and with her peers," he said. 📌

Salvation Army's Shelter for Women and Children



"Many of these women end up in horrible situations, and sometimes need a little help getting back on their feet. There is a message of hope and faith that we try to instill in them, and this room has a very strong message to send."

John Martin • Director of El Paso's Salvation Army

Researcher Keeps Infectious Diseases in Check

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



Douglas M. Watts, Ph.D., has used his experience as an infectious disease researcher to establish the safety protocols for UTEP's Biosafety Level 3 Laboratory.

From Southeast Asia to the Arabian Peninsula desert to the Amazon rain forest, Douglas M. Watts, Ph.D., traveled the world for nearly 30 years in search of new infectious diseases.

As the executive director for veterinary services and institutional biosafety at UTEP, Watts has used his globetrotting as a researcher with the U.S. Army and Navy Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases to establish the safety protocols for the University's Biosafety Level 3 (BSL3) Laboratory.

Located on the first floor of the Bioscience Research Building, the 2,000-square-foot facility serves as a state-of-the-art center for infectious disease research on hazardous agents such as viruses, bacteria and parasites. The laboratory is designed to minimize the risk from the potential exposure of these agents to lab personnel.

"The BSL3 does two things: it protects the worker and it protects the community," said Watts, who joined UTEP in 2008 from The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB).

The laboratory was certified in August 2010, and since then Watts and Emilio Rodriguez, director of environmental health and safety, and their staffs have trained personnel how to work safely there. They developed modules that teach staff how to correctly enter and exit the lab and how to properly use the lab's equipment, such as the biosafety cabinets, centrifuges, incubators, refrigerators, freezers and autoclaves.

Personnel entering the lab must wear personal protective equipment that includes a wrap-around gown, two pairs of surgical gloves, a pair of shoe covers and goggles. Waste materials used inside the lab must be decontaminated in a pass-through autoclave for disposal outside the laboratory.

"Even if they're well-trained going in, we still train them again," said Robert Kirken, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences and director of UTEP's Border Biomedical Research Center. "Dr. Watts has 30 years' training involving work with some of the most dangerous pathogens in the world in BSL3 and BSL4 laboratories, so he's the guru of these types of organisms."

Watts became an infectious disease expert while looking for new diseases in developing countries. He spent a career with the Department of Defense identifying diseases against which U.S. troops needed to be inoculated before deployment. He also conducted research on dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases and performed vaccine studies on yellow fever and cholera in Peru and discovered new diseases in Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia and South America. Watts eventually oversaw HIV and influenza research in eight countries in South America before he left the Naval Medical Research Center in 2002 for UTMB.

"It's something you get accustomed to," Watts said. "You respect these pathogens and you're careful. But it's a challenge that grows on you."

Watts also is putting his training to work. He is conducting a study in the BSL3 lab on the epidemiology of West Nile disease in El Paso in collaboration with The University of Texas-Houston School of Public Health, El Paso Regional Campus and the City of El Paso Department of Public Health. 📍

it's time for *homecoming!*

IN THIS SECTION

d.a.s

Distinguished Alumni

They are the finest among us. They are the Distinguished Alumni.



Gold Nuggets

Alumni recognized for their achievements and dedication.



Calendar of Homecoming Events

From left, Miner tailgaters include Paydirt Pete, Brandon Rodriguez, Tony Brown, Jeremy Springer, Amarie Brown and Sandra Valenzuela



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO AND THE UTEP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ARE PROUD TO PRESENT THE 2011 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AND GOLD NUGGET AWARD RECIPIENTS. THESE OUTSTANDING ALUMNI ARE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND DEDICATION.

2011 Distinguished Alumni

By Jenn Crawford



Bob Black

B.A. in History '77

An attorney for more than 30 years, UTEP alumnus Bob Black reached a high point in his career in June when he was sworn in as president of the State Bar of Texas.

Black is the managing partner of MeahaffyWeber, a law firm with offices in Beaumont, Houston and Austin that he joined after he graduated summa cum laude from Texas Tech School of Law in 1980. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from UTEP in 1977.

Born in Ocala, Fla., Black moved to El Paso in 1966 at age 11, about a month after Texas Western College, now UTEP, won the men's NCAA basketball championship. For a sports fan who had most recently lived in a tiny northern city – Sunburst, Mont., population 307 – El Paso's warm weather, minor league baseball team and community of 250,000 people was a welcome change.

Black attended Eastwood High School, where he first became involved in speech and debate. He earned debate and National Honor Society scholarships to attend The University of Texas at El Paso, where he enrolled in 1972. He was an active member of UTEP's debate team, which became valuable training for his future career.

"The debate experience in college is what really refined (my interest in law)," Black said. "It helps you isolate issues, and forces you to examine the pros and cons of each issue. ... It's great for law students but it's also really good for someone who serves as a mediator and arbitrator."

Black concentrates his practice on mediation, but has successfully defended a multinational corporation in a complex patent infringement case and has tried numerous other cases. He has mediated more than 3,300 disputes, including many complicated mass tort and class action matters.

He attributes much of his success to the training he received from extraordinary teachers at UTEP, including the late Gene Kuzirian.

"I was thinking about becoming a history professor, so (Kuzirian) really focused on my papers and forced me to examine my thinking on logical consistency, on whether I was being redundant, and if I was questioning the evidence," Black said. "He gave me a very gentle nudge toward law school because he felt that's where my talents were."

Robert Esch, UTEP professor emeritus of English who has been a friend of Black's family for years, said Black's personality is ideal for the type of work he does.

"He has a very warm ebullience about him, a big smile, and a generosity about him that make him so successful as a mediator in law," Esch said. "He gets these warring parties together ... and he is able to get people to settle."

During his year as president of the State Bar, Black hopes to educate the public on the role of lawyers and teach civics to children. He'll also concentrate on providing services to Texas' 89,000 lawyers.

Jerry Porras' most recent book, *Success Built to Last: Creating a Life that Matters*, identifies successful individuals and their approaches to creating a meaningful life.

One could conduct a similar analysis of Porras himself, and how the Mexican-American man who grew up poor in El Paso went on to earn a doctoral degree, become a bestselling author and teach at one of the country's most prestigious universities.

Porras, the Lane Professor of Organizational Behavior and Change, Emeritus, at Stanford University, was born and raised in El Paso. He and his three siblings ended up at Texas Western College, now UTEP, because they couldn't afford to go anywhere else.

He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1960 with the intent of going into the Army and then working as an engineer.

"I recall walking across the stage to have my degree given to me and thinking that that was the last time I was going to be inside a university," he recalled. Little did he know that he would earn two more degrees and spend his career teaching.

Porras served in the Army for three years, then worked as an engineer at Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. and General Electric Co., but realized that his interests were in managing. He had no background in accounting or marketing, so he decided to pursue a Master of Business Administration.

After completing his M.B.A. at Cornell University in 1968, he went on to earn a Ph.D. in management at the

University of California, Los Angeles, and started teaching at Stanford's Graduate School of Business in 1972. He has since written three books, including *Built to Last: Successful Habits of Visionary Companies*, which has sold more than 1 million copies.

In the early 1980s, Victor Arias '78, a 2009 UTEP Distinguished Alumnus, took Porras' organizational behavior class.

"He's a very powerful guy, and a very likeable person," said Arias, a senior client partner for Korn/Ferry international, the largest executive search and recruitment firm in the world. "He's one of the most accomplished graduates from UTEP ... and he's always been very proud about where he came from."

Since his retirement in 2001, Porras has served on advisory boards for three State Farm insurance companies, a small startup business called Translattice, and the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, among others. He is a recipient of the Brillante Award presented by the National Society of Hispanic MBAs and the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award from *Hispanic Business* magazine.

But it was at the university where he earned his first college degree that he established the foundation for his later success.

"I'm one of the hundreds of thousands of Mexican-Americans who, if it had not been for UTEP, would not have had the opportunity to ... get a university education," Porras said. "UTEP serving that purpose in El Paso is really a significant contribution it's making to the Latino community nationwide."



Jerry Porras

B.S. in Electrical Engineering '60

Colleen Jernigan



School of Nursing
M.S. in Nursing,
Nursing Administration, '99

In the late 1990s, while working at Providence Memorial Hospital in El Paso as a registered nurse, Colleen Jernigan was promoted to a position that required an advanced degree.

"I was 40 years old and hadn't been back to school since graduating (with a baccalaureate in nursing from Mount Saint Mary's College) many years earlier," Jernigan said.

To enter the UTEP master's program in nursing, she needed several math prerequisites. Midway through those courses, she began having difficulty. She and a small study group approached their instructor, math lecturer David Harvey, for help and he offered to coach them in the evenings. "I would never have made it through had it not been for his generous spirit," she said.

Earning her master's degree would open wide the door to a position at Houston's University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, acclaimed by many as the No. 1 cancer hospital in the world. She accepted the job of nurse manager there and, within four years, was promoted to clinical administrative director for the hospital's Sarcoma Center.

Jernigan, who has since earned a doctorate in nursing, also is an adjunct faculty member at both Texas Woman's University and UTEP.

"In this role, I feel as if I have the rare opportunity to touch the hearts of new nurses," she said. "It's my fondest hope that someday, as a patient, I will open my eyes and see one of them there, taking care of me."

Linda Lawson



School of Nursing
B.S., Nursing, '87

For Linda Lawson, the benefits of attending UTEP went beyond the expertise she gained in the classroom.

"My time at UTEP inspired me to dream about my future and to reach for my goals and aspirations," she said.

That experience would propel her into a fulfilling career in the profession she loves – nursing.

Lawson would get graduate degrees from the University of Massachusetts and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center – but it was her bachelor's degree in nursing from UTEP that set her on a diverse and successful path.

After graduating from UTEP in 1987, she worked as a nurse at Lubbock General Hospital, remaining there a year before returning to El Paso, where she became a nurse in the ICU/Post-Anesthesia Care Unit at Providence Memorial Hospital.

After leaving once more to serve in hospitals from Houston to Boston, she is back in El Paso, where she has been the chief nursing officer for Sierra Medical Center since 2008.

"Nursing is one of the most fulfilling professions," she said. "As nurses, we have the opportunity to truly make a remarkable difference in the lives of others."

A surveyor for the American Nurses Credentialing Center Magnet Recognition Program, which recognizes excellence in professional nursing practice at hospitals worldwide, Lawson also has lobbied the Texas Legislature to continue funding nursing schools to address the statewide nursing shortage.

Robert Santoscoy, M.D.



College of Science
B.S., Biological Sciences, '82

When Robert Santoscoy, M.D., graduated from UTEP's College of Science with honors in 1982, he and two other classmates headed to The University of Texas Medical School at Houston.

"All three of us were at the top of our medical school class, and all three went into highly specialized areas of medical practice," Santoscoy said. "That is a true testament to the quality of the science education we received at UTEP."

After completing his residency training and then a fellowship at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit, Santoscoy returned to El Paso in 1995 as a cardiovascular surgeon in private practice to care for adult and pediatric patients. Since then, he has treated thousands of children and adults.

Today, Santoscoy is chair of the cardiovascular surgery units in El Paso's Las Palmas and Del Sol medical centers, a position he has held for more than a decade. He also serves as an expert reviewer in cardiovascular surgery for the Texas Medical Board. From 1999 to 2009, he gave generously of his time and talents to a program that provided free surgical services to low-income cardiac patients in Juárez, Mexico.

The El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce honored Santoscoy with its Vision of Excellence Award in 2009 for his endeavors to improve health outcomes throughout the Paso del Norte region.

Mike Martinez



College of Liberal Arts
B.A., Journalism, '11

In a career spanning 60 years, Mike Martinez has helped transform major corporations, organizations and institutions the world over. But he first applied those talents at the then-Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy in 1949.

A journalism student, Martinez led the charge to change the college's name to Texas Western College – a name he asserted would better reflect its growth since its founding as a small engineering and mining school in 1914. The UT System and Texas state legislature approved the change.

That remarkable achievement helped launch an even more remarkable career. Tapped early for an advertising management position with Sears, he left the college (which became UTEP in 1967) nine credit hours shy of his degree.

His bilingual and bicultural communication skills helped propel him into executive positions with top national marketing, advertising and public relations firms. He handled Fortune 500 clients including Coca-Cola, Ford Motor Co. and Exxon, expanding their international presence. Today, he is president and CEO of his own consulting firm, Strategic Management Services, in Dallas.

This year, he completed the coursework to earn his bachelor's degree from the University he impacted so strongly as a student. Martinez said, "Life has a funny way of working itself out." Indeed it does; his diploma reads neither Texas College of Mines nor Texas Western, but The University of Texas at El Paso.



College of Liberal Arts
B.A., Journalism, '93

Ray Sanchez

Most UTEP graduates use their college degrees to launch their professional careers.

Ray Sanchez reversed the process, enjoying an outstanding career as a sports writer and sports editor before shifting his focus to higher education.

"It took me 40 years to get my degree," Sanchez joked.

After serving in the Army following World War II, the El Paso High School graduate returned home, eager to enter UTEP (then the Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy) through the G.I. Bill. He picked journalism as his major, the field he loved. But, when the *El Paso Herald-Post* hired him as a sportswriter, he dropped out.

"I said to myself, 'I'll get my degree in a year or two,'" Sanchez said.

The "year or two" stretched into 43. He became one of the most highly regarded sports writers in El Paso, retiring as the *Herald-Post* sports editor in 1990. He also authored six books, including *The Miners: The History of Sports at The University of Texas at El Paso*.

For all his accomplishments, however, his résumé seemed incomplete. So he returned to UTEP and earned his bachelor's degree in journalism in 1993.

"I took courses like pre-law, photography, American history, cinema, philosophy, poetry to complete my required credits," he said. "It taught me that no matter how much you think you know, there's so much more to learn."

Patricia Kricos

Some people fall in love with a language for the music it creates in their ears.

Patricia Kricos fell for a language that never touched her ears, but stirred her heart.

"I switched from a number of majors while a student at UTEP, one of which was drama," she said. "In one of my drama classes, a deaf woman from the National Theater for the Deaf guest lectured. I was so inspired by her indomitable spirit and the beauty of American Sign Language, I switched my major to speech and hearing, and ultimately earned a master's and Ph.D. in audiology at Ohio State."

More than 40 years later, she can look back on a rich and rewarding career in the field of audiology and speech pathology.

A former editor of the *Journal of the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology*, Kricos now is a professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

"I am so thankful for the profession I joined so many years ago," she said "When I work with someone who has a profound loss of hearing that even hearing aids cannot help, and watch his face light up when the cochlear implant is turned on for the first time, it makes me proud and grateful for the excellent education I received at the undergraduate and graduate institutions I was fortunate enough to attend."



College of Health Sciences
B.A., Speech and Hearing, '70

Rosaura Corral-Perez



College of Engineering
B.S., Industrial
Engineering, '83

As an Ysleta High School senior, Rosaura Corral-Perez attended a summer camp that would change her life.

"UTEP held the camp to motivate females into engineering careers," she said. "I was able to confirm that it was what I wanted to do as a career."

UTEP provided her with a solid foundation, and she used it as a springboard for professional success.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from the University, she became a manufacturing engineer at Boeing and soon was tapped for management roles.

Today, she is the site director for Boeing's El Paso operation, responsible for the production of Department

of Defense and space-related electronic items.

As one of the first Hispanic women to hold the position of site director for a major engineering firm, she received the 2008 Pioneer Award at the Women of Color STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Conference.

"There is a sense of fulfillment in telling your children you are part of history," she said after winning the award.

Proud of her Hispanic background, she is equally proud of the university that gave her the opportunity to fulfill her potential.

"The access that UTEP provides is critical," she said. "The University of Texas at El Paso offers the opportunity to obtain a great education without incurring heavy debt."

Isabel Vasquez

For Isabel Vasquez, UTEP represented a cultural shift.

"Spanish was my first language," the native El Pasoan said. "And the majority of the students (at my high school) were Hispanic and Spanish speakers. When I entered UTEP, I met people other than Hispanics, and I had to speak mostly English. UTEP was my first window to the rest of the world."

That window looked out onto a bright future – a future filled with achievement and satisfaction.

After graduating from UTEP in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, she worked as an engineer in the public and private sectors, becoming the first female project engineer for El Paso Water Utilities in 1990.

Vasquez joined Huitt-Zollars, a Dallas-based

architectural and engineering firm, in 1995, advancing to vice president after only four years.

Today, she oversees 26 employees, ranging from engineers to surveyors and construction inspectors, in the firm's El Paso office.

"The accomplishment that has made me the proudest is serving as one of the senior civil engineers on the Fort Bliss \$4.8 billion expansion project," she said. "I have been instrumental in planning and designing a new city. I never dreamed one day I would be doing this."

But she is, and it started with her UTEP education.

"UTEP gave me a strong foundation and allowed me great opportunities," she said.



College of Engineering
B.S., Civil Engineering, '82

Carmen Rodriguez



College of Education
B.A., Sociology, '72
M.Ed., Curriculum and
Instruction, '75

It is a special individual who achieves success in one field, only to switch careers and enjoy similar success in a new profession.

Meet Carmen Rodriguez, who qualifies as such a special individual.

After receiving her undergraduate and graduate degrees from UTEP – a bachelor's in sociology and a Master of Education in curriculum and instruction – Rodriguez began her career as a bilingual kindergarten teacher at Johnson Elementary School in the El Paso Independent School District.

As her career in education progressed, however, she yearned to be an instrument for social justice, so she obtained a law degree from UT Austin in 1981.

"I wanted to be an agent for social change," she said.

"It seemed to me that the legal profession offered that opportunity more than any other."

After practicing law in her own office from 1999 to 2005, she joined Texas RioGrande Legal Aid Inc., which provides free civil and criminal legal services to low-income residents of Southwest Texas. She is an attorney and manager of the nonprofit's El Paso branch.

"I represent low-income individuals and families, many of them immigrants or first-generation Americans who have not had the educational, employment or economic opportunities necessary to thrive in American society," said Rodriguez, wife of Texas Sen. Jose Rodriguez, D-El Paso. "Our clients are the source of my satisfaction and inspiration."

Diane Troyer



College of Education
M.Ed., Health and
Physical Education, '78

Like many UTEP students, Lincoln, Neb., native Diane Troyer was the first in her family to graduate from college.

Holding a dental hygiene degree from the University of Nebraska, she became a teacher at El Paso Community College, where she developed an even stronger connection with UTEP students: she became one.

Tasked to develop EPCC's dental hygiene program, she realized she would need a master's degree.

"As a working mother, the access, flexibility and quality of instruction that UTEP provided were critical," she said.

She earned her M.Ed. from UTEP and helped develop the EPCC program. She then moved on to serve as president of Tomball College, near Houston, where she was charged with an even more ambitious developmental task.

"A commitment was made to build a state-of-the-art community college for the rapidly growing Cypress Fairbanks community in suburban Houston," she said. "I was asked to plan, build and launch Cy-Fair College (now Lone Star College-CyFair)."

She did just that, and led the college for eight years as president.

She left LSC-CyFair to become a senior program officer for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "It was an incredible experience to work alongside bright and creative thinkers to study and fund ideas for improving student outcomes," she said.

Today, she is a consultant working with community colleges and systems, foundations, and states to improve college completion rates.

Juan Ayala



College of Business
Administration
B.B.A., Management, '79

A self-described "poor student" at Coronado High School in El Paso, Juan Ayala possessed a fierce ambition that could not be measured by test scores.

As the first member of his family to attend college, he would demonstrate that drive at UTEP.

"Once I graduated from high school, all I needed was an opportunity to get my foot in the door of a university," he said. "UTEP gave me that opportunity as a probationary student."

Fueled by his dream of becoming a Marine, Ayala made the most of his opportunity. He earned his degree in management and a commission as a 2nd lieutenant in

the Marines, both in 1979.

Through 30 years in the Marines, Ayala has climbed through the ranks to his current position as chief of staff of the U.S. Southern Command in Miami. He is now a major general.

"If UTEP had not allowed me to enroll based on my underwhelming grades, I would have never achieved my goals," he said. "However, I am grateful that I was not given a free pass. UTEP gave me an opportunity, but let me know that it was up to me to make the most of it. The lesson was priceless."

Jim Hunt



College of Business
Administration
B.B.A., Business, '72

When Jim Hunt took a monetary policy course during his UTEP years, the lectures had a dramatic impact on him.

They became pep talks that propelled him into his professional career.

"I determined to head into the world the professor described and [to] walk leaning into the wind, as he described the movers and shakers in high finance," said Hunt, who graduated with a business degree in 1972.

Whatever wind may have assaulted Hunt in his journey, he maintained his course.

His iron resolve and impressive fiduciary savvy landed him positions as president of SunAmerica Corporate Finance and executive vice president of SunAmerica Investments, where he managed an \$8 billion asset portfolio. In 2001, he

co-founded private equity firm Bison Capital.

Hunt is now chief executive officer, chief investment officer and chairman of the board of Boston-based THL Credit and THL Credit Advisors, middle-market capital specialists affiliated with Thomas H. Lee Partners, one of the oldest and most successful buyout firms in the country. Under Hunt's leadership, THL Credit went public in 2010.

"The common thread in my career has been high-yielding investment, sometimes adding direct value to business and society through financing corporate growth, and other times, indirectly, by providing investors with higher yielding investment opportunities," he said. "In the aftermath of the 2008-09 financial meltdown, I am proud to have preserved capital for investors with prudence and patience."

October 2011

Don't miss a single Homecoming event!

SATURDAY

01

SUNDAY



MONDAY



TUESDAY



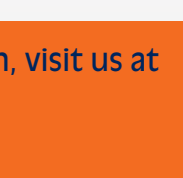
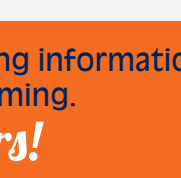
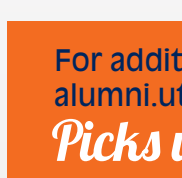
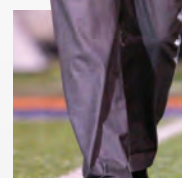
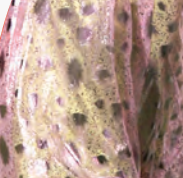
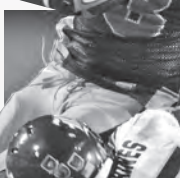
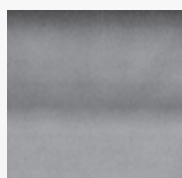
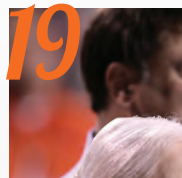
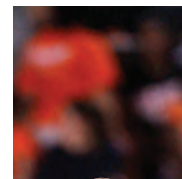
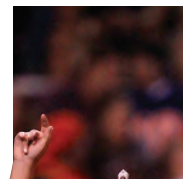
WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



FRIDAY



For additional Homecoming information, visit us at alumni.utep.edu/homecoming.

Picks up! Go Miners!



1961 Golden Grads Homecoming Activities

20 Thursday, Oct. 20 COFFEE AND REGISTRATION

9 - 11 a.m.
Peter and Margaret
de Wetter Center

CAMPUS TOUR

11 a.m.
Peter and Margaret de Wetter
Center (Ends at Geology
Reading Room)

WELCOME LUNCH

1 p.m.
Geology Reading Room

DINNER AND DANCE

7 p.m.
Ardovino's Desert
Crossing,
Sunland Park, N.M.

21 Friday, Oct. 21 ALUMNI OFFICE

OPEN HOUSE 8:30 a.m. Peter
and Margaret
de Wetter Center

PARADE ACTIVITIES

11 a.m. Meet at Peter and
Margaret de Wetter Center to
participate in the parade at
noon.

LUNCHEON

1:15 p.m. (After Parade)
Peter and Margaret
de Wetter Center

22 Saturday, Oct. 22 HERITAGE HOUSE TOUR 9 - 11 a.m.

UTEP Heritage House

LUNCH WITH PRESIDENT NATALICIO

11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
El Paso Natural Gas
Conference Center

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PREGAME PARTY

3 p.m. Glory Field/Practice
Field

*All events hosted by
the Office of Alumni
Relations.

Homecoming 2011 Calendar of Events

16 Sunday, Oct. 16 SGA HOMECOMING 2011 PAGEANT

Time: TBD
Magoffin Auditorium
Host: Student Government Association

17 Monday, Oct. 17 WEEKLONG STUDENT ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Host: Student Development Center and Campus Activities Board

19 Wednesday, Oct. 19 OPEN HOUSE: THE HISTORY OF UTEP

10 a.m. - noon
UTEP Heritage House
Host: Heritage Commission

SGA PAST PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center
Host: Russell Autry

LIP SYNC COMPETITION

Noon - 1 p.m.
Union Plaza Stage
Host: Student Development Center

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH HOMECOMING RECEPTION

1:30 - 3 p.m.
Hudspeth Hall Foyer
Host: Department of English

GOLD NUGGETS OF THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND SCHOOL OF NURSING RECOGNITION CEREMONY

4 - 5:30 p.m.
HSN Building,
1851 Wiggins Drive
Host: College of Health Sciences and School of Nursing

20 Thursday, Oct. 20 COLLEGE OF SCIENCE GOLD NUGGET BRUNCH

10 - 11:30 a.m.
Geology Reading Room
Host: College of Science

OPEN HOUSE: THE HISTORY OF UTEP

10 a.m. - noon
UTEP Heritage House
Host: Heritage Commission

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION GOLD NUGGET RECEPTION

4:30 p.m. (Ceremony 5 - 6 p.m.)
Hilton Garden Inn
Host: College of Business Administration

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS GOLD NUGGET CEREMONY AND RECEPTION

4 p.m.
Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts
Host: College of Liberal Arts

UTEP BLACK ALUMNI NETWORK (UBAN) BBQ

5 - 7 p.m.
Leech Grove
Host: Alpha Phi Alpha

21 Friday, Oct. 21 OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS OPEN HOUSE

8:30 - 11 a.m.
Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center
Host: Office of Alumni Relations

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION GOLD NUGGET BREAKFAST

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Union Building East, Templeton Suite (Room 303)
Host: College of Education

OPEN HOUSE: THE HISTORY OF UTEP

10 - 11:45 a.m.
UTEP Heritage House
Host: Heritage Commission

CIVIL ENGINEERING LUNCHEON

11:30 a.m.
Location: TBA
Host: Department of Civil Engineering

HOMECOMING PARADE

Noon
UTEP Campus
Host: Student Development Center

HOMECOMING PEP RALLY

After Parade
Memorial Triangle
Host: Office of Alumni Relations

OPEN HOUSE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

After Parade
Liberal Arts Building, Room 108
Host: Languages and Linguistics
Refreshments will be served

ALUMNI LUNCHEON

1:15 p.m.
Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center
Host: Office of Alumni Relations

SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY STUDENTS AND ALUMNI WELCOME

3 - 5 p.m.
Old Main
Host: Department of Sociology and Anthropology

UBAN MEET AND GREET

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Hilton Garden Inn
Host: UBAN

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS DINNER

6:30 p.m.
Don Haskins Center
Host: Office of Alumni Relations

ALUMNI NIGHT OUT "LET'S PARTY IN EL PASO"

9 p.m. - midnight
Local bars and clubs in El Paso
TBD
Host: UBAN

22 Saturday, Oct. 22 COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING ALUMNI AND GOLD NUGGET BREAKFAST

8 - 10 a.m.
Tomás Rivera Conference Center, Union Building East, Room 300
Host: College of Engineering
\$20 per person

POLITICAL SCIENCE HOMECOMING RECEPTION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

9 - 11 a.m.
Benedict Hall Front Lawn
Host: Political Science
Continental breakfast will be served

UBAN HOMECOMING RECEPTION

9 - 11:30 a.m.
Liberal Arts Room 401
Host: African American Studies

OPEN HOUSE: THE HISTORY OF UTEP

10 - 11:30 a.m.
UTEP Heritage House
Host: Heritage Commission

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION HOMECOMING BRUNCH

10 a.m. - noon
Cotton Memorial Lawn
Host: Department of Communication

UBAN - THE HISTORY OF UTEP AND CAMPUS TOUR

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
UTEP Heritage House
Host: UBAN / Heritage Commission

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION HOMECOMING TAILGATE PARTY

1 p.m. - Kickoff
Heritage House Lawn
Host: College of Education
Food will be served

UTEP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TAILGATE PARTY

3 - 5:30 p.m.
Glory Field/ Practice Field
Host: Office of Alumni Relations
\$10 members,
\$15 non-members

LAW SCHOOL PREPARATION INSTITUTE HOMECOMING TAILGATE

3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Glory Field/Practice Field
Host: Law School Preparation Institute

GRADUATE SCHOOL TAILGATE

3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Academic Services Building Patio
Host: Graduate School

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME UTEP VS. COLORADO STATE

6 p.m. Kickoff
Sun Bowl Stadium
Host: Office of Alumni Relations

UBAN - POST GAME PARTY

After the game
Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center
Host: Alpha Phi Alpha

23 Sunday, Oct. 23 UBAN - FAREWELL BRUNCH

9 - 11 a.m.
Hilton Garden Inn Café
Host: UBAN

All Eyes on Price and the Miners

By Joe Velarde

"It's a young team;
it's a fresh team."

Mike Price
UTEP Football Coach



The Miners prepared diligently during the off-season, strengthening their defense by utilizing the talents of senior corner back Travaun Nixon, and focusing their offense around senior running back Joe Banyard.

Photo by Joshua Garcia

The Miners are headed back to the Sun Bowl for another year of hard-nosed, smash-mouth football, and according to head coach Mike Price, all eyes are on them.

It has been eight years since Price, head coach of the Miners, took the field in the Sun Bowl for the first time. In that time, he has seen his team to three bowl games with a combined record of 40 wins.

"I came (to UTEP) to win, and that's what we're going to do," Price said.

The Miners will get another crack at the conference championship when they hit the field Saturday, Sept. 3, in a home game against Stony Brook University.

"There are some new names out there, and the Miner fans are going to have a new generation of exciting players to

follow," Price said. "It's a young team; it's a fresh team."

Expect a large defensive front, as the Miners hope to utilize the talents of their returning secondary, seniors Travaun Nixon, a general studies major, and Antwon Blake, a pre-business major.

Blake, who started every game as right corner during the 2010 campaign, amassed 60 tackles, with a team-high 11 pass break-ups during the season. Nixon led the Miners in interceptions with four for 140 yards. He was also third on the team, and second among defensive backs, with 75 tackles.

The marquee name on the wall is senior team captain and criminal justice major Joe Banyard, who will resume his duties as running back, stacking his

numbers in rushing attempts (109), yards (623) and touchdowns (8).

"This is a season for the young guys; we're depending on them just as much as they're depending on us," Banyard said.

During the off-season, it was a mystery as to who would take over the coveted position of quarterback, and according to Price, that mystery would remain unsolved until UTEP returns to regular season play.

As for the eyes of Miner fans all across the nation, they'll be watching, and Price knows it.

"El Paso expects a winner, so it's frustrating when you don't reach that level," Price said. "That's a good thing. When the fans put the pressure on, our motivation goes high. We have to win." 🏈



Cheerleaders Leap Like Champions

By Joe Velarde

UTEP's 19-member cheerleading team and Miner mascot Paydirt Pete made a splash in the spring when they beat 12 other universities to win their first National Cheerleading Association Co-Ed Division Championship.

"We would've been happy to have finished in the top five," said Jessenia Murillo, a sophomore communications major. "This is so much more than any of us could've expected."

Head coach David Vasquez cited the team's tenacity and chemistry as the winning ingredients.

"We needed to compete at the highest level to match the challenges of other teams that are used to competing on the national stage," he said.

Before they hit the stage, the team members huddled together and dedicated their performance to Ronny Jo Villareal, a 2001 UTEP alumna, former cheerleader and friend of Vasquez. Villareal, a successful Florida businesswoman, wife and mother, died of breast cancer almost a month before the championship performance.

She visited the team in 2010 during a camp to deliver a message of strength and perseverance.

Kaleena Roche, a senior kinesiology major, said Villareal's memory was a powerful motivational tool.

"We all remembered her message of 'be strong, cheer strong.' It kept our spirits up and helped us to give the best performance we could give," Roche said.

Vasquez said that while Villareal never cheered with this team, the former captain touched the hearts of every team member.

"She taught the girls to go out and give it everything they've got – to appreciate life and to have no fear," he said. "Her message helped propel them to success." ❏



Ronny Jo Villareal '01 and her daughter, Maddy



Miners Win Conference

PELLETIER COACH OF THE YEAR

By Joe Velarde

The UTEP women's golf squad was in full swing in spring 2011 – the team captured its first ever Conference USA title and also scored high in the classroom.

"It's a really big deal to us," said head coach Jere Pelletier, who has headed up the UTEP program since 1994. He praised the team after its thrilling conference championship victory in April. "We played well, and the girls have been working hard," he said. "It was really competitive the whole time and all the teams were really bunched up, but we certainly played our best. We couldn't be happier."

It marked the Miners' first conference title and the second in UTEP golf history. The Miner men claimed the Western Athletic Conference crown in 1985.

Senior business major Teresa Nogues captured the individual championship, firing a 2-over 218.

Pelletier, who was named 2011 C-USA Coach of the Year, said that the team members came together as a unit, made the most of their abilities and performed beyond their years.

"The girls are finally starting to see that they can play consistent golf," he said after the conference championship. "This team seems to buy into what I'm telling them and play the game the way they're supposed to."

Four members of the UTEP women's golf team have been appointed to the National Golf Coaches Association Division I All-American Scholar Team. In order to be eligible for the squad, student-athletes must post a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and be a significant contributor to the team.

Representing the Miners on the scholar team are seniors Ana Pastor, Rosana Gomez and Liz Sobczak, and freshman Emma Edin. ❏

"It was really competitive the whole time and all the teams were really bunched up, but we certainly played our best."

Jere Pelletier
Women's Golf Head Coach

MINER MANIA

AS THE 2011 FALL SPORTS SEASON BEGINS, UTEP MINERS FANS HAVE MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO. HERE ARE SOME OF THE ATHLETES POISED TO MAKE A SPLASH, BOTH ON THE FIELD AND IN THE CLASSROOM.

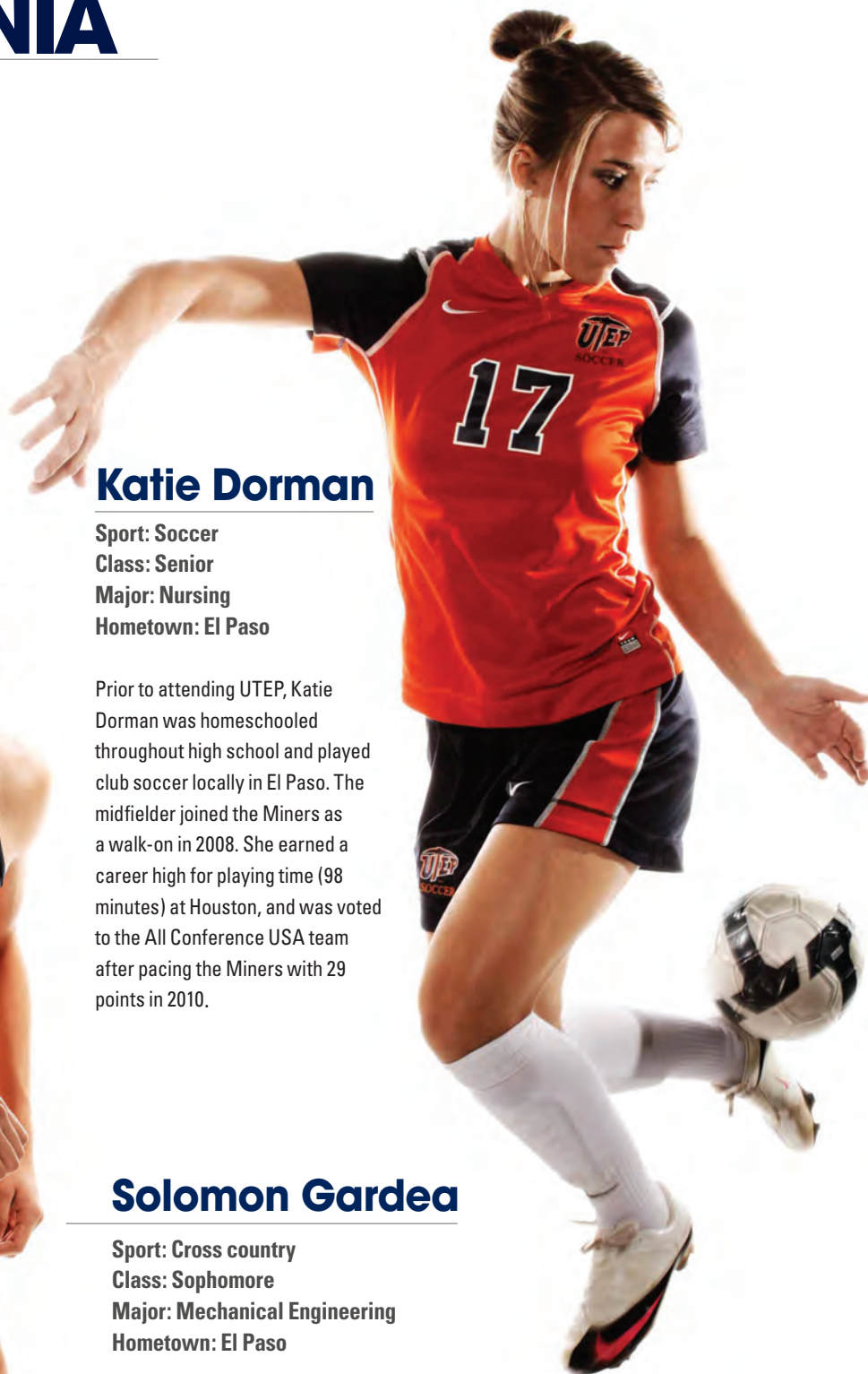
Photos by J.R. Hernandez



Katie Dorman

Sport: Soccer
Class: Senior
Major: Nursing
Hometown: El Paso

Prior to attending UTEP, Katie Dorman was homeschooled throughout high school and played club soccer locally in El Paso. The midfielder joined the Miners as a walk-on in 2008. She earned a career high for playing time (98 minutes) at Houston, and was voted to the All Conference USA team after pacing the Miners with 29 points in 2010.



Solomon Gardea

Sport: Cross country
Class: Sophomore
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: El Paso

Solomon Gardea attended Chapin High School and was named to the All-City and All-Region teams in 2007 and 2008 before joining the Miners. As a freshman, Gardea finished 31st at the Lobo Invitational with a time of 27:03.85 and placed 37th at the C-USA Championships with a time of 26:53.1.

Marie-Therese Joyce

Sport: Volleyball

Class: Graduate student

Major: Business Administration

Hometown: Tacoma, Wash.

As a freshman in 2008, Marie-Therese "MT" Joyce started 31 of 32 matches and recorded double digit digs in four of those matches. During her junior year, the outside hitter played in 56 sets and recorded 70 kills, including a season-best nine kills against NC Central. She was named Conference USA Commissioner's Academic Medalist and Commissioner's Honor Roll recipient. She earned her bachelor's in media advertising in 2010.



Joe Banyard

Sport: Football

Class: Senior

Major: Criminal Justice

Hometown: Sweetwater, Texas

Joe Banyard started his football career at Texas Christian University before transferring to UTEP in 2008. As a junior, he posted 17 catches for 107 yards and returned eight kickoffs for 131 yards. He rushed for a career-high 155 yards on 20 attempts with three scores in the regular season. He is an Honor Roll student.



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Spotlight
E.P. NEWS



**Liberty
Mutual.**

Home Football Schedule

September 3
Stony Brook

*Party @ 4 p.m.
Kick-off @ 7 p.m.*

September 29
Houston

*Party @ 3 p.m.
Kick-off @ 6 p.m.*

October 22
Homecoming
Colorado State

*Party @ 3 p.m.
Kick-off @ 6 p.m.*

October 29
Southern Miss

*Party @ 3 p.m.
Kick-off @ 6 p.m.*

November 12
East Carolina

*Party @ 3 p.m.
Kick-off @ 6 p.m.*

November 19
Tulsa

*Party @ 3 p.m.
Kick-off @ 6 p.m.*

UTEP is Doctoral Pipeline for Hispanic Students

By Jenn Crawford



Left: UTEP alum Eddie Castañeda, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Psychology, encourages his students to pursue doctoral degrees. Right: UTEP alumna Leslie Navarro '77, helps prepare Hispanic students for graduate work as president of Morton College in Illinois.

Eddie Castañeda, Ph.D., earned bachelor's and master's degrees at The University of Texas at El Paso before completing a doctoral program at the University of Michigan.

Four years ago, he returned to his alma mater to teach, and now he serves as chair of the Department of Psychology.

Of all U.S. institutions, excluding the University of Puerto Rico, UTEP is ranked the No. 5 feeder school for Hispanic students who go on to earn doctoral degrees, according to the National Science Foundation Survey of Earned Doctorates for 2009-10 (professional degrees are not included). Ranked ahead of UTEP are the University of California-Los Angeles, UT Austin, the University of California-Berkeley, and Florida International University.

Castañeda believes that UTEP's success in producing doctorate-worthy graduates is tied to programs that help Hispanic undergraduates overcome financial and cultural barriers to higher education. Programs such as the Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) and Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) pay undergraduates to do graduate-level research work.

UTEP graduates have earned doctoral degrees from Harvard, Stanford, the University of Chicago, Georgetown

University, the University of Arizona, Florida State University, the Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Washington, among others, said Richard Daniel, Ph.D., assistant vice president for alumni and constituent relations.

"The quality of education and preparation students receive in their undergraduate education at UTEP results in alumni successfully obtaining research doctoral degrees," Daniel said. "This educational attainment has had a profound effect on their level of contribution to society while serving as role models for others."

Leslie Navarro, a 1977 UTEP journalism graduate who earned a Ph.D. in educational administration at UT Austin, said Hispanic students are faced with limited financial resources, taxing time commitments and pressing family responsibilities. She is the first Latina president of Morton College, a community college in Illinois with a primarily Hispanic student population.

"While I was a student at UTEP, I received a lot of wonderful advice and mentorship from several of my professors, who gave me the confidence needed to pursue both of my graduate degrees," she said. "In addition, UTEP was extremely affordable, which allowed me an opportunity to save money for my future degrees."

UTEP's success in preparing students for graduate work also has a lot to do with the leadership of UTEP President Diana Natalicio and her aspirations to make UTEP a national research university that serves a 21st century student demographic, Castañeda said.

The bottom line is that students need to be aware of the vast career opportunities that are available to them and find their passion, he said.

"They need to be directed and they need to feel validated for whatever piques their interest," he said. "Without that guidance, a lot of students can be lost." ☞



"THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND PREPARATION STUDENTS RECEIVE IN THEIR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION AT UTEP RESULTS IN ALUMNI SUCCESSFULLY OBTAINING RESEARCH DOCTORAL DEGREES."

Richard Daniel, Ph.D., assistant vice president for alumni and constituent relations

DEAR MS. NATALICIO...
ESTIMADA SRA. NATALICIO...



Christian Ortiz '09
on June 20, 2011, at an
observation post in the
province of Paktia,
Afghanistan



Photo courtesy of Alicia Calvo Aguilar

Sra. Diana Natalicio
El Paso, Texas 30 de junio 2011

Una Sencilla Carta para Usted

Antes que nada, la admiro mucho por su ardua labor como Presidenta de la Universidad del El Paso Texas, el crecimiento, el desarrollo y el impulso que ha dado y sigue dando a la sociedad y al mundo nuestra Universidad.

Los alumnos que han egresado de esta su institución demuestran que su esfuerzo no ha sido en vano, el apoyo que la institución les brinda es digno de mencionarse. Y el pensamiento y la actitud positiva de Usted de siempre estar a la vanguardia, de buscar nuevas y mejores opciones, sin escatimar, todo en bien de la población estudiantil, la cual se vera reflejada en la sociedad, en el bien común.

Señora Diana soy una madre orgullosa de mis hijitos, dos de ellos ya egresaron de esta Universidad. Al mayor de ellos su amor a la patria y el deseo de servir lo impulso a estudiar una carrera militar en UTEP. Mi hijo Christian Jesús Ortiz termino la carrera de Justicia Criminal y Ciencias Militares; el se encuentra ahora en Afganistán, en la frontera con Pakistán. Es ahora Teniente del ejército. El expone su vida como tantos otros americanos valientes en busca de la paz.

Son nuestros líderes los que aun no encuentran la manera de ponerse de acuerdo y mantienen viva esta guerra. Se que es un tema de mucha discusión que las opiniones varían de cabeza a cabeza, hay quienes dicen que es necesaria una guerra así, hay quienes dicen que una guerra es siempre inútil. Yo solo soy una madre que amo a mi hijo y que aun y cuando nunca desee esto para el, supe que debía respetar lo que para el es una vocación, un deseo de servir y amar a su patria, y con todo mi dolor lo he apoyado. Lo he dejado ser libre en sus decisiones en su deseo de darse a los demás.

Mi Christian habla muy poco, mi Christian nos dice muy poco de lo que hace, en parte por que es muy corto de plática y porque entiendo que no debe compartir información que resulta crucial y secreta para las actividades y misiones que realizan las fuerzas militares allá.

Pero finalmente el objetivo de esta carta es el compartir con Usted esta fotografía de mi hijo; fue tomada en la Provincia de Paktia Afganistán el día 20 de Junio del 2011. En un puesto de observación Afgano, donde mi querido Christian sostiene un pico como el de los "Mineros" de su Universidad y en la otra su fusil M4. Lo veo con tal alegría en esta foto, finalmente un ex alumno en un país hostil defendiendo su patria, sus fronteras; orgulloso siempre de su Universidad.

Tal vez Usted pueda pensar, "¿que va a pasar ahora," voy a empezar a recibir cartas de las madres de todos mis ex alumnos?", o tal vez a Usted no le moleste el saber cual fue ruta que siguió alguno de ellos. Espero y esta carta no le cause molestia pero tengo la esperanza de que sea publicada en algún medio o folleto de la Universidad como un orgullo de la propia Universidad, y sobre todo de sus padres.

Agradezco de antemano la atención brindada a esta misiva, y nuevamente la felicito por su importante labor en esta Universidad.

Atte. Lic. Alicia Calvo Aguilar

Ms. Diana Natalicio
El Paso, Texas, June 30, 2011

A Simple Letter for You

First of all, I deeply admire you because of the hard work you have done as President of The University of Texas at El Paso, the growth, development and impetus that our University has provided and continues to provide to society and to the world.

The students who have graduated from this institution have shown that their efforts have not been pointless. The support provided by the institution must be recognized. And the positive way you think and act toward innovation, always looking for new and better options and making every effort to benefit the student population, which will reflect in the common well-being of the community.

Mrs. Diana, I am a proud mother of my children, two of them graduated from this University. My oldest son, whose love for the country and desire to serve, decided to study a military career at UTEP. My son Christian Jesús Ortiz completed the Criminal Justice and Military Science degree and is currently in Afghanistan on the Pakistan border. Now, he is a lieutenant and is risking his life as many other brave Americans looking for peace.

It is our leaders who have not yet reached an agreement and keep this war alive. I know this is a controversial issue and that opinions vary from person to person. Some think that a war is necessary, others that a war is useless. I am only a mother who loves her son and even though I never wished this for him, I knew that I had to respect what for him is a vocation, the desire to serve and love his country. And I have supported him with all my sorrow. I have let him make his own decisions freely in his wish to give himself to others.

My Christian doesn't talk much, my Christian tells us only a little of what he does, in part because he is a man of few words and also because I understand that he cannot share information that may be crucial and confidential for the activities and missions carried out by the armed forces there.

But ultimately, the purpose of this letter is to share with you this picture of my son. This was taken June 20, 2011, at an observation post in the province of Paktia, Afghanistan, where my dear Christian is holding in one hand a pick like the "Miners" of his university, and in the other his M4 rifle. He looks happy in this photo, at the end, an alumnus in a hostile country defending his nation, its borders; always proud of his University.

You might be thinking, "What is going to happen next? Am I going to start receiving letters from each of the mothers of all my alumni?" or maybe it doesn't bother you to know which route each one followed. I hope this letter is not an inconvenience for you, but I hope it can be published in any University media or brochure as pride of the University itself, and especially of his parents.

Thank you for reading this letter and again, congratulations for your significant work at this University.

Truly yours,
Alicia Calvo Aguilar



Former Professor

Supports Biological Sciences

By Robert Seltzer

The true measure of his success was not in his titles or positions; it was in the individuals he touched, the young men and women who were changed – and changed forever.

As a UTEP professor and administrator, Larry Jones enjoyed a long and productive career.

But the true measure of his success was not in his titles or positions; it was in the individuals he touched, the young men and women who were changed – and changed forever – by his wisdom, kindness and compassion.

Jones, who passed away in 2010, had a remarkable career in the Department of Biological Sciences at UTEP, where he taught and administrated for 35 years, helping to launch the Medical Professions Organization as a vehicle to help students attend medical school.

Like most great teachers, he knew that lessons transcend the classroom, and that connecting with

students as human beings helped them both on and off campus.

“Dr. Jones had a special appreciation for UTEP’s students, and he developed a bond with them that, in many instances, lasted years and even decades,” said Lucy Garcia, director of gift planning for the University

Development Office. “His devotion to UTEP’s students was so great, he wanted to make sure that even after his passing he could continue to help them fulfill their dreams of a higher education, and that’s why he approached the University about making a gift through his estate.”

That gift was realized this year, establishing the Dr. Larry P. Jones Endowed Professorship in Biological Sciences – a contribution that will help UTEP progress toward Tier One, or national research university, status.

The gift also created the Dr. Larry P. Jones Endowed Student Enhancement Fund, crystallizing his love for – and investment in – the students of this region.

Jones understood the value of an education to young Hispanics, many of them first-generation college students, said Jeanie Webb, a former assistant to the dean in the College of Science.

“He listened to the students and mentored them, and knew many things about their lives that the rest of us did not,” Webb said. “Larry was personally engaged in,

and invested in, his students doing well, in their success, and to their personal and professional growth. They saw him as a friend they could go to.”

That sensitivity, Jones’ sister said, emerged from a core of compassion that was there from the beginning.

“I think my brother was one of the nicest people you would ever meet,” said Rebecca Virta, who lives in Cheverly, Md. “He always approached people with respect, kindness and a sense of humor. He would engage all those he met along the way and take such interest in them.”

Earlier this year, Virta attended a UTEP memorial honoring her brother.

“I had person after person come up to me and state, ‘If it wasn’t for your brother, I wouldn’t be here today,’” she said. “These were students who went on to become medical doctors, researchers, professors. The overriding theme was that Larry made them believe in themselves and their abilities.” 🍌

Female Math Pioneer Makes a Difference Through **Endowed Scholarship**

By Robert Seltzer

Hers is the story of a successful woman who strived to make sure those who came afterward had a chance to experience similar success.

A pioneer for women in the labor market, Juana Serna proved to be an equally positive force, for males and females, once she retired.

Hers is the story of a successful woman who strived to make sure those who came afterward had a chance to experience similar success.

During an era when women were discouraged from entering professions outside of nursing, teaching or secretarial work, she graduated from Bowie High School in South El Paso and attended Texas Western College, now UTEP, earning a mathematics degree in 1951.

She used her degree to gain a position with special communications at White Sands Missile Range in 1958, entering a traditionally male-dominated arena.

Serna was one of only two female scientists employed at the missile range, an occurrence so rare that it was noted in an article in the *El Paso Herald-Post* in July of that year: "Women have invaded the scientific realms at White Sands Missile Range – with the employment of feminine scientists."

In 1960 – under the headline "Women Work with Men On Missiles at Sands" – the newspaper described Serna as one of the top women mathematicians at the missile range.

It was after her retirement that she decided to help students, especially young women, fulfill their own aspirations.

In 1996, she became a UTEP donor, establishing the Juana Serna Endowed Scholarship for Bowie High School graduates who pursue degrees in math and science.

Serna died in 2009 at age 90, and the endowment she created was enhanced through a deferred gift she arranged through her estate plans. Serna's contributions to the region live on in the talented students the endowment has benefited.

Brenda Mota, who received the scholarship in 2006, remembers Serna with a fondness that has grown through the years.

"The scholarship made me feel there were people who cared and believed in students like me," she said.

After graduating in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry, Mota returned to UTEP to earn her master's degree in mechanical engineering in 2011. She now works as a chemist and supervisor for Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold in Safford, Ariz.

Mota is one of 12 UTEP students who have benefited from the endowment; five have earned bachelor's degrees, three earned master's degrees and one has gone on to pursue a doctorate.

"Juana Serna was one of those special people who tried to help others achieve the same kind of success she experienced," said Liz Justice, director of the UTEP Scholarships Office. "Through the generosity that lives through her endowment, she is making a crucial impact in the lives of highly talented and motivated UTEP students." ✉



**JUANA SERNA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE REGION LIVE ON IN THE TALENTED
STUDENTS THE ENDOWMENT HAS
BENEFITED.**



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Letter from the Alumni Association President

Dear Alumni Family,

As UTEP reached the milestone of awarding its 100,000th degree just a few months ago, it has impressed upon me just how many alumni there are worldwide and the impact we can have on our University, community, state, nation and world. The UTEP Alumni Association proudly continues to take great strides toward becoming a preeminent alumni organization.

As I begin my term as president of the UTEP Alumni Association, I would like to thank Mary Helen Padilla for her leadership and commitment as president of the association this past year. I also want to thank outgoing board members Hector Almeida, Amanda Bernal-Ransom, Dr. Carlos Gutierrez, Richard O. Martinez, Dr. Ruth Martinez, Leticia Missirian, Henry Quintana, Irma Rascon, Joe Villanueva and Samantha Chagra Wood for their service and hard work.

Your Alumni Association is committed to connecting the past with the present, forming strong links between students and alumni, and helping alumni connect to each other and your University. Get involved by joining the Alumni Association, updating your information on the UTEP online community, using the UTEP and Alumni Association social networking sites, attending events, or volunteering.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent UTEP alumni. I look forward to meeting you throughout the year.

Picks up ... GO MINERS!



Keri Moe '99, '03
President,
UTEP Alumni Association



Sammie N. Booth

Martha Sawtelle

Alums Honored at Music Gala

By Joe Velarde

Sammie N. Booth and Martha Sawtelle, esteemed alums from Texas Western College, now The University of Texas at El Paso, were honored in the spring at UTEP's annual Music Gala as distinguished contributors and educators of music.

Both graduated from Texas Western College in 1951 and retired as teachers from the El Paso Independent School District (EPISD).

Through their hard work and devotion to music and education, they have changed many lives, said Elisa Wilson, associate professor of voice and music theater.

"I'm elated and ecstatic to be honored by the Department of Music," said Booth, who taught music at Travis and Burnett elementary schools and continues to offer private piano classes. "I've spent many wonderful years being involved with the University and the music department."

Sawtelle became EPISD's choir director and music specialist, and taught at Western Hills and Carlos Rivera elementary schools.

Together, both honorees have a combined service of 100 years as teachers.

Sawtelle remembers her time at Texas Western clearly, and she speaks about her experience with enthusiasm and zeal, even 60 years later.

"The campus has a very special and wonderful place in my heart," she said. "There are memories with Texas Western that will survive the test of time." 📸

SAVE THE DATE

Parents Weekend

OCT. 28 – 29



For more information,
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www.utep.edu/alumni



Alum Honored as Entrepreneur of the Year

By Laura Acosta

Helen of Troy CEO Gerald Rubin, a 1965 graduate of Texas Western College (now UTEP), was surprised and humbled by the news that he had been selected as a Southwest Area North Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

"Sometimes I believe that being an entrepreneur is in your blood, but it does take a lot of hard work and good luck to be successful," he said.

Rubin accepted the honor at a gala June 25 at the Hyatt Regency Dallas. He is now a finalist for the Entrepreneur of the Year National Award, which will be announced in November.

"UTEP alumnus Gerald Rubin's success as an entrepreneur serves as a source of pride to all of us on the UTEP campus, and his many professional accomplishments are especially inspiring to our students,"

said UTEP President Diana Natalicio, who presented Rubin with the award in Dallas. "UTEP is honored and validated by the commitment that Jerry and his wife Stanlee, also a UTEP graduate, have made to the University through their generous gifts to initiatives ranging from the contemporary visual arts to women's athletics, and we are grateful to them for their sustained support."

Rubin was one of 15 entrepreneurs selected for the honor by an independent judging panel made up of previous winners of the award, leading CEOs, private capital investors and other regional business leaders.

The Entrepreneur of the Year National Awards gala is Nov. 12 in Palm Springs, Calif. It will be hosted by *Tonight Show* host Jay Leno. 📺



UTEP President Diana Natalicio presented Helen of Troy CEO Gerald Rubin '65 with the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award.



Nu'u Punimata '08
Photo courtesy of USA Men's Sevens Eagles Rugby Squad

Former Miner Linebacker Mixing It Up with Team USA Rugby

By Joe Velarde

Lately, former Miner linebacker Nu'u Punimata has found himself in the middle of a scrum.

Scrum is a rugby term, often used as a verb to describe the players on the field putting the ball back in motion. After three years away from UTEP, Punimata is putting his athletic career back into motion as a member of the USA Men's Sevens Eagles Rugby squad.

"The sport combines different elements of nearly every sport," Punimata said. "It demands a different kind of skill level, but it's a rewarding sport to play."

Punimata played football for the Miners until 2008, when he received a degree in multidisciplinary studies. During his time in the Sun Bowl, he never was far away from rugby, as he spent off-seasons and summers playing for various teams in his native American Samoa and Seattle.

Punimata described 7-man rugby as a smaller, faster and more intense version

of the sport. While rugby has always been in his blood, his time on the football field instilled a valuable sense of discipline and conditioning that has proven effective later in his athletic career.

"It's a different game altogether. Still, it takes the same kind of dedication. I think I was able to evolve as a universal player during my time at UTEP," he said.

Punimata, an intern with Kibble & Prentice Marketing in Seattle, was working on strengthening his ankle after sustaining an injury shortly before the Men's Sevens tournament in Hong Kong in March.

Head coach of the USA Men's Sevens squad Al Caravelli said he looked forward to Punimata's return to the field.

"With Nu'u returning from injury, we will have an experienced and talented squad," he said. 📺

'50s

Mimi J. Gladstein (B.A. '59; M.A. '66), a UTEP professor of English, was inducted into the El Paso Commission for Women's El Paso Women's Hall of Fame in March. Gladstein was recognized for her commitment to the arts and the El Paso Holocaust Museum, having served as a member of the museum's board of directors and content committee chair.

Jimmie B. "Jim" Howard (B.B.A. '59), a RE/MAX Real Estate Group co-owner, received the firm's 2010 Broker/Owner of the Year award for the Texas region in February.

'60s

Mark E. Regalado (B.A. '68), a retired El Paso Community College advertising graphics and design instructor, was appointed in January to the Planning and Network Committee of El Paso Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

Gerald J. "Jerry" Rubin (B.S. '65), president and chief executive officer of El Paso-based personal care products company Helen of Troy Ltd., was honored in May as the 2011 Ernst & Young LLP Entrepreneur of the Year for the Southwest Area North. Rubin was recognized for his leadership in the retail and consumer products industry.

Ida M. Steadman (B.M. '62), a cellist for the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, retired in April after more

than 50 years with the organization.

'70s

Robert A. "Bob" Black (B.A. '77), managing shareholder at the law firm of Mehaffy Weber in Beaumont, Texas, and president of the State Bar of Texas, was honored in February with Texas Tech University Law School's 2011 Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Judy DeLaZerda Campos (B.S.Ed. '74), a third-grade language arts teacher, has retired from Greenhill School of Dallas after 35 years in education.

Tomas "Tom" Cardenas (B.S.C.E. '71), president and chief executive officer of El Paso project and construction management firm, ECM International Inc., was appointed board secretary for the Medical Center of the Americas Foundation in February.

Rosemary Castillo (B.A. '75), Bienvivir Senior Health Services founder and chief executive officer, was recognized in May with the 2011 Bravo Award by the El Paso League of Women Voters for her work in improving the quality of life for El Paso's elderly.

Myrna W. Gantner (B.S. '73; M.Ed. '96; Ed.D. '00) was named associate vice president for academic affairs at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton in August 2010.

Jesus M. Mena (B.A. '70) is the chief strategic officer

at predictive analytics and business intelligence products company InferX Corp. in McLean, Va. His eighth university textbook *Machine Learning Forensics for Law Enforcement, Security, and Intelligence*, was released in June.

Enrique "Henry" Quintana Jr. (B.A. '75; M.A. '94), El Paso Electric Co. public relations manager, was elected to the Public Relations Association of the Southwest 2011 board of directors in January.

William M. "Bill" Tarpley (B.A. '75) of El Paso was named Houghton Financial Partners' physicians financial solutions group leader in March.

Robert Torres (B.B.A. '74), president of El Paso public accounting firm Torres and Co., was re-elected president of the board of directors for the League of United Latin American Citizens' Project Amistad in March.

Andy B. Wallace (M.S. '72) was appointed president of Columbus Gold Corp. in March. Columbus Gold is a gold exploration and development company in Vancouver, British Columbia.

'80s

Janice D. Alvidrez (B.B.A. '81) of El Paso was promoted to first vice president of loan review at Bank of the West in January.

Victor Ayala Jr. (B.A. '84) of Rahway, N.J., was

promoted in April 2010 to director of employee relations and human resources for American Express Co.'s northeast U.S. region.

Mark G. Briggs (B.A. '87), partner at law firm of Briggs and Associates in El Paso, was certified as a child welfare law specialist by the National Association for Children and the American Bar Association in February.

Robert J. "Jacob" Cintron (B.S.I.E. '83; M.B.A. '96; M.Acc. '02), chief executive officer at Del Sol Medical Center in El Paso, was appointed to the El Paso Mental Health Mental Retardation board in February.

Cynthia S. "Cindy" Peak Hoffman (B.B.A. '85) was appointed capital campaign and major gifts administrator for the YWCA El Paso del Norte region.

Lily P. Lara (B.S.Ed. '87), a fourth- through sixth-grade special education teacher at East Point Elementary School in El Paso, was named the Ysleta Independent School District's Elementary Teacher of the Year in May.

Patricia P. McLean (B.B.A. '84), a resident of El Paso, was elected to the Ysleta Independent School District's board of trustees in May.

Naomi M. Mery (B.M. '81), a music teacher at Freedom Elementary School in Colorado Springs, Colo., was honored with the Colorado Springs School

District 11's Excellence in Teaching Award in May 2010.

Steven T. Morgan (B.S.C.E. '84) of San Antonio was named senior vice president at Bury and Partners Engineering Solutions in April.

Maj. Gerardo Piñeda (B.S. '82) retired in January as a special agent of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations. Piñeda is now president and chief executive officer of Necktillanyards Inc., a lanyard company, and a professional actor who appears in national commercials.

Hector R. Puente (B.S.E.E. '80) was promoted in May to senior vice president of operations at El Paso Electric Co.

Stella A. Quiñones (B.S.M.E. '86; M.S.Met. '93; Ph.D. '96), UTEP associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, was recognized as one of the nation's most innovative young engineering educators at the National Academy of Engineering's 2nd annual Frontiers of Engineering Education symposium in September.

Rita Ruelas (B.S.W. '80), director for the Border Children's Mental Health Collaborative, was appointed to the El Paso Mental Health Mental Retardation board in February.

Blanca A. Soforo (B.S.Ed. '86), an El Paso State Farm insurance agent, was elected secretary of

the Foundation for El Paso Community College in February.

Sandra J. "Sandi" Smith (B.S.Ed. '81) completed the Comfort Keepers' franchise training course in February. She is president of business development for the El Paso and Las Cruces Comfort Keepers franchises, which specializes in in-home care and elderly care.

Diana Washington Valdez (B.A. '83; M.A. '00), a journalist for the *El Paso Times*, was honored in March at the La Mujer Obrera Awards fundraiser for her dedication and leadership in promoting and upholding the rights of women in the community. La Mujer Obrera is a nonprofit that addresses the economic and social needs of displaced Latina workers in El Paso.

'90s

Claudio Bartolini (Ph.D. '98), senior geologist at oil company Repsol in Madrid, Spain, was honored with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists' 2011 Robert H. Dott Sr. Memorial Award in April. The award recognizes him as editor of the best special publication dealing with geology published by the association, *AAPG Memoir 79, The Circum-Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Hydrocarbon Habitats, Basin Foundation, and Plate Tectonics*.

Christina J. Daly (B.A. '94), a supervisory mission support specialist for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's El Paso field



Lawrence Welsh '97

Writer Named Among Top 100 Irish-Americans

Described by the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* as "one of America's leading writers on life in border towns," Lawrence Welsh credits The University of Texas at El Paso with playing a major role in his development.

"I've worked on my writing daily for the past 20 years, and it was during my days at UTEP that I learned to keep at it — no matter what," he said.

Welsh earned a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from UTEP in 1997. He is an associate professor of English at El Paso Community College whose poetry, essays,

journalistic writings and fiction have appeared in more than 200 magazines. His eighth book, *Begging for Vultures: New and Selected Poems, 1994-2009*, will be published Sept. 15.

Welsh recently was named to the Top 100 List for 2011 by *Irish America Magazine*. Others on the list included actor Will Ferrell, TV personality Regis Philbin and President Barack Obama. He has won The Bardsong Press Celtic Voice Writing Award in Poetry, the Society of Professional Journalists Bill Farr Investigative Reporting Award, and the Copley Los Angeles Newspapers Award.

office, was recognized with the CBP's Excellence in Mission Support Award in April.

Mary K. "Katie" Davis (M.A. '96) was promoted to associate professor of drama and granted tenure at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha in May.

Veronica Escobar (B.A. '91), an El Paso County judge, was named vice chair of administration for the Texas Conference of Urban Counties' board of directors in January.

Renard U. Johnson (B.B.A. '95) was named to the advisory board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas in May. Johnson is president and chief executive officer of El Paso-based information technology company Management and Engineering Technologies International, or METI.

Suzanne E. Lindau (B.B.A. '92), an investor adviser associate at Lauterbach Financial Advisors LLC in El Paso, was designated a personal financial specialist by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants in February.

Gabriel Marrufo (B.B.A. '94; M.B.A. '05) of El Paso was promoted to vice president of business development at Las Palmas Del Sol Healthcare in February.

Scott A. McLaughlin (M.B.A. '96) of El Paso was reappointed presiding officer of the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority

by Texas Gov. Rick Perry in March. The agency aids in providing transportation solutions for the El Paso region.

Monika Miles (B.B.A. '90), president of Labhart Miles Consulting Group Inc. in San Jose, Calif., was elected 2010-11 national president of the American Society of Women Accountants in May.

Robert J. "Robb" Pridemore (B.B.A. '97), vice president of Wells Fargo Insurance Services USA in El Paso, received the company's Annual Service Excellence Award in March.

Claudia Ramirez (B.S.M.E. '91), a resident of El Paso, joined business process solutions company Datamark Inc. as a senior project manager in May.

Gustavo Reveles Acosta (B.A. '97) of El Paso, was named a 2011 board member of the Public Relations Association of the Southwest in January. Reveles Acosta is a Canutillo (Texas) Independent School District public information officer.

Obadele O. Thompson (B.B.A. '97), an author, Olympic medalist and NCAA champion in track, was inducted into the Drake Relays Hall of Fame in Des Moines, Iowa, in April.

Sean C. White (B.A. '99), a partner at El Paso law firm Kemp Smith LLP, was selected in March for inclusion in the 2011 Texas Super Lawyers "Rising Stars" edition, a designation

that recognizes the best Texas attorneys under 40 years of age or who have been practicing less than 10 years.

'00s

Sandra I. Ahumada (B.M.S. '09) joined El Paso commercial real estate management and investment company, MIMCO Inc., as a property manager in December.

Mark M. Alvarado (B.M.S. '07) joined PUEBLO Action Fund, a Santa Barbara, Calif., nonprofit advocacy group for low-income families in March. He serves as the fund's executive director.

Marshall C. Barclay Jr. (M.B.A. '05) was honored as Lincoln Financial Advisor's Financial Planner of the Month in March. Barclay is a resident of El Paso.

Roberta "Bert" Corbell (B.S.N. '07) was promoted to administrative director of trauma services at El Paso's Del Sol Medical Center in February.

Carlyn J. Duchouquette (B.S. '06) earned her doctorate in veterinary medicine from the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in May. She is a veterinarian at East El Paso Animal Hospital.

Monica G. Gilliland (B.B.A. '06) was certified as an adjunct faculty member for the U.S. Army's Civilian Human Resources Agency in February. Gilliland is a resident of Sierra Vista, Ariz.

Julie L. Hershenberg (B.A. '00; M.A. '01) participated in Street Law Inc.'s National Supreme Court Institute for Teachers in June 2010. An attorney in private practice, Hershenberg also is an associate professor of political science at the Spring Creek campus of Collin County Community College in Plano, Texas; an instructor for the University of Phoenix; and the law magnet teacher at Lakeview Centennial High School in Garland, Texas. She resides in Carrollton, Texas.

Michele E. Lockhart (B.A. '00), an analyst with the U.S. Government Accountability Office in Dallas, earned a Ph.D. in rhetoric from Texas Woman's University in September 2010.

Cedric A. Lyerly Jr. (B.B.A. '06), an audit supervisor for El Paso accounting firm Schmid, Broadus, Nugent, Gano PC, obtained his public accounting certification in December.

David Martinez (B.B.A. '04) joined El Paso Employees Federal Credit Union in January as an accountant and was promoted to vice president of finance in April. Veronique Masterson (B.A. '05) joined UTEP as a public information officer in May.

Christopher M. "Chris" Lechuga (B.A. '09) was named a 2011 board member for the Public Relations Association of the Southwest. Lechuga is a public affairs specialist in UTEP's Office of University Communications.

Veronique Masterson (B.A. '05) joined UTEP as the public information officer in May.

Brandy L. Peterson (B.S. '03), a health scientist in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination, was honored with the division's Director's Recognition Award for the second quarter of 2011. Also in April, Peterson obtained certification as a master certified health education specialist.

Cristian M. Potes (M.S. '08), an electrical and computer engineering doctoral student at UTEP, was honored as a Miner Hero in March by the UTEP Student Government Association for his outstanding research endeavors conducted while working as a research assistant on a U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory project.

Adriana Roberson (B.A. '00; B.A. '01) founded elpasomommies.com, an online network community for mothers in the El Paso area. She also is the website administrator.

Priscilla Roldan (B.A. '06), a paralegal at the law firm of Joe A. Spencer, Attorney and Counselor at Law, was elected vice president of public relations for the El Paso Paralegal Association in March.

James R. Tidwell (B.B.A. '06; M.B.A. '09) was named marketing and executive director of El Paso's Southwest Staffing Inc. in February.

Shaun R. Tidwell (B.S.E.E. '07), an engineer at El Paso engineering firm Parkhill, Smith & Cooper Inc., was licensed as a professional engineer in December.

Gloria S. "Stephanie" Townsend Allala (B.A. '00), an El Paso attorney in private practice, was elected board president for the Area Network for Disabilities and Aging in March. ANDA is a nonprofit aimed at improving the quality of life for disabled and aging populations in El Paso.

Egbert Zavala (B.A. '05) earned a Ph.D. in sociology from Kansas State University in Manhattan in December. '10s

'10s

Erick I. Gomez (B.B.A. '10) joined the audit staff at El Paso accounting firm Schmid, Broadus, Nugent, Gano PC in December.

Timothy J.S. "Tim" Heise (B.A. '10), of McKinleyville, Calif., was accepted to the University of North Dakota School of Law in April.

Luis A. Nieto Dickens (B.A. '10) joined the New York City firm Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts as a marketing and design director in March.



Raúl Reyes '95, '97

Alum Earns National Teaching Award

An award-winning history professor who cut his academic teeth at The University of Texas at El Paso was among the recipients of the 2010 National Institute for Staff and Organization Development Faculty Excellence Awards.

Raúl R. Reyes, who earned his bachelor's (1995) and master's (1997) degrees in history from UTEP, has taught at Lone Star College-Kingwood for 10 years. He said the award humbled him. He thanked the students who kept him motivated and added that he tried to provide them with a good balance of content and humor.

"I refuse to be your garden variety history instructor who has absolutely no imagination and is totally dedicated to boring the masses," Reyes said in a YouTube video interview after he earned his award.

Honorees, who are selected by a peer vote, are recognized for teaching and leadership excellence.

The Lone Star College system has five campuses in suburbs north of Houston and enrolls 85,000 students.



Jean Heininger Miculka

A MODEL INSTRUCTOR.

Jean Heininger Miculka, an associate professor emerita at The University of Texas at El Paso and longtime devoted community member, died April 27. She was 90.

Miculka was born in Techow, Shantung province in China, to missionary parents. She grew up in El Paso and earned a bachelor's degree in English from the Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy (now UTEP). She later received a Master of Arts from Northwestern University's School of Speech in Evanston, Ill.

She married V.A. "Chuck" Miculka, a longtime math professor at UTEP, and joined the University faculty. She retired in 1985 as chair of the Department of Drama and Speech.

For decades, Miculka was a dedicated member of the Heritage Commission, which preserves the University's history, and the OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute, a center of learning for the retired, said Florence Schwein, a member of both programs.

Schwein described her friend as a charming, feisty and genuine woman who loved life. Miculka also loved her students.

"She seemed to remember every single one of them," she said. "There would always be a twinkle in her eye when she'd say, 'I had that person for a student.'"

Sherry Lowell-Lewis, who earned her M.A. in theater in 1982 from UTEP, took one of Miculka's graduate classes in children's theater. She called her a model instructor.

"She was very good at gauging the student's level of understanding," said Lowell-Lewis, who now teaches film and public speaking at UTEP. "That's a gift." 📧

Anne L. Leahey

YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN
YOU THINK YOU CAN.

Former students and colleagues at The University of Texas at El Paso remembered Anne Lee Leahey, a CPA and retired assistant professor of accounting, for her quiet elegance and zest for life, and as "a force of nature."

Leahey died June 25 during a family outing near the Santa Teresa Airport. She was 67. Authorities said her death may have been heat-related.

She was hired at UTEP in 1977 and quickly earned a reputation as a demanding instructor who was tough, but fair.

Fadia Rouhana, a scholarship coordinator in UTEP's athletics department, is one of Leahey's former students and teaching assistants. She recalled how, after failing her first test, Leahey encouraged her not to give up.

"Her message was that you can do better than you think you can," Rouhana said, adding that the recollection gave her goose bumps. "I got a 'B' in her class, but it felt better than any 'A' I ever earned."

Leahey was born in China to educators and raised in China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. She earned her bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1966 from Elmira College in New York and her M.B.A. four years later from the University of Hawaii.

Longtime UTEP accounting colleagues Frank Mayne, Ph.D., and Gary Mann, Ph.D., remembered Leahey as a tireless worker on many University committees. Mayne said she often brought strong opinions, but always presented them calmly.

Mann added: "Her arguments very often had an important impact, and in many cases swayed the discussion."

Leahey is survived by her husband, William, son Patrick, daughters Martine Myronowicz and Monique Sugimoto, six grandchildren, a sister and two brothers. 📧



- **Maj. Robert D. Orton** (B.S. '61) Little Rock, Ark.; May 5, 2010.
- **Tom E. Hearon** (B.S.M.I. '54) Oracle, Ariz.; June 5, 2010.
- **Don R. Pendergrass** (B.A. '70) El Paso; Oct. 10, 2010.
- **Henry James LaPointe** (B.S.Ed. '66; M.Ed. '69) Las Cruces, N.M.; Oct. 30, 2010.
- **Joyce A. Hahn** (B.B.A. '56) Midland, Texas; Nov. 9, 2010.
- **Mary Cantrell Purse** (B.A. '67) El Paso; Nov. 16, 2010.
- **Lt. Col. Michael B. Farmer** (M.S.E.E. '74) Heidelberg, Germany; Nov. 26, 2010.
- **Grace R. "Ruth" Leasure** (M.A. '68) El Paso; Nov. 26, 2010.
- **Hadley P. "Paul" Garland** (B.A. '71) El Paso; Dec. 20, 2010.
- **David L. Hamilton** (B.A. '65) Port Arthur, Texas; Dec. 16, 2010.
- **Jesus Roberto R. "Jesse" "Tun Tun" Martinez** (B.A. '04; M.Ed. '08) El Paso; Dec. 7, 2010.
- **Fleda Cormany Scoggins Jordan** (B.A. '57; M.Ed. '67) Tacoma, Wash.; Dec. 11, 2010.
- **Madeleine Keeler Frossard** (B.S. Ed. '63) Dallas; Dec. 19, 2010.
- **Gene E. Congdon Sr.** (B.S. '55) Killingworth, Conn.; Dec. 29, 2010.
- **Artemio G. Luna** (B.A. '51; M.A. '55) El Paso; Dec. 31, 2010.
- **Cherryl Bates Dickinson** (B.S.Ed. '69) Richmond, Va.; Jan. 2, 2011.
- **Victoria J. "Vicki" Baker** (B.A. '81) Greeley, Colo.; Jan. 4, 2011.
- **Clifton P. Sanford** (B.A. '79) El Paso; Jan. 4, 2011.
- **Noemi Glassbrook Carson-Tams** (B.I.S. '02) El Paso; Jan. 8, 2011.
- **Mary Louise Kempton** (B.S.Ed. '65) El Paso; Jan. 9, 2011.
- **Arnon Scott Warnock** (B.B.A. '84) El Paso; Jan. 12, 2011.
- **Robert Rush "Bob" Bell** (B.B.A. '62) Tyler, Texas; Jan. 14, 2011.
- **Arthur John Hammel Jr.** (B.S.M.E. '67) El Paso; Jan. 18, 2011.
- **Zenobia "Nova" Gonzales-Snyder** (B.S.Ed. '71) Pecos, N.M.; Jan. 20, 2011.
- **Carolyn Waugh "Toni" "C.G." Eades** (M.Ed. '72) Sacramento, Calif.; Jan. 21, 2011.
- **Robert Shelton Irvin** (B.B.A. '63) El Paso; Jan. 25, 2011.
- **Santiago Romero Sr.** (B.A. '58; M.Ed. '74) El Paso; Jan. 25, 2011.
- **Federico A. "Fred" Rosas Sr.** (B.A. '50; M.A. '56) El Paso; Jan. 25, 2011.
- **Ignacio "Nacho" Lozano Sr.** (B.B.A. '58) El Paso; Jan. 29, 2011.
- **Marvyn P. Luckett** (B.A. '65; M.Ed. '89) El Paso; Jan. 30, 2011.
- **Martha Ramirez Rojas** (B.I.S. '03) El Paso; Feb. 3, 2011.
- **James M. "Jim" McCleskey Jr.** (B.B.A. '48) McKinney, Texas; Feb. 4, 2011.
- **Alfred Henry Witholder Jr.** (B.A. '70) El Paso; Feb. 5, 2011.
- **Keith W. Gardner** (B.B.A. '63) La Jolla, Calif.; Feb. 6, 2011.
- **Charlotte Anne Smith Sollers** (B.S.Ed. '59) Forney, Texas; Feb. 6, 2011.
- **Frances S. Zimet** (M.Ed. '68) El Paso; Feb. 6, 2011.
- **Janet N. Smith** (B.S.Ed. '71) Brownwood, Texas; Feb. 10, 2011.
- **Kenneth R. Wofford** (B.S. '61) Conroe, Texas; Feb. 11, 2011.
- **Mary Elizabeth "Bette" Taylor Biffle** (B.S. '48) Moscow, Idaho; Feb. 12, 2011.
- **Oscar F. Casavantes** (B.S.Ed. '75) El Paso; Feb. 14, 2011.
- **Maxine Matilda Lampert** (B.S.Ed. '68) El Paso; Feb. 14, 2011.
- **Lt. Col. Alan Lee Phelps** (B.A. '58) El Paso; Feb. 14, 2011.
- **Priscilla Ann "Cilla" Hansen** (B.A. '66) New Braunfels, Texas; Feb. 15, 2011.
- **James Allen Cox** (B.B.A. '61) Fitchburg, Wis.; Feb. 22, 2011.
- **Oma May Haston Warwick** (M.A. '51) Las Cruces N.M.; Feb. 22, 2011.
- **Mary Jane Jonz** (B.A. '36) Campbell, Texas; Feb. 24, 2011.
- **John Arthur Mathews** (B.S.Ed. '69) El Paso; Feb. 25, 2011.
- **Sanford B. "Sandy" Brown** (B.S.M.E. '62) Giddings, Texas; Feb. 26, 2011.
- **Colleen F. Leonard** (B.S.Ed. '70; M.Ed. '77) El Paso; March 3, 2011.
- **Donna L. Morgan** (B.A. '69) El Paso; March 3, 2011.
- **Lela H. Byus** (M.Ed. '68) El Paso; March 4, 2011.
- **Marilyn Allen** (B.B.A. '55; M.Ed. '73) El Paso; March 8, 2011.
- **Jane Piatt Emmett** (B.A. '52) El Paso; March 8, 2011.
- **Addison "Andy" Anderson** (M.A. '68) Euclid, Ohio; March 9, 2011.
- **Carol Ann Potts** (B.S.Ed. '69; M.Ed. '76) Mansfield, Texas; March 13, 2011.
- **Richard Scott Sagar** (M.S.E.E. '76) El Paso; March 13, 2011.
- **Patricia A. McDonald Cardon** (B.A. '61) Austin; March 16, 2011.
- **Col. Horace E. "H.C." Perea** (B.S.C.E. '52) Albany, Ga.; March 16, 2011.
- **Marcos Rodriguez Jr.** (B.A. '58; M.Ed. '60) El Paso; March 16, 2011.
- **Emma Valencia Galvan** (B.S.Ed. '64) El Paso; March 19, 2011.
- **Ronny Jo Villarreal** (B.B.A. '01) Jacksonville, Fla.; March 19, 2011.
- **Murray Brewton** (M.A. '54) El Paso; March 20, 2011.
- **Patrick Michael Morris** (B.S. '75) El Paso; March 22, 2011.
- **Dorothy Hubbard Powell** (B.A. '51) Granbury, Texas; March 22, 2011.
- **Edith M. Rohan** (B.B.A. '82) El Paso; March 23, 2011.
- **Robert James Hutchinson Sr.** (B.A. '64; M.A. '66) El Paso; March 25, 2011.
- **Jacob A. VanWagoner** (B.S.C.S. '84) El Paso; March 25, 2011.
- **Bernice Rey Hagans** (M.A. '66) San Diego, Calif.; March 30, 2011.
- **Reilly W. Taitte Jr.** (B.M. '54; M.A. '57) Albuquerque, N.M.; March 30, 2011.
- **Lois Olson Elias** (B.S.Ed. '71) El Paso; April 1, 2011.
- **Kenneth B. Haverfield** (B.S. '95) El Paso; April 1, 2011.
- **Igor Kaleri Sr.** (M.S.C.E. '69) El Paso; April 4, 2011.
- **Robert A. Bernal** (B.B.A. '77) El Paso; April 9, 2011.
- **George Davis Sr.** (B.B.A. '51) El Paso; April 9, 2011.
- **Robert Wayne Endlich** (B.S. '78) Lubbock, Texas; April 9, 2011.
- **Command Sgt. Maj. James Robert Jeter** (M.Ed. '89) El Paso; April 10, 2011.
- **Maria Gloria Martinez** (M.Ed. '71) El Paso; April 10, 2011.
- **Walter S. Walters** (B.A. '50) El Paso; April 10, 2011.
- **Daria Serna** (B.B.A. '54; M.A. '70) El Paso; April 12, 2011.
- **Norma Jean Hurst** (B.A. '60; M.Ed. '69) El Paso; April 15, 2011.
- **Scott M. Pepper** (B.B.A. '86) Carrollton, Texas; April 18, 2011.
- **Inez E. Adaauto** (B.A. '72) El Paso; April 24, 2011.
- **Bertha West Cochran** (B.A. '36) Odessa, Texas; April 28, 2011.
- **Jean Heininger Miculka** (B.A. '44) El Paso; April 27, 2011.
- **Shirley M. Barnes** (B.A. '68) Eugene, Ore; April 29, 2011.
- **Deeb Edmund Ansara** (B.S.Ed. '88) El Paso; May 1, 2011.
- **Dr. Jesus Antonio "Maymud" Rios** (B.S. '97) Las Cruces, N.M.; May 1, 2011.
- **Alfonso "Poncho" Cardenas** (B.A. '59; M.Ed. '78) El Paso; May 4, 2011.
- **Phyllis Lorraine Rattray** (B.A. '57; M.A. '58) Keizer, Ore.; May 5, 2011.
- **Grady L. Hillman** (B.A. '52) Sugar Land, Texas; May 9, 2011.
- **Jack Ramsey "Chick" Brown** (B.B.A. '57) El Paso; May 12, 2011.
- **Isabel D. Torrez** (B.S.N. '95) El Paso; May 12, 2011.
- **Ramon P. "Ray" Ledesma** (B.S.C.E. '76) El Paso; May 13, 2011.
- **Paul Grafton Wendler** (B.A. '54) Roslindale, Mass.; May 13, 2011.
- **Lois Ann Wallace Turner** (M.A. '74) Kerville, Texas; May 16, 2011.
- **Diane C. Ivy May** (B.S.Ed. '74) Colorado Springs, Colo.; May 18, 2011.
- **Frank McCallick Jr.** (B.S.E.E. '61) Ventura, Calif.; May 20, 2011.
- **Jim C. Goodman** (M.Ed. '59) Cloudcroft, N.M.; May 22, 2011.
- **Bernice Griffin** (B.S.W. '95) Lake Dallas, Texas; May 22, 2011.
- **Bill H. McWilliams** (B.S. '51) Midland, Texas; May 26, 2011.



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10/15/11	at Tulane *
10/22/11	vs. Colorado State
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