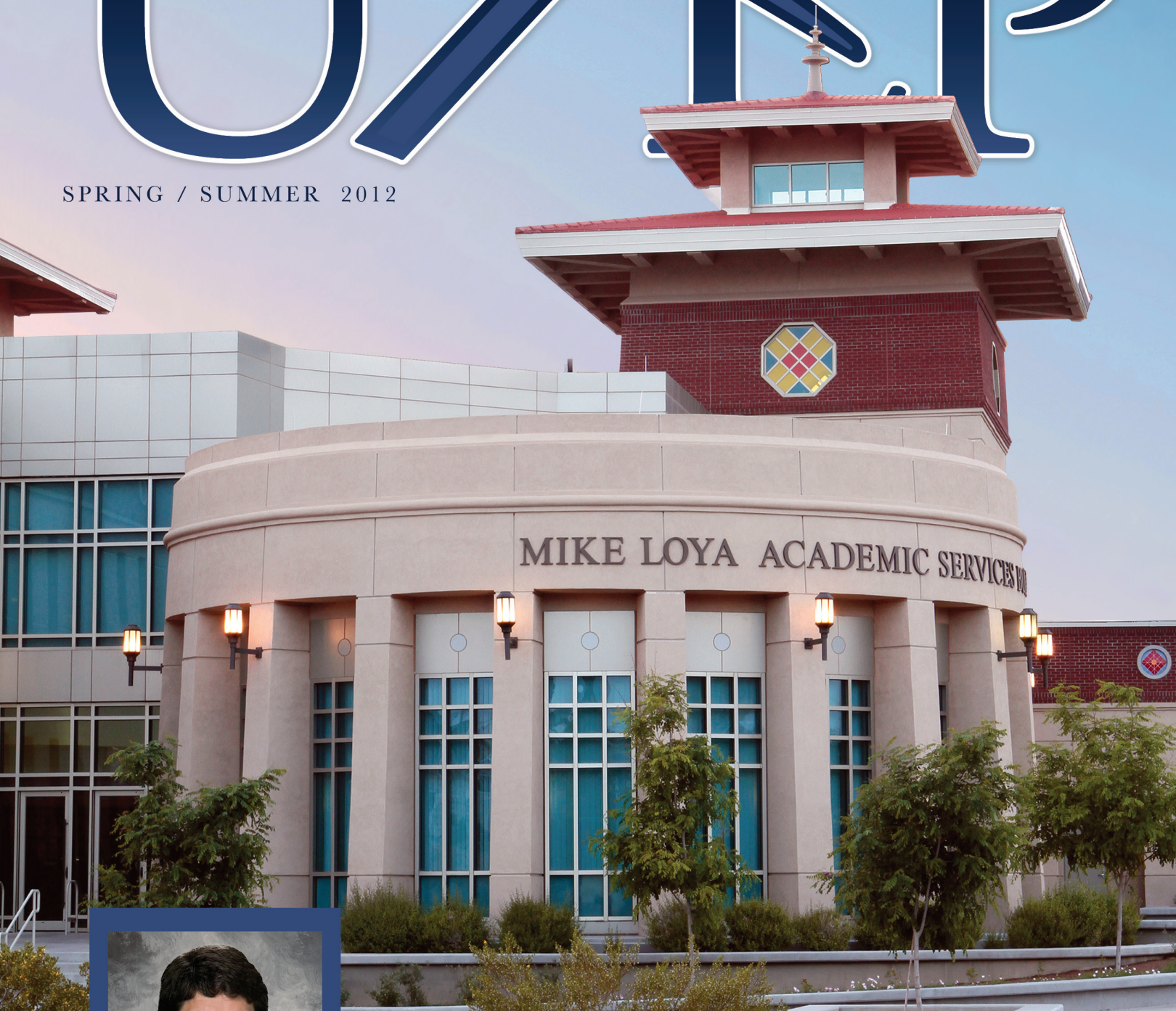


THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



SPRING / SUMMER 2012



CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS & GENEROSITY OF UTEP ALUMNUS



MIKE LOYA





Message from the President

Dear UTEP Alumni and Friends,
UTEP's bold vision to become the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic challenges each and every one of us to engage actively in this exciting institutional transformation. Perhaps most visible to us all is the physical transformation well underway on our campus. The nearly completed four-year, \$300-million construction program has significantly altered our campus skyline. Two years

ago, we celebrated the grand opening of the Bioscience Research Building, and in this academic year alone we have added the Health Sciences and Nursing Building, the Student Recreation Center and the Chemistry and Computer Science Building. These facilities — and others to be completed over the next several months — will provide increased capacity for our anticipated enrollment growth and expansion of our academic and research programs.

I'm pleased that this issue of *UTEP Magazine* presents the next phase of our campus transformation, which turns attention toward open spaces and pathways between buildings, creating an even more inviting campus climate. The seven projects featured here focus on improving streets, shaded paths, loggias, and gardens. At the heart of all these projects is eliminating vehicular traffic from the center of the campus — an increasingly urgent safety measure — and enlarging and enhancing Memorial Triangle to serve as the University's primary gathering space. Our newest Bhutanese cultural artifact — a *lhakhang* — donated by the people of Bhutan to the people of the United States as part of Bhutan's participation in the Smithsonian Institution's Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C., will be re-constructed here.

Ultimately, the changes to Memorial Triangle and other campus spaces will create an environment that will invite us all to enjoy more fully what is already recognized as one of the most beautiful university campuses in the United States while also accommodating our record growth in enrollment, externally funded research, and doctoral programs. Our 2011 fall enrollment exceeded 22,600 students, a 2.4 percent increase over the same period last year — the 13th straight year in which we set a record — and future projections point toward more of the same. By the year 2020, we expect enrollment at UTEP to top 30,000 students! UTEP now offers 19 doctoral programs, which last year enrolled 656 students and awarded 70 doctoral degrees, both new records. And our annual research expenditures have continued to rise, reaching nearly \$70 million last year — and almost doubling over the past decade.

So, the campus transformation presented here offers not only a vision of the architectural and design plans for our campus, but of this University's future: a vision of a highly competitive national research university that has successfully remained faithful to its mission of offering more robust opportunities to ever growing numbers of talented young people from this region and beyond. The implementation of this vision will be gradual and occur over a number of years, but the excitement of the many changes on our campus is already inspiring and motivating our students, staff, and faculty to be the change agents who will achieve this dream.

Engaging in planning this major campus transformation, while concurrently preparing for the commemoration of our Centennial in 2014, provides us all with a splendid opportunity to participate. The Centennial Executive Committee and the Development Office have committed to work together to raise the funds for this set of campus transformation projects, which will serve as a lasting reminder of our 100th anniversary. As our Centennial nears, I hope we will all take time to reflect on the impact that this great University has had on our lives, and join in supporting this lasting legacy of UTEP's 100 years of dedicated service to this Paso del Norte region and harbinger of our bright future as a model 21st century university.

Go Miners!

Diana Natalicio

DIANA NATALICIO • UTEP PRESIDENT



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
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RESEARCH

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ON THE COVER

Mike Loya Academic Services Building
Photo by J.R. Hernandez



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Download a free QR code reader mobile app supported by your phone carrier and scan the tags throughout the magazine to find out more about a story.



UTEP to Introduce E-Portfolios for Pre-Meds

By Jennifer Clampet

What does a student already know before entering medical school? The simple question promises to introduce new approaches to the 100-year-old system of training M.D.s.

"Many pre-med students are already working or volunteering in clinics," said Donna Ekal, Ph.D., associate provost for undergraduate studies at UTEP. "The University and the medical schools have rarely been involved with skills learned in those settings, until now."

During the spring 2012 semester, faculty members at The University of Texas at El Paso piloted an e-portfolio program for pre-med students.

The pilot program was designed to document achievement of competencies learned through volunteering at clinical levels. Students were evaluated on their internships, experiences and other out-of-the-classroom opportunities.

The pilot program is part of UTEP's involvement in The University of Texas System's Transformation in Medical Education (TIME) Initiative.

The initiative is exploring programs designed

to update and modernize pre-med and medical school education, including increasing accessibility to entering medical school and decreasing the time — and therefore the expense — for earning a medical degree.

UTEP heads one of four teams participating in the initiative. UTEP's partners are The University of Texas at Brownsville, The University of Texas-Pan American, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

UTEP was awarded a \$1.5 million grant to help develop a pilot program. The funds are part of \$4 million awarded by the UT System Board of Regents in support of the TIME Initiative.

"Populations, technologies, people, society, disease and even insurance have all changed in the last 100 years," said Ekal, primary investigator for the UTEP grant. "So many things have changed and now it is time for the pre-medical and medical education to change also."

Documenting what students learn in out-of-classroom experiences is potentially a viable

building block for how students can progress through the medical school pipeline more quickly without diluting the quality of education or reducing the knowledge needed to be a medical doctor, Ekal said.

"I think it would be a great improvement," said UTEP sophomore Annette Escobedo, a pre-med student majoring in biology, who participated in the Shadow-A-Physician program last summer.

"Not only would that encourage more students to get involved working in hospitals, but it would also teach them a lot about the clinical setting, working with patients, and give them great experience on true medical life applications."

Taking patients' histories and understanding the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) guidelines, Ekal said, are all skills that some students learn through working or volunteering in clinical settings before ever entering medical school.

"This is an exciting opportunity that the UT System Regents are providing for the universities to examine the pre-med medical education system," she said. 📌

Distinguished Guests



Robert Malone



David Lesar



Sam Donaldson



Judson King



Alan Leshner



Herminio Blanco



Richard Talbot



Jerry Porras

1. Robert Malone

ENGINEERING LECTURE SERIES
MAY 2012

The president and chief executive officer of First National Bank of Sonora, Texas, and 2003 UTEP Distinguished Alumnus told students that success is based on passion, values, hard work, integrity, and the ability to communicate. He added that they should develop business acumen as undergraduates.

2. David Lesar

ENGINEERING LECTURE SERIES
APRIL 2012

The chief executive officer and president of Halliburton Energy Services stressed the importance of leadership education in the industry and outlined a curriculum to include more leadership opportunities for engineering students.

3. Sam Donaldson

CENTENNIAL LECTURE
MARCH 2012

A 1955 graduate of Texas Western College (now UTEP) and 1976 Distinguished Alumnus, Donaldson discussed the 2012 presidential campaign from his perspective as a 45-year ABC News veteran.

4. Judson King

ENGINEERING LECTURE SERIES
MARCH 2012

The former provost and senior vice president of academic affairs at the University of California and current director of the Center for Studies in Higher Education at Berkeley advocated restructuring engineering education.

5. Alan Leshner

CENTENNIAL LECTURE
MARCH 2012

The chief executive officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science stressed the importance of engaging the public to promote scientific innovation and research.

6. Herminio Blanco

CENTENNIAL LECTURE
FEBRUARY 2012

The Mexican economist and chief negotiator of the North American Free Trade Agreement discussed how the nearly 20-year-old agreement has impacted the economies of Mexico, the United States and Canada.

7. Richard Talbot

CENTENNIAL LECTURE
JANUARY 2012

The director of IBM Power Systems product line management and one of the creators of the IBM supercomputer and *Jeopardy!* champion Watson, Talbot explained how Watson's technology can transcend from the popular game show into everyday practice.

8. Jerry Porras

ENGINEERING LECTURE SERIES
JANUARY 2012

The 1960 UTEP graduate and 2011 Distinguished Alumnus returned to his alma mater to discuss engineering and leadership.

Student Leadership Goes 'LIVE'

By Chris Lechuga • Photos by J.R. Hernandez

for Catherine Jones, a senior communication studies major at The University of Texas at El Paso, college life has been filled with meetings, fundraisers and work outside of her normal class schedule and study sessions. As president of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and a member of a long list of other student organizations, time is limited for her to explore other campus opportunities.

But when she was nominated to participate in a new student leadership initiative, Jones could not pass up the opportunity.

"I was excited to be around students who are like myself, who had a vision of going up and beyond, and doing bigger and better things, not just with themselves, but with the University as well," Jones said.

Jones was one of 100 students selected for the 21st Century Scholars, a student leadership program established as part of the UTEP LIVE Student Conference. Previously known as the "Shape Your Life, Shape Your Future" conference, organizers made changes to the event based on input from students.

"Some of the feedback we received revolved around conflicts with classes," said Corey Bailey, director of the Student Development Center at UTEP. "Because of that, we decided that the best decision would be to try to expand leadership development over a span of time."

As a result, UTEP LIVE (which stands for Leadership, Innovation, Vision and Engagement) was designed with students' schedules in mind by offering a full calendar of programs, seminars, lectures and other events that stretched from mid-February to March, including a full conference day that featured leadership workshops and a keynote speaker. This way, as Bailey explained, students could create their own leadership experiences.

Jones was impressed by the flexibility and the quality of programs that UTEP LIVE offered, she said. Unlike other student leadership conferences, the sorority president felt intellectually stimulated from the very first teamwork activity. She continued to interact with fellow Century Scholars to improve her leadership skills. As a result, Jones has been able to apply what she experienced at UTEP LIVE as the leader of her organization.

"Our session helped me understand the importance of being able to loosen the reins," Jones said. "I have definitely gotten better at delegating tasks and being a more effective leader." 📌



100 UTEP students were selected to the 21st Century Scholars program and participated in interactive workshops, seminars and activities as part of UTEP LIVE.





Volunteers Make Their Move **IN EL PASO**

A chilly Saturday morning could not keep 1,200 Miners away from the March 3 kickoff rally for the third annual Project MOVE event at Memorial Triangle.

After all, MOVE stands for Miner Opportunities for Volunteer Experiences, meaning these were some of the most motivated and enthusiastic students, faculty, staff and alumni on or off campus.

After a performance by the UTEP cheerleaders and a pep talk from University President Diana Natalicio, the participants headed to a variety of sites around town to volunteer their services.

Organized by a committee of department representatives from throughout the University, Project MOVE was launched in 2010.

"This is our chance as a university to give something back to the community of El Paso – they have always supported us," said Project MOVE chairman Ryan Holmes, associate dean of student life/director of judicial affairs. 📌

Use your smartphone to scan this code to view a Project Move video.



You can also view the video at newsuc.utep.edu.



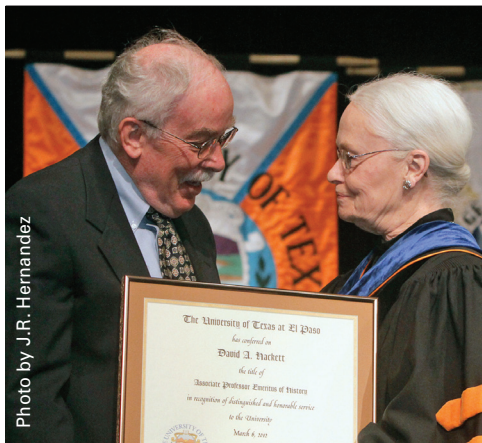


Photo by J.R. Hernandez
UTEP President Diana Natalicio recognizes David A. Hackett, Ph.D., as an associate professor emeritus of history.

Miners Honored

By Sandy Hicks

A standing-room-only crowd of friends and family filled Magoffin Auditorium and spilled out onto the sunny patio on April 15 as more than 1,100 outstanding students, faculty and staff were recognized for achievements in service, leadership and academics at the spring Honors Convocation.

The honorees also included more than 400 incoming freshmen who have been awarded scholarships through UTEP's Scholars Excellence Program.

"UTEP's Honors Convocation is a wonderful tradition of celebration, recognition and deep appreciation," said University Provost Junius Gonzales. "This Convocation gives thanks to UTEP students, faculty and staff for their incredible contributions in teaching, research, service and so much more."

UTEP President Diana Natalicio presented the University's Distinguished Achievement Awards, the highest honor given to faculty and staff members for excellence in service to students and the University. The three recipients were Jerry D. Johnson, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences; Yvonne Carranza, coordinator of student services in the College of Liberal Arts; and Reynaldo Chavez, security officer with the University Police Department. Natalicio noted that the honorees "go well beyond, setting new examples for those who come after them."

New awards for 2012 included University Outstanding Graduate Thesis and Teaching, and University Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation and Teaching.

Rounding out the celebration was the proud recognition of the outstanding Women's Miner basketball team members, who stood to the applause of a packed house for their 29-4 season, first Conference USA tournament title and second NCAA tournament appearance. ➤



Photo by J.R. Hernandez
This solar photovoltaic array atop the Student Recreation Center, pictured, and another in the Facilities Services complex are expected to save UTEP about \$50,000 in energy costs.

UTEP Energized by Switch to Solar PV

By Daniel Perez

The University of Texas at El Paso celebrated the completion of one of the largest solar photovoltaic (PV) array projects in the region during the "Switch to Solar PV" event on Jan. 20 outside of the University's Facilities Services complex.

The two PV arrays were installed in early December on the north end of campus. The larger of the two arrays is on the roof of the Student Recreation Center, and the other is on a parking canopy for Facilities Services. The project is expected to generate in excess of 315,000 kilowatt hours per year and save UTEP about \$50,000 annually.

Leaders of the key groups involved in the project along with regional government, business and military stakeholders attended the event that recognized the University's move toward renewable energy and environmental sustainability.

"The installation of these photovoltaic arrays demonstrates not only the productive use of green energy, but the huge benefits of collaboration among diverse organizations — in this case UTEP, El Paso Electric and several local contractors," UTEP President Diana Natalicio said. "As an added bonus, this project also will play an educational role by generating

data that will enable students to assess energy efficiency and develop models for application in other campus facilities. My congratulations to all on the success of this exciting initiative."

The project was paid for through a \$1 million grant from the Distributed Renewable Energy Technology Program of Texas' State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) with a 20 percent cost share by UTEP.

The award is a result of a joint effort and proposal between UTEP's Center for Environmental Resource Management (CERM), Environmental Health and Safety Office, Facilities Services Department, Purchasing and Research offices, and El Paso Electric.

"We hope this project can serve as the fertile ground for UTEP faculty and students to learn and develop new technologies in the renewable energy field and develop the foundation for future generations of students," said Roberto Favela, El Paso Electric's project manager.

University officials plan to pursue funds for additional renewable energy systems on campus to reduce UTEP's overall electricity bill and incrementally reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation sources in the El Paso region. ➤



“The Science Without Borders program gives UTEP an international component that creates an exchange of experiences, cultures and ideas – making UTEP truly diverse.”

Aileen El-Kadi, Ph.D., assistant professor and director of UTEP’s Brazilian Studies program



Carlos Eduardo Silva da Cruz, Ph.D.

Brazilian Scholar Makes UTEP Home

By Sandy Hicks

Since early May, Carlos Eduardo Silva da Cruz has been abroad. Cruz, who has a Ph.D. in parasitology from the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil, will call El Paso and The University of Texas at El Paso home for a year while he conducts research in UTEP’s Border Biomedical Research Center (BBRC) with biological sciences Professor Igor Almeida, Ph.D.

Cruz is taking part in Brazil’s Science Without Borders initiative, a nationwide scholarship program launched in 2011 by Brazil’s federal government designed to expand international research in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The program seeks to foster innovation and competitiveness through the international mobility of undergraduate and graduate students and researchers. It also encourages researchers from other countries to visit Brazil.

While at UTEP, Cruz will study cells infected with a bacteria known as *Anaplasma marginale*. Found mainly in ticks, the bacteria causes bovine anaplasmosis, a disease responsible for serious losses to the cattle industry. His study will aim

to provide new insight into signaling pathways associated with the infection and will attempt to identify potential targets for therapeutic or preventive interventions for the disease.

“[This program] is meant to strengthen the interaction between the academic community and the business and civil sectors at the national level,” Cruz said. “Thousands of researchers have already been granted with this fellowship program, and I’m looking forward to working with Dr. Almeida on this project, considering his vast experience in mass spectrometry.”

But there’s more going on than UTEP extending its famous Southwestern hospitality to a postdoctoral researcher from abroad, Almeida said.

“Participating in a program like Science Without Borders will attract top, fully-funded undergraduate and Ph.D. students and postdoctoral researchers from Brazil – an emerging power heavily investing in STEM’s research and development,” Almeida said.

Other members of the growing community of Brazilian faculty and staff at UTEP concur about

the benefits of international collaboration. Aileen El-Kadi, Ph.D., assistant professor and director of UTEP’s Brazilian Studies program, is excited about her native Brazil coming into its own on the UTEP campus.

“The Science Without Borders program gives UTEP an international component that creates an exchange of experiences, cultures and ideas – making UTEP truly diverse,” she said.

João Ferreira-Pinto, Ph.D., director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Health Research and Evaluation in the College of Health Sciences and a native Brazilian, understands why Brazilian student researchers would find El Paso and UTEP appealing as a research destination.

“The location (centrally located between both coasts) is good, the climate is similar to many parts of Brazil, and El Paso being so close to Mexico is culturally familiar,” Ferreira-Pinto said. “Because Brazil is surrounded by Spanish-speaking nations, we [Brazilians] are used to the culture, language and music of Latin American countries, and we find the U.S.-Mexico border familiar and welcoming.” 🇺🇸🇧🇷

Mike Loya Earns First Donor Naming Opportunity

By Daniel Perez • Photos by Laura Trejo



Mike Loya, '77, said his father, Miguel Loya, right, and his mother, the late Anita Loya, taught their seven children that education was the key to opportunity.

The son of Mexican immigrants whose family settled in El Paso to capitalize on its economic opportunities, Mike Loya never forgot his roots and often looked for opportunities to give back to his alma mater – The University of Texas at El Paso.

Thirty-five years after he graduated, the University decided on a special way to say “thank you” to Loya, 2010 Distinguished Alumnus and president of Vitol Inc., the North and South American arm of the Vitol Group.

For the first time in its almost 100-year history, the University named an academic building after a donor.

On March 23, warmed by the morning sun, the businessman helped unveil the Mike Loya Academic Services Building sign. Looking to his large contingent of family, the 2004 Gold Nugget recipient from the College of Engineering deadpanned: “It’s misspelled.”

Loya was self-effacing about the honor in his remarks to the crowd of University staff, students and faculty, as well as friends, family and community leaders. However, he was serious when he shared his hope that many students from that day forward would benefit from the 14

key student services housed in the building that bears his name, including the offices of financial aid, scholarships and the Graduate School.

His parents, Miguel and the late Anita Loya, did not attend high school, but they taught their children that education was the key to opportunity. Mike Loya, the oldest of seven high-achieving siblings, earned his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from UTEP in 1977 and his M.B.A. from Harvard two years later.

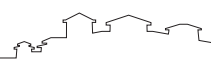
Loya always looked for ways to give back to his hometown University and made international headlines in fall 2011 when he pledged \$10 million to his alma mater.

The University will use part of the money to support research initiatives, graduate student development and entrepreneurship, and to develop courses that integrate engineering and business education models to improve research capabilities. He said the combination of business and engineering gives students a broader perspective on projects and inventions.

“Mike Loya cares deeply about this University and its students,” said Richard Adauto, UTEP executive vice president. “He has shared with us his time, talent and resources to help our institution bring in world-class faculty and create curriculum that will benefit future engineers and business leaders. He’s a humble guy who doesn’t care whether his name is on a building, but he cares a lot about our students being prepared for 21st century opportunities.”

In her introductory remarks, UTEP President Diana Natalicio said the honorific naming was a fitting tribute because Loya represented the prototypical UTEP undergraduate – richly talented, highly motivated, hardworking and the first in the family to attend college.

“May this building serve to remind all the students who walk through its doors that excellence is expected, success is attainable, and that even the biggest dreams may not be big enough,” she said, adding that Mike Loya is proof positive of that. 📌



← UTEP President Diana Natalicio and Mike Loya cut the ceremonial ribbon that launched balloons and signaled the unveiling of the new name on the building.

← Several generations of the Loya family gathered for the honorific naming ceremony on March 23 outside the Mike Loya Academic Services Building.

→ “May this building serve to remind all the students who walk through its doors that excellence is expected, success is attainable, and that even the biggest dreams may not be big enough.”
Diana Natalicio
UTEP President



↑ About 250 members of the Miner Nation attended the March 23 renaming ceremony outside the Mike Loya Academic Services Building.



← The Mike Loya Academic Services Building houses the offices of 14 key student services including financial aid, scholarships and the Graduate School.

↑ Miguel Loya, left, and Mike Loya, stand next to plaques that recognize endowments to the College of Business Administration. The plaques were unveiled after a luncheon in the Mike Loya Academic Services Building.



Use your smartphone to scan this code to view a Mike Loya video.

You can also view the video at newsuc.utep.edu.

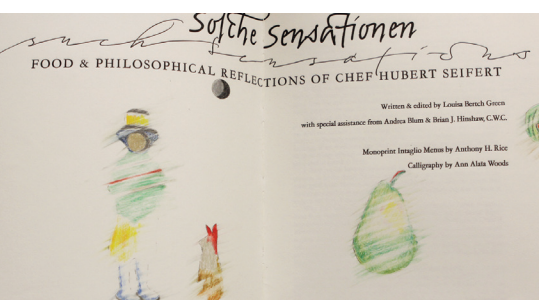


VISUALLY SAVORY COOKBOOK WINS HERTZOG AWARD

By Veronique Masterson



Jackson V. Curlin II, chairman of the Friends of the University Library, left, presents the 13th Hertzog Award for Excellence in Book Design to Robert Tauber.



Tauber's winning book, *Solche Sensationen/Such Sensations*

Delectable dishes don't usually follow a set of instructions. Instead, they're inspired by life's ingredients. For book designer Robert Tauber, those ingredients included *The Shepherdes Calender* by Edmund Spenser and *Onzes Menus de Paul Gauguin*.

The Shepherdes Calender, first published in 1579, depicts a man's entire life through the 12 months of a year. *Onzes Menus de Paul Gauguin*, published in 1950, reproduces the watercolor menus painted by Gauguin.

Tauber, a book arts specialist at Ohio State University, took the essence of both books and created *Solche Sensationen/Such Sensations*. This winning recipe won Tauber the 13th Hertzog Award for Excellence in Book Design. Written by Louisa Bertch Green, the book tells the life of Chef Hubert Seifert in 12 meals. Twenty-six copies, worth \$2,000 each, were made.

"I was blown away by the announcement that I won this award," Tauber said.

The award is named in honor of J. Carl Hertzog, who founded Texas Western Press at The University of Texas at El Paso in 1952. A book

designer, printer and publisher, Hertzog (1902-84) was a highly regarded creative artist whose reputation extended nationwide.

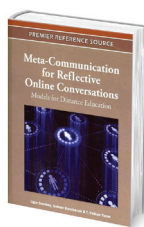
Bryce Milligan, a Hertzog Award judge as well as the publisher and editor for Wings Press in San Antonio, called *Such Sensations* a "masterpiece of bookmaking."

Honorable mention recognition went to Lisa Rappoport for *The Short Goodbye*, published by Littoral Press in 2011, and Andrew Miller-Brown for *Aelfric's Colloquy*, published by Plowboy Press in 2010.

The honorees were recognized during the Carl Hertzog Lecture and awards presentation in March 2012, hosted by The University of Texas at El Paso's Friends of the University Library. The group sponsors the national award, which was created to promote the importance of fine printing as an art and to encourage work by new and established artisans.

Marcia Hatfield Daudistel gave the 15th Hertzog Lecture, titled "The Writers at The Pass of The North." Daudistel is the West Texas/Trans Pecos Regional Editor of *Texas Books in Review*. 📖

Faculty Must-Reads



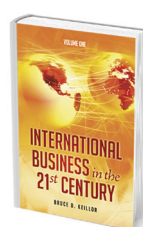
Meta-Communication for Reflective Online Conversations: Models for Distance Education, contributor Elsa Villa, Ph.D., research assistant professor and co-director of the Center for Research in Engineering and Technology Education (2012)



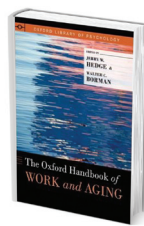
International Finance in the World, by Oscar Varela, Ph.D., professor of economics and finance (2011)



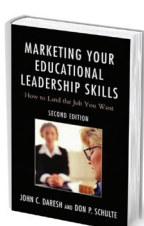
Basics of Engineering Economy, by Anthony Tarquin, Ph.D., professor of civil engineering, et al. (2012)



International Business in the 21st Century, contributor Giorgio Gotti, Ph.D., assistant professor of accounting (2011)



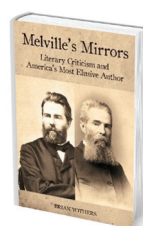
The Oxford Handbook of Work and Aging, contributor Richard A. Posthuma, Ph.D., professor of management (2012)



Marketing Your Educational Leadership Skills: How to Land the Job You Want, by John Daresh, Ph.D., professor of educational leadership, and Don Schulte, Ph.D., assistant professor of educational leadership (2011)



Security and Game Theory: Algorithms, Deployed Systems, Lessons Learned, contributor Christopher Kiekintveld, Ph.D., assistant professor of computer science (2011)



Melville's Mirrors: Literary Criticism and America's Most Elusive Author, by Brian Yothers, Ph.D., associate professor of English (2011)

UTEP'S MALE NURSES DOUBLE NATIONAL AVERAGE

By Laura L. Acosta

The number of men enrolled at The University of Texas at El Paso's School of Nursing in spring 2012 was double the national average for male nursing students.

According to the 2011 annual report from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, men made up 11.4 percent of bachelor's nursing programs and 9.5 percent of master's programs.

Approximately 22 percent of the students enrolled in UTEP's undergraduate nursing programs were male in spring 2012, and 21 percent of the graduate students were male.

Kenneth Trey Stice, who graduated from UTEP's Accelerated Fast Track Bachelor of Science in nursing program in May, said he didn't have any reservations about becoming a nurse.

"I actually didn't even think about it until it was pointed out to me in the first few classes about how many males are coming into the field," Stice said.

Once considered a "women's profession," male nurses are becoming more common in the workforce.

The National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses conducted in 2008 estimated that 6.6 percent out of 3.1 million registered nurses were men. The survey is published every four years by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

"When you see the interaction between male and female nurses on the hospital floor, it's such a good combination," Stice said. "Each gender brings in so many attributes like stability, leadership and positivity."

When UTEP School of Nursing Dean Elias Provencio-

Vasquez, Ph.D., enrolled in nursing school in the late 1970s, only two men were in his class.

Since then, Provencio-Vasquez has become the first Hispanic man in the country to earn a doctoral degree in nursing, and in 2009 he became the first Hispanic man in the nation to become dean of a nursing school.

"Nursing is appealing to more men because it is a highly respected profession with the opportunity to help others," Provencio-Vasquez said. "It also offers great job security, pay and benefits."

Pedro Ramon, assistant dean for undergraduate education, said the school educates future nurses who are committed to the profession, whether they are male or female.

Even though nursing pays well, it requires nurses to be compassionate and understanding, and to become emotionally involved with their patients.

"Although it is demanding emotionally and physically, people who go into nursing for the right reasons have a high level of satisfaction because they know they're exerting changes," Ramon said. "They're helping people, and the population is healthier and better for it in that the quality of care that is being provided is compassionate and caring." 🏠

For information about the UTEP School of Nursing, visit nursing.utep.edu.

Nursing students participate in Hospital Days in UTEP's Center for Simulation, where students take turns honing their skills as nurses and posing as patients.



Photo by Josh Garcia



UTEP'S SCHOOL OF NURSING IS TRANSFORMING NURSING EDUCATION BY ENROLLING MORE MALE STUDENTS THAN THE AVERAGE.

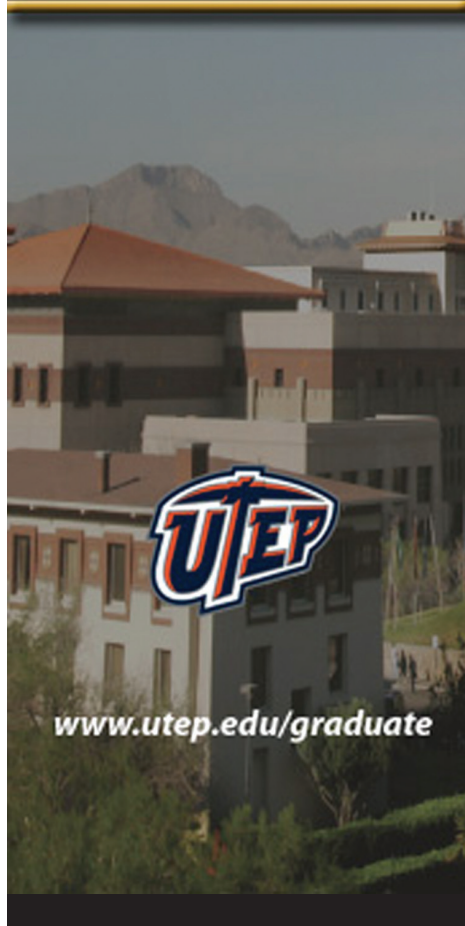


Our undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs offer both male and female students a top-notch education that will shape them into compassionate, dedicated and culturally competent nursing leaders.

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nursing.utep.edu



GRADUATE SCHOOL: *Your Next Step*



From left: Scholarship recipients Nancy Aguirre, Jacob Alvarado and Tanya Maestas

Photo by Laura Trejo

UTEP Celebrates Scholars

By Laura L. Acosta

The annual UTEP Scholars Luncheon recognizes a special relationship among the University, students and generous donors by giving scholarship recipients the opportunity to thank their benefactors in person.

"We have established a bond that unites us in a noble and worthy cause, and we are here to celebrate the remarkable success we have achieved in that mission," UTEP President Diana Natalicio said during the Feb. 26 event.

UTEP awarded more than \$11 million in academic and athletic scholarships in 2011-12, and has offered more than \$5.6 million in four-year scholarships to the 2012 freshman class.

During the event, President Natalicio mentioned that UTEP's progress toward becoming one of the nation's most competitive research/doctoral universities has been combined with a strong and sustained commitment to access by offering students an affordable education. UTEP's tuition is the lowest among the eight emerging research universities in the state.

Among the scholars whose achievements were recognized at the luncheon were Tanya Maestas, a biology major; Jacob Alvarado, who completed the UTEP/UT-Austin Cooperative Pharmacy Program; and Nancy Aguirre, a fifth-year doctoral candidate in the Borderlands History Ph.D. program.

A recipient of the Richard E. Van Reet, M.D. Memorial Scholarship, Maestas is thankful to Dr. Van Reet's family for establishing the

scholarship, which has paid her tuition and has made it possible for her to participate in activities outside the classroom, she said.

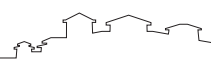
She has served as president of UTEP's Pre-Dental Society and as a Senator-at-Large in UTEP's Student Government Association. She also has worked with graduate and post-graduate students in the University's Cancer Cell Signaling Lab, and received early acceptance to the dental school at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Alvarado credits the Shiloff Family Foundation Endowed Scholarship with helping him achieve his goals. After he received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree in May, he planned to pursue a degree in nutrition. He would like to become a registered dietitian and eventually open his own pharmacy, which will offer nutritional and exercise-centered counseling.

He told members of the Shiloff family, "I hope I can make you proud by sharing the knowledge and skills I have gained to aid in the development of a brighter tomorrow, just as you are doing now."

Aguirre was awarded the UTEP Woman's Auxiliary Fellowship in fall 2011. Thanks to this fellowship, she expected to finish her dissertation and graduate in 2012.

"The Woman's Auxiliary Fellowship provided the funding I needed to focus on writing my dissertation this semester, without worrying about having a job to pay for school or bills," Aguirre said. 📌



Drummer Recalls UTEP Experience

By Veronique Masterson • Photos by Donnie Laffoday, Southwest Soundtrack



Tony Hajjar, '98, performed in front of hundreds of fans with At the Drive-In at The Capri in Marfa, Texas, in April.



IT'S BEEN MORE THAN 10 YEARS

since Tony Hajjar set foot on The University of Texas at El Paso campus. On a recent visit, he was amazed by new buildings and the new attitude toward his alma mater.

"It's really exciting that people know about UTEP everywhere I go," Hajjar said.

The drummer for post-hardcore band At the Drive-In and indie rock group Sparta majored in chemistry and minored in mathematics at UTEP. He said he essentially lived at school.

"I don't know if you can do this anymore, but I'd sleep in my lab sometimes and wake up in the morning, brush my teeth and go to class."

His chemistry professor, James Salvador, Ph.D., recalls Hajjar as a dedicated student who worked on a research grant involving explosive compounds.

"We had fun with that," Salvador said.

In addition to working toward his degree, Hajjar was preparing to embark on a musical journey with four other friends as At the Drive-In.

On Jan. 10, 1997, he made a life-changing decision.

"I remember saying to myself, 'OK, today I'm going to drop out. That means I get fired because

I work at the lab and that means I don't have money to live anywhere,'" he said.

The drummer put school on hold to go on tour for four months.

"We played to no one every night. We slept on floors, we slept in kitchens, we slept on the stages we just played on and we were lucky to make ..." And then he paused to rephrase. "Our biggest payday on that four-month tour was \$50."

The band returned to El Paso to get jobs, save money and go back on the road. It was during that time that Hajjar finished his bachelor's degree, in 1998.

"Getting a degree was what I needed to do for me," Hajjar said. He was taking steps toward a master's when the band signed a small record deal. Hajjar said he "decided to go after that instead, and the rest is kind of crazy history."

At the Drive-In broke up in 2001, but the music didn't stop as Hajjar and two other bandmates formed Sparta. In 2009, Hajjar said At the Drive-In members began contemplating a reunion. Meanwhile, Sparta took a break.

Fast forward to November 2011, when the members of At the Drive-In snuck into town and jammed for hours, five days a week to see if they still had it.

"At the Drive-In is kind of like dynamite," Hajjar said. "That's just the way we've always worked and there's a lot of love in that band, but there's something very explosive about us together in a room and that's what used to come out."

At the Drive-In co-headlined the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in April.

"We still have that kiddish, youthful experience, even at practice," Hajjar said. "We still have the same jokes that make us laugh. When we started rehearsing the old songs ... in L.A., it just clicked immediately."

Looking back, Hajjar has no regrets.

He has fond memories of a pivotal time in his life, which included his years at UTEP.

"Remember how carefree life was then?" he said wistfully. "Life is so much more complicated nowadays and I've kind of missed it." 📺

Use your smartphone to scan this code to view a Tony Hajjar video.

You can also view the video at newsuc.utep.edu.



WE ARE MINERS

A day in the life of a UTEP employee

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



With her hair hidden underneath a blue denim safety bump cap, and thick clear safety glasses wrapped around her eyes, Elizabeth Gamez can pass for a research assistant in one of UTEP's research labs.

Instead, the UTEP alumna with a B.S. in biology works as an operations technician with the newly created Research Support Team in the University's Facilities Department.

Since January, Gamez has played a vital role in the University's research efforts, making sure that the equipment in the University's research laboratories is in top condition.

Gamez monitors the de-ionized and reverse osmosis water systems for the Health Sciences and Nursing Building, Bioscience Research Building, Chemistry and Computer Science Building and the College of Engineering.

Using a water bottle and latex gloves, she collects water samples from the boilers inside the University's Central Plant to check for calcium that can cause havoc in boilers, cooling towers and other equipment that handles water.

"The idea is to provide soft water to the reverse osmosis system to prevent the system's membrane from clogging," Gamez said. "If you find water hardness or stuff like that, it means that the filters are going down the drain. You want to make sure that the filters are running fine."

For Gamez, there is never a dull moment. Whether she is installing new equipment, fixing gas leaks, or "unwrapping" or taking apart an arching machine to find a water leak, Gamez keeps going and going.

"You don't sit all day," Gamez said. "There's always plenty to do, and that keeps me busy." 📧





5



6



7



8

1. Gamez walks in the Central Plant's parking lot located behind the Bioscience Research Building.
2. Gamez uses safety glasses, latex gloves and a water bottle to collect water samples to check for water hardness in the boilers' filter systems.
3. Gamez sets up a test bench for water testing.
4. After collecting a water sample, Gamez checks the water pH balance and looks for the presence of calcium.
5. After conducting a water sample test, Gamez records her results in the department's data log.
6. Gamez attends a weekly staff meeting with members of the University's Work Control department.
7. Gamez walks inside UTEP's Central Plant, which distributes water to some of the University's research facilities.
8. Gamez stands in front of the Central Plant's chill pipes, which cool the plant's water system.

UTEP Professor Looks to Atomic Detail for Medical Breakthroughs

By Jennifer Clampet



➤ Ricardo Bernal, Ph.D., works with UTEP's new cryo-electron microscope, one of only 10 in the nation.

Photo by J.R. Hernandez

When it comes to research, scientific breakthroughs are often found in the atomic details.

Ricardo Bernal, Ph.D., is used to looking at the tiniest of samples – subcellular images of biological materials – while exploring research applications that have implications for future cancer treatments.

The assistant professor of chemistry at The University of Texas at El Paso is paying particular attention to chaperonins. These protein complexes are found in the cytoplasm of cells and are responsible for refolding other proteins to make them functional again. But what would happen if the chaperonin failed to function?

“Cancer cells are not the healthiest cells,” Bernal said. “So as they continue to divide rapidly, they’re a mess. The chaperonin’s function inadvertently helps cancer cells survive by refolding their hastily synthesized proteins. Without a functional chaperonin, a cancer cell would die.”

This study of life at the basic level uses four complementary techniques: X-ray protein crystallography, nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR), cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) and bioinformatics – all now available at UTEP.

The newest instrument is the \$1.8 million

STUDY OF LIFE

This study of life at the basic level uses four complementary techniques: X-ray protein crystallography, nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR), cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) and bioinformatics – all now available at UTEP.

cryo-electron microscope – funded in large part by a National Science Foundation Grant – housed in the new Chemistry and Computer Science Building.

“We’re in a unique position, having this high-end microscope, since there are only about 10 like it in the nation and only about 40 in the world,” said Bernal, chief investigator for the National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation grant that helped purchase the microscope. “We anticipate having users from all over the country collaborating with us and visiting the facility.”

Using the massive piece of equipment to view things at nearly an atomic level has huge

Faculty Profile



Ricardo Bernal, Ph.D.

POSITION:

Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, College of Science

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology with an emphasis in structural biology, Purdue University

HOBBIES:

Photography, reading, attending UTEP basketball games

I CHOSE MY CAREER

BECAUSE ... well, I didn’t. It was completely unplanned, which I think is the best way to find your career by just the opportunities that present themselves.

MY GREATEST INSPIRATION

IS ... my parents because they taught me that hard work pays off. And also I’d like to mention Michael Rossmann, Hanley Distinguished Professor of Biological Science at Purdue University, who has been a huge influence on me.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB

IS ... that I can work on what I absolutely love to do.

implications for research.

In the past, Bernal's research has focused on chaperonins as found in bacteria and viruses. With the installation of the cryo-EM at UTEP, his research will shift to human chaperonins that have been implicated in the survival of cancer cells.

The state-of-the-art instrument comes as the University is establishing a structural biochemistry research core. This is part of a larger movement by UTEP to achieve Tier One status by expanding research capabilities on campus and becoming the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic.

"The University is investing not only in the instrument but in expert faculty such as Dr. Ricardo Bernal who will be able to utilize this very sophisticated microscope to further the research achievements associated with UTEP," said Stephen Aley, Ph.D., associate dean of the College of Science at UTEP. "These major investments are important on our road to Tier One."

Bernal, a Texas A&M University graduate, earned his master's degree in biological science in 1993 from UTEP. He spent three years at the National Cancer Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health in Maryland. He received his Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology with an emphasis in structural biology in 2002 from Purdue University – where he worked under Michael Rossmann, a Hanley Distinguished Professor of Biological Science.

Bernal arrived as a faculty member at UTEP in 2006 by way of postdoctoral work at the Medical Research Council – Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, England – the birthplace of structural biology and an institute that has produced more than 13 Nobel Laureates.

"The allure of coming here was the idea of setting up a cryo-EM facility," Bernal said.

"UTEP was the most attractive offer in the sense that this is where I'd have the biggest impact. I think it was a great decision and I don't regret it at all."

Using the cryo-electron microscope, Bernal can create three-dimensional images of the chaperonin to aid in his research. These 3-D reconstructions can then yield critical information about the function of a particular biological molecule.

The 300-kilovolt microscope, purchased from JEOL, a Japanese corporation, uses a concentrated electron beam to penetrate unstained biological samples to produce low-contrast, two-dimensional images.

"We're in a unique position having this high-end microscope since there are only about 10 like it in the nation and only about 40 in the world."

Ricardo Bernal, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Chemistry

The bulky and expensive microscope is unique in that it can produce an extremely high vacuum. This vacuum allows for emission of electrons from what is called a field emission gun (FEG). The electron beam produced by a FEG is superior in that it is very intense and coherent, which in turn produces images of a higher quality.

Prior to the installation of the new microscope, Bernal would travel the country for the opportunity to use a cryo-electron microscope for his research.

"Before ours was installed, other universities were very generous in letting us use their cryo-electron microscope," Bernal said. "I think that's actually the way science is supposed to work."

Sudheer Molugu, a postdoctoral researcher in chemistry at UTEP, has worked with Bernal for the last five years. Having a hand in research, including exploring the applications of structural biochemistry, Molugu is impressed with the work Bernal has accomplished. But more impressive is Bernal as a mentor.

"I would not have done a Ph.D. in chemistry if Dr. Bernal was not here," Molugu said. 🍷





Eva Moya, Ph.D., left
and Oralia Loza, Ph.D.



Griselda Villalobos, Ph.D.



Mark Lusk, Ed.D.

Studies Explore the Lives of Migrants

By Laura L. Acosta • Photos by Laura Trejo

They cross from Mexico into the United States in search of a better life for themselves and their families.

They work on construction sites in sweltering temperatures, or bent over in the fields picking cotton, onions and tomatoes. They scrape by on a living that isn't enough to pay for the houses they build or the crops they pick.

Some live in the shadows, afraid of deportation or discrimination. Others dream of returning home someday.

They are migrants.

The Pew Hispanic Research Center estimates that more than 10 million Mexicans migrated into the United States from Mexico between 1970 and 2010 - one of the largest mass migrations in modern history.

Their journeys are at the heart of research being conducted by UTEP College of Health Sciences faculty members Mark Lusk, Ed.D.; Griselda Villalobos, Ph.D.; Eva Moya, Ph.D.; and Oralia Loza, Ph.D. They are studying how violence, depression, sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS are affecting the emotional and physical wellbeing of migrants living in the United States.

"The global phenomenon of migration impacts social, economic, educational and health systems in both the sending and receiving communities," said Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D., dean of the College of Health Sciences. "Our unique location and access to people who migrate both to and through our region provide opportunities to identify particular health challenges that these vulnerable populations experience and recommend policy and programmatic solutions to address these issues."

Drug-related violence in Mexico during the past five years is the backdrop for Lusk's study on depression and trauma suffered by refugees who have left Northern Mexico and settled in the United States.

Lusk, professor and chair of UTEP's Department of Social Work, and Villalobos, assistant professor of social work, have interviewed 24 adults since 2010 who fled Mexico because their lives had been permeated by extortion, rape, kidnapping and murder as a result of drug-related violence in Juárez and throughout Mexico.

"I'm not coming to it as a political scientist or as a person who's attempting to understand the national politics of Mexico, but I'm coming to it as a social worker who's seeing a city that has been decimated by violence, and a country that's been decimated by violence, and I look at that entirely in human terms," said Lusk, the recipient of the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rio Grande Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

The majority of the participants suffered from clinical depression and anxiety associated with post-traumatic stress disorder, but researchers were surprised to see that most of the individuals showed great resiliency and were coming out of their depression in as little as six months.

"We thought that we were going to find a lot of people who are very depressed or living in the shadows, and what we found is very much the opposite. It is almost like they had to readapt to a new world and they're just doing the best they can with it," Villalobos said. "It's been very inspirational."

That resiliency is also one of the characteristics exhibited by the migrant workers Villalobos interviewed for her study



Mark Lusk, Ed.D., stands at the border fence between the United States and Mexico.

on depression and mental health.

In conjunction with the Universidad de Guadalajara, researchers interviewed 93 men in the United States and 104 men in Mexico about their emotional state while living and working in the U.S.

Villalobos found that the nine classic symptoms that are used to measure anxiety and depression, such as lack of energy or concentration, do not apply to migrant workers because of their lifestyle.

According to Curtis, estimates indicate that as many as 1.8 million people migrate annually to the United States.

The Pew Hispanic Research Center found that Mexican migrant women are becoming the largest and fastest-growing migrant group in the U.S., making their

sexual and reproductive health and access to family planning and reproductive health services critical.

In March, Moya, assistant professor of social work, and partners at the Universidad de Guadalajara and a Jalisco-based agency that promotes women's reproductive health, launched a 12-month study that looks at "The Sexual and Reproductive Health of Mexican Migrant Women in Ciudad Juárez, Guadalajara, Mexico, and El Paso, Texas."

"The results of this study will provide a better understanding of migrant women's health needs and access to reproductive care, which will help shape public policy to improve sexual and reproductive health access and address the social determinants that influence migrant women's health-

seeking behaviors," Moya said.

Loza's project addresses risks for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections among Mixtec/Zapotec men who migrate within Mexico and to the U.S.

A 2004 study found that 33 percent of AIDS victims in Mexico were migrants.

Loza, an assistant professor of public health sciences, and partners from Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua, are looking at the perception, attitudes and behaviors toward HIV/AIDS of the male population in two groups indigenous to Oaxaca, Mexico.

"We need to tailor HIV prevention to the different communities," Loza said. "What

works in one population to help reduce HIV doesn't work in all populations. So you have to understand how people think and how they behave when it comes to HIV risk."

The studies by Villalobos, Moya and Loza are funded by the Programa de Investigacion de Migracion y Salud (PIMSA), an initiative of the University of California Office of the President that involves a broad consortium of universities and governmental organizations in the United States and Mexico that conduct research on migration and health.

The results of this research are used to drive regional health planning and strategic interventions to address the needs of migrating populations in our communities, Curtis said. ☑

"We thought that we were going to find a lot of people who are very depressed or living in the shadows, and what we found is very much the opposite. It is almost like they had to readapt to a new world and they're just doing the best they can with it."

Griselda Villalobos, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Social Work



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UTEP Leads the Way in Nursing Education

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

Jose Blanco, clinical nursing instructor, supervises a student during Hospital Days in the school's Center for Simulation.

As Texas faces a shortage of 71,000 nurses by 2020, The University of Texas at El Paso School of Nursing is spearheading an innovative program to accelerate training for future registered nurses, thanks to a nearly \$4 million grant awarded in spring 2012 by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The four-year grant will create the Successful Transition and Retention (STaR) Program, a new graduate nurse residency program at UTEP, the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing, and The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing, that will provide education, training and job placement assistance for graduates at eight Texas hospitals owned by the Hospital Corporation of America (HCA).

"This award illustrates our commitment to our clinical partners and to the other schools of nursing in this great state of Texas," said UTEP School of Nursing Dean Elias Provencio-Vasquez, Ph.D., the grant's

principal investigator. "It's a new way of educating the next generation of nurses to be aligned with the changing health care system."

Through STaR's New Graduate Nurse Immersion Residency, new graduates will receive on-the-job training at Del Sol Medical Center and Las Palmas Medical Center in El Paso and at six Central Texas hospitals that are part of St. David's HealthCare. The program is designed to accelerate the orientation of new nurses by helping them transition to the role of bedside nurses in a quality, efficient and cost-effective manner.

Once their immersion is complete, graduates will continue on to the Specialty Nurse Accelerated Program Fellowship, where they will receive intensive training in their specialty field.

According to Provencio-Vasquez, hospital orientation for new nurses typically takes 10 to 12 weeks. During that time, they shadow

experienced nurses and become immersed in the hospital's culture, procedures and policies. It can take up to three months before new nurses start caring for patients on their own. The STaR program is expected to shorten that training period and create a win-win situation for nursing schools and their clinical partners.

"The hospital partners will benefit from the collaboration with the academic partners in terms of curricula development and instructors," said Bonnie Clipper, associate vice president of professional practice and development at St. David's HealthCare. "The academic partners will benefit by developing innovative content and strengthening relationships with the hospitals."

Grant money will be used to develop content specific to the needs of the nurse residency programs, build simulation scenarios, provide textbooks and university instructor time for building and delivering content to new nurses in residency and



“This grant validates UTEP’s determination to implement innovative solutions to address the nursing shortage in our community and nationally.”

Diana Natalicio
UTEP President

Nursing students use state-of-the-art infant and adult mannequins in the Center for Simulation to practice their skills before working with patients.

NEXT GENERATION

“It’s a new way of educating the next generation of nurses to be aligned with the changing health care system.”

Elias Provencio-Vasquez, Ph.D.
School of Nursing Dean

fellowship programs, and provide a minor salary offset for the residency program, Clipper said.

“This grant validates UTEP’s determination to implement innovative solutions to address the nursing shortage in our community and nationally,” said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. “UTEP is committed to providing our students with preparation that aligns well with the changing health care landscape and ensures the success of the graduates of our nursing programs.”

The program is expected to enroll up to 54 nurses per year. UTEP students who will benefit from the program will be in their eighth or final semester of nursing school, like Lyndsey Slape, who was considering a specialty in the neonatal intensive care unit or the critical care unit after graduating from UTEP in May.

Slape said she would have considered applying to the program had it been available to her.

“It provides a great opportunity for students to get the experience of hands-on training,” she said. “You get training through the nursing school and sim[ulation] lab, but it’s different being in the hospital.”

The UTEP School of Nursing was ranked the top nursing school for awarding bachelor’s degrees to Hispanics in the United States in 2011. In spring 2012, the school

enrolled approximately 1,700 students in its bachelor’s, master’s and Doctor of Nursing Practice degree programs. School officials estimated that 60 percent of the nursing staff at El Paso hospitals and civilian nurses at William Beaumont Army Medical Center are UTEP graduates.

The award is part of \$183 million in grants awarded in March by the Department of Labor to 43 public-private partnerships serving 28 states. The grants provide education, training and job placement assistance related to high-growth fields in which employers are currently using the H-1B nonimmigrant visa program to hire foreign workers.

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics projects that between 2008 and 2018, the biggest increase in job growth will occur in registered nurses, with 581,500 new jobs expected. This represents almost 200 additional nurses at Del Sol Medical Center and Las Palmas Medical Center and almost 500 for St. David’s HealthCare and its six hospitals in the Austin area, according to the grant proposal.

“Our graduates are a significant part of health care in El Paso and the rest of the region,” Provencio-Vasquez said. “UTEP graduates the best and the brightest nurses who are changing the way health care is delivered in our community.” ☑



Professor Studies **Ethical Management**

By Sandy Hicks • Photo by Laura Trejo

Richard Posthuma's research crosses borders, including the U.S.-Mexico border shown here. He studies employee staffing, conflict management and legal institutions in the United States and international settings.

Richard Posthuma did not plan on falling in love.

But he did – with his family, his career and research, and the UTEP community.

Growing up in Grand Rapids, Mich., Posthuma, J.D., Ph.D., professor of management in UTEP's Department of Marketing and Management in the College of Business Administration, never dreamed he would be living in the arid mountain desert, investing himself in a bicultural community, but now he says he is “fully embedded” in his El Paso and UTEP families.

“When I got here in 1999, I was a single guy with a dog and a cat,” he recalled. “It’s a great place to be – I love this University, the people of El Paso and Juárez, my family, church, colleagues and of course, the students.”

According to Posthuma, UTEP is also an amazing place to conduct research.

“Being a part of the UT System gives us a huge advantage to do high-level research with a wide variety of databases and resources to draw from,” Posthuma said.

His research has largely been compiled through international comparative studies, field research in organizations and surveys with employers and employees.

He focuses on three elements of “high performance work practices” needed to make a workplace more profitable and effective: staffing, or how a company hires,

trains and deploys staff to the positions they should fill; compensation, because fair incentive compensation produces happy employees and positive results; and justice, because employees who are treated fairly are more likely to go above and beyond, and have higher morale and effectiveness.

Although all three elements are equally important, and are not the only high-performance work practices a company can implement, one of the most beneficial is justice in the workplace, according to Posthuma.

“When employees are treated fairly, several good things happen: they are less likely to quit, more likely to exceed expectations in the level and quality of their work, less likely to complain or file lawsuits against an employer, and, best of all, they are more creative and come up with new innovations. It’s a win-win,” he said.

Posthuma points out that of the three elements he studies, justice is one that costs an employer almost nothing.

“Justice is part of good leadership,” he said. “Supervisors need to be able to say ‘I’m sorry, I made a mistake, forgive me.’”

Posthuma says these high-performance practices can be applied across the board in any country, with adjustments made for cultural differences.

“People are people and want to be treated fairly and paid a fair wage. They are similar in every country, but in this research we

also study the differences,” he said.

Some of those differences are profiled in the highly sought-after publication that Posthuma edits, the *International Journal of Conflict Management: Conflict Management in the Middle East*. The publisher, Emerald Group Publishing Ltd., reports that the journal is a hot commodity in Israel.

In his research, Posthuma applies a philosophy that springs from his years of success as an attorney and human resources professional.

“The ‘Golden Rule of Research’ is: if you’re involving human beings in your research, treat them with fairness and respect – and publish something that will actually help others,” he said.

Monica Puga, human resources manager for the El Paso Fire Department and a former graduate student of Posthuma’s, has been positively impacted by the professor and his research theories, both academically and professionally.

“Dr. Posthuma is more than an excellent teacher and researcher. He is a mentor who develops and prepares students to succeed in the real world,” Puga said. “He doesn’t abandon his students once they graduate, but has encouraged me many times to apply his human resources theories, with great success.”

The experience of being downsized does not have to be devastating, but Posthuma said employers are not always wise in

“There’s a big world out there that matters to these students and to my own children as well – they are the future, and I want to give something back to them.”

Richard Posthuma, J.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Management

carrying out what has to be done. He recalled an example of the “total opposite” of a high performance practice, when a large company decided to inform employees not to come back on Monday by sending text messages to their phones at the end of the business day on Friday.

“When negative things must happen, how you do them matters – especially to the employees,” he said.

Posthuma’s “Golden Rule” spills over into his teaching at UTEP, where he regularly integrates his research into his teaching curriculum.

Posthuma is also involved in campus life as the faculty adviser of the Baptist Student Ministry, and academic adviser for the Center for Multicultural Management and Ethics, a program in development.

“Professor Posthuma is a professor who is fully committed to his research, his students, and our college,” said College of Business Administration Dean Robert Nachtmann, D.B.A. “I cannot think of one major change in the life of our college that Professor Posthuma has not willingly and completely committed his time and his competence to make a success.”

Through the classroom and research projects, Posthuma’s guidance offers UTEP students the opportunity to break into a higher level of academics. He says that involving students in research is part of what makes UTEP a “make-a-difference school.”

“There’s a big world out there that matters to these students and to my own children as well – they are the future, and I want to give something back to them,” he said. “I want to teach them there are ethical ways to run a business or government.”

Faculty Profile



*Richard A.
Posthuma, J.D.,
Ph.D.*

POSITION:

Professor of management,
College of Business Administration

EDUCATION:

J.D., Thomas M. Cooley Law School,
1992; Ph.D. in human resources,
Purdue University, 1999

HOBBIES:

Anything that my two children, ages 7
and 9, enjoy doing.

I CHOSE MY CAREER BECAUSE ...

I wanted to give something back to
students – to share the experiences
I have had in human resources and
law.

MY GREATEST INSPIRATION IS ...

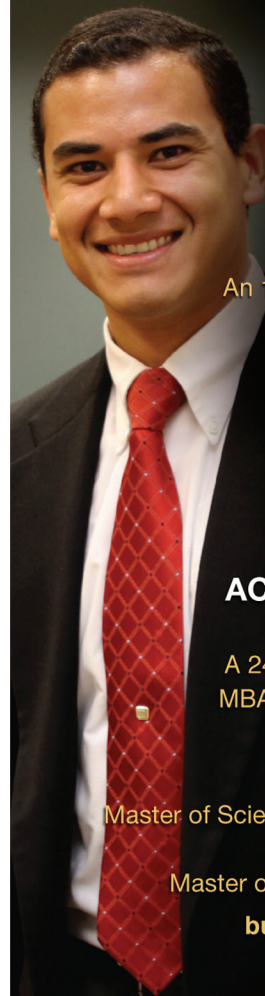
my children, and of course the
students here at UTEP. There is a big
world out there that matters because
everyone’s children are the future of
business.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS ...

the congenial and friendly work
environment. I really like the people I
work with. I love teaching and I love
the students — I want them to enjoy
my class.

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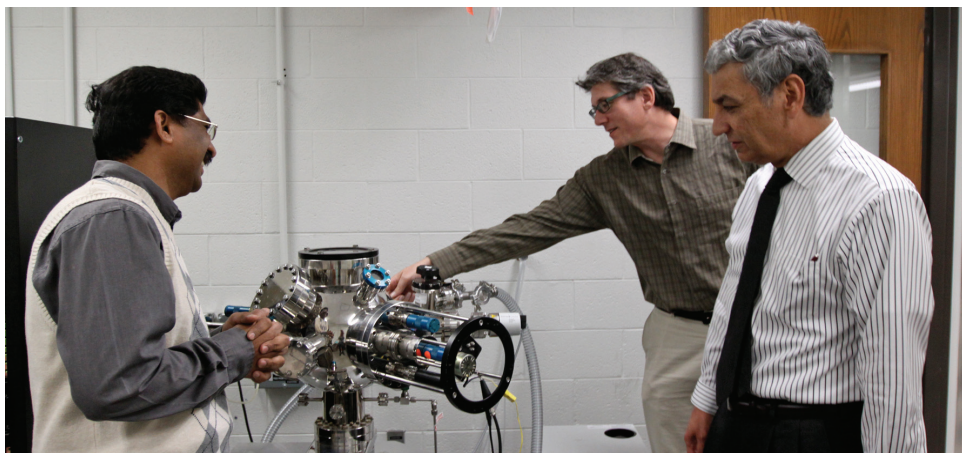


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Professors Find Thrust in Air Force Research

By Jennifer Clampet • Photo by Josh Garcia



Chintalapalle Ramana, Ph.D., left, demonstrates a sputter-deposition system he developed to fabricate high-temperature coatings. He collaborates with Arturo Bronson, Ph.D., right, and Jack Chessa, Ph.D., to develop coatings designed to withstand temperatures hot enough to liquefy steel.

“There are not a lot of universities – period – working on these types of materials. This is just brilliance in the foresight and serendipity of our working relationship.”

Jack Chessa, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering

High-temperature ceramics sounds like the latest trend in cookware.

But unless you plan to bake a cake at 4,000 degrees Fahrenheit, these new-age materials are better suited for supersonic jets and advancements in aerospace technology.

Arturo Bronson, Ph.D.; Jack Chessa, Ph.D.; and Chintalapalle Ramana, Ph.D., sat around a conference table in the Engineering Building on The University of Texas at El Paso campus to discuss the state of materials science.

The scientists talked about some of their latest collaborations: projects that test the limits of materials, including coatings designed to withstand temperatures hot enough to liquefy steel.

“We work as a team but with entirely different contributions,” said Chessa, associate professor in UTEP’s Department of Mechanical Engineering. “And collectively we do more than the sum of the work.”

In the last four years, that work has included a dozen high-temperature materials research projects and more than \$1.5 million in grant and contract funding from the Air Force Research Laboratory and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

Improving the high-temperature capability of materials and coatings is key to aerospace advancement – especially as agencies push for faster, more powerful and more efficient systems.

“There are not a lot of universities – period – working on these types of materials,” Chessa said. “This is just brilliance in the foresight and serendipity of our working relationship.”

Bronson works with the chemistry and experimental side of high-temperature materials. Chessa works with the computational components for theoretical aspects of high-temperature materials. Ramana, assistant professor in UTEP’s Department of Mechanical Engineering, works with fabricating and manufacturing high-temperature ceramic coatings.

“In the major thrust materials program, they look for novelty,” Ramana said. “It’s the entry into the Air Force (research world).”

As aerospace companies discovered in the 1950s, increased operating temperatures for turbine engines caused excessive oxidation of materials, including high-strength nickel- and cobalt-based super alloys. The need for speed was surpassing the materials’ capabilities.

“In 1987, the Air Force awarded UTEP a proposal to participate in a workshop to determine which materials would be pursued in the future,” said Bronson, professor in UTEP’s Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Since then, UTEP has played a consistent role in Air Force materials research.

The Air Force Research Laboratory

(AFRL), headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, leads the discovery, development and integration of affordable war-fighting technologies for America’s aerospace forces.

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), a component of AFRL, manages the Air Force’s basic research proponent. According to the AFOSR website, about 75 percent of the research is conducted in academic and industrial settings.

“UTEP has had a long relationship with the U.S. Air Force Research Lab and AFOSR,” said Roberto Osegueda, Ph.D., UTEP’s vice president for research. “In the mid-’90s the AFOSR invested in UTEP for the creation of the FAST Center for Structural Integrity of Aerospace Systems. Through the years, the research funding has continued for multiple projects that have provided many opportunities for our students and our faculty.”

Ramana is receiving accolades from AFRL civilian and military personnel for his advancement of high-temperature materials – both in project form and in spurring participation among his undergraduate and graduate students.

“I thought the work of Dr. Ramana was outstanding,” said Tobey Cordell, program manager with Universal Technology Corp., a private company working with AFRL to offer specialized support for aerospace

Faculty Profiles



Arturo Bronson, Ph.D.

POSITION:

Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in metallurgical engineering, Ohio State University

systems and technology. "In terms of his active involvement with the Air Force's Minority Leaders Program, Dr. Ramana has served as a model for other professors and other schools."

Ramana notes that helping to provide solutions for Air Force materials and participation from the next generation of material scientists has been well received by the Air Force.

Cordell praised Ramana's participation with the AFRL – he attended events with his students at the lab in Dayton, Ohio, to provide guidance and worked with contract-funded research that has consistently led to ongoing explorations of high-temperature coatings for aerospace advancements.

Ramana was recently selected to participate in the 2012 Air Force Summer Faculty Fellowship Program.

"I am extremely pleased with the current efforts of Drs. Chessa, Bronson and Ramana, not only for the research deliverables to the U.S. AFRL but also, and especially, for providing research experiences to our students at AFRL facilities," Osegueda said.

More than 150 UTEP undergraduate and graduate students have participated, visited, presented or interned with the AFRL. As one of the premier labs in the nation, AFRL is providing students a firsthand look at what the Air Force is doing.

"AFRL is extremely impressive," said Manuel Hernandez, a UTEP mechanical engineering master's student who interned at AFRL during the summer of 2011. "In one lab are the most scientists and engineers I have ever seen in one place. AFRL and UTEP were able to show me the way to be a better researcher."

The research does not come without competition, Chessa said. He noted that UTEP faculty members have beat out other top-ranked universities for research funding.

"This research is a stepping stone to what we want," Ramana said. "It shows that we (at UTEP) are capable of Tier One research." ☑



Jack Chessa, Ph.D.

POSITION:

Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in mechanical engineering, Northwestern University



Chintalapalle Ramana, Ph.D.

POSITION:

Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in material sciences, Sri Venkateswara University in India



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Bringing Fuzzy Computer Data INTO FOCUS

By Rebecca Downey • Photo by Laura Trejo

Computer Science Professor Vladik Kreinovich, Ph.D., and his students are exploring ways to make computers “adapt” to the uncertainties presented in

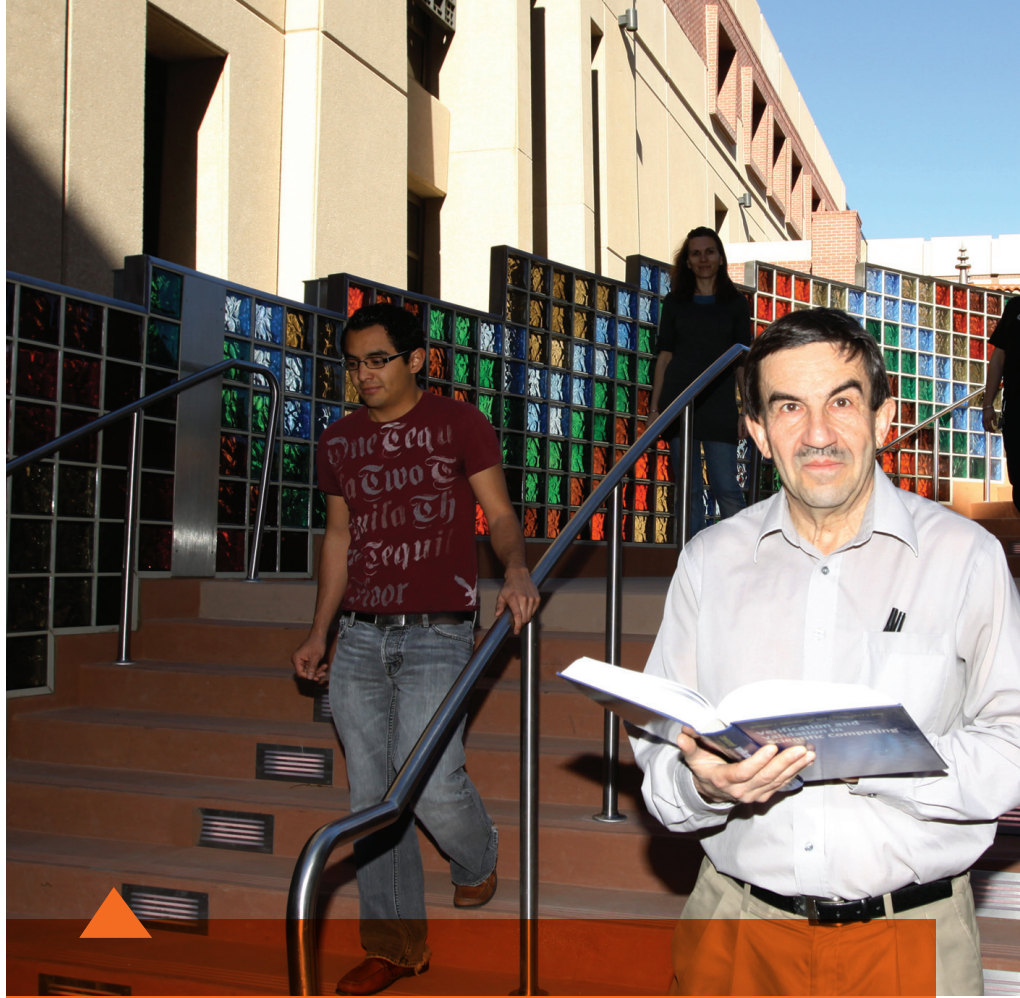
everyday life. Today’s devices — computers, remote controls, calculators and cell phones — mostly process fixed programming codes. In other words, they can’t think or draw conclusions.

Kreinovich, who supervises more than a dozen students, a number of them Ph.D. candidates, is currently guiding their

study of gravity, seismology, and the environment for three collaborations in the UTEP Cyber-ShARE Center. His team works alongside UTEP’s geoscientists, environmental scientists and computational scientists to gather, merge and analyze uncertain and fuzzy data that might help predict earthquakes or determine the impact of carbon flux on weather patterns.

For example, the location and structure of deep geological layers is estimated based on the intensity of the seismic signals recorded at different locations, and on the results of measuring gravity at different places. When scientists combine the information coming from different

Kreinovich’s students are enthusiastic about the opportunities to work on groundbreaking research that could impact computing capabilities.



Vladik Kreinovich, Ph.D., is a prolific writer of books and papers on his research, and has been invited by universities around the world to lecture.

sources, they receive a clearer picture of the earth’s structure, and thus, of the earth’s seismic activity.

Kreinovich’s students are also participating in a study in the Jornada del Muerto area, a dry desert basin in Southern New Mexico, where UTEP environmental scientists have an eddy covariance tower in place to measure, among other things, the carbon dioxide exchange or carbon flux. The tower’s computer collects and processes the data generated by measuring devices on and around the tower. The students visit the site weekly to maintain the systems.

“The more data we have at our disposal,” Kreinovich said, “the better a model we can provide.” To that end, Kreinovich also works with computational science researchers in the creation of inversion algorithms that integrate seismic and gravitational data (or environmental data) to develop models that UTEP geoscientists and environmental scientists can use.

Kreinovich’s students are enthusiastic about the opportunities to work on groundbreaking research that could impact computing capabilities. Jaime Nava, who completed his Ph.D. in May, worked with the professor for four years.

“I joined Dr. Kreinovich because I identify with his reasoning in mathematics. He is very passionate, and always keeps things fun and interesting,” Nava said.

Xiang Gang, ’07, who now works with Phillips Electronics, came from China to study computer science at UTEP.

“Professor Kreinovich was an excellent Ph.D. mentor. He provided me with great opportunities to be actively involved in cutting-edge research even in the early stages of my Ph.D. study,” Gang said. “He always encouraged me to propose new ideas in research, and took lots of time to guide my work with patience. He not only taught me the methods of how to do research, he also gave me confidence and eagerness, leading me to love research in computer science.”



Vladik Kreinovich: Emerging from Behind the Iron Curtain

"Knowledge is of no value, unless you put it into practice." Anton Chekhov

When Vladik Kreinovich earned his Ph.D. from the Institute of Mathematics of the Siberian Branch of the Soviet Academy of Sciences in 1979, the Soviet Union's secret police agency, the KGB, limited research opportunities for him and his fellow scientists to the confines of the country's borders. Early in his career, after being called in by the KGB for sending letters to scientists in Western countries, he learned what to say and do to avoid conflict.

His grandfather had been sent to one of Stalin's concentration camps for 22 years, and his grandmother had been forced to disown her husband in her hometown newspaper. Kreinovich, his parents and his grandmother lived with 10 other families in a communal apartment with one bathroom and little privacy.

Kreinovich will say that his inspiration comes from collaborating with other professors at UTEP, and from mentoring students who share his enthusiasm for exploration and problem-solving.

In the 1970s, Revolt Pimenov, one of Kreinovich's mentors, was arrested and sent into exile. Kreinovich, who wanted to pursue his doctorate in mathematics, was given permission to study with Pimenov for one semester in Komi Republic, an area closed to foreigners. It was here that Kreinovich thrived. He eventually earned his Ph.D. and garnered respect for his work in mathematics.

By the late 1980s, the Iron Curtain was fraying. Word of Kreinovich's research reached Stanford University, and its administrators invited him to be a visiting researcher. It took a year of haggling with the Soviet government, but eventually he arrived at Stanford. The Soviet Consulate extended his stay and allowed him to bring his wife, Olga, and son, Misha, to the United States.

In 1990, he came to The University of Texas at El Paso as a visiting professor, and eventually obtained a full-time position in the College of Engineering's Department of Computer Science. Olga earned her doctoral degree at UTEP in the College of Engineering and now serves as an associate professor in the College of Education.

Since those early days on the UTEP campus, Kreinovich has relished the freedom he has to conduct research without fear of retribution. Perhaps that is why he has become one of the most energetic researchers at UTEP, and one of the most prolific writers of books and papers. He is continually invited by universities around the world to lecture.

Kreinovich will say that his inspiration comes from collaborating with other professors at UTEP, and from mentoring students who share his enthusiasm for exploration and problem-solving.

Kreinovich knows that the freedom to pursue knowledge is a gift that UTEP and this country have provided him. He won't soon forget how far he has come to enjoy it. ➡

Faculty Profile



Vladik Kreinovich

POSITION:

Professor, Computer Science, College of Engineering

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in mathematics, Institute of Mathematics, Siberian Branch, Soviet Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk, Russia

HOBBIES:

Reading and spending time with my wife, Olga, and son, Misha

I CHOSE MY CAREER

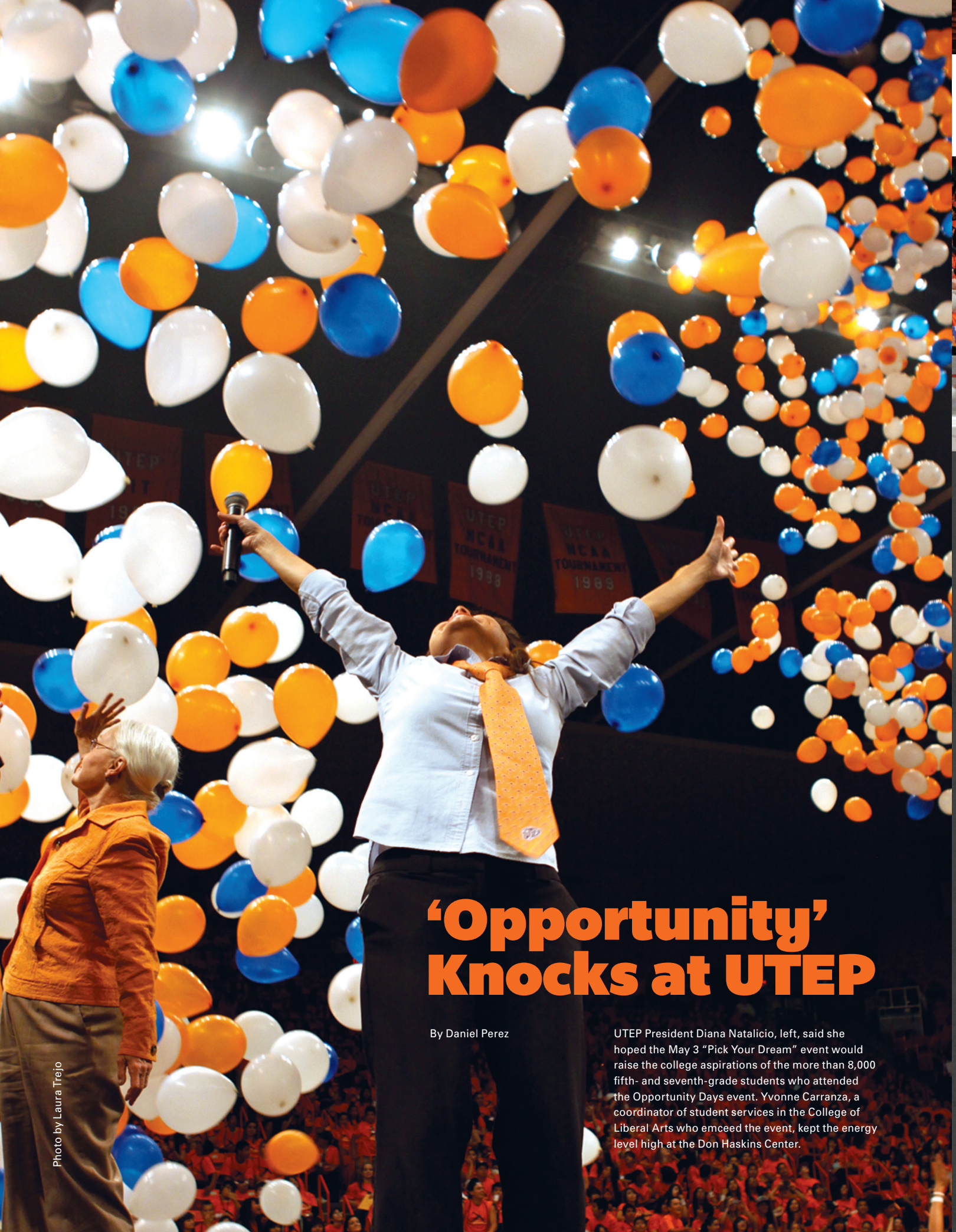
BECAUSE ... of my interest in mathematics, but found when I came to the U.S. that there is little distinction here between computer science and mathematics, so I can do both.

MY GREATEST INSPIRATION

IS ... my students. Research is a lonely job, and I enjoy my students' intellectual curiosity. When you have someone who is eager to go with you, it helps push you forward.

THE BEST PART OF MY

JOB IS ... being at UTEP. This is a paradise. You have lots of good and enthusiastic students who enjoy working with you, and that is how I can be so prolific in publishing.



‘Opportunity’ Knocks at UTEP

By Daniel Perez

UTEP President Diana Natalicio, left, said she hoped the May 3 “Pick Your Dream” event would raise the college aspirations of the more than 8,000 fifth- and seventh-grade students who attended the Opportunity Days event. Yvonne Carranza, a coordinator of student services in the College of Liberal Arts who emceed the event, kept the energy level high at the Don Haskins Center.



**OPPORTUNITY
NATION**



THE SHARED PLAN FOR REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

1. The UTEP Cheerleaders help students get pumped up before the program.
2. UTEP College of Education Dean Josefina Tinajero, Ph.D., applauds the speakers at the Day 1 Conference.
3. UTEP President Diana Natalicio told the students she hoped they would become Miners and said she would greet them on stage during their college commencement.

1

With steady blasts from confetti canons and a cascade of thousands of orange, blue and white balloons, UTEP's Opportunity Days closed with a bang.

Hundreds of excited young students from neighboring school districts rushed the floor of the Don Haskins Center on May 3 to pop the balloons in such rapid succession as to mimic exploding firecrackers. They had been treated to a day of fun and facts about the value of higher education and its role in their future success.

It is those youngsters and generations to follow who will benefit from the ambitious two-day celebration that was part summit and part open house organized to create a cohesive 21st century plan to enhance the Paso del Norte region's economic development and the social mobility of its residents through education and industry. The University was one of 12 post-secondary education sites around the country that partnered with Opportunity Nation, a national initiative to develop strategies to stimulate economic opportunities. The activities occurred May 2 and 3 on campus.

On the first day, UTEP hosted more than 100 of the area's leaders in academics, business, nonprofits and government. They were given a regional, state and national perspective about access to education, employment options and the quality of life, as well as a prognosis of where the country is headed. They also heard personal testimonials about the impact of a college education from successful UTEP



Photo by Laura Trejo

2

graduates who grew up in El Paso. Working in groups, these movers-and-shakers developed preliminary concepts that would be mutually beneficial for education and industry.

The ideas will be incubated by the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence and presented in 2015. The collaborative is made up of leaders from area school districts, institutions of higher education, and local businesses and community organizations.

The second day was a mega open house for more than 8,000 fifth- and seventh-grade students from area school districts who visited campus to hear about the value of education. They experienced the kinds of fun, creative and valuable work done



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

3

by UTEP students in science, engineering, liberal arts and the health sciences.

The goal of both days was to create the foundation for a stronger future, organizers said.

"College is the fountain of opportunity to people who get it, but it's the bastion of privilege for people who don't," said Anthony Carnavale, Ph.D., a research professor at Georgetown University and director of its Center on Education and the Workforce. He spoke on the first day of the event. "If you don't get it, your chances of reaching the middle class or thriving – moving to higher earnings in your lifetime – are not gone, but they are much reduced."

Pat Mora, award-winning author, Hispanic cultural advocate and distinguished UTEP alumna, spoke both days. She encouraged the children to get their degrees and challenged the decision makers to "invest in what I believe with my heart is the planet's most important natural resource, and that's human potential – our young."

DAY 1

Local leaders met May 2 for “Building Opportunity and Social Mobility through Collaboration: The El Paso Model” in UTEP’s Union Building East.

Among the speakers was Steve H. Murdock, Ph.D., Allyn R. and Gladys M. Cline Professor of Sociology at Rice University. He shared statistics that showed the steady increase of minorities – especially Hispanics – across the country, and how those minorities are not earning many college degrees. He projected that the nation will grow by about 157 million people by 2050, and 62 percent of that growth will be Hispanic. He said that should raise a red flag because the single best predictor of economic growth for people and for regions has been higher education.

“One thing is clear,” he said. “The future of the United States, the future of Texas, of El Paso ... is dependent on our minority populations, and how well they do is how well America will do, how well Texas will do, how well El Paso will do.”

Mark Edwards, executive director of Boston-based Opportunity Nation, said UTEP was selected as a partner in part because of its successful “access and excellence” model at a predominantly Hispanic-serving institution. He called UTEP a laboratory of this country.

“What happens here is predictive of what will be going on in the next 50 years all over the country,” he said.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio told the group that its primary challenge was to create a business climate that will attract and retain UTEP graduates who now take their talents and expertise in energy, telecommunications, finance, health care and high-tech businesses to companies outside the region.

President Natalicio, who hosted the event with Woody Hunt, chairman and CEO of Hunt Companies, Inc., told participants they had to focus on workforce development and workplace development.

She tasked Armando Aguirre, Ed.D., assistant provost and director of the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, to oversee the three-year initiative. He said a successful outcome includes student accessibility to a marketable degree, assistance to help students finish their degrees, and creation of high-compensation jobs in El Paso.

Bob Cook, president and CEO of the El Paso Regional Economic Development Corp., was among the many who shared a positive comment as he left the event.

“I think when we look back on this day three, five, 10 years from now, what happened today will be considered historic,” he said.



Photo by Laura Trejo

1



Photo by Laura Trejo

2



Photo by Laura Trejo

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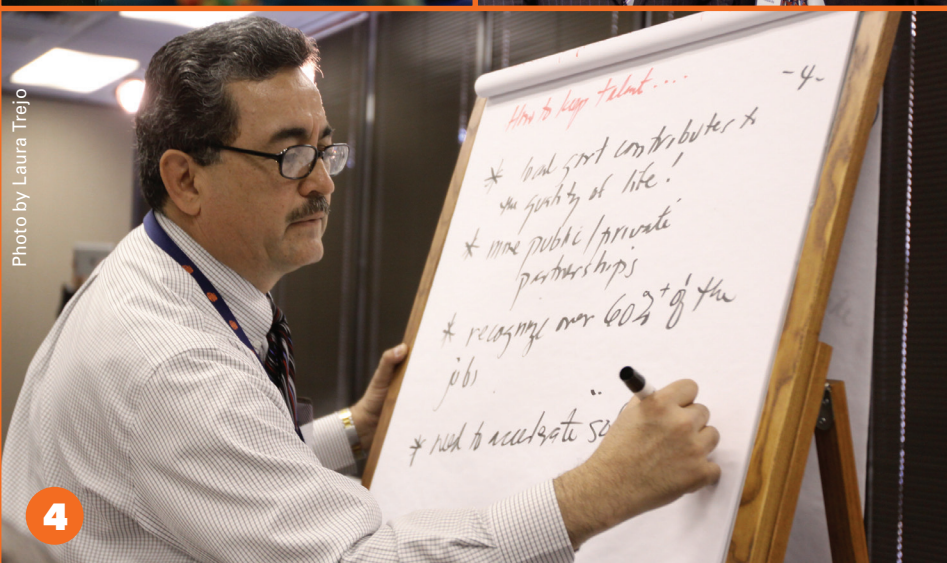


Photo by Laura Trejo

4

1. UTEP Distinguished Alumna Willarda Edwards, M.D., addresses community leaders during a May 2 summit in the Tomás Rivera Conference Center.

2. Alfredo Corchado Jimenez, Mexico bureau chief for *The Dallas Morning News*, shares the benefits of his UTEP education with community leaders during the Opportunity Days summit.

3. Woody Hunt, left, chairman and CEO of Hunt Companies, Inc., and Mark Edwards, executive director of Opportunity Nation, attended the May 2 summit to create ideas for the region's economic development and the social mobility of its workforce.

4. Gilberto Moreno, a UTEP graduate and senior consulting engineer for Prestige Consulting Services, facilitates one of the breakout sessions at the Day 1 summit.

DAY 2

5. Members of the Action Science Team celebrate their involvement in the May 3 "Pick Your Dream" event at the Don Haskins Center.

6. Seventh-grade students experienced demonstrations of arts and sciences during a May 3 tour of the UTEP campus.

7. UTEP Distinguished Alumnus and former astronaut John "Danny" Olivas, Ph.D., greets students before the "Pick Your Dream" program.

8. Opportunity Days brought more than 8,000 students to the UTEP campus for a day of fun and enlightenment.

Photo by J.R. Hernandez



5

Photo by J.R. Hernandez



6

Photo by J.R. Hernandez



7

8



More than 8,000 students wearing UTEP orange "Pick Your Dream" T-shirts filed into the Don Haskins Center May 3 ready for a day of fun and enlightenment.

In her welcome to the students, President Natalicio said that the University would help them turn their big dreams into big futures. She added that one of her dreams was to greet the students as they walked across the stage during their own UTEP graduations.

The students heard live and video testimonials from three UTEP distinguished alumni who talked about the value of education, hard work, dedication and dreaming big. The speakers were Mora, award-winning author and Hispanic cultural advocate; John "Danny" Olivas, Ph.D., engineer and retired astronaut; and Willarda Edwards, M.D., internist and past president of the National Medical Association.

The day included visits to other parts of campus, where the students were treated to displays of linguistics, music video production, hovercraft races, a homemade video gaming station, model rocket launches with Olivas, lessons in buoyancy of concrete and cardboard canoes, and skits that focused on public health.

Gloria Castor, a fifth-grade teacher at Dolphin Terrace Elementary School, said the whole experience was "awesome" for her students. They saw demonstrations of physics and chemistry that included flames and mini-explosions inside Memorial Gym.

"This has been a great opportunity for them to come to UTEP and hear about the importance of college from someone other than their teachers," said Castor, who earned her bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from UTEP in 2002. "Hearing from the (alumni) was very inspirational."

The day wrapped up with a stunt show performed by Bill "Dr. Skateboard" Robertson, Ph.D., associate provost, and his Action Science Team, a group of professional skateboarders and BMX (bicycle motocross) riders. 🏍️

Photo by Laura Trejo

Use your smartphone to scan this code to view an Opportunity Days video.

You can also view the video at newsuc.utep.edu.



UTEP CELEBRATES

2012

Spring Commencement

May 12 was a big day for more than 2,600 graduates who received their degrees during three commencement ceremonies at The University of Texas at El Paso.

The Class of 2012 included recipients of three new degrees – the Master of Rehabilitation Counseling, the Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology and the Ph.D. in teaching, learning and culture.

The day also marked the first time military service members and veterans wore red, white and blue cords to signify their commitment to this country.

Commencement was an opportunity for UTEP President Diana Natalicio to recognize members of the Class of 2012 for their achievements, which serve as an example of UTEP's progress toward becoming the first national research university with a 21st century demographic.

"Members of this Class of 2012, your lives have been transformed by your experience on this campus, and each of you has also been a participant in and contributor to UTEP's very exciting transformation," President Natalicio said. "The many awards and honors that you have earned in national competitions, the graduate and professional schools to which you have been admitted, the prestigious scholarships and fellowships you have received, and the highly competitive jobs that you've been offered all validate your and UTEP's quality."





UTEP ANNOUNCES 2012 TOP TEN SENIORS

By Jenn Crawford • Photos by Laura Trejo



JACOB BARDE • PHILOSOPHY AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Jacob Barde was captain of the UTEP Forensics Team and a member of the Law School Preparation Institute, the UTEP Philosophy Club, the National Communication Association and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. He participated in a summer study abroad program in Indonesia, where he studied environmental campaigns in rural areas. He was selected to be a Court Appointed Special Advocate, for which he spent many hours mentoring and advocating for children in the foster care system. He also volunteered to judge high school speech and debate tournaments, academic decathlons and moot court competitions. His professors described him as someone who shows an impressive combination of academic strength, leadership skills and community involvement.



NARGES KALANTARIAN • BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Narges Kalantarian was an honor student who has been involved with the Medical Professions Organization, the McNair/SMART Student Association and the new Muslim Student Association. She is a peer leader in the Department of Chemistry who has maintained a 4.0 G.P.A. She has contributed to the community through her volunteer work as a Spanish translator and pharmacy helper at the El Paso Baptist Clinic, as a mentor for young women in the Latinitas group, and as an organizer of the Little Sisters group at the Al-Mahdi Islamic Center of El Paso. Her professors described her as a dedicated student with an obvious love for learning – “the epitome of what a student should be.”



ANA MARTINEZ • POLITICAL SCIENCE, ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE

Ana Martinez was an honor student who has been involved with UTEP's Student Government Association, the Student Alumni Association, the Chicano Pre-Law Society and the University Democrats of El Paso. She served as a UTEP Miner Ambassador and a scholar with the national Opportunity Nation campaign. She was named an Archer Fellow by The University of Texas System, which provided her the opportunity to intern for the White House Council on Environmental Quality. She was a member of the H1N1 Flu prevention committee and organizer of the Texas Western Leadership Conference for high school and middle school students. Her professors described her as genuine, open and “one of the most well-rounded students I have had the privilege of teaching at UTEP.”



PABLO PADILLA • MICROBIOLOGY

In addition to serving as Student Government Association President, Pablo Padilla has been a member of the Medical Professions Organization and graduated as an honor student. He has been a troop leader and mentor for the Girl Scouts, a Shriners Hospital volunteer, a Project MOVE volunteer, and a translator and medical assistant for the El Paso Baptist Clinic. He received the Rotary Youth Leadership Award and was the director and organizer of the VIVA Haiti fundraiser. His professors described him as a strong leader who is bright, capable and personable, and “personifies everything that UTEP represents.”



DIEGO RICO • FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

Diego Rico served as vice president of the Regional Economic Development Association student organization, president of the Collegiate Entrepreneur Organization, and a member of the College of Business Administration's Special Projects Team. He was the first UTEP student from the college to compete in the National CEO Elevator Pitch Competition in Chicago and placed in the top 12 among 60 student presenters. During the last two summers he interned at Goldman, Sachs and Co. on Wall Street. On campus he co-founded Wall Street Talk, where he worked with students to help them prepare for interviews on Wall Street and other Fortune 500 companies. He maintained a 4.0 G.P.A. His professors described him as “an outstanding and immersed undergraduate student.”

The University of Texas at El Paso is proud to announce the recipients of the Top Ten Senior awards, presented by the UTEP Alumni Association. Each of the Top Ten seniors has a unique story of their journey to excel in and out of the classroom.

These outstanding students — selected for their academic success and University and community involvement — represent the quality education that UTEP provides its more than 22,000 students. 📖



KIMBERLIN SCHNITTKER • METALLURGICAL AND MATERIALS ENGINEERING

As president of the UTEP Rotaract Club and member of the Minerals, Metals and Material Society (TMS); the American Foundry Society; the Geological Society of America; the UTEP Geology Club; and a volunteer with UTEP's Project MOVE, Kimberlin Schnittker has been actively involved in UTEP organizations. She has also served the community by tutoring fifth-grade students, participating in a Secret Santa program for the La Posada Home, raising money to build hospitals in India and cooking Thanksgiving Dinner for an orphanage. She has been involved with research throughout her college career, including with the NASA Planetary Geology and Geophysics Undergraduate Research Program at the University of Minnesota. Her professors described her as extremely bright and hard-working, motivated, confident and studious.



ADAM SEBASTIAN • PSYCHOLOGY

While enrolled at UTEP, Adam Sebastian volunteered more than 40 hours a week at Emmanuel Children's Home in Juárez, where he counseled children, trained caregivers, educated leaders on psychological principles and conducted research on behavior management strategies. He also has worked with other organizations in the region mentoring teens, promoting justice and safety, fundraising and providing awareness about neglected children and abused women. In spite of this full schedule of community activities, he maintained a 4.0 G.P.A. His professors were impressed with his intellect, writing and communication ability, critical thinking and leadership skills, and described him as someone who has a passion for serving others.



PATRICK SHINDO • METALLURGICAL AND MATERIALS ENGINEERING

Patrick Shindo has completed technical internships at the U.S. Army Research Lab and Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, and is a co-author of five published papers in technical journals. He has been president of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society and the American Foundry Society, and a member of the Alpha Sigma Mu Metallurgical Honor Society and the Engineering Student Leadership Council, all while maintaining a 4.0 G.P.A. In the community, he has volunteered as a technician and teacher at Cross of Grace Church and earned certification from the International Society of Community Engagement Professionals. His professors described him as a unique role model who "epitomizes the most outstanding characteristics of any student anywhere."



SAMANTHA UNGOS • HEALTH PROMOTION

Dedicated to improving the health of the El Paso community, Samantha Ungos has volunteered as a student health educator with Project Vida Health Fair, helped organize the UTEP Eta Sigma Gamma team for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, and served as a health resource representative for the Stay Teen pregnancy prevention event. She has also volunteered with the Pan American Health Organization, the El Paso Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA College Bound Program. She also worked as a research assistant with the Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center, and she did it all while maintaining a 4.0 G.P.A. Her professors describe her as an exceptional student who is deeply dedicated to her community and her academic career.



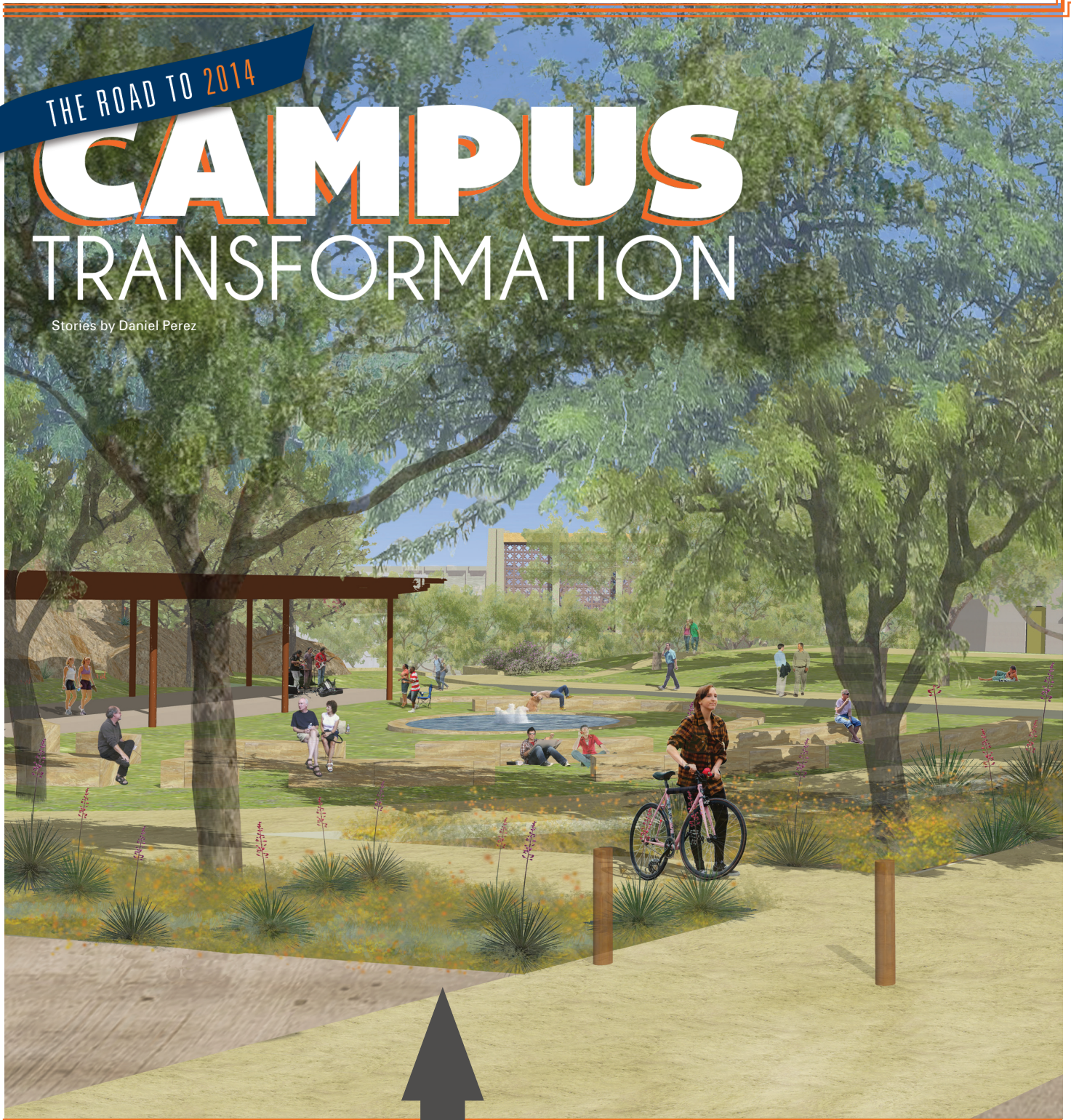
MERCY UWAKWE • BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Mercy Uwakwe grew up in Nigeria and struggled with poverty, health obstacles and the death of her mother at a young age. But she has excelled at UTEP, earning a 4.0 G.P.A. She was a Miner Ambassador, a member of the Student Government Association and a biomedical and bioinformatics researcher. She also participated in the Student Leadership Institute and was a member of several honor societies. She has given back to the El Paso community as a tutor at Polk Elementary School and in the YWCA residential housing tutoring program. One UTEP administrator described her as "focused in her pursuit of her academic and career goals, which she plans to use as a means to help others."

THE ROAD TO 2014

CAMPUS TRANSFORMATION

Stories by Daniel Perez



LEECH GROVE

Leech Grove honors the memory of UTEP's first vice president, R. Milton Leech, who brought theater in the round to the campus. It is a place for entertainment and gathering. A stepped stage enframes the desert garden knoll beyond. A central brimming fountain surrounded by lawn can be turned off to double as another stage. Trees shade people sitting on stone seating elements or on the lawn relaxing so that they are comfortable for performances, having lunch or relaxing with friends.



MINER ALLEY

This current concrete jungle behind the Fox Fine Arts Center and Miners, Hudspeth and Worrell halls will be retrofitted into a shaded gathering space with the microclimate of a desert canyon. The expanse of paving will be removed and repurposed in walls and vendor zones. New paving will be on the diagonal that still will allow large crowds and emergency vehicles through but will make the space feel more expansive.



he changing face of The University of Texas at El Paso may have more to do with “taming the automobile” than with student demographics as University leaders embark on an ambitious campus transformation project.

Initial plans call for a more pedestrian-friendly core campus that restricts the number of vehicles on campus streets. It introduces wider sidewalks, more shaded areas to relax and collaborate, better use of natural vegetation and a general synergy between buildings and their surroundings.

It also includes a major facelift to Memorial Triangle that will enhance it as a venue for events such as Minerpalooza, the annual back-to-school block party.

These changes come through the vision of UTEP President Diana Natalicio, who has emphasized in recent years that she wants students to benefit from an environment that is as vibrant, energetic and inspiring outside as it is on the inside of the many new buildings rising across the campus. The plan is to have the major work done in time for the campus Centennial Celebration in 2014.

“The campus transformation is going to be one of the lasting legacies of the Centennial,” said President Natalicio, who wants the new designs to capture the beauty of the campus topography.

Just as important is the need to create a campus look that helps to recruit and retain students and assists in their academic performance.

“Research studies indicate that a cohesive campus plan coupled with well-designed landscaping is one of the first things that prospective students look at when trying to decide what institution to attend,” said Ed Soltero, former director of planning and construction, who left the University in March to pursue his doctorate. “We’re trying to eliminate the asphalt jungle and create a place that exudes vitality and encourages learning to happen throughout. It will be quite spectacular.”

The University has commissioned two award-winning Texas firms – San Antonio’s Lake/Flato Architects and Ten Eyck Landscape Architects of Austin – to help with the designs and cost estimates tied to several campus transformation projects.

The two architectural firms, which have numerous higher education projects in their portfolios, will work on six assignments: Memorial Triangle, Leech Grove, Circle Drive, the arroyo, the courtyard behind the Physical Sciences Building, and Miner Alley (behind Miners, Worrell and Hudspeth halls).

Steve Raike, an associate partner with Lake/Flato, said these types of projects serve as an opportunity to tell the story of an institution’s history and its role in the community.

“A central goal for both firms is to create memorable spaces by shaping both buildings and the land around them,” Raike said. “These landscape-focused projects will knit the campus together, resulting in a sense of place that is as unique as the landscape and the climate of West Texas.”

THE ROAD TO 2014

CAMPUS TRANSFORMATION

**HERE IS A LOOK AT SOME OF THE
PROJECTS THAT WILL TRANSFORM
THE CAMPUS FOR THE UNIVERSITY'S
SECOND CENTURY.**

HAWTHORNE STREET & WIGGINS ROAD

The first two projects involve wider walkways, new lighting, landscaping, benches and canopies. Pleasant shade will be provided by native and water-friendly trees such as mesquite, Palo Verde, Chinese pistache and Arizona ash. The roads will be accessible to University and emergency vehicles, as well as vehicles used by people with disabilities. The Hawthorne project will be completed in two phases. The first, which started in December 2011 along the west curb, was completed in mid-February. Phase II – on the opposite side – broke ground in May and should be finished in August. The key to the Wiggins project is a multilevel elliptical plaza in front of the University Library that includes a 20-foot diameter labyrinth.

LHAKHANG

The ornate structure, which was a gift of friendship to the United States from the Kingdom of Bhutan, will be erected on the northeast corner of Memorial Triangle between Magoffin Auditorium and the Geological Sciences Building. The exterior walls of the 1,200-square-foot building will receive a protective lime coating.

OLD MAIN/CIRCLE DRIVE

The historic building of Old Main will be connected visually and physically to the green lawn by removing the appearance of a road and creating a welcoming pedestrian forecourt with a fountain in front of the building. This plaza will connect directly with the green lawn to the south.

MEMORIAL TRIANGLE

The area at the heart of campus will get a larger circular shape. It will be leveled and a permanent stage will be set up for music and speaking events. Trees and concrete steps will create an amphitheater atmosphere. There will be a 12- to 15-foot drop from Kerbey Avenue that shows exposed stone. "This will be the campus living room," Ed Soltero, former director of planning and construction, said. The work is scheduled to begin in January 2014 and finish by the end of that year.



TEXAS FIRMS HELP UTEP PLOT CAMPUS TRANSFORMATION

The University of Texas at El Paso has hired two award-winning architectural firms to help with the designs and cost estimates for several projects tied to UTEP's transformation to a more pedestrian-friendly campus in time for its Centennial Celebration in 2014.

Lake/Flato Architects of San Antonio and Ten Eyck Landscape Architects (TELA) of Austin have developed concepts for several key campus areas based on numerous discussions with University officials about aesthetics and function, with a focus on water conservation and stormwater management.

The firms were selected because of their past work that includes a transformation of the Arizona State University Polytechnic campus and similar developments for the University of Arizona and San Antonio's famed River Walk, said Greg McNicol, associate vice president of facilities services.

"The concepts are so uniquely different from a typical campus," he said.

As the University continues its march toward becoming a Tier One (national research) institution, UTEP President Diana

THE ARROYO

The idea is to transform the arroyo into a natural pathway with a bike trail and bosque atmosphere as it cuts its southwest path through campus. Inverted arches will be placed strategically to slow the course of water during the rainy season and enhance the opportunity for vegetation to flourish. The University is seeking grants for the arroyo project from organizations including the U.S. Department of Transportation, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Metropolitan Planning Organization. The project will be completed in phases.

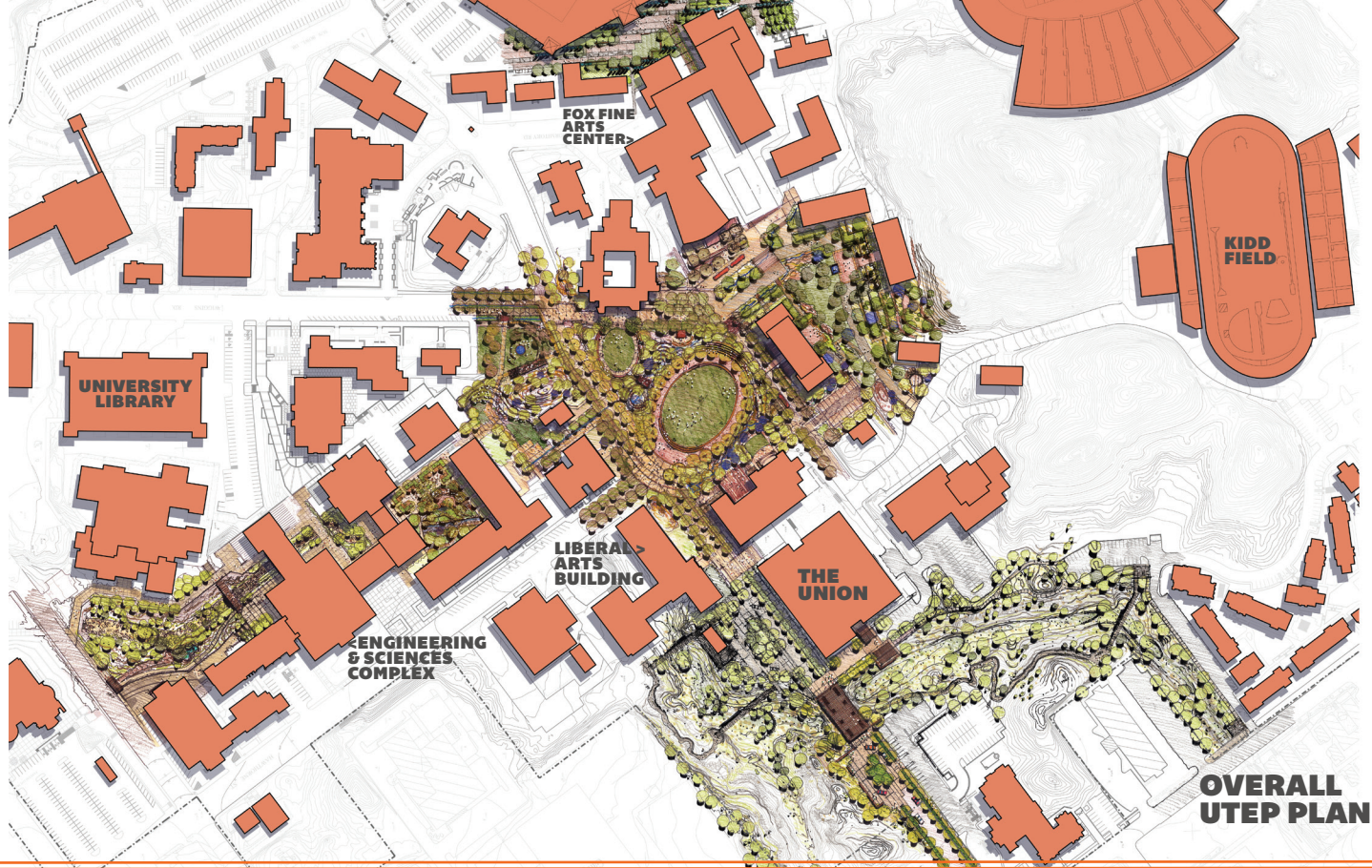
Natalicio has stressed that she wants the campus grounds to serve the students as much as the high-tech, state-of-the-art buildings, said Ed Soltero, who recently left his position at UTEP as director of Planning and Construction.

"Along with our academic growth, we have to show excellence in our environment," Soltero said.

Representatives from both firms expressed their excitement at the chance to play a role in UTEP's transformation.

Christine Ten Eyck, TELA founder and principal designer, said that institutions of higher education often want her firm to provide spaces that double as social interaction spots and outdoor learning laboratories.

"For example, the civil engineering students might be able to conduct tests to measure the before and after runoff calculations of stormwater from the site, or ecologists-to-be could perform urban wildlife habitat studies of how many new bird and butterfly species visit UTEP after the landscape is constructed," she said. 📍



CAMPUS MAKEOVER CREATES GIVING OPPORTUNITY

The initial renderings of The University of Texas at El Paso's future campus transformation projects range from simple to bold, and UTEP officials want members of the Miner Nation to be part of what will be a lasting legacy.

University Development officials plan a multifaceted campaign that gives faculty, students, staff, alumni and friends different options to support the effort to create a more pedestrian-friendly campus that includes a remake of Memorial Triangle and general enhancements that studies show should improve student recruitment, enhancement and academic performance.

Sylvia Acosta, Ph.D., associate vice president of University Development, has quietly shared parts of the plan and received enthusiastic feedback from faculty and staff who embrace the vision and want to be involved.

Acosta said she expected to push the campaign into high gear after the final artists' renderings were submitted in late May.

"We want this campaign to involve the community and the alumni regardless of where they live," she said, adding that there will be a website where donors can review a plethora of sponsoring options. "Once you get a feel for the changes on campus, you can't help but be invigorated."

UTEP President Diana Natalicio has called the campus makeover a "lasting legacy" of the Centennial Celebration that ends in 2014.

Among those who have expressed early interest in the plan are Donna Ekal and Kristin Gosselink.

Ekal, Ph.D., associate provost in the Office for Undergraduate Studies, knew immediately that she wanted to purchase

a bench to honor her parents, Joy and Bert Nussbaum, for their support of her academic career. She is not as concerned with where the bench will be set because "there are so many lovely places on campus."

She added: "This is a great way for faculty and staff to become a permanent part of the UTEP landscape."

Gosselink, Ph.D., associate professor of biological sciences, said this was a chance for her to give back to the University, which has played a significant role in her life. She said this fundraising method helps with the transformation and also can be used to honor a loved one or a favorite program.

"It personalizes the effort and adds to the long-term investment people have in our UTEP community," said Gosselink, who is considering the purchase of a bench or a tree. ☞

CHEMISTRY & COMPUTER SCIENCE BUILDING OPENS

By Jennifer Clampet • Photos by Laura Trejo

The University of Texas at El Paso has expanded its focus on research with the opening this spring of its new Chemistry and Computer Science Building. The \$69.2 million state-of-the-art building houses two of the most highly productive research departments on campus – chemistry and computer science – and has given a new home to the computational science graduate degree program.

“This magnificent facility was years in the making, and its genesis lay in our strong commitment to creating the best possible educational experience for the young people of the Paso del Norte

region,” said UTEP President Diana Natalicio at the grand opening ceremony March 2.

Located at the corner of Hawthorne Street and Rim Road, the 150,000-square-foot building showcases UTEP’s signature Bhutanese architectural style. Anchoring the southeastern gateway to the UTEP campus, the building is a bold new landmark and a cornerstone of facilities focusing on the STEM fields: science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Chemistry and Computer Science Building is the latest completed construction project for UTEP’s campus transformation – a nearly \$300 million undertaking that also delivered the Health Sciences and Nursing Building and the Bioscience Research Building.

The new building contributes significantly to UTEP’s capacity to conduct classroom and laboratory instruction as well as cutting-edge research. It incorporates study and collaborative spaces designed with moveable tables and chairs to encourage interdisciplinary research and interaction between students and faculty.



From left, College of Science Dean Anny Morrobel-Sosa, Ph.D.; UT System Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, ad interim Pedro Reyes; UT System Board of Regents Vice Chairman Paul Foster; UTEP President Diana Natalicio; UT System Board of Regents Chairman Wm. Eugene “Gene” Powell; UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa, M.D.; El Paso businessman Woody Hunt; and College of Engineering Dean Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the Chemistry and Computer Science Building March 2.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BUILDING:

Cryo-Electron Microscope Facility

This facility houses a cryo-electron microscope – a \$1.8 million instrument designed to look at the intricate details of protein complexes, viruses and the interior components of a cell.

Carbon Nanomaterials Lab

Luis Echegoyen, Ph.D., Robert A. Welch Chair of Chemistry, oversees research in this lab, which focuses on unique carbon molecules known as fullerenes. Echegoyen's team is working to control the molecules' electron-accepting abilities, research that could lead to less expensive and more efficient solar cells.

X-Ray Facility

Currently a shell space, the facility will house a macromolecular X-ray generator and detector, a small molecule X-ray generator and detector, crystallization chambers and a computer graphics and computational area.

Interactive Systems Group Lab

This suite supports research on human-computer interaction and includes an immersion space for research on full-body interactions with virtual agents.

Computer Science Research Labs

Designed to be a “research hot house,” these labs provide reconfigurable modules for each specific research project, combining work areas for graduate and undergraduate researchers, all opening into common areas for informal meetings.

Environmental Chemistry Lab

Jorge Gardea-Torresdey, Ph.D., chair of the Chemistry Department and Dudley Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Science and Engineering, oversees research in these labs focused on phytoremediation – the use of plants to remove toxic metals from soil and water. The lab also studies the bioproduction of metal nanoparticles and the toxicity of nanoparticles in the environment. 📺



Use your smartphone to scan this code to view a Chemistry and Computer Science Building opening video.

You can also view the video at newsuc.utep.edu.





Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D., dean of the College of Health Sciences, reviews blueprints detailing the renovations of the Campbell Building.

CAMPBELL BUILDING GETS EXTREME MAKEOVER

By Laura L. Acosta • Photo by Laura Trejo

The Hotel Dieu School of Nursing building in Central El Paso has undergone several transformations since it opened its doors in 1967. Until 2011, the seven-story, brick veneer building on Campbell Street housed UTEP's College of Health Sciences and School of Nursing.

This spring, the Campbell Building is being transformed once again. The renovated facility will house updated classroom, lab and office space for College of Health Sciences programs in occupational therapy, physical therapy, rehabilitation counseling, speech language pathology and pharmacy.

"These renovations will provide increased connectivity, allow our programs to grow, contribute to the development of new cutting-edge research, and enhance the educational opportunities we can provide to our students and the clinical services we can provide to our community," said College of Health Sciences Dean Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D.

Interior renovations include new locker room facilities for students studying gross

anatomy; video conferencing technology for the second floor auditorium, which will add distance teaching and learning capacity for the Cooperative Pharmacy program; a renovated Activities of Daily Living teaching laboratory and gait training laboratory; and new laboratory teaching space for the Doctor of Physical Therapy program. An updated food concession area and new clinical learning facilities round out the list of improvements.

The well-established Speech Language Pathology and Concussion Management clinic will move into newly renovated facilities, and a new suite of offices and treatment rooms will house a new interdisciplinary rehabilitation sciences clinic.

"The new clinic spaces will provide updated facilities for on-site clinical learning opportunities for our students, serve as an entry point for participants in research studies and offer some focused rehabilitation services for individuals in our community," Curtis said.

The Morgan Roderick Auditorium will be converted into a new research space for

virtual reality and balance studies, and two new physical therapy teaching laboratories.

The virtual reality lab will help facilitate research between the expanded Concussion Management Clinic and the kinesiology program.

Rebecca Reed-Jones, Ph.D., assistant professor of kinesiology and physical therapy, will use virtual reality to look at balance control in post-concussion patients.

Before moving into the Campbell Building, Reed-Jones conducted her studies in the Larry K. Durham Sports Center on the UTEP campus, which made it difficult for her to run tests on the clinic's patients because they had to travel from off to on campus during their one-hour appointment.

The new lab also will make it possible for her to bring students in for hands-on instruction.

"Sometimes when I'm sitting there teaching them motor control, I wish I could bring them into the lab and say, 'OK, this is what we're talking about,' but it's more difficult when we're on this side of campus to do that in two hours," Reed-Jones said. 📍

UTEP Professors Target STEM at Insights Museum

By Daniel Perez Photo by Laura Trejo



Aaron Velasco, Ph.D., professor of geology, left, is working to enhance the Insights El Paso Science Museum as chairman of its board of directors. Also on the board are Eli Greenbaum, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences, center, and Bill Robertson, Ph.D., associate provost and associate professor of teacher education.

A UTEP faculty member with a passion for science and penchant for grant writing has started to implement his plan to turn a “tired” downtown El Paso museum into a world-class showcase that could inspire future scientists.

Aaron Velasco, Ph.D., professor of geology at The University of Texas at El Paso, joined the Insights El Paso Science Museum board of directors in 2010 after his wife described the museum’s disappointing condition. She challenged him to make a difference.

Within 12 months he was elected board chairman. Working in concert with the museum board and executive staff, he began to develop a vision for the museum: “360 degrees of Science in El Paso: Observe Locally, Connect Globally.” He wanted the 32-year-old institution to embrace a more well-rounded view of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Velasco seeks more collaboration between the private, nonprofit museum and area science societies, the military, school districts and institutions of higher education. Understanding that a major transformation takes much more than words, he helped Insights compete for funding. The museum now has \$1.6

million in pending grants from agencies including NASA, the National Science Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

“What I’m proposing could be a life changer for many of the children who visit Insights,” Velasco said. “The more young students learn about STEM in an informal way increases the chances that they will study those fields in college.”

Velasco said he envisions more content offered bilingually to connect with the youth of the Paso del Norte region. One example is a bilingual exhibit about the plant and animal life of the Chihuahuan Desert that links with the Arctic and Antarctic deserts to create a global experience.

UTEP’s Bill Robertson, Ph.D., associate provost and associate professor of teacher education, and Eli Greenbaum, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences, joined the board to share their expertise in research and education.

“My hope is that we can bring the importance of STEM to the community in practical and pragmatic

“The more young students learn about STEM in an informal way increases the chances that they will study those fields in college.”

- Aaron Velasco, Ph.D.

ways and that we can help to inspire a new generation of scientists through (the museum),” Robertson said.

Greenbaum added: “Great museums bridge the gap between research science and public education, and with my interest in exhibits for Insights, I hope to make that aim a reality.”

Another of Velasco’s goals is to make the museum self-sustaining. To do so, the board is turning its focus to boosting ticket sales, increasing fundraising and promoting membership packages. Students from the University’s College of Business Administration developed part of the plan.

Velasco’s efforts are appreciated, said Nancy Kurtyka, Insights’ interim executive director.

“He has tapped into many different resources to help us think outside the box to assist in outlining and achieving the vision and goals of Insights for the foreseeable future,” she said. 📌

Navarro Reflects on El Paso Collaborative's Success

By Jennifer Clampet

AS Susana Navarro settles into retirement after more than 20 years as the executive director of the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, she can be proud that her hard work has paid off.

For the last 20 years, the Collaborative has been driven by a vision – to close the gap.

In 1993 El Paso region high schools had a 27 percent academic achievement gap between Hispanic and white students.

A relatively small proportion of Hispanic high school graduates attended colleges or universities and an even lower number completed college degrees.

Then an innovative idea was proposed – close the achievement gaps. Pursue systemic change. Ensure that all students are well prepared to enter college.

“The data tell the most compelling story of what has been achieved,” said Navarro, Ph.D., founder of the Collaborative.

By 2010, the gap between Hispanic and white high school students had been reduced to 7 percent – with 88 percent of Hispanic students meeting state standards in math and 90 percent meeting state standards in science, according to Texas Education Agency (TEA) statistics.

About 86 percent of first-time students entering The University of Texas at El Paso in 2010 met standards for college-level mathematics and reading courses – increases from 68 percent and 61 percent, respectively, in 2004.

“This is something people don’t know – how well we as a community are doing in preparing our students,” Navarro said.

Created in 1991, the Collaborative, based at UTEP, has become the longest sustained P-16 partnership in the country.

Now a national model for academic achievement of K-16 students, the Collaborative coordinates a partnership among K-12 school districts, El Paso Community College, UTEP, civic organizations, business leaders and researchers.

Leaders of the El Paso and Ysleta school districts stressed the opportunities the Collaborative has provided for teachers – networking, training and collaboration – which served as conduits for change.

“Because the majority of our region’s



Because of the efforts of Susana Navarro, Ph.D., and the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence during the last two decades, the gap between Hispanic and white students who meet state standards has been dramatically reduced.

teachers are graduates of UTEP, and many of our high school students begin their careers at EPCC, the partnership between the three entities – school districts, EPCC and UTEP – is a natural one, and the reason the Collaborative continues to thrive,” said Pauline Dow, Ed.D., associate superintendent for Ysleta Independent School District and four time UTEP graduate.

The Collaborative has led the way for educational innovations – through implementation of high quality, standards-based mathematics, science and literacy curricula, among other programs – that have put the El Paso community first among Texas regions striving to close achievement gaps.

Ten years before the state required school districts to implement the Recommended High School Program, El Paso area districts already had made the change.

Supported by the Collaborative, this early and far-reaching policy change was a key driver in ensuring that virtually all El Paso students – 89 percent, the largest percentage in the state – now complete the college preparatory curriculum, according to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board data.

The Collaborative’s policy influence approach has been used to create systemic change.

“The El Paso region has more than 180,000 K-12 students. Change at just one school, or at just one or two grade levels, would have affected just a few thousand students in our region,” Navarro said. “We don’t want to influence education for a lucky few. Every child in this region should be provided a high-quality education.”

For 20 years, Navarro has worked intensively to design and implement the Collaborative’s initiatives. The partnership’s innovative approach has paid off.

In the last two decades the Collaborative has received more than \$70 million in grants – a large portion from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education.

“A number of agencies invested in us and knew we would do the right thing,” Navarro said. “And the return for that investment has been dramatic. We have more compelling achievement gains here than anywhere else in the state.”

In 2009, the El Paso region graduated 75 percent of its Hispanic high school students – a higher percentage than any other major city in the state, according to the TEA. By

"We don't want to influence education for a lucky few. Every child in this region should be provided a high-quality education."

Susana Navarro
Founder and former Executive
Director of the El Paso Collaborative
for Academic Excellence



comparison, the San Antonio Independent School District and Houston Independent School District graduated 62 percent and 66 percent of their Hispanic students, respectively.

As Armando Aguirre, Ed.D., UTEP assistant provost, takes over leadership of

the Collaborative, Navarro reflected on the group's success.

"The Collaborative has a tremendous amount to show for its 20 years," she said. "And it's primed to do even more in the future." 📌



ASSISTANT PROVOST TAKES REINS

Armando Aguirre, Ed.D., is the new assistant provost overseeing the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence. The collaborative is based out of The University of Texas at El Paso's College of Education and operates several outreach programs that work closely with local school districts.

"My interest is in the educational progress of all students," Aguirre said of his new position. "It's about providing more rigorous instruction, increasing the number of students who enroll in and who are successful in higher education.

"Another focal point should be to highlight the benefits and importance of an ongoing relationship between UTEP and the business community and the community at large through increased presence and collaboration," he added.

Aguirre is a three-time UTEP graduate. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education in 1985, a master's degree in administration in 1993, and his Ed.D. in leadership in 2004.

The former public school educator and administrator worked for 21 years in the El Paso Independent School District. In 2006, he was named Principal of the Year for the state of Texas. Shortly after earning that award, he was named principal of the Mission Early College High School in the Socorro Independent School District.

"Dr. Aguirre's past experiences, at nearly all pre-K-12 levels, and his recent work with an early college high school, make him an outstanding person to lead the Collaborative in new and innovative directions to benefit the region's children," said Junius Gonzales, UTEP provost and vice president for academic affairs. "His passion and vision for this kind of work will make lasting positive change."

Taking what he has learned from leading an early college high school – one that promotes the attainment of an associate degree along with a high school diploma – Aguirre said he is excited about coordinating with the board partners in the Collaborative. 📌

A large vertical banner on the right side of the page. It features a smiling man in a dark suit, blue shirt, and striped tie, standing in front of a building. At the top is the UTEP logo. Below the man, the text reads: "UTEP'S COLLEGE OF EDUCATION RANKED #1 BY THE HISPANIC OUTLOOK IN HIGHER EDUCATION MAGAZINE FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT COE.UTEP.EDU". At the bottom is a logo for the 1914-2014 Centennial Celebration of The University of Texas at El Paso.

UTEP'S
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1914-2014
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

A Rare *Experience*

By Laura L. Acosta
Photo courtesy of Davi Kallman

Aspiring conservationists are getting a rare opportunity to increase conservation efforts around the globe, thanks to a unique partnership between The University of Texas at El Paso and Rare Conservation, an international nonprofit environmental group.

Launched in 2008 in partnership with UTEP's Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies, a first-of-its-kind master's degree in communication for conservation practitioners was developed to offer international students a communication master's degree with a focus on environmental communication and social change.



From left: UTEP students Lorena Mondragon, Lucía Murgia, Davi Kallman and Anthony Jimenez traveled to the Samboja Lestari rainforest in Borneo, Indonesia, to check on the progress of a Rare conservation project that helps rehabilitated orangutans.

The two-year program teaches students to develop location-specific social marketing plans called "pride campaigns," which are designed to help organizations in more than 50 countries engage community members in conservation practices.

"Within our department, we're very much driven by issues of social justice, the environment and social change, and I think that those goals that we reflect as a faculty are amplified when we work with Rare," said Frank G. Pérez, Ph.D. associate professor and chair of UTEP's Department of Communication. "They have the same kind of perspective on how things should be, or how we can make the world a better place."

Pérez is one of five UTEP faculty members involved in the program. The others are Arvind Singhal, Ph.D., professor of communication; and communication associate professors Stacey Sowards, Ph.D.; Kenneth Yang, Ph.D.; Sarah Ryan, Ph.D.; and Roberto Avant-Mier, Ph.D.

Training is administered in four languages by regional university partners Georgetown University McDonough School of Business in Washington, D.C.; Instituto Técnico de Estudios Superiores de Occidente in Jalisco, Mexico; Bogor Agricultural Institute in Bogor, Indonesia; and Southwest Forestry University in Yunnan Province, China.

According to Rare's website, participants, known as campaign managers, learn how to change attitudes and behaviors, mobilize support for environmental protection and reduce threats to natural resources. They receive 17 weeks of classroom training and spend the remaining 84 weeks at their sites implementing the campaigns.

Campaign manager Adriana Ochoa Valle partnered with CONAP, Mexico's National Council of Protected Areas, to organize a campaign in the San Pedro Martir Island Biosphere Reserve, a small island located in the Gulf of California. From October 2008 to August 2010, the campaign aimed to implement a fisheries management system and train local fishers in sustainable practices such as respecting no-take zones and selective methods to reduce overfishing.

Ochoa and her team of volunteers designed posters, buttons and coffee mugs, and organized festivals and soccer tournaments with local fishermen to promote sustainable fishing practices and create awareness about conservation efforts. Ochoa also created a black sea turtle mascot named Marina to help create pride in the community.

Ochoa completed her degree in spring 2010.

"Her campaign did really well," Pérez said. "She internalized all the ideas that were presented to her both from the social change perspective from us, and the pride campaign aspect from Rare."

UTEP faculty members visit sites at least twice a year to meet with students, check on their progress and evaluate assignments.

During the past three years, Sowards has traveled to Indonesia with 24 UTEP students to study the kinds of activities that campaign managers use to engage their local communities in conservation efforts. Students participated in learning activities at the Gunung Walat Education Forest in West Java in collaboration with the Bogor Agricultural Institute.

"This program offers an innovative way to team University researchers and students with those doing field work," Sowards said. "We learn about their campaign activities on the ground, and they learn research methods, behavior change theories, social marketing techniques and leadership skills from the program."

Davi Kallman, a graduate student in the Department of Communication, traveled with Sowards and UTEP graduate students Anthony Jimenez, Lucía Murgía and Lorena Mondragón to Indonesia for six weeks in the summer of 2010.

The trip was an opportunity for Kallman to study abroad in Jakarta, Bogor and Bali. She observed the different kinds of conservation campaigns that were being implemented in the villages they visited. The group also visited three national parks to check on the progress of campaign managers who were working on conservation projects involving the Javan rhinoceros in Ujung Kulon National Park and orangutans at the Samboja Lestari reforestation project.

The Rare experience also gave Kallman a lesson in humility. She saw how people around the world live in conditions where food is scarce and there are no bathrooms or running water.

"These are things that these people don't live with and they don't complain," she said. "They're happy to be alive and we were so appreciative that they gave the little food that they had to us. I think that (Rare) is something that every student should be able to do because something like this, it's not for the pleasure of it, it's a learning experience." ☞

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UTEP'S 'MOST INTERESTING MAN'

PROFESSOR'S THIRST TO TEACH KEEPS HIM ACTIVE

By Daniel Perez

To some of his peers, Phillip Kolbe, Ph.D., is endearingly referred to as The University of Texas at El Paso's "most interesting man."

The title is a play on the popular television commercials that tout the varied accomplishments of a fictional character. The label draws a genuine laugh from Kolbe, a 64-year-old visiting professor who teaches courses in leadership studies, public administration and Intelligence and National Security Studies (INSS).

Spend enough time with this man who grew up around dairy farms and apple orchards in Appleton, a small town near Buffalo, N.Y., and you will learn that there might be something to this title.

The youngest of four children born to a homemaker and Lutheran pastor was influenced early on by family and friends who valued patriotism and academics. It set him on a path to the U.S. Air Force Academy (AFA), which opened doors to a future as an air commando and a second career as a distinguished educator.

Kolbe parlayed those talents and skills through the years to also become a business owner, academic author, government official, police investigator, maritime teacher, and Ulysses S. Grant impersonator. In his spare time, he learned to speak German and French, earned his pilot's license, and played club soccer for about 30 years. He currently oversees a small pecan farm, is a part-time Methodist lay minister, and has two novels in development.

"Somebody asked me when I gave up sleeping and I answered, '20 or 30 years ago,'" he said with an easy laugh inside his fourth-floor Kelly Hall office. "It's too much of a waste of time and there are too many other things that I want to do."

In a nod to his alma mater, the former Air Force captain recently was part of a UTEP/Air Force Academy team that developed a hybrid graduate degree plan that involves online courses and 12 months of face-time in UTEP's INSS program.

Kolbe's spectrum of experiences in the military and as an educator makes him a valuable colleague at the University, said Mark Gorman, INSS program coordinator.

"He is able to effectively blend his national security background with academic research skills," Gorman said.



Photo courtesy of Phillip Kolbe

Phillip Kolbe, Ph.D., visiting professor, helped deliver a baby during a missionary trip in the Congo in summer 2008.

The Military

An accident during physical training his freshman year at the Air Force Academy left him with a damaged ulnar nerve in his elbow, which impaired his ability to fly military planes. But it did not stop him from enrolling in the Army's Special Warfare (Green Beret) Center and School at Fort Bragg, N.C., the following year.

"I fell in love with the whole idea of special operations. They are the elite," said Kolbe, who went on to take every related military course.

After graduation, he spent the summer traveling through Europe learning languages, landscapes and cultures. When he returned, he was either on special ops missions in Southeast Asia – many that he still cannot discuss – or teaching air commandos at the U.S. Air Force Special Air Warfare School at Hurlburt Field, Fla., near Pensacola, or at a base convenient to the airmen. He helped develop many courses at the school, which included psychological warfare and counter insurgency.

His last official assignment was at a Vietnamese refugee camp at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. He said he worked 160 hours the first week and met the 35,000 refugees as they got off the planes. President Gerald Ford personally recognized his efforts.

"It was the toughest and most rewarding duty I ever had," said Kolbe, who oversaw the in-processing, out-processing and locator service. "We were helping these people start a whole new life."



Kolbe offers Civil War and leadership lectures as Gen. Ulysses S. Grant using an authentic uniform that was a birthday gift from Ginny, his wife of 17 years.

Educator

Kolbe, who sustained injuries during his six years of active duty, knew his military career would be cut short, so he prepared for a second career in education. He enrolled in the graduate program at the University of Arizona because of its strong academics and Tucson's military-friendly environment. He majored in geography – the same as his undergraduate degree – and minored in finance and planning. He also took psychology courses because he was interested in behavioral finance and behavioral real estate, which were part of his dissertation.

He used the G.I. Bill to pay for grad school, but took other jobs to stay busy. They included substitute K-12 teacher, county planning supervisor, adjunct professor, and project director for the University of Arizona's Division of Economic and Business Research.

Kolbe started a real estate research company in 1982 and bought a market research firm two years later. He sold both companies in the mid-1980s, earning 10 times the purchase price of the marketing business.

As an assistant professor of finance at New Mexico State University, he defended his dissertation on April 1, 1988 – his 40th birthday. He later became director of NMSU's Center for Real Estate and Land Resource Research, one of only 20 such centers in the country.

The University of Memphis hired him in 1989 to teach finance and real estate, and he stayed there until 2009. During those 20 years he earned 10 distinguished teaching awards, wrote four investment and real estate textbooks, was published in the top journal in his field, and was the university's NCAA faculty representative. He left as a professor emeritus.

Among the framed items on the walls of his UTEP office is a gift from a former Memphis student – the last share of Anheuser-Busch stock before the company was bought out in 2008. Kolbe recalled that the company stock had been part of a class discussion.

"It was the best 'apple' I ever got from a student," he quipped.

"IT WAS THE TOUGHEST AND MOST REWARDING DUTY I EVER HAD," said Kolbe, who oversaw the in-processing, out-processing and locator service. **"WE WERE HELPING THESE PEOPLE START A WHOLE NEW LIFE."**

What retirement?

Kolbe and Ginny, his wife of 17 years, retired to the Southwest because he loved the area, but it did not take long for job offers to follow. Among them was one from a foreign contractor, which dangled an impressive salary to lure him to Afghanistan. But he thought it best to stay in the states. UTEP officials approached him soon after with a full-time job.

But his University duties have not slowed him down. Kolbe sailed around the world during spring 2011 as part of the Semester at Sea program. He taught five business courses, Bible study and meditation aboard a converted cruise ship. He also taught two online INSS courses for UTEP and preached on Sundays.

"I flunked retirement because I love to teach," he said.

Kolbe's background allows him to provide real-life examples that engage the class, said Paula Powell, sports manager for the City of El Paso who earned her master's in public administration from UTEP in 2011.

"He was my favorite teacher even if he was Air Force," joked Powell, a 1987 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. "I have an employee who is a current student of Dr. Kolbe and he told me, 'Dr. Kolbe has done everything under the sun.' I said, 'That's what makes him a good teacher.'" 📧

UTEP AND EPCC TO SHINE IN

INTERNATIONAL SOLAR COMPETITION

By Jennifer Clampet • Photo by Laura Trejo



From left: Solar decathlon participants Fabian Uribe, architectural project manager; Milly De Jesus, design project manager; and Steven A. Garcia, project manager, are working with a team from UTEP and El Paso Community College to design and build an energy-efficient home in time for the 2013 international competition.

The U.S. Department of Energy has put students at The University of Texas at El Paso and El Paso Community College in the international spotlight. Well, more like the international sunlight.

UTEP and EPCC will compete as Team Texas – a name bestowed upon the only collegiate team selected from the state – in the 2013 Solar Decathlon project.

The international competition pits the Sun City students against solar-harvesting intellects of 19 other collegiate teams, including Stanford University, the Southern California Institute of Architecture, Czech Technical University and the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada. EPCC is the first-ever community college to compete in the event.

“It’s extremely prestigious and humbling to know that we were chosen for an international competition,” said Steven Garcia, Team Texas project manager and UTEP civil engineering student.

The competition requires Team Texas to design, build, transport and erect a 600- to 1,000-square-foot home at a site in California’s Orange County Great Park. The zero-energy home needs to rely mainly on the sun to power its functions, including traditional domestic living, home entertainment, and dinner party hosting.

Teams have 24 months to complete the project – including time to transport the modular home to the competition site by October 2013.

“This is a great opportunity to engage students across both (UTEP and EPCC) campuses in an activity where they will experience the real-life challenge of sustaining our lifestyle while minimizing

our energy needs,” said Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., dean of the College of Engineering. “We are proud to represent the Sun City, and we hope the ideas we come up with will be a model for innovation here in El Paso and throughout the globe.”

Innovative building

The decathlon is a research and demonstration project that pushes to accelerate the development and adoption of advanced energy technology in new and existing homes. The international competition draws the attention of energy-efficient homebuilders from across the nation.

“The Solar Decathlon is always known for putting out innovative ideas,” Garcia said. “Sure, some of the technologies will have been done before, but a lot will be new.”

In 2011, the Solar Decathlon-winning team from The University of Maryland used two patent-pending liquid desiccant waterfalls that used lithium chloride to absorb excess humidity directly from the air without a compressor and refrigeration cycle. This technology helped to reduce the energy use of the home’s heating and cooling system – which was already highly efficient.

Do UTEP and EPCC have any similar patent-pending technologies up their sleeves?

Garcia just smiled.

With part of the competition focusing on innovation, Garcia noted the importance of using the newest technology and left the question at that.



Team Texas is working on a design similar to the concept renderings shown here. The zero-energy home needs to rely mainly on the sun to power its functions, including traditional domestic living, home entertainment and dinner party hosting.

According to the Department of Energy, conceptual designs submitted by teams for the 2013 competition include a range of innovative building technologies such as smart home controls, building-integrated photovoltaics, energy-efficient building-envelope assemblies and heat-recovery systems.

Team Texas' proposal for a 900-square-foot home includes waterless toilets, thermal paneling, solar window shades, sun-tracking skylights and hydronic floor heating.

So you're going to build a house

"I am intimidated in the sense of the amount of precision that has to go into this house," Garcia said.

Teams are challenged to design, build and operate solar-powered houses that are cost effective, energy efficient and attractive. The winning team, according to the competition website solardecathlon.gov, will best blend affordability, consumer appeal and design excellence with optimal energy production and maximum efficiency.

Still in the initial design phase, UTEP engineering students are working closely with EPCC architecture students to finalize a sleek, modern home design that fits those needs.

"This competition is supposed to set a trend," said Fabian Uribe, architectural project manager for Team Texas. "So it's finding a way to make these innovative products fit the lifestyle of the masses."

Uribe is a junior graphic design major at UTEP who has completed architecture courses at EPCC. "For us, it's about finding a balance within the design to house these products," he said.

The decathlon will focus on 10 contest areas: architecture, market appeal, engineering, communications, affordability, comfort zone, hot water, appliances, home entertainment and energy balance. Garcia estimated that more than 200 students will contribute to the home-building project.

Team Texas added another dimension to the requirements with a desire to construct a home that fits the economic reality of El Paso.

"We wanted to develop a zero-energy home at a low cost to allow people to more easily afford solar homes in our sun city," Garcia said.

"Our focus is on designing a solar home at a cost below \$250,000 that can be easily assembled by local home builders in our city where the sun shines 84 percent of the time."



The plan for green

The prototype competition home – which includes appliances, furniture and décor – will likely exceed the \$250,000 price tag. And the costs for construction, travel expenses and transport of the home to the competition site will be considerable.

El Paso Electric recently donated \$200,000 to Team Texas. Richard Fleager, former senior vice president for external affairs and customer care at El Paso Electric, said that the company is pleased to assist UTEP's participation in the Solar Decathlon. It has high hopes for the student team to have a successful entry that will serve as a model for solar home construction in the El Paso area.

The team needs to raise \$600,000 in additional donations and sponsorships to cover the costs of the project and competition. A handful of local construction and solar and energy-efficient technology companies already have pledged cash and in-kind donations.

UTEP plans to lend a hand by devoting \$100,000 from the Department of Energy to student stipends and scholarships for those participating in the project. And the UTEP College of Engineering will be offering classes on independent research that directly benefit the Solar Decathlon project.

"First we were just a regional school," Garcia said. "Then we were nationally recognized. Now with this, we are on the international stage." ☞

UTEP AND IBM RELATIONSHIP YIELDS MUTUAL BENEFITS

By Jennifer Clampet • Photo courtesy of IBM



A team of IBM employees, from technical support personnel to top-level executives, work with UTEP faculty and administrators in the College of Engineering to develop infrastructure for cloud computing and train future engineers.

IBM's recent contributions and its associated benefits to The University of Texas at El Paso may be in the virtual realm, but the relationship between the tech giant and UTEP is as real as ever.

"There are tremendous synergies between UTEP and IBM," said Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., dean of the College of Engineering.

"Currently those synergies are between IBM's and UTEP's understanding of the importance of cloud computing to today's research environment, the role of universities in urban economic development and sustainability, and the kind of engineers needed to provide the solutions needed for today and tomorrow. We are very happy to be working very closely with IBM on all three issues."

IBM's recent pledge of more than \$90,000 in hardware and services for UTEP's High Performance Computing (HPC) Virtual Research Laboratory will create the foundation for the University's first HPC cloud research computing environment. The "cloud," in this case, refers to computing

with shared applications and resources over the Internet.

"The idea is to provide researchers with high-end computing environments over the Internet on demand. These environments will enable the researchers to employ multiple processing elements simultaneously to solve a problem, reducing the time to solution," said Patricia Teller, Ph.D., a professor of computer science.

Teller worked with IBM on three previous Shared University Research Grants which provided the University with HPC infrastructure valued at more than \$1 million.

Vinod Kumar, Ph.D., assistant professor of mechanical engineering, will use IBM's cloud computing in the development of multi-layered renewable-energy course modules designed to target audiences from grade-school children to graduate and postdoctoral professionals.

"It's about providing education on renewable energy to common people," Kumar said. "And IBM is very supportive of educational demands."

The U.S. based-technology company has consistently invested in UTEP students – via internships and doctoral fellowships – including graduate recruitment. IBM's interest in "T-shaped" skill sets – having expertise in one particular area with a broad set of complementary skills in multiple disciplines – meshes well with academic programs spearheaded in the colleges of Engineering and Business Administration.

Jim Spohrer, director of service research at IBM, serves on the College of Engineering advisory board. His contributions ensure that computer science at UTEP adapts to the changing market, said Manny Pacillas, assistant dean of the College of Engineering.

Chuck Snapp, IBM client executive to UTEP, foresees a "tremendous mutual benefit in store for UTEP as we move into the future," he said.

"In addition to Dr. Spohrer, we now have in place a broad team of IBMers, ranging from technical support personnel to top-level executives, involved in a variety of ways to advance the UTEP-IBM strategic relationship." 📌



PERSONAL STORIES CULLED FOR UTEP'S 100th BIRTHDAY

The staff of UTEP's Institute of Oral History wants your stories to be part of the University's Centennial Celebration.

They are looking for the big memories and subtle reflections that capture the essence of The University of Texas at El Paso experience. The institute was commissioned to record 100 of these "Centennial Stories" to celebrate the University's 100th birthday in 2014.

Organizers are reaching out to students, faculty, alumni, staff and other friends of the University to share their personal stories and nominate others to do the same.

"We know there are great stories out there," said Kristine Navarro-McElhaney, institute director. Her staff, which includes several UTEP students, began the Centennial interviews in January.

While many recollections will be powerful, touching or humorous,

Navarro-McElhaney understood that some may have painful accounts.

But those are welcome, too.

"We want those stories; those under-the-radar stories," she said. "Don't be shy."

A video clip of several students and alumni who already have been interviewed was shown to an appreciative 2014 Commission during a spring meeting in the new Chemistry and Computer Science Building. The commission is made up of 100 UTEP and community leaders who are tasked with developing special events and keepsakes to promote the University during its anniversary celebration.

In the video, interviewees touched on the campus' diverse cultures and the overall positive impact UTEP had made in their lives. To see the clip, visit vimeo.com/37616673.

[com/37616673](http://vimeo.com/37616673).

If you or someone you know has a story to share, contact Navarro-McElhaney at knavarro@utep.edu or at 915-747-7052.



FOR 100 YEARS

FUNDRAISING ATTRACTS UTEP FANS ACROSS THE U.S.

An organic, grassroots fundraising effort has been gaining ground across the Miner Nation in support of UTEP's *At the Forefront: The Centennial Campaign for UTEP*. Greater financial support is coming from peer groups such as UTEP students, parents, private businesses, ranchers, utility companies, attorneys, accountants and engineers, among others. The concept is simple: Give \$100 in honor of UTEP's 100th anniversary in 2014.

The 100 for 100 peer group efforts began with a letter from UTEP Distinguished Alumnus Bob Black, '77, president of the Texas Bar Association, to UTEP alumni in law-related careers – attorneys, judges and criminal investigators – to promote the value and success of the University's Law School Preparation Institute.

"By getting involved, beyond writing a check, I can help spread the word about the amazing achievements at UTEP and about its incredible future," said Black, managing partner at the Texas law firm MehaffyWeber.

UTEP's Centennial is now generating other 100 for 100 fundraising ideas, such as forming groups of 100 to give back to UTEP. Associate Vice President for Development Sylvia Acosta, Ph.D., encourages peer groups to get involved in new and creative ways.

"Your group can decide how to interpret the 100 for 100 and make it your own," Acosta said. "This is your University. Through this campaign we are asking our Miner Nation to stand with us and give to us."

Faculty and staff members also are getting involved through the UTEP Family Campaign. A growing number of employees are pledging 100 percent departmental participation to the Centennial campaign in support of the 100 for 100 concept.

"We want giving to become something organic at UTEP – a natural outpouring of support from our alumni and friends," Acosta said. "With annual giving, participation is key. Give at whatever level is appropriate for you. Together, we can secure the next 100 years."

Top: The first photo of the Golddiggers was taken in fall 1933, a year after the group was officially recognized by the Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy (now UTEP).

Bottom: UTEP Golddiggers, 1985



f

or the past 80 years, the UTEP Golddiggers have wowed Miner fans with their show-stopping dance moves, eye-catching ensembles and vivacious smiles.

But before today's Golddiggers took to the field at UTEP football games, their predecessors were a group of young men known as the Ore Diggers who dressed in orange and white caps, orange shirts, white silk handkerchiefs and white duck trousers. They kept the crowd cheering during halftime at the Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy's (now UTEP) football games.

The Golddiggers officially organized in 1932, taking their eponym from an unofficial pep squad that formed in the fall of 1930. Lurline H. Coltharp, UTEP professor emeritus of English and linguistics, was a student at the time. She and some of her friends thought that there was "not enough pep" during the football games. The group formed a cheering squad, and Coltharp's mother suggested they call themselves the "Golddiggers."

"This we thought was very funny because we would never have thought of being a Golddigger," Coltharp said in an interview with UTEP's Institute of Oral History. "We were the kind of little girls that had been brought up, when a boy took us on a date and we stopped at a drive-in for a drink and he said, 'What will you have?' We'd say, 'I'll take a small Coke, please,' because we weren't going to spend more than five cents of the boy's money. Money was too scarce a commodity then, so we thought the name Golddiggers was funny."

All the members wore white skirts, and Coltharp remembered wearing an orange sweater. They marched in the Homecoming parade and sat together at football games and "yelled extra hard because we were the Golddiggers," Coltharp said.

GOLDDIGGERS SHINE ON

By Laura L. Acosta

SHOW-STOPPING DANCE MOVES, EYE-CATCHING
ENSEMBLES AND VIVACIOUS SMILES.

The pep squad was officially recognized two years later. According to the 1934 *Flowsheet* yearbook, the group was organized to create interest in campus activities. About 20 women wore orange and white felt caps, appeared at the Mines vs. Simmons football game and ushered for the Chevrolet Automobile Show. The following year, “smart white skirts” were added to the uniforms.

Through the years, the uniforms have changed along with the routines. Nancy Hamilton, a 1949 Texas Western College graduate and former Golddigger, remembers the squad wearing white wool suits with long, narrow skirts down to their mid-calves, long sleeves, orange scarves and orange gloves and berets. They marched in formations.

“We didn’t do any dancing or high kicks – couldn’t in that skirt,” said Hamilton, author of *UTEP: A Pictorial History of the University of Texas at El Paso: Diamond Jubilee, 1914-1989*.

The 1940s were also a time when the group showed their patriotic side. The Golddiggers sang for wounded World War II veterans at what was then William Beaumont General Hospital, and in 1945 they made a recording of some of their favorite songs and sent them to Texas soldiers who were overseas at Christmas.

Whether the football team was winning or losing, the Golddiggers often stole the spotlight.

Laura Trejo, photography coordinator for UTEP’s University Communications office, was a member of the dance troupe during the 1980s Flashdance era.

She remembers performing in 1985 during halftime at the Denver Broncos vs. Cincinnati Bengals game. The same weekend, the Golddiggers performed for the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

“It was very memorable because it was the loudest applause I had ever heard after one of our performances,” Trejo said. “It was a great experience. The long bus ride brought us girls closer together and it was fun to interact with the band members once we were there.”

Melanie T. Thomas, information technology manager at UTEP, was a Golddigger from 1975-78. One of her fondest memories was when the group performed at New Mexico State University during a torrential rain storm.



Golddiggers march in the 2008 UTEP Homecoming Parade.

“We were in special black jumpsuits with long silver fringe on the legs and arms. We covered them up with trench coats until the music’s first note and then dropped them to the ground,” Thomas said. “The very next second the sky opened up. With each swing of an arm or kick of the leg, we sprayed each other with rainwater. We performed well even with all of that, but by the end we all looked like the band KISS because we had mascara running down our faces. It was hilarious.”

Since 2001, Thomas has teamed up with UTEP’s alumni office to bring the Golddiggers together during Homecoming. She is working with the music department on a Golddiggers reunion for 2014.

“We have not actually made specific plans yet, but I would love to see as many former Golddiggers at the game and on the field as I can find – not necessarily

FORMALLY ORGANIZED

The Golddiggers

officially

organized in

1932, taking their

eponym from

an unofficial

pep squad that

formed in the fall

of 1930.

to dance, but to come back and see old friends and remember how great it was,” Thomas said.

Rebecca Cano Salcido has been the Golddiggers’ coach since 1999. A professional performer and choreographer, Salcido implemented basic dance training so that the Golddiggers could execute the routines in a professional and safe manner.

“When I first started, the dancers had no basic dance technique,” Salcido said. “Though I have many dancers who have never set foot into a dance studio, it is my job to teach them the proper body alignment, posture and carriage.”

The dancers learn about 33 routines a year that range from the French Can Can to old school jazz and hip hop.

In addition to performing on the field, the Golddiggers also participate in community events. Each summer they host a camp for dancers ages 5 to 18. They are also the official host of the “Flashdance Showcase,” where all area high school dance teams showcase their routines in Magoffin Auditorium.

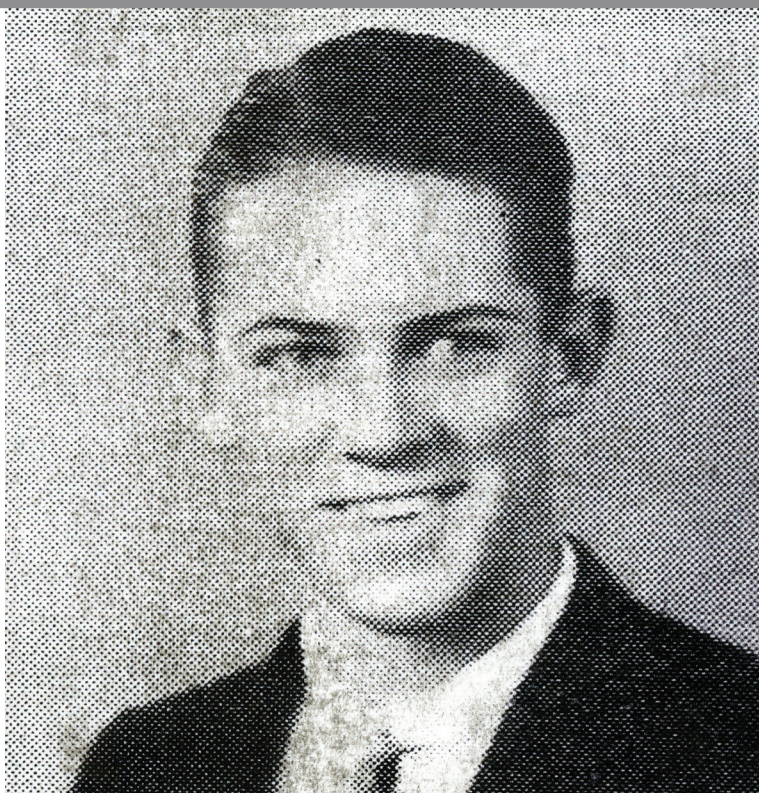
Auditions for the Golddiggers take place every April. Salcido said she looks for positive, energetic, professional role models – with or without formal dance training – who are fearless and can pick up routines quickly.

“My main goal for the team is to help create confident, multitalented adults to represent the University as professional and positive role models for our city’s youth,” she said. “There is so much discipline in dance.”

MY \$25 AND 27-CENT COLLEGE EDUCATION... *and What it Led To*

By Laymon Miller

Laymon Miller, '38, in his
1937-38 yearbook photo



When I graduated from El Paso's Austin High School in May 1935, there was no doubt in mine or my parents' minds about my going to college.

The Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy (TCM), the mining engineering branch of the University of Texas System, was located in El Paso and it had a good assortment of courses in addition to those in mining. I had a broad interest in the field of science; I had had both physics and chemistry in high school, and those kinds of subjects were high on my list. Also, living in El Paso made it a lot less expensive to go to college there.

The College of Mines was the clear choice. The tuition fee for each semester was \$25 plus lab fees, which might typically run about \$4 to \$8 for some of the science or engineering courses. There was also a student activity fee, which I am now guessing was about \$10 to \$12 per school year; the majority of students could not afford much more than that in those years. Books cost about \$7 to \$12 new; some could be bought secondhand at the bookstore for lower prices.



Laymon Miller in 2005

My first year's classes at TCM were physics, math, chemistry, geology, English and physical education. All three of the science courses had afternoon laboratory sessions. I had a pretty filled-up six-day commitment. Each morning I would be driven to school by my dad. Then, whenever my day was completed, I would walk down Mesa Avenue to my dad's

Downtown office and wait for a ride home.

I do not recall any major money-raising problem with my first semester fees and books; I probably helped with my earnings from mowing lawns and painting houses back on Aurora Street where we had lived for several years. When the second semester rolled around, though, there was a problem.

At that time, we were living on a little five-acre farm about eight miles "down the valley" (toward Ysleta). However, the milk and eggs income couldn't pay that second semester \$25 tuition fee. This was in the Depression that finally found its way from the East to Texas.

"Lady" and "Bossie" were the names we gave our two cows. Bossie was a bit cantankerous at times, and we were getting more milk than we needed or could use. We decided my education took priority over Bossie, so she had to go – for \$25. That gave me another semester of college.

During my first year of physics and math at the College of Mines, I had Professor P.W. Durkee as my teacher. I considered him quite old (after all, he did have gray hair), but he was a wonderful teacher

and I respected him and enjoyed his teaching. He planted the seeds of intellectual curiosity, the scientific approach and the joy of discovery. He is the reason that I ultimately chose physics as a life's profession.

Late in that school year, I asked Professor Durkee about having a job as his lab assistant for the coming year. He agreed, and I held that job for the next two school years. The pay was 27 cents per hour. I put in about 20 hours a week of paid work (about \$5.40 per week), and I know I spent every available extra hour there, whether I was paid or not.

The promise of the physics department job, and fairly good grades during that first year, encouraged my dad to give me the tuition fee for the start of my sophomore year.

That year, however, the job commitment meant that I really had to have some specific hours at the college and I didn't have the relative freedom to call my time my own. Also, I knew that my daily waiting at my dad's office was a slight nuisance and distraction to him, and I did not have any extra time for just waiting around for him and for the long times that it took to walk to town from the Mines. So we bought me a car; it was a 1928 four-door Model A Ford sedan, black with yellowish wooden spokes on the wheels. It cost \$25.

My pay for the 27-cents-per-hour job went largely toward the upkeep, gas and oil for the car. It took a quart of oil every time I filled the gas tank. Gas was in the range of 11-13 cents per gallon.

During my sophomore year, I took physics, math, chemistry, English and French. At the beginning of the second semester, we were in dire straits again, so this time, my dad sold a shotgun. It brought another \$25 to cover the tuition fee. That amount seems so negligible now.

In my second year at the College of Mines, I had the wonderful privilege of having Dr. Charles Sonnichsen as my professor in English literature. He was not only an engaging teacher, he made literature come to life. My favorite recollection has him jumping up on his lecture table and shouting out to us as he told us of the adventures of Beowulf as he visualized an old-time Geoffrey Chaucer might have done. He spoke with an old English accent when he read Shakespeare and it became as clear as modern speech. He made literature of ancient times current in our times.

At the end of my sophomore year ... I realized that with a little bit of extra work in two summer sessions, I could finish my B.A. degree work by the end of the 1938 summer session. So, I went to summer school that summer of 1937 and picked up some credits

in economics and French.

Oftentimes I think about college courses: We may not learn and remember all the facts to which we were exposed, but the attitudes and concepts of our teachers can mold our thinking for a lifetime. Dr. Edwin J. Knapp was another outstanding example. He was one of my earlier math teachers and served as faculty liaison with the athletic department. As such, he had a concern for the education and grades of the college athletes. That year, there was an influx of Native American Indian men (from the Mescalero tribe in New Mexico) on the football team. They were foundering in math, and Dr. Knapp asked me to be their tutor. They were all good-natured and we got along fine, but they always looked forward to the end of the tutoring session. They passed their math, but I don't think it was a favorite subject.

One of the most rewarding continuing pleasures for at least two of my three college years was being in the college choral group under Glen Johnson. I do not have a good singing voice, but that didn't matter to Glen. He wanted devoted, enthusiastic participation, and we all provided that. We had a weekly radio broadcast, we put on an annual variety show at Liberty Hall and we sang at several special occasions.

This is a fitting time to mention something that occurred many years later. From time to time, Lucy (my wife) and I would return to El Paso to visit my family, and usually I would go out to the college to see Dr. Knapp. Professor Durkee was gone by then, retired. On one later trip, I met Professor Tom Barnes, who was in the Physics Department. In 1991, Tom sent me a copy of a letter that he wrote to Dean Rey Elizondo of the College of Science at UTEP. Tom wrote:

"... Professor Durkee was, in my opinion, the greatest scientist this institution ever had. He was a wonderful teacher, a very reserved man, a New Englander with all of their best attributes. I was fortunate to be his office mate.

"It is true that Durkee studied under four great Nobel Prize winners: Lawrence (for whom the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory was named), Rutherford (the father of nuclear physics), Michelson (one of the greatest experimental physicists) and Millikan (noted for his evaluation of the charge on the electron and as an educator)."

So you see, I had some pretty remarkable teachers, too! And, I am most grateful for that \$25 and 27-cent education where it all started for me. 📌



Professor P.W. Durkee



Dr. Edwin J. Knapp

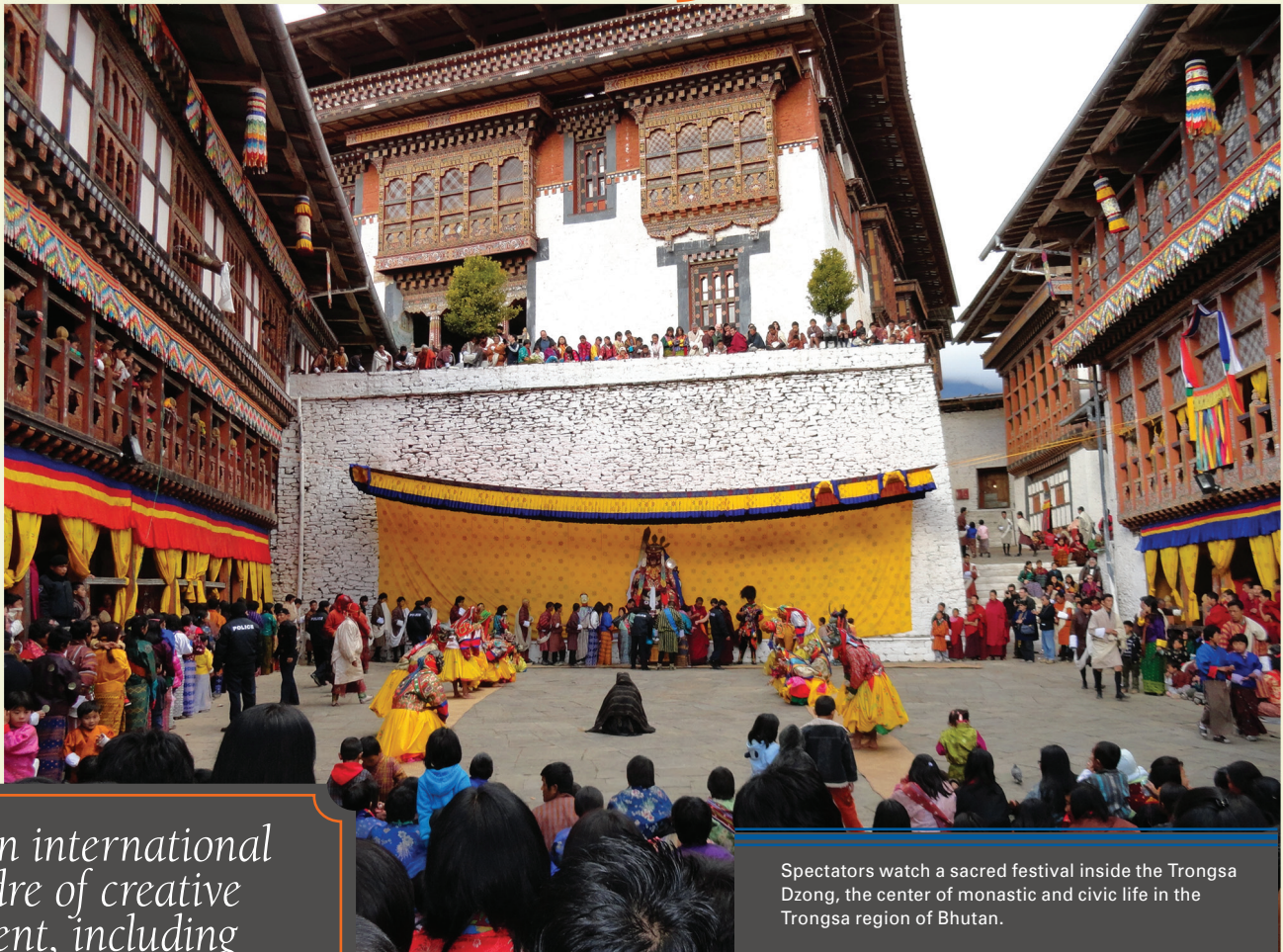


Charles Leland Sonnichsen

After his graduation from UTEP in 1938, Laymon Miller completed a master's degree in physics at the University of Texas at Austin. During World War II, he worked on the acoustic homing torpedo for the Navy at the Harvard Underwater Sound Lab. Following the war, a large part of the Harvard lab was moved to Pennsylvania State College, now Pennsylvania State University. After 10 years at the Ordnance Research Lab at Penn State, Miller was invited to join the acoustics consulting firm Bolt Beranek & Newman in Cambridge, Mass., where he worked for the last 27 years of his professional life in acoustics, largely in noise control. He is now 93 years old and has been married to Lucy for more than 69 years.

BHUTAN-BOUND OPERA GETS

'Miner' Adjustment



Spectators watch a sacred festival inside the Trongsa Dzong, the center of monastic and civic life in the Trongsa region of Bhutan.

An international cadre of creative talent, including representatives from The University of Texas at El Paso, is poised to produce the first live Western opera in Bhutan and incorporate the music and dance of the remote Himalayan country.

The goal is to create a musical tapestry that weaves Bhutanese cultural expressions within George Frideric Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, an 18th-century adaptation of a Greek myth about love and transformation.

Aaron Edward Carpenè, a native Australian who is a professor of music studies at John Cabot University in Rome, conceived the Opera Bhutan Project and serves as its musical director. He plans to produce the show in Bhutan in fall 2013 and bring it to the United States in 2014, with El Paso hosting the U.S. premiere as part of the University's Centennial celebration.

"The University has embraced the project, recognizing its values for the local community and the enormous potential for intercultural exchange and goodwill," Carpenè said.

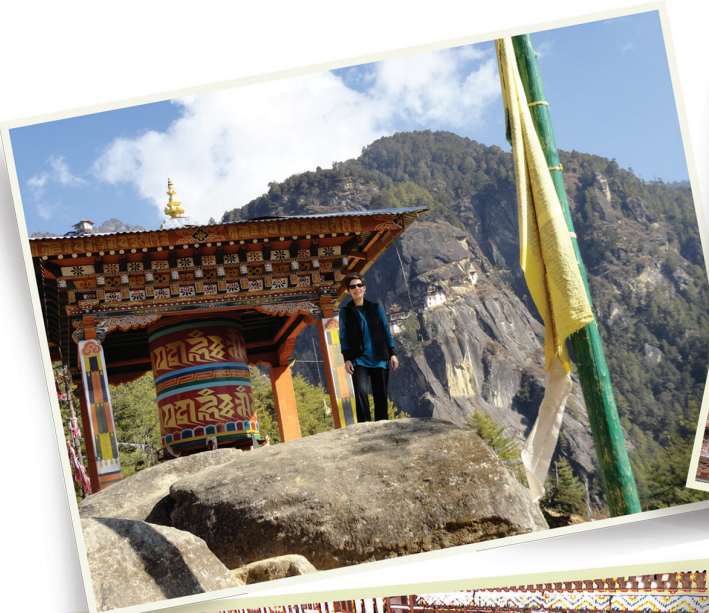
Some of the opera's principal planners, who come from the United States, Bhutan,

Australia and countries in Europe, met at UTEP in April to watch University students perform choruses and solos from *Acis and Galatea* in UTEP's Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall.

In August, about 30 UTEP students and faculty will begin rehearsals on campus. The time will be used to develop dance, music and staging, Carpenè said.

Carpenè expressed his appreciation for UTEP's support as the project's institutional partner, and for the involvement of its music department, especially the chorus directed by UTEP's Elisa Fraser Wilson, D.M.A., associate professor of voice.

Carpenè first conceived of the idea of an opera with Bhutanese elements in 2005, inspired by his travels to the beautiful and mysterious land. But it took some time and a serendipitous meeting in Washington, D.C., before the project really took off. One of Carpenè's first collaborators was



Top left: Elisa Fraser Wilson, D.M.A., associate professor of voice, stops for a brief rest midway up the climb to Taktshang Goemba, the Tiger's Nest monastery, 900 meters above the Paro valley.

Top right: Citizens of Trongsa watch a sacred festival from above.

Bottom left: The festival as seen from above

Bottom right: A multinational group of tourists, artistic consultants and directors pose for a group shot during the pre-production planning journey to Bhutan in January 2012. They are pictured next to the Tower of Trongsa Museum in Trongsa, Bhutan.

Preston Scott, a former adviser to the Royal Government of Bhutan and curator of the Bhutan Project for the Smithsonian's Folklife Festival in 2008 in Washington. Scott met UTEP President Diana Natalicio at the event and learned about the University's ties to the small country bordered by China and India. He contacted her in July 2010 to discuss Carpenè's project.

Scott said that the Bhutanese government, which wants its culture expressed in an authentic manner, welcomed the University's participation because it is considered "a well-known, respected and trusted institution."

"New and creative projects like Opera Bhutan require a substantial institutional base for all of the possibilities to be realized," Scott said. "Since the project involves bringing two major cultural expressions together for the very first time in a way that could make music history,

there also are important educational and scholarly elements in the project that could benefit from solid academic institutional linkages, too."

President Natalicio welcomed the opportunity to collaborate on the project.

"Since the first structures were built on our campus almost 100 years ago, UTEP has offered a glimpse into the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan," she said. "As the academic and cultural ties between us have matured over the past 15 years, we are delighted to have this opportunity to partner with our friends in Bhutan to introduce them to Western opera. This exciting international artistic collaboration brings together talented individuals from across the globe, including a number of UTEP's own outstanding students and faculty."

Members of the international team, including Carpenè; Scott; Wilson; David

Grabarkewitz, artistic director of the El Paso Opera; and Stefano Vizioli, internationally recognized opera director, traveled to Bhutan in January 2012 to work on some of the production's details.

UTEP's Wilson, who also serves as El Paso Opera's director of young artists, said the opportunity for UTEP students to participate in this event will give them a broader perspective of the world and also will enhance the University's reputation.

"Since we are performing with principal artists, both orchestral and vocal, from around the world, our performance will extend UTEP's reputation for musical and dramatic excellence throughout the international arts community," Wilson said. "This will occur through word-of-mouth as artists share their experience with other artists." 🍌

Dinner Theatre Presents World Premiere of Tim Rice's 'Lute'

By Joe Velarde • Photos by J.R. Hernandez



The cast of *Lute*, Tim Rice's musical, performs the show's world premiere at the UTEP Dinner Theatre.

When legendary lyricist and playwright Tim Rice was asked if The University of Texas at El Paso Dinner Theatre could revive his musical comedy *Blondel*, Rice came up with a better idea. He decided to rebuild the show from the ground up.

"I thought to myself, 'There's still so much I would love to do with this story, the character of Blondel, the songs and just the entire production,'" Rice said.

Set in the 12th century, *Blondel* tells the story of a minstrel in search of his king, Richard the Lionheart, who has set off on a Crusade. A collaboration between Rice and the late composer Stephen Oliver, the show premiered in London in 1983, and the UTEP Dinner Theatre produced the musical's American premier in 1985.

When the Dinner Theatre became interested in bringing *Blondel* back to the stage, Rice seized the opportunity to breathe new life into the 29-year old show.

Rice shed the musical of its '70s and

'80s aesthetic (no more lasers and disco music) and found ways to reinvigorate his characters and music, turning the dial to classic 1960s pop rock — the lute-playing Blondel has a back-up group, the Blondettes.

The instrument also inspired Rice to change the name of the musical.

"We settled with *Lute*, and not just because it's the instrument played by the main character, but to clue the audience in on the look and feel of the show," Rice said.

The re-worked show was just as daring as the first rendition of the play, said Greg Taylor, associate professor and director of the UTEP Dinner Theatre. And much to Taylor's delight, the new show meant Rice was giving the Dinner Theatre an opportunity to host a world premiere.

"Tim Rice has always been known for playing with a different style, every time he goes into his creative mode," said Mathew Pritchard, who wrote the music for *Lute*. "Of the many times I have worked with him,

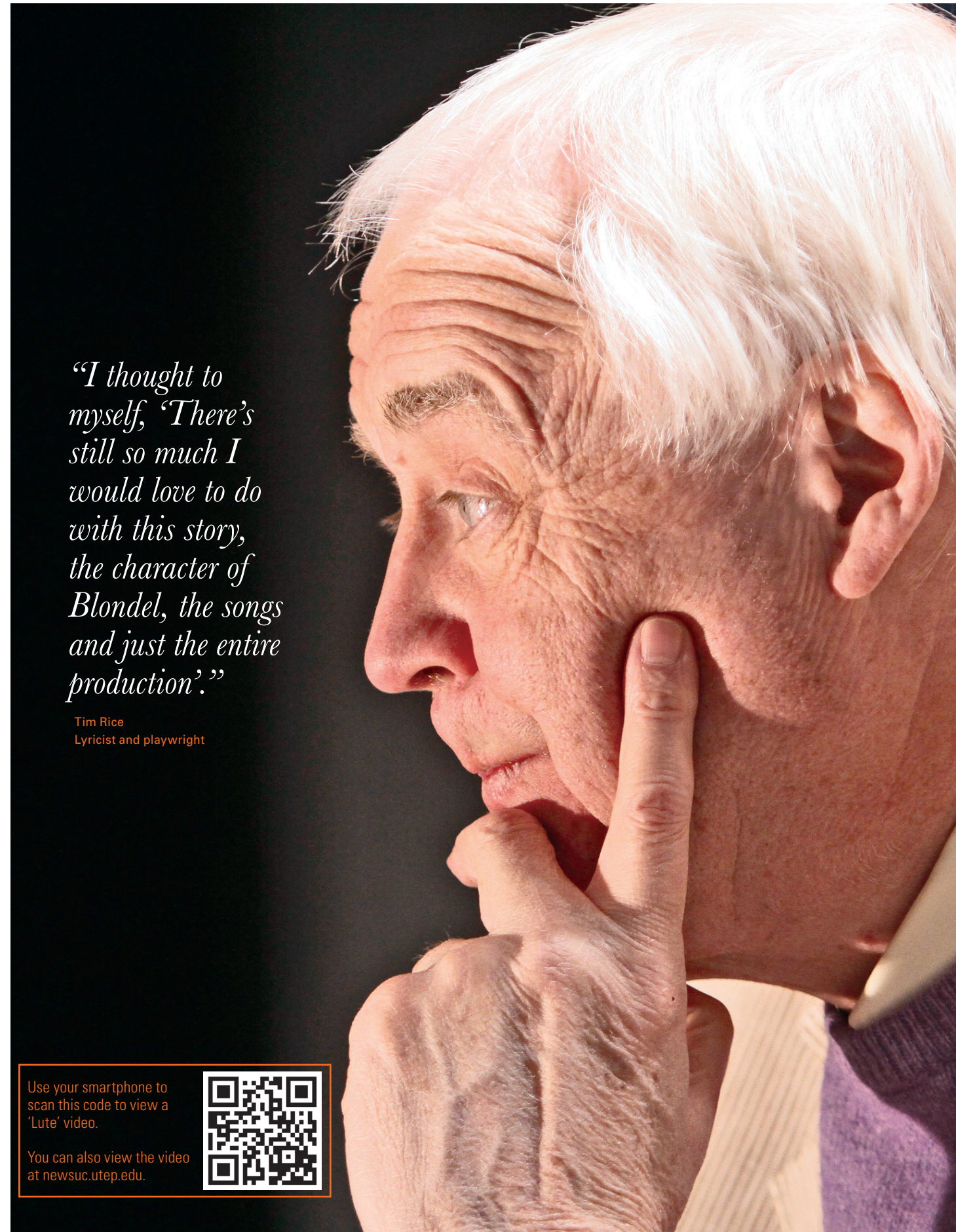
this has been the most arduous, exhausting and exciting of those experiences."

According to Taylor, the cast and crew became accustomed to the daily re-writes and changes Rice made via email. For a major production, Taylor said that this is a very common practice — especially for one that is being performed for the first time.

"This gives our students an amazing opportunity," Taylor said. "Not only do they have the honor to work under the direct and watchful eye of Sir Rice, but they also get to see how a major production is brought to light."

Taylor said that Rice was more than pleased with what he saw when he visited UTEP in January to watch the Dinner Theatre's dress rehearsals.

"I remember calling him and letting him know the opening show went very well," Taylor said. "I think he had always known it was going to be a hit, and it was!" 🍷



“I thought to myself, ‘There’s still so much I would love to do with this story, the character of Blondel, the songs and just the entire production’.”

Tim Rice
Lyricist and playwright

Use your smartphone to scan this code to view a ‘Lute’ video.

You can also view the video at newsuc.utep.edu.



FACULTY ART EXHIBIT

Photos by Laura Trejo

In the spring, the art faculty members of The University of Texas at El Paso displayed their work at the Biennial Faculty Arts Exhibition inside the Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts. UTEP Magazine took the opportunity to gather several professors' thoughts on the state of the arts at the University, and the program's influence on El Paso's art community.

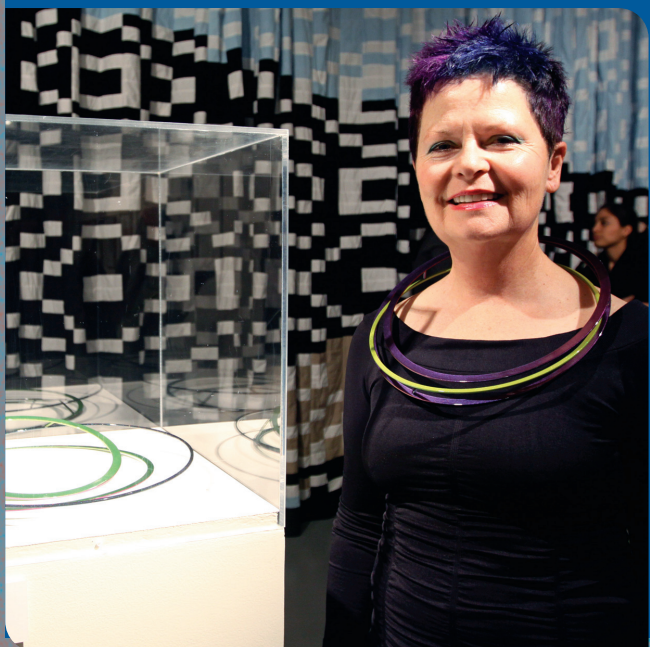


Members of the UTEP and El Paso communities check out the work of UTEP faculty artists during the opening reception for the Biennial Faculty Art Exhibition.



(Rachelle Thiewes)

professor of art in metals



"The art department has and will continue to play a vital role in graduating exceptional artistic talent. Many of our former students are staying in El Paso and providing an important foundation for future artists."

(Anne Giangiulio)

associate professor of art in graphic design



"For many artists here at UTEP, there was never really a 'recent arts explosion' here in El Paso, because art has constantly been all around us! The future of the art department is bright."

(Daniel Szwaczkowski)

lecturer of art in metals



"Art is a living and breathing thing. Our students have taken their desire to 'create' to the highest level, being arts majors. Many of them have gone off to do great things, and many more will."

(Christine Foerster)

art lecturer in drawing and design



"Creating is a common and natural thing for humans to do. Our students are wonderfully gifted in what they do and have accomplished, and UTEP as a university benefits from them every semester."

Conference USA Spreads its Wings, Maintains Texas Footprint

By Jeff Darby

CONFERENCE USA IN 2013*

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. UTEP | 8. Tulane |
| 2. FIU | 9. Marshall |
| 3. Louisiana Tech | 10. Tulsa |
| 4. N. Texas | 11. UAB |
| 5. UT San Antonio | 12. Rice |
| 6. East Carolina | 13. UNC-Charlotte |
| 7. Southern Miss | 14. Old Dominion |

*Conference membership as of May 2012

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



During a time of great instability in college athletics, Conference USA has taken bold measures to ensure long-term prosperity.

After Houston, Memphis, SMU and UCF announced plans to join the Big East Conference in 2013, C-USA extended invitations to Charlotte, Florida International, Louisiana Tech, Old Dominion, North Texas and UT San Antonio to come aboard next year.

Conference USA will have 14 members going forward, including incumbents UTEP, East Carolina, Marshall, Rice, Southern Miss, Tulane, Tulsa and UAB.

The five new additions to C-USA hail from metro areas totaling nearly 18 million people.

"While they're different, each school possesses the same basic attribute – they are growing and they are increasing relevant to their significant and large communities," said C-USA Commissioner Britton Banowsky. "We know that the future will be bright for them and for us. So our first focus was large institutions and growing markets."

"Second, we wanted to ensure that the institutions would give us a competitive lift – not only in football, which is important, obviously, but in other sports like baseball, soccer and basketball. We know that is the

case when you look at some of the history and tradition in some of these programs. We're certainly going to get a competitive lift from this new grouping of institutions."

C-USA will preserve its stronghold in the Lone Star State, adding the San Antonio market while keeping a perch in Houston and the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex.

"We're really excited that our alumni across the state will continue to have the opportunity to watch our teams play," said UTEP Director of Athletics Bob Stull.

While it's clear that Conference USA will continue to thrive, a greater mystery surrounds what form – if any – a proposed alliance with the Mountain West Conference will take.

C-USA and the Mountain West have talked about joining forces for several months, with everything from a straight merger to a revenue sharing model being bandied about.

Banowsky would confirm only that discussions are ongoing. Will UTEP end up renewing old Western Athletic Conference rivalries with Air Force, Colorado State, Fresno State, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, San Jose State, UNLV and Wyoming in some way, shape or form?

"Each conference knows that we are much stronger working together than we are working apart," Banowsky said.

"I think this is a process that is going to take a while. We'll have conversations again in June and try to understand if something is doable for 2013. Ultimately, the conversations may extend into the start of 2014. But the bottom line and takeaway is that the conferences really know that there is something here and there is a potential to work together. We're just trying to figure out the best way to do that. We really aren't working on a set timeline right now."

C-USA WILL PRESERVE ITS STRONGHOLD IN THE LONE STAR STATE, ADDING THE SAN ANTONIO MARKET WHILE KEEPING A PERCH IN HOUSTON AND THE DALLAS/FORT WORTH METROPLEX.



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Tim Hardaway, former UTEP basketball player and NBA All-Star, enters the Don Haskins Center on the day that his No. 10 jersey was retired.

HARDAWAY'S NO. 10 HANGS IN HISTORY

By Jenn Crawford

Tim Hardaway, former UTEP basketball player and NBA All-Star, became the fifth player in the University's history to have his jersey retired. In January, Hardaway watched along with thousands of cheering Miner fans as a banner featuring his No. 10 jersey was unfurled from the Don Haskins Center's rafters during halftime of the Miners' game against the University of Houston.

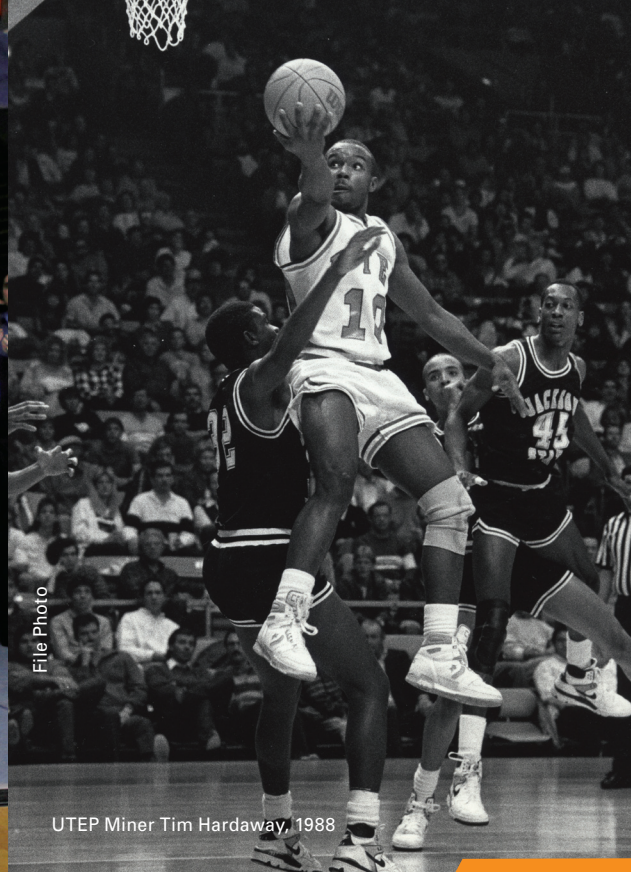
The 6-foot guard from Chicago played for legendary UTEP coach Haskins from 1985-89. Hardaway was named the 1989 Western Athletic Conference Player of the Year and played in four NCAA tournaments. He also was recipient of the Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award, given to the best college player six feet tall or under, in 1989.

He holds the University record for steals (262) and ranks second for assists (563). After UTEP, he enjoyed a 13-season NBA career with Golden State, Miami, Dallas, Denver and Indiana. A five-time All-Star, he was elected to the UTEP Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005.

"There are a lot of people who came through UTEP and deserve to have their jerseys retired," Hardaway said. "It's always nice to be a part of history ... I had the best four years of my life here, and I wouldn't change it for the world." 🍷

Use your smartphone to scan this code to view a Tim Hardaway video.

You can also view the video at newsuc.utep.edu.



File Photo

UTEP Miner Tim Hardaway, 1988

OTHER RETIRED JERSEYS

#14 NATE ARCHIBALD:

One of the NBA's 50 Greatest Players, Nate "Tiny" Archibald was an All-Western Athletic Conference selection and led the Miners to the 1970 NCAA Tournament. The 6-foot-1-inch guard from New York was a six-time NBA All-Star, including the game's MVP in 1981. He was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1991.

#45 JIM BARNES:

Jim "Bad News" Barnes, a 6-foot-8-inch center from Arkansas, led the Miners to their first and second NCAA Tournament appearances. In 1964, he was the top pick in the NBA draft by the New York Knicks. He was a member of the 1964 U.S. Olympic team. He died in 2002.

#25 CHARLIE BROWN:

A 6-foot-1-inch guard from Tyler, Texas, Charlie Brown and his brother were the first African-American athletes to compete in a major sport at a major university in the Confederate south when they came to UTEP in 1956. He was inducted into the UTEP Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008.

#42 NOLAN RICHARDSON:

Before Nolan Richardson began winning championships as a head coach, the 6-foot-2-inch forward from El Paso led the Miners to their first NCAA Tournament appearance in 1963. As a coach, he led Tulsa to the 1981 National Invitation Tournament title and Arkansas to the 1994 NCAA championship. He coached the Mexico National Team in 2007.

WOMEN FINISH RECORD-BREAKING SEASON

By Mark Brunner • Photo courtesy of UTEP Athletics

"WE HAD A VERY SPECIAL GROUP OF SENIORS WHO ARE LEAVING A LEGACY AND A HISTORY AT UTEP. I THINK THE WORLD OF EACH ONE OF THEM. I'M VERY PROUD OF THEM. THEY WENT OUT ON TOP BEING CHAMPIONS AND ALWAYS MINERS AND SISTERS!"

Keitha Adams
Women's Basketball Head Coach



The 2011-12 record-breaking UTEP Women's Basketball Team included seven seniors. They are, from left, Briana Green, Melisa Mendes, Whitney Houston, Erika Warren, Gloria Brown, Kim Smith and Baiba Eglite.

headed into the 2011-12 women's basketball season, head coach Keitha Adams had a good feeling. It didn't have to do with the fact that the Miners returned some talented players, nor was it that they were healthy and had as much depth as any team in program history.

Rather, it stemmed from how UTEP handled the adversity-riddled 2010-11 campaign. Four key players were sidelined with season-ending injuries and a school-record 12 of 14 losses were by single figures.

Yet through it all, the team never quit on Adams.

They fought and persevered to post a winning record (16-14), and it was this fighting attitude that had Adams believing the following year could bring a special season.

And as it turned out, she was exactly right. UTEP set both a school (men's and women's) and Conference USA record for single-season wins (29-4) during an

unforgettable 2011-12 campaign.

"We had a great season," Adams said. "It was a lot of fun. These young ladies made history. We went dancing. Special things happen when everyone puts the team first, and understands that it's about being a team and being sisters."

The Miners jumped out to a program-best 10-0, lost two games by a combined three points, then peeled off 15 straight triumphs to clinch the Conference USA regular-season title while averaging better than 4,243 fans in league action.

"Reflecting back, I have to say that our home games were very special," Adams said. "We had great crowds that got really loud and behind us. Our players really fed off of that, and it was a memorable experience for all of us."

After an emotional loss to Rice, the Miners bounced back on the way to winning their first Conference USA Tournament championship, earning the team a ticket to the NCAA tournament.

The campaign came to a close with an

85-77 setback to No. 11 Penn State, but even in defeat, Adams had her head held high.

"Our game versus Penn State was a tough battle," Adams said. "I was very proud of our team. We were tied at halftime and just came up short at the end. Our effort and fight in that game was excellent. We gave it our all."

The Miners set single-season records for blocked shots (197), rebounding margin (+9.5), scoring defense (54) and scoring margin (13.4). Adams was named the C-USA Coach of the Year for the second time in her career.

Gloria Brown was voted first-team All C-USA, a member of the all-defensive team and repeated as the Sixth Player of the Year while being voted as the 2012 C-USA Tournament Championship MVP. Kayla Thornton was a second-team All C-USA honoree and joined Brown on the All-Tournament squad, while Kelli Willingham landed on the C-USA Academic All-Conference Team. 

READY FOR UTEP GAME DAY

By Chris Lechuga



For the past 15 years, Raul "Ruly" Holguin and his family have hosted some of the largest tailgate parties at The University of Texas at El Paso. Armed with a smoker and a smile, the lifelong Miner fan cannot wait to start cooking and visiting with almost 150 friends while getting ready to watch UTEP football.

"We just like the atmosphere," Holguin said. "We've met a lot of really good people."

UTEP Athletic Director Bob Stull keeps fans like Holguin in mind when planning schedules that will not only be competitive, but also will appeal to fans in El Paso. That is why this year's football schedule features a number of opponents that are used to nationwide attention.

"I know our fans get excited about seeing some nationally ranked teams, and we're very fortunate to get the University of Oklahoma here as our opening game," Stull said. "We hope that this will create a lot of excitement for our fans."

The Miners will open the season at home with a match-up against Big 12 powerhouse and former national championship team the Oklahoma Sooners on Sept. 1. After a trip to visit Ole Miss on Sept. 8, UTEP returns to the Sun Bowl to take on rival New Mexico State on Sept. 15 for the Battle of I-10. Mike Price

will then lead the team on a two-game road trip to Wisconsin on Sept. 22 and to East Carolina on Sept. 29 for the start of Conference USA play.

The Miners will play at home on Oct. 6 against SMU before visiting Tulsa on Oct. 13. UTEP will celebrate homecoming on Oct. 20 against Tulane. After a road trip against conference rival Houston on Oct. 27, UTEP will finish the season with games against Central Florida on Nov. 10, Southern Miss on Nov. 17 and Rice on Nov. 24.

Stull said that along with building an attractive schedule, the athletics department will look into promotions and events that will create a fun and safe environment for fans on campus on game day.

"Football is more than a game," Stull said. "There is no better entertainment for a whole day for a family than to go to a college football game."

Holguin, owner of Ruly's Mobile Welding, has been going to UTEP football games since his father took him as a teenager and continues to enjoy Saturdays with his family with the Miners.

"I know we have to play some tough teams, but everyone is geared up," Holguin said. 📌



Season Opener vs. Oklahoma!

2012 SCHEDULE

SEPT. 1	Oklahoma
SEPT. 8	at Mississippi
SEPT. 15	NM State
SEPT. 22	at Wisconsin
SEPT. 29	at East Carolina*
OCT. 6	SMU*
OCT. 13	at Tulsa*
OCT. 20	Tulane*
OCT. 27	at Houston*
NOV. 10	UCF*
NOV. 17	at Southern Miss*
NOV. 24	Rice*

*Indicates Conference USA game
All dates subject to change

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UTEP SOCCER STANDOUT TO PLAY IN LONDON OLYMPICS

By Mark Brunner
Photo courtesy of the Canadian Soccer Association

Only the most elite soccer players compete in a World Cup and even fewer take to the pitch in an Olympic setting.

Former Miner standout and assistant coach Kelly Parker is one of the lucky ones who will have done both, but luck has nothing to do with how she reached this point in her career.

"Kelly achieved this success due to her incredible work ethic," UTEP soccer head coach Kevin Cross said. "She had to earn this, and I personally saw how hard she trained to achieve her soccer dreams."

Parker, a likely starter for Canada at the 2012 London Summer Olympics, got her first crack at the international level in a short stint against Brazil in a friendly match in July 2003. Two World Cups and two Olympics were held before Parker was recalled to the national team in 2009.

"It was the path I was meant to take," Parker said. "I wouldn't have changed a thing!"

Parker worked her way onto the squad at the Cypress Cup in March 2009. She hasn't looked back since, establishing herself as a fixture on the Canadian roster. Parker played at the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup, and is on the cusp of another once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"The Olympics is a dream come true," Parker said. "It's the highest honor and something most people only dream about."

While it will be Parker's first Olympics, she is familiar with playing in an event of this magnitude.

"I think the experience of playing in the Women's World Cup Germany 2011 helped me," Parker said. "It exposed me to the pressures and distractions that come along with events of this size."

The journey for the Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, native started in the Sun City. She was one of the greatest players to ever wear a Miner uniform. She piled up 84 points, including a school-record 30 assists, while tormenting the opposition from 1999-2002.

Parker was an instrumental part of the 2002 Miner team, which led the nation in scoring (4.42 gpg) while finishing 16-3.

"Playing for UTEP allowed me to experience tremendous success at the collegiate level," Parker said. "Kevin [Cross] helped to shape and push me to become the player I am now. He also gave me the confidence to continue pushing for it, even when the road seemed to be a dead end. He believed in me and never stopped having confidence in me."

Parker's emergence on the international stage is a credit to UTEP soccer as well.

"Kelly playing in the Olympics is a huge honor for UTEP soccer," Cross said. "I'm very thankful for her hard work and success. We are supporting her 100 percent and wish her the best of luck." 🍀



Kelly Parker, '04, will likely start for Canada at the 2012 London Summer Olympics.



Adriana Alvarez, '01, '06, left, and Mariela Aguirre, '03

UTEP ALUMNAE TO SOAR WITH NASA

By Jennifer Clampet

As teachers at the Alicia R. Chacon International School in El Paso, UTEP alumnae Adriana Alvarez and Mariela Aguirre plan to take their first- and seventh-grade students to new heights. Starting next year, the duo will participate in NASA's Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors program.

"My dad would teach me about astronomy as a young girl," Alvarez said. "It was a dream, but I never thought it would come true, that I would be working with NASA."

Alvarez graduated from The University of Texas at El Paso in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies emphasizing bilingual education. She earned a master's degree as an instructional specialist with an emphasis on bilingual education in 2006.

An English-language learner herself, Alvarez has strived to show bilingual students the advantages to commanding two languages.

Aguirre graduated from UTEP in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in business administration and is working on her master's degree as an instructional specialist with an emphasis in science. The former Environmental Protection Agency employee is now entering her seventh year as a science teacher.

Alvarez and Aguirre will be among 26 educators nationwide to take part in research flights aboard SOFIA, NASA's Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy. SOFIA is a modified Boeing 747SP jetliner equipped with a 100-inch diameter telescope for infrared light observations used to study the formation of stars and planets; chemistry of interstellar gases; composition of comets, asteroids and planets; and supermassive black holes at the center of galaxies.

The two plan to incorporate what they learn on the flights into their lesson plans for students – opening their eyes to the possibilities of NASA and space exploration.

"We have an opportunity to go up to the stratosphere to help astronomers," Aguirre said. "That is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity." 📍



OBAMA PICKS UTEP ALUMNUS

By Chris Lechuga

David Montoya, a 1986 graduate from The University of Texas at El Paso, has had a successful career in various roles within federal law enforcement. However, during the summer of 2011, Montoya received the most important call of his career: from President Barack Obama.

Obama nominated Montoya to serve as inspector general for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). After the Congressional vetting process, he was sworn into office in December 2011.

"I felt proud and honored that (Obama) and the administration would look at my 25 years of public service and felt that I had the background to take on this kind of a role," Montoya said.

While completing his bachelor's degree in criminal justice at UTEP, Montoya commuted to and from campus and held a full-time job to pay for tuition. After graduation, he entered federal service with stints in the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Postal Service.

As inspector general, Montoya acts as the liaison between Congress and the secretary of HUD to ensure that federal housing programs for low- to medium-income citizens meet all legal requirements.

Throughout his career, Montoya has stressed the importance of education and encourages students to keep their eyes on their goals.

"I'm proud of being as successful as I am, and being a UTEP alumnus," Montoya said. 📍



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Representatives from UTEP Alumni Association chapters attended a spring meeting on campus. They are, from left, Keith Fong, College of Engineering; Abie Kupfer, Houston; Natalie Eckberg, Dallas; Michael Javier Loya, Austin; Sergio M. Gonzalez, San Antonio; Danya Martinez and Russell Booth, El Paso; and Bobby Blanco (in sport coat), College of Business Administration.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CALLING ALL MINERS

Unless you've been under a rock – and that might be the case for some of our geology grads – you know that this is an exciting time at The University of Texas at El Paso.

UTEP is on course to become the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic and is less than two years away from its Centennial Celebration. Add to that the numerous achievements by students and faculty, and UTEP is a hopping place.

The University wants to connect with and celebrate every triumph of its 96,000 alumni. To achieve that, the first step is for alumni to engage with the Alumni Association. Consider volunteering to be a committee member, chapter president or a contact beacon for an uncharted region. The association is committed to creating and sustaining a strong, successful network of alumni, and that takes organization and dedicated members who want to give back. Visit alumni.utep.edu/chapters for more information about becoming involved.

"Our goal is to foster an enduring connection between UTEP and those diverse students, graduates, families and friends who have been touched and supported by the University," said Richard Daniel, Ph.D., associate vice president for university advancement and executive director for alumni relations. "It's a bond that preserves our heritage."

The University takes pride in its graduates, who have the knowledge and skills that are in demand around the world. The fact is that in the 21st century, the sun never sets on UTEP. What better way to thank the University than to join the Alumni Association at alumni.utep.edu.

Get connected. Stay involved. Go Miners! 

**"OUR GOAL IS TO
 FOSTER AN ENDURING
 CONNECTION BETWEEN
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 STUDENTS, GRADUATES,
 FAMILIES AND FRIENDS
 WHO HAVE BEEN TOUCHED
 AND SUPPORTED BY THE
 UNIVERSITY."**

Richard Daniel
 Associate Vice President for University
 Advancement and Executive Director for
 Alumni Relations



File Photo

Robert Washington, shown with UTEP President Diana Natalicio, has supported the Bhutanese Culture Endowed Scholarship and the construction of a Bhutanese lhakhang on campus.

“ROBERT WASHINGTON IS A GREAT FRIEND OF UTEP AND AN ENTHUSIASTIC AND GENEROUS ALUMNUS.”

Diana Natalicio
UTEP President

ALUM'S GIFTS SUPPORT BHUTANESE CONNECTION

By Robert L. Seltzer

In 2000, Robert Washington attended an Asian art exhibit in San Antonio.

It was an illuminating experience – and not just because of the breathtaking art on display.

What made it more special was an encounter with a Buddhist monk who rejuvenated Washington both spiritually and emotionally. That chance meeting awakened his admiration for the wisdom, beauty and tranquility of the East. He sought out other monks, including some from Bhutan, and those meetings revived his appreciation for the Bhutanese architecture of his alma mater – Texas Western College (now UTEP) – whose buildings derive their distinctive design from the traditional structures of Bhutan.

Three years after that evening at the exhibit, Washington began supporting the Bhutanese Culture Endowed Scholarship at UTEP, a fund he continues to augment because of his devotion to UTEP and to Bhutan and its people.

Washington also has made generous donations to support the construction of a Bhutanese *lhakhang*, which is being developed as a Bhutanese cultural center on the UTEP campus.

The *lhakhang*, handmade in Bhutan for the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C., was given to the

United States following the event, with UTEP chosen as the permanent location to showcase the structure. It is being prepared for placement in Memorial Triangle at the center of campus.

Washington was overjoyed to assist the project because “UTEP was the start of what changed everything for me,” he said.

After earning his bachelor's degree in psychology from Texas Western College in 1963, Washington served as a social worker for several agencies in El Paso, including the State Commission for the Blind.

In 1971, he pursued a graduate degree in public health from the Texas Medical Center in Houston – a three-year program he completed in one year. Soon after, he accepted a position as a grant administrator with the Moody Foundation in Galveston, one of the 50 largest grant-making foundations in the country.

After five years with the foundation, he moved to San Antonio to become the grants administrator for the Ewing Halsell Foundation and the Robert J. Kleberg and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation.

Washington retired two years ago and continues to live in San Antonio. He visits UTEP every year.

“I get to meet with some of the students from Bhutan who have received scholarships,” Washington said. “It makes

me proud every time I visit.”

Washington encourages other UTEP alumni and community members to support the reconstruction of the *lhakhang* as part of the University's campus transformation.

“UTEP's buildings are beautiful,” he said. “I am especially excited about the plans to transform the open spaces that connect those buildings and about the placement of the Bhutanese *lhakhang* in the center of campus. The *lhakhang*'s central location will emphasize not only UTEP's unique cultural heritage and century-long friendship with Bhutan, but also the University's commitment to diversity, multiculturalism, international engagement and a global perspective.”

Washington's experience confirms what many UTEP graduates acknowledge. They leave UTEP, but UTEP never leaves them. It remains in their hearts long after they graduate.

“Robert Washington is a great friend of UTEP and an enthusiastic and generous alumnus,” UTEP President Diana Natalicio said. “By helping fortify our historic ties to Bhutan through scholarships and the reconstruction of the *lhakhang*, he is enhancing the cultural landscape for all UTEP students and, by extension, our entire community.” 🍷

50s Victor R. Arditti (B.A. '58) was posthumously recognized in February by the Texas Eighth Court of Appeals in El Paso and the El Paso Bar Association for his career in law and his service to the community.

Mimi R. Gladstein (B.A. '59; M.A. '66), a professor in the UTEP Department of English, was inducted into the El Paso County Historical Society's Hall of Honor in November for her contributions to the community through her work in higher education, literature and women's studies.

Rosa E. Guerrero (B.A. '57; M.Ed. '77), an artist, educator and dance historian, was honored with El Paso Community College's 2011 Hispanic Heritage Mentor's Award in September for her accomplishments in the arts. Guerrero also is a Texas Women's Hall of Fame inductee.

Gustavo J. "Gus" Rodriguez Sr. (B.B.A. '56), president of Basil Glass Inc. in El Paso, was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon in October for his service during the Vietnam War. The Combat Action Ribbon is awarded to military personnel who participated in ground or surface combat.

Gerald B. Rogers (B.A. '52; M.A. '55), of Lubbock, Texas, was honored by UTEP in November for his athleticism throughout his college basketball career with the Miners. Rogers joined the Texas Western College Miners in the fall of 1950, playing his junior and senior seasons with the University.

60s Jose A. Burciaga (B.A. '69), an El Paso-born author, poet and humorist whose work documented and celebrated the trials and triumphs of Mexican-Americans, was posthumously honored with El Paso Community College's 2011 Hispanic Heritage Mentor's Award in September. Burciaga also is a 1994 inductee into the Authors of the Pass Writers Hall of Fame. His publications include *Drink Cultura: Chicanismo and Undocumented Love*, *Amor Indocumentado: A Personal Anthology of Poetry*.

Leila Safi Hobson (B.S. '69; M.Ed. '74), a partner of estate planning firm Hobson, Stribling & Carson LLC in El Paso, was named in the 2012 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America in Trusts*

and *Estates Law* in November. Hobson, who also was named a "Super Lawyer" in October's issue of *Texas Monthly*, is one of Texas' top 50 women "Super Lawyers."

Nolan Richardson Jr. (B.A. '65), former University of Arkansas basketball coach, was named a 2011-12 Silas Hunt Legacy Award recipient in October by the University of Arkansas. The Silas Hunt Legacy Award recognizes African-Americans for their significant achievements or contributions to the community, the state and the nation.

70s Tanny S. Berg (B.B.A. '70), president of leasing company Epicenter El Paso, was named to the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger board of directors in January.

John S. Birkelbach (B.B.A. '71), a shareholder for Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson & Galatzan PC., was named El Paso's Real Estate Lawyer of the Year in the 2011 edition of Texas' Best Lawyers in November.

Katherine Brennand (M.B.A. '79), a retired UTEP instructor, was honored in October as one of El Paso Inc.'s 2011 Women of Impact for her contributions to the development of the El Paso Community Foundation, a philanthropic organization providing charitable services in the region.

James E. "Jim" Brundage (B.S.Ed. '74), of Wells Fargo Insurance Services in El Paso, was recognized as the property and casualty production leader for the State of Texas in October.

Rosemary Castillo (B.A. '75), chief executive officer at Bienivir Senior Health Services, was awarded honorary membership in December by the Texas Society of Architects for creating housing alternatives for El Paso's senior population.

Richard Couder (B.B.A. '77), a special education teacher at Armendariz Middle School in El Paso, was appointed to the Texas State Independent Living Council in October. The council is a nonprofit organization aimed at assuring access to quality independent living services to Texans with disabilities.

Eduardo A. "Edward" Gamboa (B.S. '72), an El Paso County statutory probate court judge and Vietnam veteran, was named

Jefferson High School's 2011 Outstanding Ex in October.

Gonzalo Garcia, Jr. (B.B.A. '78), 210th District Court judge, was named Outstanding Jurist of the Year by the El Paso chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates in December.

Jorge A. Lopez (B.S. '77; M.S. '79), a UTEP physics professor, was named 2011 Educator of the Year by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers in September.

Gilbert Moreno Jr. (B.S.M.E. '74) was honored as an outstanding STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) engineer in October at the National 2011 HENAAC Conference. Moreno is a senior strategist and consultant for Prestige Consulting Services, and is a clinical professor in leadership engineering at UTEP.

Enrique "Henry" Quintana, Jr. (B.A. '75; M.A. '94), an El Paso Electric Co. public relations manager, was named a 2012 board member at large of the Public Relations Association of the Southwest in November.

Lewis W. Teal (B.S. '77; M.S. '79) was appointed group executive, South America, for Newmont Mining Co. in Lima, Peru, in January.

Joseph D. Wardy, Jr. (B.B.A. '76), former El Paso mayor, was named president and chief executive officer of the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) of El Paso in January. The VNA is one of El Paso's largest home health care organizations.

80s Erica Castillo (B.A. '88) joined El Paso's KFOX-14 television station as a primetime news anchor in December.

Damon S. Crossland (B.S. '82), owner and principal agent of two Nationwide Insurance branches in El Paso, completed the National Alliance for Insurance Education and Research's five-part insurance education program and was awarded the designation of Certified Insurance Counselor in September.

Rebecca Duke (B.S. '87) joined Molded Fiber Glass in Aberdeen, S.D., as a human resource director in December.

Rosa Montes Kahoe (B.S. '85; M.Ed. '97), an East Montana Middle School assistant principal and Ysleta Independent School District board trustee in El Paso, was honored by the 2011 Texas Association of School Administrators' School Board Awards Program, which named the YISD's school board as one of five Honor School Boards for its harmonious relations among board members and commitment to the code of ethics.

Maria "Teresa" Marcus (B.A. '85), a news and public relations representative for El Paso Electric Co., was named a 2012 board member of the Public Relations Association of the Southwest in November.

Patricia P. McLean (B.B.A. '84), an Ysleta Independent School District board trustee in El Paso, was honored by the 2011 Texas Association of School Administrators' School Board Awards Program, which named the YISD's school board as one of five Honor School Boards for the harmonious relations among board members and commitment to the code of ethics.

Deanna S. Nasser (B.B.A. '88), Helen of Troy Ltd. corporate treasurer, was named to the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger board of directors in January.

Marcela Y. Navarrete (B.B.A. '89) was named El Paso Water Utilities vice president of strategic, financial and management services in December. In 2003, she was named the company's first female chief financial officer.

J. Antonio Rico (B.S.E.E. '80), engineer and founder of telecommunications engineering and information technology services company ESEI, was named 2012 chairman of the board of the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in January.

Mary Beth Rigg (M.B.A. '85), of Greenville, S.C., was appointed secretary/treasurer of the Girls Scouts of South Carolina-Mountains to Midlands board of directors in January.

Arturo Vargas (B.B.A. '84), president and shareholder of Vargas PC in El Paso, was awarded the Certified Fraud Examiner credential in November by the association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

90s Emma Acosta (B.B.A. '94), El Paso city representative, was named to the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger board of directors in January.

George Ayala (B.A. '91; M.Ed. '08), a licensed professional counselor, joined Socorro Independent School District's Project H.O.P.E. (Heightened Opportunities to Promote Excellence) in October. Ayala also is a co-partner at El Paso's Eastside Counseling and Therapeutic Services.

Dominic J. "Nic" Bernardi III (B.S. '90) was selected in October to attend Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C. Bernardi is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force.

Karen L. Hart (B.A. '97), an attorney at the law firm of Bell, Nunnally & Martin in Dallas, was honored with Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Dallas' Outstanding New Member Award in December for her dedication to networking and community organizations.

Drysdale H. "Dale" Hernandez (B.A. '91) was selected in October to attend the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. Hernandez is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force.

Norma L. "Bunny" Hollebeke (B.S. '90; M.S. '94) was named associate dean of science with the Colorado Community College System CCCOnline in October.

Renard U. Johnson (B.B.A. '95) was appointed to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas' El Paso Branch board of directors in January. He will serve a three-year term. Johnson serves on the UTEP College of Engineering Advisory Board, and the boards of the University Medical Center Foundation and the United Way of El Paso.

Flor Caballero Lynch (B.B.A. '91), of Flor and Associates Insurance Agency in El Paso, was appointed a two-year associate board member of the 2012 Mortgage Bankers Association in November.

Anthony P. Macias (B.S.C.E. '98), retired from the U.S. Navy Reserve in June, and was honored in a retirement ceremony by the Pacific Strike Group in San Diego in October.

Tanya V. Marin (B.S.N. '97) joined Paso del Norte Pediatrics PA as a pediatric nurse practitioner in October.

Christopher C. Montoya (B.B.A. '99; M.B.A. '06) was promoted to assistant vice president of information technology at El Paso Electric in December.

Robert C. Moore (B.A. '98), vice president of news for the Texas-New Mexico Newspaper Partnership, was named the *El Paso Times'* new editor in September.

Francisco J. "Frank" Ortiz (B.S.N. '95) was promoted in September to assistant chief nursing officer at Las Palmas Medical Center in El Paso.

Monica Perales (B.A. '94; M.A. '96), an associate history professor at the University of Houston, was awarded the prestigious Kenneth Jackson Award in November for Best Book in North American urban history from the Urban History Association for her book *Smeltertown: Making and Remembering a Southwest Border Community*.

Robert J. "Robb" Pridemore (B.B.A. '97) was recognized as the property and casualty insurance new business production leader at Wells Fargo Insurance Services' El Paso branch in September.

Jean-Marc H. Quintana (B.B.A. '98) joined banking firm BBVA Compass in El Paso as a mortgage banking officer in September.

Leslie E. Wingo (B.B.A. '96), a senior vice president and group account director at Austin firm SandersWingo Advertising, Inc., was named 2011 Silver Medalist Award recipient by the Austin Advertising Federation in October.

Yesenia Alarcon (B.S. '00), an El Paso High School volleyball coach, was named 2011 El Paso Times All-City Volleyball Coach of the Year in December.

Roselia M. Azar (B.S.C.S. '04), of El Paso, joined business process outsourcing company DATAMARK Inc. as a system analyst in September.

Marshall C. Barclay Jr. (M.B.A. '05) was honored by Lincoln Financial Advisors in El Paso as the November financial planner for the month.

Gloria H. Bielmeier (M.B.A. '08), a certified public accountant at Schmid, Broaddus, Nugent, Gano PC in El Paso, was promoted to supervisor in December.

Sandra E. Braham (M.Ed. '02; Ed.D. '05), a UTEP educational leadership and foundations lecturer, was named the recipient of the George A. McAlmon Jr. Labor and Civil Rights Award at the Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project's fifth annual Fiesta Fronteriza in November. She was honored for her impact on El Paso's education system.

Marcia Chavez (B.S.N. '09), an El Paso family nurse practitioner, was recognized in December by Cambridge Who's Who for her dedication, leadership and excellence in health care.

Ricardo "Rick" Chavez (B.B.A. '05) joined the El Paso information technology consulting firm Makios IT Services in September.

Daniel Gomez (B.S. '06), an obstetrics and gynecology resident physician at Lehigh Valley Health Network in Allentown, Pa., graduated from Ponce School of Medicine and Health Sciences in May.

Jerardo J. "Jerry" Gonzalez (B.S.N. '03) was promoted in September to assistant chief nursing officer at Las Palmas Medical Center in El Paso.

Lilia A. Gonzalez (B.S. '07; M.P.T. '11) joined El Paso Physical Therapy Services in November.

Chandragupta Guden (M.S. '03), of Alpine, Texas, joined Sul Ross State University's Office of Information Technology as a chief information officer in September.

Estela Casas Hernandez (B.A. '05), KVIA Channel 7 news anchor, was honored as one of El Paso Inc.'s 2011 Women of Impact in October for her efforts in the El Paso community concerning women's health and cancer.

Christopher M. Lechuga (B.A. '09), a UTEP public affairs specialist, was named a 2012 board member of the Public Relations Association of the Southwest in November.

Michele Lee (B.B.A. '00), a board member of the Junior League of El Paso and Junior Leadership El Paso, joined the law firm of Kemp Smith LLP in El Paso as a marketing manager in September.

Adam K. Lozoya (B.B.A. '03; M.B.A. '06) was promoted to vice president of operations at El Paso Employee Credit Union in October.

Cedric A. Lyerly, Jr. (B.B.A. '06), of El Paso accounting firm Schmid, Broaddus, Nugent, Gano PC, was promoted to manager in December.

Gabriel "Gabe" Macias (B.F.A. '08) joined Dallas-based integrated marketing communications agency HCK2 Partners as an interactive project manager and designer in November.

Crystal Martinez (B.A. '08) opened a State Farm insurance office in El Paso in April. Martinez ranks 150th in sales among 1,700 State Farm agents nationwide.

Brian J. Natkin (B.A. '03), a former UTEP consensus All-American, was named the UTEP football offensive line coach in December.

Bonny L. Schulenburg (B.A. '01), an Ysleta Education Foundation executive director, was named a 2012 board member of the Public Relations Association of the Southwest in November.

Jorge Vazquez, Jr. (B.A. '00) was named executive director of UTEP's Office of Special Events in September.

Alejandro "Alex" Vidales, Jr. (B.A. '00), municipal judge, was appointed interim manager of the City of Socorro, Texas in November by the Socorro City Council.

Tanya K. Loya (B.A. '10), a UTEP graduate student in intelligence and national security, opened Gino's Pizza in El Paso in January.

David A. Gonzalez (B.F.A. '10) joined El Paso Employees Federal Credit Union in November as the credit union's multimedia graphic design specialist.

William Guzman (Ph.D. '10) received tenure as an assistant professor within the Department of History and African-American Studies at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Fla. in October.

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Don C. Self (B.B.A. '71) Albuquerque, N.M.; Jan. 31, 2011.

Kathy Jean Alred (B.S.Ed. '83) Hiram, Ga.; June 27, 2011.

Theodore Carl "TC" Prewitt (B.B.A. '57) Lincoln City, Ore.; Aug. 17, 2011.

Jack R. Heather (B.B.A. '49) Hays, Kan.; Aug. 26, 2011.

John Edward Price (B.S.M.I. '42) Arlington, Texas; Aug. 27, 2011.

Helen "Sammie" Brosnahan Vaughan Criswell (B.A. '48) El Paso; Aug. 30, 2011.

Clodine C. Ashenfelter (B.B.A. '42) El Paso; Aug. 31, 2011.

Stella Lou Bauman (B.A. '48) El Paso; Sept. 1, 2011.

Owen Junior Hart (B.S. '51) El Paso; Sept. 1, 2011.

Margarita Garcia-Nuñez (B.A. '42) El Paso; Sept. 1, 2011.

Gayle Welsch (B.S.Ed. '68; M.Ed. '76) El Paso; Sept. 2, 2011.

T.W. Harvey (B.A. '54) El Paso, Sept. 3, 2011.

Pauline M. Manker Gay (B.A. '49) Scottsdale, Ariz.; Sept. 6, 2011.

Jesse C. Justus (B.A. '90) Toluca, Mexico; Sept. 6, 2011.

Keith MacCallum Teague Chapman (B.A. '39) El Paso; Sept. 7, 2011.

Clifford Leon Whetten (M.Ed. '73) Layton, Utah; Sept. 11, 2011.

Elaine Dorothy Ruth Hackbarth Hupfer (B.S.Ed. '70) El Paso; Sept. 16, 2011.

Dale F. Melton, Sr. (B.B.A. '61) Albuquerque, N.M.; Sept. 16, 2011.

Betty Lou Miller Kelly (M.S.N. '95) Roswell, N.M.; Sept. 17, 2011.

Betty Jo Cruzan (M.A. '56) El Paso; Sept. 18, 2011.

Michael George Buell (B.S.M.E.T. '84) Wellston, Okla.; Sept. 19, 2011.

Wayne Oliver Aho (M.A. '54) Dallas; Sept. 22, 2011.

Robert Carl Ross Chesak (B.B.A. '49) El Paso; Sept. 22, 2011.

Jerry Dean Draughon (B.S. '80) Ruidoso, N.M.; Sept. 22, 2011.

Wanda June Elmore Davis (M.S.N. '90) Dallas; Sept. 22, 2011.

Simma Esther Galston Leslie (B.S.Ed. '67) El Paso; Sept. 27, 2011.

Albert Caesar Morales (B.A. '76) Alameda, Calif.; Sept. 27, 2011.

Maria Briones Perez (B.A. '51) Laredo, Texas; Oct. 1, 2011.

Mary M. Hernandez (B.S.Ed. '82) San Antonio; Oct. 2, 2011.

Judy Ann Breck (B.A. '58) El Paso; Oct. 5, 2011.

Bertha Alicia Villa (B.S.Ed. '72) Dallas, Oct. 5, 2011.

Mary Anna Cromwell (B.A. '66; M.A. '75) Grapevine, Texas; Oct. 5, 2011.

Bluford B. "Blu" Sanders, Jr. (B.A. '64), El Paso; Oct. 8, 2011.

Lou B. DeSantiago (B.S.Ed. '70; M.Ed. '76) El Paso; Oct. 9, 2011.

Rona S. Dictor (B.A. '73; M.A. '77) El Paso; Oct. 10, 2011.

Gloria G. Addington (B.A. '43; M.A. '70) Sierra Blanca, Texas; Oct. 12, 2011.

Mary Ellen Hurd (B.A. '57) Annapolis, Md.; Oct. 13, 2011.

Alfred G. Means (B.B.A. '42) Valentine, Texas; Oct. 13, 2011.

P. Virginia Urey (B.A. '69) El Paso; Oct. 14, 2011.

Roy V. Ludwig (B.S. '92) El Paso; Oct. 16, 2011.

César Augusto Salas (B.S.Ed. '82) Austin; Oct. 17, 2011.

Edward P. Marestein (B.A. '56) El Paso; Oct. 24, 2011.

Adrian J. Bernal (B.A. '09) El Paso; Oct. 26, 2011.

Mary Deane Jackson Hellums (B.A. '43) El Paso; Oct. 30, 2011.

Walter Emmett Hyatt (B.B.A. '55) El Paso; Nov. 2, 2011.

Lois Ann Kaip (B.F.A. '86) El Paso; Nov. 7, 2011.

Raymond T. "Ray" Odell (B.S. '48) Redwood City, Calif.; Nov. 7, 2011.

Antonio Manuel Garcia (B.A. '75) El Paso; Nov. 10, 2011.

Loren Ralph Keefer (B.B.A. '79) El Paso; Nov. 22, 2011.

Clifton Bearl Darden (B.A. '59) Hubbard, Texas; Nov. 23, 2011.

Franklin Theodore Urey (B.A. '69) El Paso; Dec. 5, 2011.

Julianne O. Cage (B.S.Ed. '69) Davenport, Iowa; Dec. 7, 2011.

Cesar Fourzan, Jr. (B.A. '51; M.A. '55) El Paso; Dec. 8, 2011.

Rolando Quintana (B.S. '85; M.S.I.E. '86) San Antonio; Dec. 12, 2011.

Maria de los Angeles Salas (B.B.A. '83) El Paso; Dec. 14, 2011.

Richard Wayne Townsley (B.B.A. '71; M.B.A. '77) El Paso; Dec. 20, 2011.

Brigitte W. Galindro (B.A. '94) El Paso; Dec. 21, 2011.

Pamela Lindfors Brown (B.A. '69) El Paso; Dec. 25, 2011.

James Irving Matsler (B.B.A. '60) El Paso; Dec. 25, 2011.

Lee Joseph Shamaley, Sr. (B.A. '42) El Paso; Dec. 26, 2011.

Edwin O. "Eddie" Williams, Jr. (B.S.M.E. '66) El Paso; Dec. 26, 2011.

David Owen Vilven (B.S.C.E. '52) Farmington, N.M.; Dec. 26, 2011.

Irene M. Wright (B.A. '42) Houston; Jan. 4, 2012.

Velia R. Provencio (B.A. '48) El Paso; Jan. 5, 2012.

Brian W. Stafford (B.B.A. '63) San Diego; Calif.; Jan. 6, 2012.

Tomas Sanchez (B.S.Ed. '85) El Paso; Jan. 7, 2012.

Gloria A. Wright (B.A. '56; M.A. '60) El Paso; Jan. 8, 2012.

Joyce LaVerne Sensiba (B.A. '66; M.A. '74) Temple, Texas; Jan. 11, 2012.

Elsa Yocavel Aguilar (B.A. '06) El Paso; Jan. 12, 2012.

Lawrence Raymond Stablein (B.B.A. '57) Houston; Jan. 13, 2012.

Salvatore "Nic" Nicosia (B.A. '79; M.A. '81) Martinsburg, W. Va.; Jan. 14, 2012.

Maria "Corty" Avedician (B.S.Ed. '87; M.Ed. '99) El Paso; Jan. 19, 2012.

Joseph A. Bilodeau (B.A. '46) El Paso; Jan. 20, 2012.

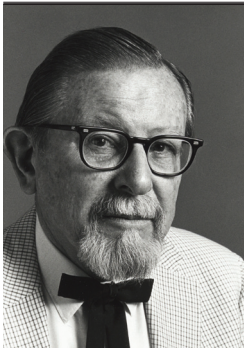
Manuel A. Cooper (B.B.A. '59) El Paso; Jan. 20, 2012.

Bertha Paz (B.A. '87) El Paso; Jan. 21, 2012.

Carolyn Hotchkiss Leech (B.S.Ed. '66) Sarasota, Fla.; Jan. 23, 2012.

Ruben Rosales (B.S.M.I. '49) Cerritos, Calif.; Jan. 28, 2012.

CLARKE H. GARNSEY, PH.D. By Daniel Perez



Clarke H. Garnsey, Ph.D., UTEP professor emeritus of art history and former chair of the art department, died March 10, 2012, at the age of 98. He was remembered as a "wonderful gentleman" who was interested in everything.

"He took life in completely," said Willie Ray Parish, professor of art, who had known Garnsey for almost 30 years. "His curiosity led him to explore."

Garnsey, a Florida native who often traveled to Cuba during the pre-Castro years, served as an artist with the Works Progress Administration during the Depression before he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II.

He was an art faculty member and administrator at Amarillo College in Texas and Wichita State University in Kansas, as well as

The University of Texas at El Paso, where he taught from September 1966 through his retirement in February 1979. He was a member of numerous professional and academic art associations.

Garnsey was proud of his role as one of the motivating forces that expanded and improved the UTEP art department's faculty and facilities, said Mary B. Davidson, his stepdaughter. She added that he also valued the hard work and ambition of many of his students.

Garnsey earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Cleveland School of Art, and his doctorate in Spanish colonial architecture in Sancti Spiritus, Cuba, from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

The artist worked in various media such as oils, prints, sculpture, enamel, jewelry, ceramics and watercolors. 🎨

MINERS AROUND THE WORLD



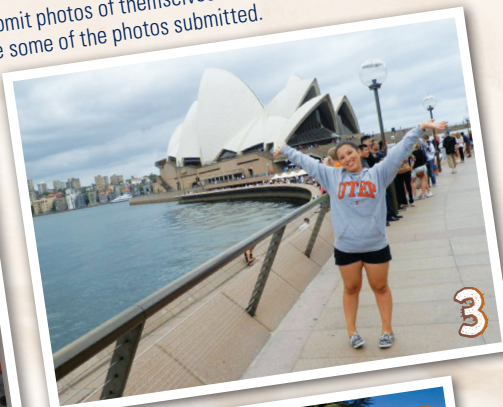
The University of Texas at El Paso asked Facebook fans to submit photos of themselves wearing UTEP gear during their travels around the world. Here are some of the photos submitted.



1) Oscar Venegas is a 2005 grad who earned a B.B.A. in computer information systems. He said this UTEP flag flew for three days next to Old Glory and the Texas flag in COB Adder (outside Nasiriyah, Iraq) during operation Iraqi Freedom.



2) Ashley Olson, Stephanie Moreno and Lauren Waltzer wore their UTEP gear to Disney World in Florida. Ashley graduated in 2011 with a B.S. in mathematics, and Stephanie and Lauren are senior biology majors.



3) Michelle Aguilar is a senior biology major who went to Sydney, Australia, during her winter break. In this photo the proud Miner is in front of the Sydney Opera House.



4) Cecilia A. Estrada is a freshman, pre-business major. She won second place in the Office of International Programs' photo contest for this photo taken in Mexico City.



5) Gissel Torres is a junior nursing major who won third place in the Office of International Programs' photo contest for her "Picks Up" taken at Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo, Mexico.



6) Christy Morales is a 1994 nursing graduate. In this picture she's in Rome with her husband, Rich, and son, Matthew. They're standing next to the Colosseum after finishing the Rome Marathon in March 2012.



7) Jacqueline Villegas Olivas has the whole family in the UTEP spirit! The 2010 civil engineering graduate is pictured with her brother Jose and his daughter America in front of Ex Convento Dominico de la Natividad in Tepotzlán, Mexico, during a Christmas family vacation in 2010.

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



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JULY 14, 2012



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