

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

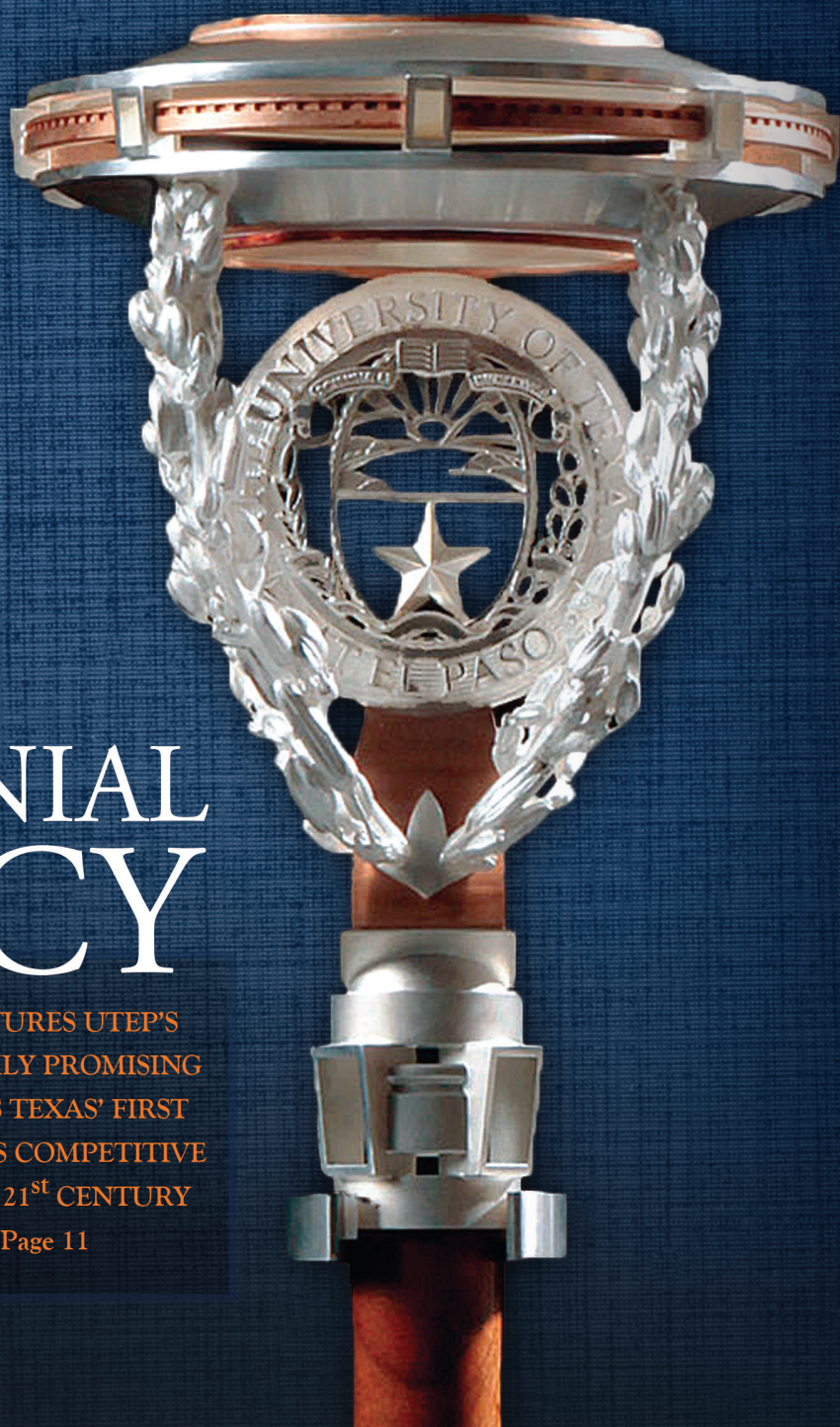
UTEP

MAGAZINE

WINTER 2012

CENTENNIAL LEGACY

THE NEW UNIVERSITY MACE CAPTURES UTEP'S RICH HISTORY AS WELL AS ITS HIGHLY PROMISING FUTURE, FROM ITS BEGINNINGS AS TEXAS' FIRST MINING SCHOOL IN 1914 TO TODAY'S COMPETITIVE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY SERVING A 21ST CENTURY STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC. Page 11





Message from the President

Dear UTEP Alumni and Friends,
UTEP is one of only 12 colleges and universities across the country invited to join an "Opportunity Nation" campaign whose goal is to promote economic opportunity, social mobility and access to the American Dream. The campaign was officially launched in November at the Opportunity Nation Summit in New York City, with the participation of several UTEP representatives, including three UTEP students who were designated as Opportunity Nation Scholars.

One of the primary goals of this initiative is to increase awareness, especially among historically underrepresented minorities, of the critical importance of a college education in achieving upward mobility in our society. We are pleased that this national campaign is so well aligned with UTEP's mission of providing access and excellence opportunities to all young people across this Paso del Norte region. Since our founding in 1914 as the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy, UTEP has served as a pathway to social and economic success for more than 100,000 graduates and their families, and greatly enhanced our collective quality of life.

On May 2-3, 2012 as part of the Opportunity Nation campaign, UTEP will host a two-day campus open house — "UTEP Opportunity Days" — to which we will invite the entire El Paso community. With a robust program of free lectures, educational activities, and fun events, there'll be something for everyone. You'll learn more about Opportunity Days on page 38.

Opportunity Days will also begin building excitement for UTEP's rapidly approaching Centennial celebration. From now through the end of 2014, we will be commemorating the inspiring history of UTEP's first 100 years, and celebrating the exciting future that awaits all of us as we stride confidently into UTEP's second century of distinguished service to this U.S.-Mexico border region.

To commemorate this major milestone in UTEP's history, we commissioned a University Mace. As may be seen on this magazine's cover and in the story on page 11, this new Mace is an extraordinarily beautiful work of art that captures the story of UTEP's distinguished history and our grounding in this Chihuahuan Desert region. It was created by UTEP alumna and metalsmith Beverly Penn, with support from UTEP faculty and staff members Rachelle Thiewes, Kate Bonansinga, Liz Thurmond, and especially Frank Medina, manager of the W.M. Keck Center for 3-D Innovation in the College of Engineering, who applied his expertise in cutting-edge additive manufacturing technology to the creation of the exquisite University seal on the Mace. Now, that's a great example of interdisciplinary collaboration!

The Mace conveys honor, accomplishment, learning and scholarship, and its association with special events such as Convocation and Commencement denotes tradition, solemnity and a commitment to excellence. This magnificent new Mace will become part of the lasting legacy of UTEP's Centennial.

All of you, our UTEP alumni, are our legacy too — our most important living legacy. As we prepare for campus celebrations associated with Opportunity Nation this spring and our Centennial commemoration between now and the end of 2014, we hope that you will join us in spreading UTEP's story — from the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy, to the College of Mines and Metallurgy, to Texas Western College and finally UTEP — and the significant impact of UTEP Miners — that's all of you! — in this Paso del Norte region and the world beyond. We know that UTEP's success is best measured by the accomplishments of our graduates, and by that measure, we are all doing extraordinarily well! Thanks to all of you for serving as such great examples of UTEP's powerful legacy. We look very much forward to celebrating our 100th birthday with each and every one of you.

Go Miners!

Diana Natalicio

DIANA NATALICIO • UTEP PRESIDENT



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
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CONTENTS © 2012 BY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
UTEP MAGAZINE

UTEP MAGAZINE IS PUBLISHED THREE TIMES PER YEAR
BY THE UTEP OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS
500 W. UNIVERSITY AVE.
EL PASO, TX 79968-0522
915-747-5526 • univcomm@utep.edu
utepmagazine.utep.edu



UTEP MAGAZINE 2012 • VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
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PRINTED ON 10% POST CONSUMER RECYCLED PAPER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

40 WINTER COMMENCEMENT 2011

Nearly 2,000 students walked across the stage at the Don Haskins Center Dec. 10 to receive their diplomas and join the Miner Nation.



32 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Learn about the history of Memorial Gym, get a glimpse of the First Lady of Basketball's UTEP memories, and read updates about the Centennial Celebration planning and the ongoing Centennial Campaign.

37 PRESIDENT RECEIVES HIGHEST DECORATION BY MEXICAN GOVERNMENT

UTEP President Diana Natalicio was selected to receive the *Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca* by Mexican President Felipe Calderón.

38 UTEP JOINS NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE THE AMERICAN DREAM

As part of Opportunity Nation, UTEP will host a two-day event in early May filled with lectures, presentations and campus open-house celebrations.

41 A PRESIDENTIAL HONOR

UTEP President Diana Natalicio awarded the President's Medal to former UT System Board of Regents Chair James Huffines.

42 HSN BUILDING OPENS

Take a look inside the new, state-of-the-art Health Sciences and Nursing Building on the UTEP campus.

44 NURSES REUNITE AFTER 50 YEARS

Members of the School of Nursing's class of 1961 recall their experiences.



ON THE COVER

University Mace • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

STAY CONNECTED TO UTEP:



UTEP Features

- 46 Law Program Sends Hundreds of Students to Law School
- 48 FALL CONVOCATION: High Standards Pave Road to Tier One
- 50 TOP OF THE WORLD
Students and faculty travel to the Arctic to conduct climate change research
- 52 100 FACES AND PLACES:
Employee Support Needed for Successful Giving Campaign
- 53 UTEP Plans to Open Military Service Center

UTEP Research

- 18 Examining Border Health
- 20 3-D Medical Modeling
- 23 Professor Helps with Fight Against Polio
- 24 \$11 Million Grant Helps Elicit the Truth
- 26 Growing a Research University

UTEP Departments

- 2 News
- 28 Arts
- 54 Athletics
- 68 Alums
- 74 In Memoriam



NEW THIS ISSUE

Want to learn more?
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 ALUM GIVES BACK

Mike Loya thrives on taking risks.

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

The oldest of seven high-achieving brothers and sisters in a first-generation Mexican-American family, Mike Loya learned early that taking chances would help him stand out in a highly competitive household and rise above his humble roots. It was a lesson that helped him succeed at The University of Texas at El Paso and later at Harvard.

Loya's parents, Anita and Miguel, migrated to the United States from Mexico for a better life. Neither of them attended high school, but both parents taught their children that education will lead to success.

Loya was the first in his family to earn a college degree. He received his bachelor's in mechanical engineering from UTEP in 1977 and his M.B.A. from Harvard two years later.

Today, Loya is president of Vitol Inc., the North and South American arm of the Vitol Group, one of the largest energy trading companies in the world, and he said UTEP taught him how to succeed. However, he added that UTEP engineering students can enhance their chances of success by combining their engineering education with a strong foundation in business.

This fall, Loya returned to his alma mater to pledge \$10 million to UTEP, the largest donation to date to the University's Centennial Campaign. The University will use the money to develop integrated engineering and business education models that enhance its research capabilities.

"I am fortunate that I can give something back to an institution that provided so much for me," he said.

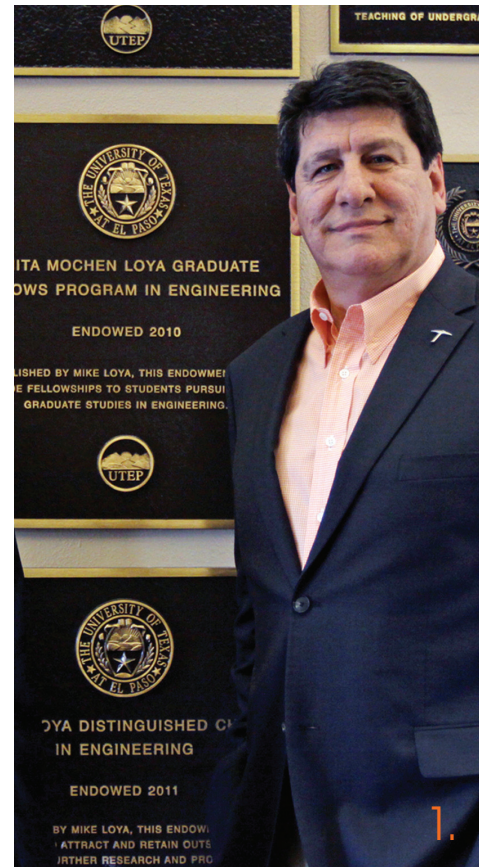
Of the \$10 million, \$2 million went to the Mike Loya Distinguished Chair in Engineering, which will support the college's research initiatives and graduate student development; the Anita Mochen Loya Graduate Fellows Program in Engineering; and the Anita Mochen Loya Innovation Fund in Engineering, which supports the practical application of the college's engineering initiatives through entrepreneurship by providing startup funds for projects with technology-transfer potential. Both are named after his mother.

The remainder of the donation will be shared by the colleges of engineering and business administration to prepare students in those colleges to work at the interface of technology and society.

"Like many engineers I know, Mike Loya is not a big talker, but he's certainly a big doer," UTEP President Diana Natalicio said. "This major gift represents his generous spirit, his passion for higher education, his love for his family, his loyalty to UTEP and his continued commitment to this El Paso region where his highly successful life got its start."

Loya's advice to the next generation is to take chances as he did when he was a UTEP student.

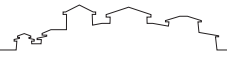
"Take the first step," Loya told the *El Paso Times* in October. "You don't have to worry about where the journey is going to take you. Don't worry where you're going to end up five or 10 years from now. Just take the first step." 📌



FIRST STEP

"You don't have to worry about where the journey is going to take you. Don't worry where you're going to end up five or 10 years from now. Just take the first step."

Mike Loya '77



"I AM FORTUNATE THAT I CAN GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO AN INSTITUTION THAT PROVIDED SO MUCH FOR ME."

Mike Loya '77



1. UTEP Alumnus Mike Loya '77 pledged \$10 million to the University last fall, the largest donation to date to UTEP's Centennial Campaign.

2. Mike Loya and UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

3. Mike Loya's father, Miguel Loya (center) and sister Anna Skelton (right) speak with Ed Escudero, co-chair of the UTEP 2014 Commission.

4. Mike Loya's brother Javier Loya, his nephew Stephen Skelton, Mike Loya, his brother-in-law John W. Skelton, Miguel Loya, his brother Dr. Fernando H. Loya, and Anna Skelton

5. Dr. Fernando H. Loya, Diana Natalicio, Miguel Loya and Javier Loya

6. Miguel Loya and Mike Loya

7. Mike Loya shakes hands with UTEP Athletic Director Bob Stull as Russell Vandenburg, chairman of UTEP's Centennial Campaign Leadership Council, looks on.

8. Mike Loya graduated with his degree in mechanical engineering from UTEP in 1977.

9. Mike Loya, UTEP President Diana Natalicio and Miguel Loya

10. Ceci Miles Mulvihill '69 talks with Javier Loya.



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

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





GRADUATE SCHOOL:
Your Next Step



Daniel Martinez -
Master of Business
Administration student

Alicia Romo -
Civil Engineering
Ph.D. student

UTEP COLLEGES EARN *Kudos for Excellence*

the University of Texas at El Paso earned national recognition this past summer as two of its colleges' graduate programs were ranked among the best at graduating Hispanics.

The September issue of *Hispanic Business* magazine listed UTEP's College of Business Administration (CoBA) as the best in the nation for the second year in a row, and its College of Engineering as the second best, behind Georgia Institute of Technology.

"These rankings are particularly noteworthy because they are composed of multidimensional criteria, including reputation, faculty, and retention rates, not solely numbers of students," said Junius Gonzales, UTEP provost. "The colleges truly epitomize excellence and further advance UTEP's national prominence."

Other business graduate programs ranked in the top 10 include Yale University, Stanford University and the University of Virginia. UT Austin was ranked No. 2.

CoBA enrolled 403 Hispanic graduate students during the 2010-11 academic year, representing 76 percent Hispanic graduate enrollment. A total of 140 M.B.A. degrees were awarded that year, 104 of which went to Hispanic students.

"We at the College of Business

Administration are happy and excited to have had this distinction for the second year in a row," said Robert Nachtmann, D.B.A., dean of CoBA. "This nationally recognized accomplishment is a testament to our college's and University's standard of excellence in higher education."

CoBA is the only regional business school to be accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Fewer than 5 percent of business schools worldwide have earned this designation.

In the College of Engineering, 137 of the 365 students enrolled in 2010-11 were Hispanic. A total of 164 postgraduate degrees were awarded that year, 49 of which were given to Hispanic students. Statistically, the college enrolls the greatest percentage of Hispanics on the Top 10 list with 37.5 percent, followed closely by the University of Texas at San Antonio with 28 percent.

"Our ranking is evidence of our commitment to this region by promoting engineering as an optimal career choice, and by providing a high-quality research experience to our graduate students through our ever-expanding research and development activities," said Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., dean of the College of Engineering. 📍

DISTINGUISHED QUESTS



1. ALAN BERSIN

No stranger to the August Border Security Conference, the then Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection gave remarks about security efforts the Obama administration has undertaken to make the region safe.



2. MICHAEL CAMUÑEZ

The U.S. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary for Market Access and Compliance visited with University officials in October to discuss important economic issues such as small business innovation, job creation and trade opportunities along the border.



3. MADELINE JACOBS

In October The American Chemical Society's chief executive officer explained why it is necessary for scientists and humanists to build a bridge that will benefit both points of view during a presentation to the UTEP community.



4. RON KIRK

The U.S. Trade Representative delivered a keynote address during the 2011 Border Security Conference in August. He offered his expertise on trade and economic issues along the U.S.-Mexico border.



5. STEVE H. MURDOCK

The former U.S. Census Bureau director and Texas state demographer, and current Allyn R. and Gladys M. Cline Professor of Sociology at Rice University, said that an educated Hispanic population in Texas and across the country is the key to the future economic success of the state and the nation. He was the fall semester's second Centennial Lecture Series speaker.



6. JERRY PORRAS

The 1960 alumnus of Texas Western College (now UTEP) and 2011 Distinguished Alumnus recipient gave the inaugural Centennial Lecture in October. As the Lane Professor of Organizational Behavior and Change Emeritus at Stanford University, he touched on how to use vision to create a great university.



7. ROBERT SHRIVER

The Senior Policy Counsel with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management facilitated a presentation at UTEP in September to help explain efforts to streamline the application process for federal jobs. He focused on three proposed Pathways Programs designed to recruit, hire, develop, and retain students and recent graduates for federal careers.

STUDENT RECREATION CENTER EXPANSION OPENS

By Joe Velarde • Photos by J.R. Hernandez

The \$32 million upgrade to the Student Recreation Center was unveiled to an enthusiastic, and healthy, group of Miners in fall 2011.

The impressive expansion is a direct reflection of efforts by The University of Texas at El Paso to become a national research (Tier One) institution, said Hector Muñoz, director of UTEP's Recreational Sports Department.

"This building is a Tier One building, as far as the infrastructure," Muñoz said. "It's a dream come true, and it's definitely long overdue."

According to Muñoz, more than 4,000 students, faculty and staff are expected to visit the facility on a daily basis.

The seed for the building upgrade was planted in spring 2006 when students pushed for a referendum to increase recreation fees to fund an expanded swimming and fitness center. The Texas Legislature approved the referendum during its 2007 session. University officials conducted a groundbreaking in October 2009.

The new state-of-the-art gym includes an indoor 1/8-mile running track, multiple levels devoted to free weights and cardiovascular equipment, a 12,000-square-foot hardwood floor, an indoor soccer court, a recreational area for a future juice bar or food vendor, fully equipped locker rooms, and most noticeably, a "one-of-a-kind" climbing wall, according to Brian Carter, associate director for recreational sports.

To say the wall is the gym's focal point is an understatement. Immediately upon entering, visitors are greeted by a towering 39-foot climbing wall that stretches to the top of the three-story building.

"Walking in from the main entrance and seeing that wall is very overwhelming. It's also quite a workout. I've tried it a few times, and even I get exhausted," said Carter, a former triathlete.

The climbing wall includes high endurance and boulder climbing sections – each used for specific training purposes. Users must complete safety courses before they can attempt to scale the wall. Experienced climbers may "test out" of the course for immediate certification if they can demonstrate proper knowledge and safety of the course.

"What we've developed is a different kind of indoor climbing experience for everyone at the University," Carter said.

Senior psychology major Eugenia Vega has worked at the recreation center for three years. She said the new facility will provide a great workout experience. The older building, which includes the swimming pools, is closed for renovation.

"I think what they have done (with the new building) is amazing," she said. Vega added later that she looks forward to when the entire complex is complete.

Muñoz said several phases still await development, such as an expansion of the multipurpose field outside the gym.

"The work is never really done," Muñoz said. 📱



STATE-OF-THE-ART GYM

The new state-of-the-art gym includes an indoor 1/8-mile **running track**, multiple levels devoted to **free weights and cardiovascular equipment**, a 12,000-square-foot hardwood floor, an **indoor soccer court**, a recreational area for a future juice bar or food vendor, **fully equipped locker rooms**, and most noticeably, a "one-of-a-kind" **climbing wall**.



THIS BUILDING IS A TIER ONE BUILDING, AS FAR AS THE INFRASTRUCTURE. IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE, AND IT'S DEFINITELY LONG OVERDUE."

Hector Muñoz, director of UTEP's Recreational Sports Department



Use your smartphone to scan this code for a video of the Student Recreation Center opening.

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



CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES TO TRANSFORM



CAMPUS

By Daniel Perez

Photos by J.R. Hernandez & Laura Trejo

Renderings provided by UTEP Office of Facilities Management



This page clockwise from top left:
Chemistry and Computer Science Building,
Physical Sciences Building, rendering of
Wiggins Plaza in front of the University Library,
front of Chemistry and Computer Science
Building, and Student Recreation Center

After more than 10 years and \$300 million, many of the notable construction projects around The University of Texas at El Paso are close to completion, but UTEP officials have plenty of work left for those familiar orange construction barrels.

The most anticipated opening on campus will be the Chemistry and Computer Science Building this spring. Faculty and staff began to move into the \$69.2 million, 145,827-square-foot building in December 2011. It should open to students in spring 2012, about three years after the project broke ground.

University officials expect the new building to provide opportunities for interdisciplinary research that will snowball into a host of innovative ideas, technologies, businesses and career

fields such as computational chemistry, computational science, bioinformatics and nanotechnologies.

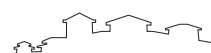
The Student Recreation Center, which used to be the Swimming and Fitness Center, celebrated the opening of a \$32 million, 90,000-square-foot upgrade in fall 2011. Additions included a 1/8-mile running track, a rock climbing wall and extended exercise area. The project's fourth phase will include three racquetball courts and a sand volleyball court and should finish in summer 2012.

The \$8 million Schuster Avenue exit ramp project on Interstate 10 was completed in December 2011. The Texas Department of Transportation project included an additional exit lane, a "flyover" bridge that spans Schuster Avenue and

enters the campus via University Avenue, and a new westbound entrance ramp. Campus officials said student population growth, which is expected to reach 30,000 by 2020, made these improvements necessary.

Many of the vehicles that use the new off-ramps may use the \$12.43 million University Parking Garage on Schuster. The five-level, 244,672-square-foot center can accommodate 696 vehicles and opened in January. It will be bookended by surface lots that can hold 57 and 49 vehicles.

Two new projects involve major University thoroughfares and promote efforts to make the core campus more pedestrian friendly. The value of this concept goes to the core of UTEP's mission, said Ed Soltero, director of Planning and



“Along with our academic growth, we have to show excellence in our environment.”

Ed Soltero
Director of Planning and Construction



This page clockwise from top left:
Courtyard between the Engineering Building and the Chemistry and Computer Science Building, another view of the courtyard, rendering of Wiggins Road redevelopment, Student Recreation Center, back of Chemistry and Computer Science Building, and Schuster Parking Garage

Construction. He said studies show that pedestrian areas are key factors in student retention.

“Along with our academic growth, we have to show excellence in our environment,” he said.

The first project, which began in December 2011, is widening the Hawthorne Street walkway to about 12 feet along the western curb from University Avenue to Rim Road. It should be completed during the spring 2012 semester. The second project is the creation of a pedestrian plaza on Wiggins Drive that will incorporate the former Student Health Center site. It is tentatively scheduled to begin in March 2012.

Both projects will include a combination of shade trees, shade structures, lighting,

landscaping and benches, Soltero said. Landscaping will help create areas where water can percolate into the ground.

Early Hawthorne concepts include “pocket parks” that include seating, vegetation and slatted structures that manipulate shade. Soltero called each a mini oasis where people could stop and relax.

He said UTEP President Diana Natalicio has helped conceptualize the Wiggins Plaza project where pedestrian and vehicular traffic share public space and blend in a safe and orderly way. The initial artist’s renderings show an elliptical space that incorporates part of the area in front of the University Library and stretches to the vacant area northwest of the Health Sciences and Nursing Building. There is a

chance the benches could have electrical hook-ups powered by photovoltaic solar panels. The plans were to be finished in January 2012.

One of the interesting aspects of the initial design was the inclusion of a labyrinth – or walking maze – that measures 20 feet in diameter. Soltero said it could be used as an opportunity to meditate.

While the drive is toward a more pedestrian-friendly campus, these innovations still allow for vehicle usage, said Greg McNicol, associate vice president for facilities services.

“Cars will be allowed to pass through the plaza, but will be required to slow down as they weave through it,” he said. ➤



From left: Stephanie Capshaw, O.T.D., UTEP Master of Occupational Therapy program director, and Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D., dean of the College of Health Sciences

UTEP Master of Occupational Therapy Program Celebrates Re-Accreditation

Master of Occupational Therapy (M.O.T.) students and faculty are all smiles at The University of Texas at El Paso's College of Health Sciences because in July, the national Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) approved the program's 10-year accreditation, the longest allowed.

Occupational therapy is a profession that focuses on health and well-being through participation in activities of everyday life.

As a result of accreditation, UTEP's M.O.T. graduates can take the certification exam for occupational therapists administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy.

"This assures students that our program is meeting the same standards as other programs across the country – that when they graduate from the UTEP M.O.T. program, they will be just as qualified, if not more so, than other M.O.T. graduates in other parts of the country," said M.O.T. Program Director Stephanie Capshaw, O.T.D.

The program, which has 53 registered students, graduates about 15-20 students per year, many of whom stay in the El Paso/Las Cruces area to meet the region's health care needs in hospitals, outpatient rehabilitation clinics, skilled nursing facilities, public schools, early intervention agencies, pediatric clinics, and mental health agencies.

The UTEP occupational therapy program was established as a cooperative program with The University of Texas Medical Branch in 1991. Administrative control transferred to UTEP six years later. In 2005, it moved from a bachelor's level program to an entry-level master's program that can be completed in about 30 months. 📍



UTEP Fall Enrollment JUMPS FOR RECORD 13TH YEAR

The number of students who registered for fall 2011 classes at The University of Texas at El Paso increased for the 13th straight year. The 22,640 students enrolled is a 2.4 percent increase from the previous fall.

Craig Westman, Ph.D., associate vice president for student solutions and outcomes integration, said the sustained growth in student population reflects the value that the students and their families see in the kind of education they can receive at UTEP, which offers 70 bachelor's degrees, 79 master's degrees and 19 doctoral degrees.

"UTEP continues to offer an excellent education at a very affordable price," he said.

Westman attributed the University's success at attracting first-time students to numerous community outreach efforts – many of which have been in place since before the students were born. The number of new students ballooned to 2,839 this fall from 2,605 in 2010.

"Every department is involved in getting the word out that UTEP is an

excellent, research-driven institution that makes its graduates highly desirable in the job market," Westman said. "That message is delivered from El Paso high school seniors to potential doctoral students around the world."

One of the bigger increases – 9.7 percent – was in the category of doctoral/special professional degrees. The University reported 656 Ph.D. students this year compared to 600 last year. That is a strong indicator that UTEP is moving toward its goal of becoming a national research (Tier One) institution, said Ben Flores, Ph.D., acting dean of UTEP's Graduate School. 📍

UTEP
CONTINUES
TO OFFER AN
EXCELLENT
EDUCATION AT A
VERY AFFORDABLE
PRICE."

Craig Westman, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for Student
Solutions and Outcomes Integration

New 21st Century Mace Bridges UTEP's Past, Future

The University of Texas at El Paso's new Mace was unveiled in September as a symbolic bridge that will connect UTEP's rich and proud past with its highly promising future.

The journey of the slim scepter began about five years ago when University leaders decided it was time to recreate a cherished University icon and make it part of UTEP's Centennial Celebration that will culminate in 2014.

The new piece of University regalia, which stands about 3 feet tall and weighs less than 10 pounds, will be a centerpiece during UTEP's academic ceremonies such as Convocation and Commencement.

The Mace has earned kudos for its sleek design and its ability to showcase UTEP's history, native landscape, multicultural heritage and Bhutanese architecture. For example, the staff includes silver and copper, which harken back to the University's mining heritage, and reddish honey mesquite that grows in abundance in the surrounding Chihuahuan Desert. The design also incorporates the revered University seal and aspects of UTEP's distinctive Bhutanese architecture.

The Mace was designed by Beverly Penn, one of the country's premiere metalsmiths, in conjunction with a campus design committee. Penn is a professor of art at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas; a 1982 UTEP alumna; and a 2010 Gold Nugget Award recipient from the University's College of Liberal Arts.

Design committee members praised Penn for her ability to capture the essence of the University through her design and selection of materials.

"The craftsmanship is meticulous," said Liz Thurmond, design manager for the Office of Planning and Construction. "We're thrilled with it."

Kate Bonansinga, director of the Stanlee & Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts, was on the design committee with Thurmond and called the Mace "beautiful." She said, "(The Mace) emanates the preciousness and importance of a sacred object."

Penn also collaborated with UTEP's W.M. Keck Center for 3-D Innovation. Frank Medina, Keck Center manager, used his expertise and center resources to create a dual-sided, three-dimensional master model of the University seal.

"It was a lot of work, but I have a lot of satisfaction," Medina said. "It's exciting to know that this will be the Mace for the next 100 years."

The new Mace replaces the University's first Mace that was designed by Texas Western College (now UTEP) alumnus James Love in 1980. 📍



Frank Medina
Keck Center Manager



The new piece of University regalia, which stands about 3 feet tall and weighs less than 10 pounds, will be a centerpiece during UTEP's academic ceremonies such as Convocation and Commencement.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Beverly Penn



The simple, rugged beauty of the Chihuahuan Desert captivated former Baltimore resident Beverly Penn. The vistas she saw as a young art student during a 1977 visit to El Paso injected her with a sense of how humans interact with the natural world.

She enrolled at The University of Texas at El Paso because she was intrigued by the cutting-edge work being done in the Department of Art, especially in metals. Penn earned her bachelor's degree in fine arts in 1982 from UTEP and moved away to continue her education and hone her artistic talents.

Her sculpture and jewelry have been exhibited around the world and are in permanent collections at the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum in New York and the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.

Penn has earned great respect among visual artists for her ability to integrate her natural surroundings into her work, said Rachelle Thiewes, a UTEP art professor who helped Penn register for her first metals class at UTEP.

"She is a rare individual who never settles in her work," Thiewes said. "Everything has to be really great. She's dogged in that way and you don't find that very often."

Sasha Piginesheva, left, of Russia is a Fulbright Scholar studying Latino politics at UTEP for 10 months.



Russian Fulbright Scholar Studies Latino Politics at UTEP

Among the thousands of students at The University of Texas at El Paso rushing to classes, Aleksandra “Sasha” Piginesheva is one of the farthest from home.

Piginesheva is a graduate student from Vladivostok State University of Economics and Service in Russia. The 27-year-old is researching Latino politics at UTEP through the Fulbright Scholars Program, a distinguished international student, faculty and professional exchange program.

“I’m very, very happy to be here in this city, community and University because it’s a great place,” said Piginesheva, who arrived in El Paso in August. “I hope I will be very successful and my visit will be very fruitful.”

During her 10-month stay, she will closely examine historical accounts of contributions of Latinos and Latinas in American politics; interview people who participated in the Chicano Movement; and talk to local and federal Latino and Latina politicians.

Since its inception in 1946, the Fulbright program has funded the exchange of more than 300,000 scholars among more than 155 countries. Each year, about 2,800 U.S. students and scholars receive grants to study, teach and conduct research in other countries, and almost 5,000 foreign students and scholars come to the United States, according to the program’s website.

Irasema Coronado, Ph.D., associate provost at UTEP, said the University offered to be Piginesheva’s host school after seeing she had an interest in Latino politics.

“We learn a lot from our Fulbright scholars,” she said. “I’ve already been very impressed with Sasha’s knowledge of Chicano history, the Chicano movement and the Voting Rights Act — all of the things that have made the inclusion of Latinos/as in U.S. politics possible.”

“I’M VERY, VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE IN THIS CITY, COMMUNITY AND UNIVERSITY BECAUSE IT’S A GREAT PLACE.”

Aleksandra “Sasha” Piginesheva

FACULTY MUST-READS

2010

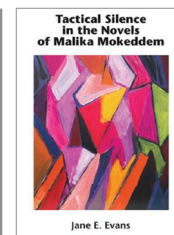
- **THE PROMISE OF RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION: EVALUATING CURRENT SCIENCE AND PRACTICE**, contributor Deborah K. Reed, Ph.D., assistant professor of education
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- **TO EVERYTHING ON EARTH: NEW WRITING ON FATE, COMMUNITY, AND NATURE**, contributor Shelley Armitage, Ph.D., professor of English
- **PARALLEL ATTRIBUTE DECISIONS IN THE PRESENCE OF HUMAN MISTAKES: CORRECTING THE PLACEMENT OF ATTENTION VIA HOLISTIC, SYSTEMIC THINKING**, by Eric D. Smith, Ph.D., assistant professor of industrial, manufacturing and systems engineering
- **HACIA UN DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE DEL SISTEMA DE PRODUCCIÓN-CONSUMO DE LOS HONGOS COMESTIBLES Y MEDICINALES EN LATINOAMÉRICA: AVANCES Y PERSPECTIVAS EN EL SIGLO XXI**, contributor Fernando R. Jiménez Arévalo, Ph.D., assistant professor of marketing
- **CITIES AND CITIZENSHIP AT THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER: THE PASO DEL NORTE METROPOLITAN REGION**, by Kathleen Staudt, Ph.D., professor of political science, et al.
- **STRUCTURAL VIROLOGY**, contributor Chuan River Xiao, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry
- **INVITING EVERYONE: HEALING HEALTHCARE THROUGH POSITIVE DEVIANCE**, by Arvind Singhal, Ph.D., professor of communication, et al.
- **COMMUNICATIVE FEEDBACK AND LEADERSHIP IN A RURAL SCHOOL SETTING**, by Debora Zamorano, Ph.D., lecturer in languages and linguistics



UN BESO DEL INFIERNO, by José de Piérola, Ph.D., assistant professor of creative writing

2011

- **MUSIC IN THE WESTERN: NOTES FROM THE FRONTIER**, contributor Charles Leinberger, Ph.D., associate professor of music
- **HISPANICS IN THE SOUTHWEST: ISSUES OF IMMIGRATION, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND PUBLIC POLICY**, contributors Blanca Araujo, Ph.D., assistant professor of teacher education, and Heriberto Godina, Ph.D., associate professor of literacy and biliteracy



TACTICAL SILENCE IN THE NOVELS OF MALIKA MOKEDDEM, by Jane E. Evans, Ph.D., associate professor of languages and linguistics



★ Keith Erikson



★ Bridget Konter



★ Larry Lesser



★ Carolyn Mitchell



★ Stacey Sowards



★ Stephen Stafford



★ Rachelle Thiewes

SEVEN UTEP FACULTY HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHING

Their commitment to teaching and ability to deliver excellence in the classroom earned seven UTEP faculty members The University of Texas System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Awards during an August ceremony at UT Austin.

The UTEP honorees were Keith Erikson, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of History; Bridget Konter, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Geological Sciences; Larry Lesser, Ph.D., professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences; Carolyn Mitchell, senior lecturer, Department of Communication; Stacey Sowards, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Communication; Stephen Stafford, Ph.D., professor, Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering; and Rachelle Thiewes, professor, Department of Art.

"We are very pleased and proud that another outstanding group of UTEP faculty members is being recognized by The University of Texas System Board of Regents," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. This is the third straight year UTEP faculty have earned the honor. "Each of these prestigious awards is a testament to the quality of UTEP faculty teachers and mentors and their dedication to UTEP's mission of providing our 21st century students with excellent educational opportunities."

This is the third year that the regents have honored faculty members who demonstrate extraordinary classroom performance and innovation at the undergraduate level. The system has nine academic institutions.

UTEP's Carolyn Mitchell was chosen from all of the UT System contingent faculty awardees to make a presentation to the Board of Regents that reflected why she was selected and to talk about her philosophy of teaching and student success stories.

The 72 honorees shared \$1.8 million in cash awards. Tenured faculty members earned \$30,000, tenure-track faculty received \$25,000 and contingent faculty collected \$15,000. Besides the cash awards, winners also received a bronze medallion and a certificate commemorating their achievement.

The rigorous selection process included an examination of the candidates' teaching performance during the past three years by campus and external judges.

Evaluations by students, peer faculty and external reviewers considered a range of activities and criteria, including classroom expertise, curricula quality, innovative course development and student learning outcomes.

"It is our system's responsibility to provide an exceptional education to our students, and we believe this award program not only furthers that goal, but helps promote a culture of excellence that produces better teaching, better learning and, ultimately, better prepared graduates to enter our workforce," said UT System Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa, M.D. ☑



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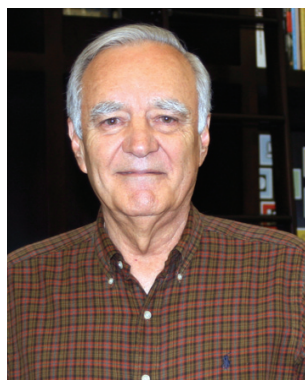
BY THE HISPANIC OUTLOOK IN
HIGHER EDUCATION MAGAZINE

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1914
2014
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

UTEP Alumni Recognized as Triumphant Hispanics

From left: *Hispanos Triunfadores* recipients Fred Morales '80 and Hector Holguin '58, and Richard Castro, El Paso and Las Cruces McDonald's president



Hundreds of community leaders showed their support as six Hispanic Borderland residents – including two UTEP alumni – were recognized for their philanthropic contributions to the El Paso/Las Cruces region. Their achievements in arts, business, education, community service, as well as government and science, were celebrated.

The honorees' life stories were shared during the 12th Annual McDonald's *Hispanos Triunfadores* Award presentation at the Wyndham El Paso Airport Hotel in September. Honorees were recognized for their community service, good moral character, accomplishments that go beyond

the call of duty, and for being positive role models for younger members of the community.

Richard Castro, El Paso and Las Cruces McDonald's president and member of UTEP's 2014 Commission, said the honorees' stories inspire others, especially the local students who attended the event.

"Hopefully one day, (the students') stories can be the ones that are being told," Castro said.

Among the honorees were UTEP alums Hector Holguin, a scientist and entrepreneur, and historian and writer Fred Morales.

Holguin graduated from Texas Western

College, now UTEP, in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. He spent most of his career as an engineer and software developer. Holguin is the founder and president of SecureOrigins Inc., a company that is developing software to make transporting goods between countries more secure and efficient.

Morales graduated from UTEP in 1980 with a Bachelor of Arts in Chicano studies. He has written 21 books on El Paso and Juárez history. Morales is the founder and curator of the El Paso/Juárez Historical Museum. He also gives historical walking tours. 📍

A HELPING HAND

In an effort to improve health care services to families affected by domestic abuse, UTEP's School of Nursing partnered with the Center Against Family Violence (CAFV) in fall 2011 to open the center's first wellness clinic.

Since Oct. 1, faculty and students from the school's nurse practitioner program have provided free wellness exams to children up to 6 years old who are living at the center. The clinic can potentially serve 500 children from the center's emergency shelter annually.

"This new partnership with the CAFV highlights the efforts of professional and caring faculty and students taking action to help

'THE WORK OF PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE AND HELPING THOSE HARMED BY IT BELONGS TO THE COMMUNITY.'

vulnerable populations who might otherwise not seek medical attention," said UTEP School of Nursing Dean Elias Provencio-Vasquez, Ph.D.

Under the guidance of UTEP's nurse practitioner faculty, students are being trained to administer pediatric wellness exams, which involve evaluating a child's growth and development relative to his or her age. The practicum also offers students the opportunity to increase their awareness of family violence by looking for signs of potential or existing abuse.

"The important work of preventing family violence and helping those harmed by it

belongs to the community," CAFV Executive Director Stephanie Karr said. "We are excited that the UTEP School of Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program has embraced this responsibility in partnering with the Center Against Family Violence to provide much needed health care to our families." 📍



UTEP Clinical Nursing Instructor Guillermina Solis, Ph.D., leads a tour of the CAFV clinic, which includes exam room tables, privacy screens, and medical equipment.

The CAFV is a nonprofit organization with the mission to protect families from domestic violence. The center's 24-hour crisis hotline is **915-593-7300** or **1-800-727-0511**.



Homecoming 2011



UTEP Magazine Winter 2012



UTEP HELPS DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL TRADE OPTIMIZATION CURRICULUM

During a private tour of The University of Texas at El Paso in August 2011, Alan D. Bersin, who was then U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner, spoke with UTEP President Diana Natalicio about developing a curriculum that would focus on international trade.

According to CBP officials, although many universities teach transportation and supply chain management, no known institution of higher education provides instruction on international trade, global distribution of goods, and bilateral and multilateral trade regulation.

Since that conversation in August, UTEP has initiated a task force of representatives from several international trade organizations, leaders from other universities, and CBP to develop a program that would allow graduates to enter the workforce with a degree or certificate that emphasizes the skills needed to have a career in global trade compliance, either in the private or public sector.

"A curriculum that addresses the existing need for international trade studies will help us develop better strategies to attain long-term economic and social benefits for the U.S. and our trading partners," Bersin said. "I have great confidence that The University of Texas at El Paso, under the leadership of President Natalicio, has the vision to accomplish this goal."

"Because of UTEP's border location, we are uniquely positioned to provide students with firsthand experience in international trade and trade regulation," Natalicio said. "We believe that this innovative curriculum will be a valuable addition to our College of Business Administration offerings as we prepare students to compete for professional, managerial and entrepreneurial

positions in the 21st century international trade industry."

According to Robert Nachtmann, D.B.A., dean of UTEP's College of Business Administration, most of the topical content for a professional degree and the development of a professional certification is in place. UTEP will work with national and international partners to develop a global professional certification. What college leaders will need to do, Nachtmann said, is organize the programmatic flow of content and develop the program logistics that will best serve the life and work requirements of candidates for this innovative trade optimization curriculum.

"UTEP's College of Business Administration's core strategy is global enterprise and cross-border business," he said. "Our faculty and corporate partners from both sides of our El Paso/Juárez border are well prepared to deliver a professional program in Global Trade Optimization."

"Global trade competitiveness is essential for the U.S. economy, and this program is one more step for UTEP on its way to Tier One through its mission of access and excellence, and it moves UTEP closer to becoming the first national research university with a 21st century demographic."

Potential courses to be included in the curriculum include U.S. trade regulations, Constitutional law, negotiations and conflict resolution, export administration regulations, import metrics, and copyright and patent law. The importance of accreditation and students' involvement in internships is also being discussed.

A meeting with task force representatives is scheduled for spring 2012. ➡

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CENTENNIAL LECTURE SERIES KICKS OFF



Left: UTEP President Diana Natalicio and Steve H. Murdock, Ph.D.
Right: Jerry Porras, Ph.D.

Two distinguished speakers kicked off a new UTEP lecture series in 2011 tied to the University's 100th anniversary in 2014.

The Centennial Lecture Series brings speakers to campus to share their perspectives on a broad range of contemporary issues that are likely to impact society and culture.

"In this series, we're going to be focusing on and contemplating the second 100 years," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio, whose vision is for the University to become the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic.

The inaugural speaker – Jerry Porras, Ph.D., the Lane Professor of Organizational Behavior and Change, Emeritus, at Stanford University – said a university's vision is the platform for creating a great institution.

His October remarks outlined the elements an organization needs to be enduringly successful, which include ambitious goals, core values and a purpose for existing.

"Vision is really at the base for creating enduring greatness," said Porras, a 2011 Distinguished Alumnus at UTEP. "If you don't start with a fantastic vision ... I don't think you'll be able to achieve enduring greatness."

The El Paso native earned his bachelor's in electrical engineering in 1960 from Texas Western College (now UTEP). He received an M.B.A. from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in management from the University of California, Los Angeles, before he joined

Stanford's Graduate School of Business in 1972.

Steve H. Murdock, Ph.D., the Allyn R. and Gladys M. Cline Professor of Sociology at Rice University and former director of the U.S. Bureau of the Census, delivered the second Centennial Lecture in late November. He said an educated Hispanic population in Texas and across the country is the key to the future economic success of the state and the nation.

Murdock showed how Hispanics will make up 62 percent of the nation's population by 2050, but the comparative numbers between 1999 and 2009 showed a growing percentage who were economically disadvantaged because fewer were earning college degrees. He also pointed to data that showed that higher incomes were commensurate with high SAT scores.

"Education is the single best predictor of future wealth. It's the key to success," Murdock said. "We are not doing what we need to do in colleges and universities to have an educated population." 📌

Use your smartphone to scan this code to watch Centennial Lecture videos.

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



UTEP HOSTS *Hate Crimes* ROUNDTABLE



Saeed Mody, trial attorney with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington D.C., discussed federal hate crime statutes during UTEP's hate crimes roundtable in September.

Hate crimes are like an insidious disease that can ravage the body and mind in countless and sometimes unforeseen ways, UTEP Provost Junius Gonzales said during his opening remarks at the University's hate crimes roundtable in September.

The roundtable, sponsored by the El Paso Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and The University of Texas at El Paso's Department of Social Work, brought together federal, state and local law enforcement, victims' assistance personnel, and UTEP students and faculty to discuss the history of hate crime and its current state in American society.

"This is a unique partnership between the law enforcement, social services and academic community to raise awareness of hate crime legislation and the prosecution of hate crimes, while also considering the origins and treatment of hate crimes nationally and locally," said Mark Lusk, Ed.D., chair of UTEP's social work department.

Hate crimes are criminal offenses against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, ethnic origin or sexual orientation.

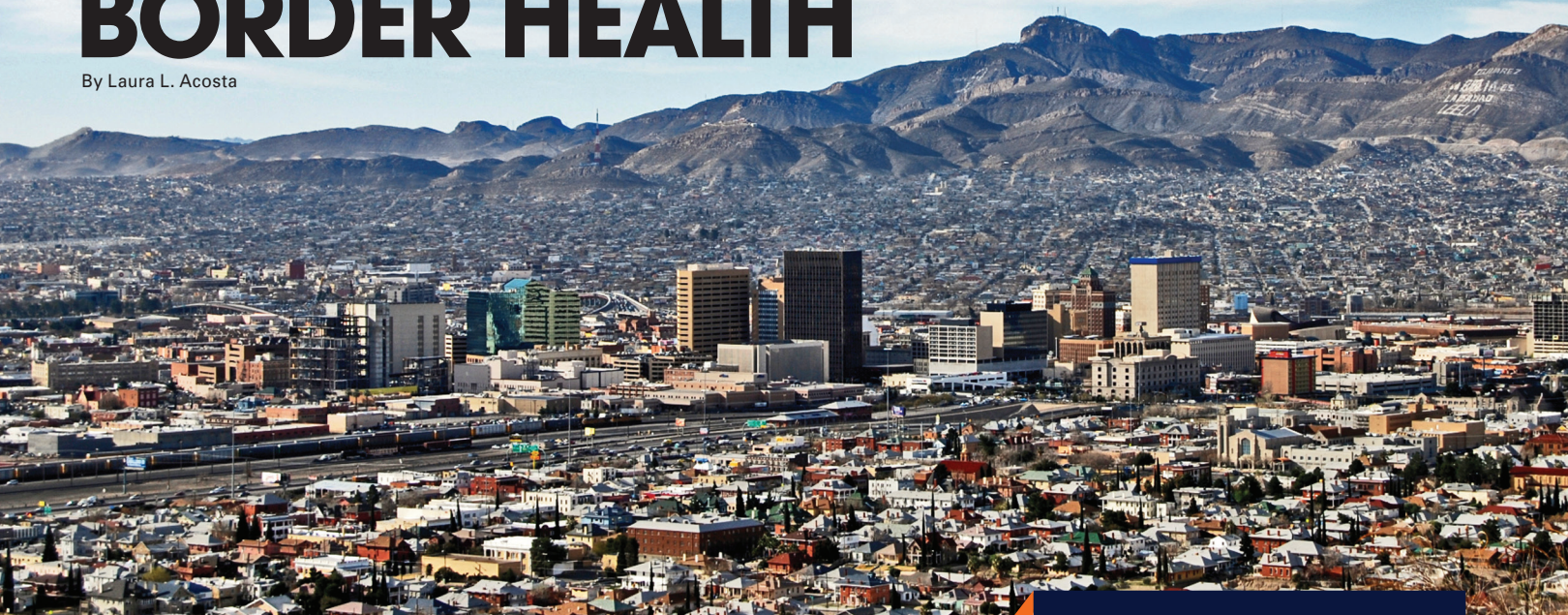
Among the presenters was Saeed Mody, trial attorney with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Mody discussed federal hate crime statutes including the Mathew Sheppard and James Byrd Hate Crime Prevention Act, and gave examples of cases that have been prosecuted under the statutes.

"What's interesting about hate crime cases is that it's the only type of case where you have to prove motive," Mody said. 📌

EXAMINING BORDER HEALTH

By Laura L. Acosta



Thousands of commuters cross the U.S.-Mexico border from El Paso, Texas, into Juárez every day to access health care services, work, visit family or shop for groceries.

A team of UTEP researchers led by Hector Balcazar, Ph.D., regional dean of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health (UTSPH), El Paso Regional Campus, is looking at Hispanics living in El Paso to find out what economic, cultural, family and mobility factors are affecting health along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Funded by the Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center (HHDR), a UTEP-UTSPH collaborative, Balcazar and co-investigator Josiah M. Heyman, Ph.D., chair of UTEP's Sociology and Anthropology Department; Maria Amaya, Ph.D., professor of nursing; and Osvaldo Morera, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, have worked for the last two years with a survey that examines the health care utilization patterns of El Paso residents.

"The Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center is trying to use this survey to understand the different factors that may give clues to how we can begin addressing health problems, so that we can be more aligned in how we can ameliorate health disparities by understanding people's behaviors," said Balcazar, HHDR's co-director.

From 2009 to 2010, bilingual interviewers visited 1,002 households throughout El Paso County to collect answers to 143 questions that addressed a range of topics, including social position and demographic characteristics, self-reported health status, tobacco/substance use and violence, and access and barriers to health care.

Respondents answered questions about the prevalence among family members of chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer and hypertension. They also gave information on health-care barriers and whether or not they had sought medical care in the U.S. or Mexico in the last three years, or if a medical cost ranging from \$25 to \$100 would be difficult to pay.

"One of the unique things about being here on the border is that there is so much influence coming from Mexico because of people going back and forth," said Lisa Lapeyrouse, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow at the HHDR who is examining the data to produce manuscripts and other information for publication and dissemination.

According to Balcazar, trans-mobility is one of the border's major characteristics, and researchers are exploring the implications of health disparities among border crossers.

Lack of health insurance and preventive care, along with language and cultural barriers, have created a disproportionately high prevalence among Hispanics for certain

BARRIERS TO HEALTH

Lack of health insurance and preventive care, along with language and cultural barriers, have created a disproportionately high prevalence among Hispanics for certain health conditions such as asthma, obesity, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

health conditions such as asthma, obesity, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

"We live in many ways in two different worlds," Balcazar said. "The border itself is a very unique milieu and we want to recognize some of its characteristics, like trans-border mobility."

The best way to find out why people move back and forth across the border is by asking a lot of questions, he said.

The survey found that respondents with incomes between \$10,000 and \$20,000 are more likely to travel to Juárez than respondents with incomes of \$40,000 or more. Mobile respondents also are more likely to have lower incomes because of language barriers, immigration status and related socio-cultural factors.

Less acculturated and poorer Hispanics



are more likely to have access to health care and other services across the border.

The survey also found that people continue to cross the border, mainly for work or to visit family, regardless of the surge of violence in Juárez.

An analysis on mental health and the effect of stress on border crossers found that people who reported low stress had a decline in their depressive symptoms once they crossed into Juárez. However, for people who were really stressed out, going across the border didn't make any difference.

"I think what that analysis really speaks to is that there is something protective or there is some way that people are benefiting from crossing the border," Lapeyrouse said.

Based on survey results, researchers also are looking at mammography and whether women with or without health insurance have more mammograms in El Paso or Juárez. Lapeyrouse found that women who have health insurance are more likely to have their mammograms in the U.S., but uninsured women who rely on Mexican health care services are more likely to have a mammogram than those who are insured.

The survey has become a springboard for more research. Out of the 1,002 households, UTEP sociologist Josiah Heyman has selected 300 respondents and asked them additional questions about their experiences navigating the health care system to see what barriers they have had to overcome.

Balcazar estimates that it will take another year and a half to analyze all the survey data. The next challenge will be to develop community interventions based on the results.

"The survey is just beginning to give us some initial data that we hope to filter to the community," Balcazar said.

UTEP School of Nursing Dean and HHDRC Director Elias Provencio-Vasquez, Ph.D., said that the survey has provided researchers with valuable information about how to address health care issues in the community, which will eventually be disseminated to health care providers.

"What we find should be sent out to the community to say, 'These are the types of questions doctors and nurses should ask, and these are the types of programs and clinics that we should be developing in our community,'" he said. ☑



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Faculty Profile



Hector Balcazar, Ph.D.

POSITION:

Regional Dean and Professor, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health, El Paso Regional Campus

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in International Nutrition, Cornell University

HOBBIES:

Enjoying family activities like cooking, going out for a nice meal, playing tennis, traveling with the family, watching exciting programs like history, travel, cooking, movies

I CHOSE MY CAREER BECAUSE ...

I enjoy giving to public health and participating in making our communities a better world to live in for everyone.

MY GREATEST INSPIRATION IS ...

my wife and children, my mom.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS ...

working with people, the diversity of activities, staying fresh in mind and spirit, being positive and ready to tackle new challenges and opportunities.

3-D MEDICAL MODELING

Keck Center Supports Advances in Diagnostics, Research and Surgery Prep

For the past decade, the 3-D medical modeling program within the W.M. Keck Center for 3-D Innovation in the UTEP College of Engineering has been manufacturing replicas of human body parts for El Paso surgeons to use as diagnostic or pre-surgical tools. Center manager Frank Medina and his team of student researchers are working under the leadership of Keck Center founder and director Professor Ryan Wicker, Ph.D., to create 3-D models using a number of advanced materials and manufacturing technologies to simulate the anatomies of spines, abdominal aneurysms, cardiovascular and craniofacial abnormalities, human jaw bones and even the human brain.

This multidimensional modeling approach allows surgeons to study a physical rendition of a specific patient, and thus potentially improve the surgical outcomes, while decreasing the time the patient spends in the operating room, and in many cases reducing the cost of surgery. Wicker said he would like to also extend the Keck Center's services to El Paso veterinarians to help advance the health care of their animal patients.

The process begins with a patient's CT or MRI scan and transforms these images into a 3-D computer model. Models can then be manufactured using advanced materials such as thermoplastics or metals in 3-D printing or additive manufacturing machines that build complicated models up in layers beginning with nothing, rather than the subtractive process of carving out a shape from an existing block of metal or plastic.

The Keck Center also has the capacity to produce personalized hip and knee replacement parts, as well as facial prosthetics and skull plates, using 3-D printing technologies. In one procedure that recently received FDA approval, an electron beam is used to melt medical-grade metals and alloys to replicate the bones or joints for prosthetic surgeries or implants.

Wicker, who holds the endowed Macintosh Murchison Chair in Engineering, has partnered for many years



Frank Medina, Keck Center manager, has created 3-D models of everything from spines and hearts to the human brain.

Faculty Profile

Frank Medina

POSITION:

W.M. Keck Center for 3-D Innovation Manager

EDUCATION:

M.S. in Mechanical Engineering and pursuing a Ph.D. in Material Science, UTEP

HOBBIES:

I don't have hobbies, per se. I spend my free time with my kids and family.

I CHOSE MY CAREER BECAUSE ...

I always wanted to know how things work, especially the mechanical mechanisms in my toys.

MY GREATEST INSPIRATION IS ...

my dad and mom and the mentors I have at UTEP.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS ...

being able to design and help people and companies.

with Stanford University to fabricate models that assist in cardiovascular research. His team is able to construct models of the cardiovascular system, which in turn helps both Stanford and UTEP researchers identify the origin and pathology of heart disease. The technologies they have developed extend beyond health and have been used extensively by his Stanford colleagues to study complicated flow systems, such as those found in aircraft engine turbine blades.

The Keck Center's commercial and experimental additive manufacturing capabilities have grown from one machine in 2000 to more than 30 machines today, including two patented and several patent-pending technologies developed by Keck Center researchers.

"There is an increasing need for modeling in medicine and in manufacturing," Medina said. "UTEP has received requests from Fortune Top 10 Companies, local inventors and the UTEP research community for help with prototyping." 📌



This multidimensional modeling approach allows surgeons to study a physical rendition of a specific patient, and thus potentially improve the surgical outcomes.

Doctor Uses Keck Center Models to Prepare for Surgery

Most of us take our spines for granted. The spine keeps our body mobile and flexible, and protects our vital neural structure, our spinal cord. When things go wrong with the spine, it is painful, often crippling, and can even lead to a disability.

For El Paso orthopedic surgeon Dr. Gregory Misenhimer, treating a child with a spinal disorder such as spina bifida or scoliosis is exceptionally challenging because the child's bones are still growing, and the extent of a deformity may be unknown until the patient reaches adulthood, when surgery is less effective. For Misenhimer, treating difficult cases of scoliosis has become his passion.

That is why Misenhimer turned to the W.M. Keck Center for 3-D Innovation more than a decade ago for help with his more complex spinal surgeries. Misenhimer considers himself a problem-solver, and he appreciates working with other problem-solvers, such as the researchers in the College of Engineering who manufacture spinal replicas for him to study before surgery and to use as an observational aid in the operating room.

"I am a visual person, and having the opportunity to hold a spinal model in my hands, and being able to study it for weeks before the surgery, is invaluable," he said. "Each time I study the model, I discover something new. Being able to differentiate between congenital deformities and normal bones, for example, is very helpful to me."

Twelve-year-old Stephanie Tapia has experienced the benefits of having her spinal model in Misenhimer's hands. Last year she had such a severe case of scoliosis, with an 80-degree curvature of the spine, that she was destined



Dr. Gregory Misenhimer, El Paso orthopedic surgeon

for paralysis. Her rib cage was also crushing her lungs. Tapia's mother, Leticia, signed a consent form to have the spinal model manufactured by UTEP to assist in her surgery.

"Dr. Misenhimer told me he would study the model until he was comfortable with doing any surgery on my daughter," Leticia Tapia said.

In the operating room, Misenhimer used sutures and medical tape to hang Stephanie Tapia's spinal model from an IV pole, so that he could see first-hand where to cut the bone and straighten her spine.

"The earlier we can operate on a child," Misenhimer said, "the more correctable the spine can be." He also was able to reconstruct and realign Tapia's ribcage so that she can now breathe normally.

"We are so grateful for Dr. Misenhimer for curing our daughter of scoliosis," Leticia Tapia said. "He is a very caring and gifted doctor."

Misenhimer has shared UTEP's spinal replicas with colleagues around the country, and at meetings.

"Having UTEP as a partner is priceless to my patients and to me," he said. ☑





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UTEP Professor Arvind Singhal, Ph.D., participates in polio eradication efforts in Nigeria.



PROFESSOR HELPS WITH FIGHT AGAINST **POLIO**

By Stephanie Sanchez
Photos courtesy of Arvind Singhal

In the global push to eradicate polio, Arvind Singhal, Ph.D., possesses skills that many medical doctors and epidemiologists do not: he has the ability to develop effective communication strategies to reach unwilling families, mobilize communities and influence policy.

Singhal, who among his many roles is the Samuel Shirley and Edna Holt Marston Endowed Professor of Communication at The University of Texas at El Paso, serves on the Independent Monitoring Board of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. It is a nine-member board of internationally recognized public health experts that was instituted in fall 2010 by the World Health Assembly. Its members travel to various countries to witness firsthand and be part of polio eradication efforts.

"Our charge is to monitor progress, flag problems, and applaud as necessary," said Singhal, who traveled to Nigeria in summer 2011. "If there is a problem, we say there is a big problem and you need to address it now. The world has made tremendous progress to eradicate polio. We are (so) close. But the last yard has been quite elusive."

Polio, a disease caused by a virus, causes serious illness, paralysis and in severe cases, death, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It was once prevalent in the United States and many other countries. Polio claimed the lives of thousands each year until a vaccine was created in 1955.

After smallpox, polio is the second major disease on a global agenda for eradication. Billions of dollars have been spent and the number of new polio cases has dropped to a few hundred in 2011 from more than 350,000 cases a year in the mid-1980s, Singhal said. However, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria still struggle to eradicate polio, and several countries routinely have localized outbreaks, he added.

"If you become paralyzed at an early age and you live a life of 60 or 70 years, you're affecting a whole host of lives that are taking care of you," he said. "It's a big issue."

Singhal, who for 25 years has worked in the area of communication and social

change in dozens of countries, became directly involved with combating polio in 2008 when UNICEF asked him to assess the polio eradication initiative in India. In December 2010, he was invited to serve on the Independent Monitoring Board and is the only member without medical doctor or epidemiologist credentials.

Other board members include Dr. Jeffrey P. Koplan, former CDC director; Sir Liam Donaldson, head of the United Kingdom's equivalent of CDC; and Dr. Ciro de Quadros of the Sabin Vaccine Institute. The board reports to the heads of the World Health Organization, UNICEF, CDC, the Board of Rotary International and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation — organizations that have long been involved in the effort to eradicate polio.

Singhal has been highly vocal about the importance of implementing communication strategies to reach resistant parents who otherwise would not allow vaccinators to administer the polio shot to their children.

"When you have those kinds of resistances at the micro level — at the household level — they are mostly communicative in nature," he said. "Eradicating polio is not just a technical issue. It is a complex human behavioral issue."

In northern Nigeria, male vaccinators are not allowed into women's compounds, and in certain pockets of India, there may be an issue in getting the Imams' approval for the polio drops. In Pakistan and Afghanistan, there are territorial boundaries that vaccination teams cannot cross.

Singhal brings his global experiences back to the UTEP classroom and effectively uses storytelling as a way to make his lectures accessible to students, said Monica Alvillar, a former graduate student at UTEP and thesis advisee of the professor.

"I was familiar with his work and his world-travel experiences," she said. "I found early on that he would encourage me to view things from different perspectives. I felt like I was always being challenged to think about things in ways I hadn't imagined."

Milena Murta, a graduate student in communication at UTEP, said Singhal's class

was not like others. She said his teaching style involved intense class interactions, with each student sharing experiences and thoughts about what they were learning. Instead of using PowerPoint presentations and being the focal point of the lecture, she said he was a facilitator, often using his field-based experiences as an entry point to discussions.

"Through his stories, he made me travel around the world without leaving El Paso," Murta said. "His approach to themes like social justice is addictive, and I was excited as never before to attend his Monday class. I was eager, not only to hear from him, but to hear from my peers and to share my stories." 📌

Faculty Profile



Arvind Singhal, Ph.D.

POSITION:

Samuel Shirley and Edna Holt Marston Endowed Professor and Director, Social Justice Initiative, UTEP Department of Communication

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in Communication Theory and Research, University of Southern California

HOBBIES:

Reading, writing, storytelling, traveling, walking

I CHOSE MY CAREER BECAUSE ...

it just happened.

MY GREATEST INSPIRATION IS ...

Mahatma Gandhi and the ideals he lived for.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS ...

to be in the privileged position to fuel the potential that lies in young people.

\$11 MILLION GRANT

Helps Elicit the Truth

By Laura L. Acosta
Photo by Laura Trejo



In the United States, false confessions and incriminating statements lead to wrongful convictions in approximately 25 percent of cases, according to the Innocence Project, a national litigation and public policy organization dedicated to exonerating wrongfully convicted people through DNA testing.

A team of world-renowned investigators led by Christian Meissner, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology and criminal justice at UTEP, is developing new methods of collecting information from cooperative and uncooperative witnesses by improving investigative interview practices.

Meissner and Harmon Hosch, Ph.D., a psychology professor, received an \$11.5 million grant from the High Value Detainee Interrogation Group and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to fund their project, "Intelligence, Interviewing and Interrogation."

The five-year study looks to identify, understand and develop strong, reliable, evidence-based approaches that improve investigators' interviewing capabilities, Hosch said.

According to Meissner, the research explores behavior in interviews by trying to understand how people provide information and under what conditions they are willing to provide information.

In doing so, investigators seek to create interrogation approaches that maximize the likelihood of eliciting accurate information.

Now in its second year, research is under way in three areas: elicitation, interrogation and credibility assessment.

Interviewers use elicitation to get the most information from an interview.

Meissner uses mnemonics or techniques that can help jog a person's memory to elicit information from a witness about a certain incident. In one scenario, the interrogator may ask the witness to mentally travel back in time to the location where they acquired the information and think about the context in which they acquired the information.

"There are a number of other mnemonics that will work, and some of it depends on the type of information that you're trying to elicit," Meissner said.

In the area of interrogation, investigators are leveraging what they know about social psychology and human behavior to develop methods that lead to cooperation.

Researchers are looking at social influence tactics that are effective in persuading non-cooperative witnesses to comply during an interrogation.

By conducting studies in the University's Investigative Interviewing Research Laboratory, researchers have found that aggressive or manipulative tactics do not produce the best information. Instead, techniques that develop rapport with the interviewee lead to the best information.

"The question is, how can we interrogate them in a way that obtains cooperation from them and induces them to be willing to share that information?" Meissner said.

The third area deals with how an interviewer can determine if the witness is telling the truth or lying.

According to Meissner, interrogation approaches that produce anxiety tend to have negative effects on credibility assessment. On the other hand, rapport-based approaches to interviewing and interrogation actually enhance credibility assessment judgments because they effectively elicit cues to deception that are only present in those who lie.

Another study by James Wood, Ph.D., UTEP professor of psychology, looks at factors that influence the accuracy of information when interviews are conducted through an interpreter. Findings show that information is lost because of selective editing and memory loss. The study also found that it becomes more difficult for interrogators to build rapport with the interviewee through an interpreter.

In addition to the research conducted at UTEP, the grant is funding projects at 14 institutions throughout the world. They



Christian Meissner, Ph.D.

Christian Meissner's fascination with how people think and what they remember has helped him become a leading experimental cognitive psychologist.

An associate professor of psychology and criminal justice at UTEP since 2005, Meissner has received funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the departments of justice, defense, and homeland security to conduct research on the psychological processes that influence investigative interviews, interrogations and confessions.

Meissner's Investigative Interviewing Research Laboratory at UTEP focuses on the social and cognitive psychological processes that underlie the interviewing of individuals in forensic settings.

He is serving as a visiting scientist and program director of Law and Social Sciences at the National Science Foundation through July 31, 2012.



Harmon Hosch, Ph.D.

Harmon M. Hosch, the Helen M.C. & J. Edward Stern Professor of Psychology at UTEP, chose his career because he and his wife, Jeanne decided that the freedom to research what he wanted to focus on was of greater value to them than the higher earning potential they had working on others' research projects in the government and private domains.

As such, he considers designing studies to better understand human social interactions, and watching his students mature in their scientific development, the best part of his job.

A member of the UTEP faculty since 1975, Hosch has served as the director of the Office of Sponsored Projects, as chair of the Department of Psychology, and as associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts. He also is the founding director of UTEP's Center for Law and Human Behavior.



Christian Meissner, Ph.D., is the co-editor of *Police Interrogations and False Confessions: Current Research, Practice, and Policy Recommendations*, along with G. Daniel Lassiter, Ph.D. Meissner is serving as a visiting scientist and program director of Law and Social Sciences at the National Science Foundation through July 31, 2012.

include the University at Albany SUNY; Florida International University; Roger Williams University in Rhode Island; the University of Portsmouth, England; the University of Gothenburg, Sweden; and Charles Sturt University, Australia.

"There are a growing number of scholars who are looking at interviewing and interrogation in the criminal and intelligence context, and what we've done is to identify the leading scholars in this area across geographical boundaries," Meissner said.

Hosch and Meissner hope that the "Intelligence, Interviewing and Interrogation" project will generate new knowledge about how humans interact under interrogation and also change how interrogation is done by developing and

implementing new methods.

Researchers are working with federal training centers, federal law enforcement offices and U.S. government entities that conduct interrogations and interviews.

"The idea is that we start in the lab. We move to the training facilities to do some replication and extension of the lab work, then we move it into training and doctrine, and then we study it out in the field," Meissner said.

Funding is also helping to support a master's student, six Ph.D. students, and two postdoctoral researchers, and a multitude of undergraduate students – the next generation of researchers, Hosch said. ☑

Ann Q. Gates, Ph.D., (center) is associate vice president of research and sponsored projects at UTEP. She is pictured with researchers Rodrigo Romero, Ph.D., associate director of the Cyber-ShARE Center of Excellence, and Deana Pennington, a research assistant professor.

Growing a Research University

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

When Edward Castañeda, Ph.D., professor and chair of UTEP's Department of Psychology, submitted a grant proposal to the National Institute on Drug Abuse to fund the University's Vulnerability Issues in Drug Abuse (VIDA) research training program, he needed help assembling a top-notch team of researchers from across disciplines who would contribute their expertise to the program's success.

Castañeda enlisted the help of the Proposal Development Team, or DevT, in the University's Office of Research and Sponsored Projects (ORSP). The team brought together 11 UTEP professors from the colleges of science, health sciences and liberal arts to collaborate in activities that integrate the neuroscience and socio-cultural dimensions of drug use among vulnerable Hispanics.

"The Affinity Research Group model specializes in getting people to see outside the box," Castañeda said. "They have this whole approach to breaking down those barriers and coming together with a common definition that transcends disciplines and unites people in a common vision."

Castañeda is one of about 250 faculty members that the DevT has assisted with grant proposal submissions since the group officially formed in 2008 under the leadership of Roberto Osegueda, Ph.D., UTEP's vice president for research and Ann Q. Gates, associate vice president for research.

The University's success in attracting external research funding can be attributed to faculty and staff members whose competitive research proposals garnered \$70 million in new awards from federal, state and private agencies and foundations during the 2010-11 fiscal year.

UTEP's DevT works behind the scenes to provide faculty the support they may need to prepare winning grant proposals.

"Many faculty are very successful in writing (the proposal) on their own," Gates said. "But if they would like (help) with an RFP (request for proposal), we will work with them to brainstorm on different ways to extend and present their ideas and to identify people on campus who may be able to contribute."

Support for proposal development can be traced back to the Office of Sponsored Projects in the 1980s. Under the direction of Harmon Hosch, Ph.D., the office developed a culture of searching for extramural funding.

"We tried to foster a helpful approach and met with lots of individual faculty and departments to see how we could provide useful service," said Hosch, who was the ORSP's director from 1985-88.

The operation expanded from two full-time employees to include an additional staff member whose primary duty was to help faculty locate funding sources and develop proposals. The office, which also created training programs to help

faculty develop and manage successful proposals, eventually changed its name to the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects, Hosch said.

Today, the ORSP includes nearly 30 staff members who assist with proposal development assistance, compliance and post-award monitoring.

The DevT's team consists of Gates, who along with Florence Dick, coordinator for pre-award services; Maria L. Picard-Ami, proposal development specialist; Claudine Riccillo, associate director; and new team member Andrea Tirres, provide a full spectrum of services that include assistance in the development, composition and editing of proposals; identification of funding sources; proofing submissions; and organizing workshops.

Last spring, the DevT launched JumpStart, a series of intensive workshops designed to help professors at all ranks prepare competitive grant proposals. DevT members guide them through idea development, budget preparation, and goal setting to ensure that concepts are presented clearly and concisely.

"The process provides continuity," Picard-Ami said. "There is constant feedback from their peers because it's one team that's working together through the whole semester."

UTEP OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2012



MINERS

Orange and Blue Day is The University of Texas at El Paso's signature open house event. It is an opportunity for future Miners to learn about UTEP's tradition of access and excellence. Our day begins with information sessions, includes a trip to our brand new Student Recreation Complex, showcases our expanding campus and ends with a tasty lunch.

The Office of Admissions and Recruitment honors our alumni and their contributions to our University. If you would like to recommend a student for attendance at Orange & Blue Day, visit www.utep.edu/obdlegacy. Be part of the tradition and learn more about Orange & Blue Day.

www.utep.edu/obdlegacy

Office of Admissions & Recruitment

www.utep.edu/admissions

minerlegacy@utep.edu

RUBIN CENTER: FACULTY SWITCH PLACES WITH STUDENTS IN ART EXHIBITION

By Joe Velarde

Future Shows

ANNUAL UTEP JURIED STUDENT ART EXHIBITION

April 12 – May 5

Rubin & L Galleries

ANNUAL UTEP ALUMNUS EXHIBITION

April 5 – May 5

Project Space

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN TALKS: SLANGUAGE (MARIO YBARRA, JR. & KARLA DIAZ)

May 24 – Sept. 5

L Gallery

ART EXPLORING SCIENCE: NEW PRINTS AND DRAWINGS BY SEAN CAUFIELD

May 24- Sept. 5

Project Space

RECENT VIDEO WORKS FROM THE URBAN MIDDLE EAST

Sept. 13 – Dec. 15

Rubin & L Galleries & Project Space

HOURS OF OPERATION

The Rubin Center is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., until 7 p.m. on Thursdays, and from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Admission is free.

academics.utep.edu/visualarts
915-747-6151



The tables will turn on 26 art faculty of The University of Texas at El Paso who agreed to have their multidisciplinary talents assessed during the 2011 UTEP Department of Art Biennial Faculty Exhibition that begins Jan. 26 at the Stanley & Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts.

Kate Bonansinga, director of the Rubin Center, called the exhibition a tradition in contemporary art, just as it is a tradition with the UTEP art department.

"Each time I try to enhance the exhibition in a way that first and foremost benefits the faculty artists and, second, creates an interesting exhibition," she said. "The faculty graciously agreed to accommodate this reversal of the usual paradigm of the faculty evaluating the students, and the students had their say. (They were complimentary, and without fail.)"

The exhibition provides a snapshot of faculty research undertaken in the art department, said Vincent Burke, M.F.A, assistant professor of art. "As mentors, educators, and professional artists, it is important for the faculty to share their current work with our students and the public," he said.

Burke said that art is a core discipline in the liberal arts, and is vital to the human spirit. Quoting writer Jay Griffiths, he said, "the greatest artists do not make their best works of art in clay or paint or sound or words; they make them right inside us, within the heart of the reader or the audience."

The exhibit, curated by Gwen Chanzit, curator of modern and contemporary art at the Denver Art Museum, is scheduled to close March 24. 📍



Tucked in the heart of the UTEP campus is a place that offers a wealth of information in a serene and colorful setting.

The Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens have permanent exhibits that focus on the natural and cultural history of the region. The museum's recent temporary exhibits were "In His Own Words: The Life and Work of César Chávez" and "A River Interrupted, Making the Case for Changing our Management of the Rio Grande."

W. Warner "Bill" Wood, Ph.D., museum director, said the exhibits have changed dramatically from when the museum opened in 1937. Back then, the museum, which was the first in El Paso, covered all specialties.

"It was an art, history and everything museum (when it first opened)," said Wood, who came to UTEP in 2010. "The exhibits have changed drastically and they're going to change more over the next decade."

Already changes are visible in the multicolored, wooden floor galleries.

The third floor geology, paleontology, cultural history and mammal and bird galleries have undergone a major facelift. The backdrops of each case, which used to be white, are now adorned with relevant images and the ceilings have been painted to resemble the sky, which gives each exhibit a lively feel.

Wood has planned other museum updates, including working with a committee he formed to update the museum's mission and vision statements. As these changes are approved, the museum will begin to transform to fit its new mission: igniting the imagination, stimulating thought, and providing innovative educational experiences celebrating and deepening understanding of life in the Chihuahuan Desert. 📍

CENTENNIAL MUSEUM

RECEIVES MODERN UPDATES

By Stephanie Sanchez

Exhibits

TEMPORARY EXHIBITS:

Jan. 17 - Dec. 6 — "Nuestra Casa," or "Our Home," a new UTEP faculty and student exhibit

Jan. 31 - May 5 — "Raramuri, the Foot Runners of the Sierra Madre," a traveling exhibit

May 29 - Aug. 25 — "Peanuts ... Naturally," a traveling exhibit

Sept. 13 - Dec. 15 — "Sonda de Exploración Ferroviaria Tripulada," or "Manned Railway Exploration Probe," a traveling exhibit to be hosted with the Rubin Center

PERMANENT EXHIBITS:

Geology Gallery: a gallery of rocks and minerals in El Paso and UTEP's mining and railroad history, volcanoes, earthquakes and more

Paleontology Gallery: a gallery of invertebrate and vertebrate fossils of the region, from algae 2 billion years old to dinosaurs in Big Bend

Cultural History Gallery: a gallery of people who have inhabited the Chihuahuan Desert and El Paso region, and surrounding Southwest

Mammal and Bird Gallery: a gallery of birds and mammals of the Chihuahuan Desert

HOURS OF OPERATION

The museum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Parking permits can only be obtained from the museum offices inside the Centennial Museum. Admission is free.

museum.utep.edu
915-747-5565

MEET A MINER:

STUDENT, MUSICIAN & ENTREPRENEUR

By Joe Velarde • Photo by Amanda Staples

It's 4 in the afternoon and the falling sun is breaching the windows and illuminating this small boutique. Looking around, there are half-dressed mannequins wearing strange and unique designer shirts. The paint on the shop's interior walls smells fresh, and the tiled floors feel as though they've been newly pressed.

In walks UTEP sophomore biology major Stephen Escarzaga carrying boxes of what looks like more shirts.

"Sorry I'm late," he said. "I had to run a few errands."

Escarzaga carries a load — literally and figuratively. He is not just an employee of The Proper Printshop; he is also part-owner.

The student entrepreneur is also a loving son and boyfriend, a loyal friend and the guitarist for one of the city's newest and most exciting bands, The D.A.

His band has reached many small milestones this past year. It won the Sunland Park Race Track and Casino's Battle of the Bands, performed in Austin for the city's annual South By Southwest arts festival, appeared in El Paso's inaugural Neon Desert Music Festival and opened for bands such as nationally recognized Sparta.

But he's too busy to rest on his laurels. Escarzaga estimated that he works, practices, performs and studies nearly 70 hours a week. Nonetheless, he maintains a calm and confident demeanor.

"I think I just take it one day at a time, really," he said. "It seems like a lot, though everything just kind of fits into its groove."

A week for Escarzaga includes nine credit hours of classes, including organic chemistry, approximately 30 hours of band rehearsal, an additional 20 hours of studying and a significant amount of time at The Proper.

Mark Martinez, co-owner of the print shop at 4126 N. Mesa St., Suite E, said Escarzaga can balance his responsibilities because he loves everyone he's with and everything he does.

"Other people would crack under all of that pressure — but Stephen just stays cool," said Martinez, a junior digital media major. "That's why he does what he does, every single day."

Part of the reason Escarzaga is successful is that he learned discipline at a young age. He is a self-taught guitarist and learned through repetition. He said he has used the same tenacity to master other tasks from music to printmaking to academics, "especially organic chemistry." He tears into each problem with tireless precession, as if he was practicing for his next big gig.

Martinez considers his friend to be a perfectionist.

"I don't think anyone would be able to do what Stephen does, and never as well as he does," he said. 📸



“It seems like a lot,
though everything
just kind of fits into
its groove.”

Stephen Escarzaga

Spring 2012 Theater Performances at UTEP

The Department of Theatre and Dance and the UTEP Dinner Theatre have some exciting performances lined up for the spring semester, from a world premiere musical by Tony Award-winning lyricist Tim Rice to a rendition of the classic Shakespeare tragedy *Othello*.



Lute! (world premiere)

Jan. 27-29; Feb. 1-4, 8-12

UTEP Dinner Theatre/Union Ballroom

Pachuco Zoot

Feb. 10-19

Wise Family Theatre

The Seagull

March 14-18

Studio Theatre

Guys and Dolls

April 13-15, 18-22, 25-29; May 2-6

UTEP Dinner Theatre/Union Ballroom

Noises Off

April 20-29

Wise Family Theatre

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

July 6-8, 11-15, 18-22

UTEP Dinner Theatre/Union Ballroom

Othello

July 27-Aug. 5

Wise Family Theatre

INFORMATION:

For performances at the Wise Family Theatre or Studio Theatre, contact the Department of Theatre and Dance at 915-747-5118. For Dinner Theatre performances in the Union Ballroom, contact 915-747-6060 or the Ticket Center at 915-747-5234.



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UTEP's College
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50 YEARS AND COUNTING

Memorial Gym Has Served Generations of Miners

By Daniel Perez

The 1966 NCAA basketball championship won by Texas Western College is among the grandest moments in the history of The University of Texas at El Paso. The story of the building where that team played its home games began 50 years ago and continues today.

Memorial Gym opened in December 1961 to give the Miners a new home court. Up until then, the team had used venerable Holliday Hall – built in the early 1930s and capable of seating around 500 – and the El Paso County Coliseum for its home games.

With the new building came a new basketball coach, Don Haskins, whose team won its first game at the new venue on Dec. 9, 1961. The team's success, especially after winning the national championship five years later, created a fan base that turned the gym into an ear-splitting, bursting-at-the-seams box of thunder.

The arena originally was designed to seat 4,000, but officials installed 16 sets of retractable wooden bleachers so it could fit around 5,200. Crowds almost were on top of the court and they made an impact. Intimidated opponents helped the Miners achieve a 168-16 home record when they rendezvoused at the sports hall at Randolph Drive and Robinson Avenue.

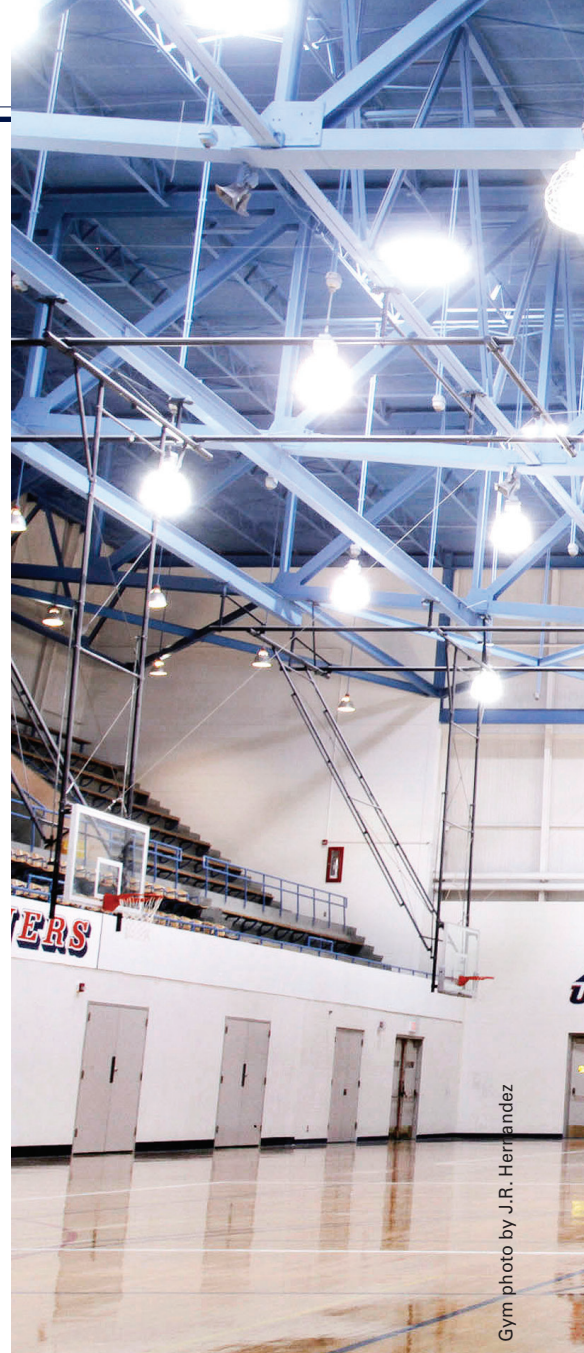
As the crowds grew, University officials agreed to move some games to the coliseum, which seated 8,260, but fans continued to love Memorial Gym.

"It was nice to have our own home. Everybody was so close to the floor. You felt as if you were part of the game," said Marilyn Cromeans, daughter of former Miners trainer Ross Moore. Cromeans, a retired elementary school teacher, earned her bachelor's from TWC in 1958. "It was a nice change from the coliseum, which was so big and impersonal. (Memorial) was our gym and it was a fun, rocking place."

The team's continued success necessitated a new arena, so the University built the Special Events Center, which opened in January 1977 and can seat more than 12,000. It was renamed the Don Haskins Center 20 years later, a few days before the coach was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Even with the more palatial basketball home across the street, Haskins occasionally would conduct team practices at Memorial Gym, said Hector Muñoz, director of UTEP's Recreational Sports Department (RSD).

"He liked the place," said Muñoz, whose office was in the gym until the RSD



Gym photo by J.R. Hernandez

consolidated at the new Student Recreation Center (formerly the Swimming and Fitness Center) on the north side of campus.

Memorial Gym has been renovated and expanded since then to better serve the University's student population. Through the years, it has been home to academic classes, the RSD and intercollegiate women's athletics. The women's basketball team played there from 1974-91 and the women's volleyball team has played there since its inception in 1974.

The initial purpose of the building, aside from its basketball duties, was to house the college's P.E. and health education classes, according to an article in the April 21, 1961, edition of *The Prospector*. The article announced that The University of Texas Board of Regents had approved the new building's name to honor the Texas Western College students



who had been killed in service to their country. The building's budget was just shy of \$1 million, according to the state Annual Financial Report.

UTEP's RSD directed open recreation, intramurals, University sports clubs and outdoor adventure programs while headquartered at the tri-level, 88,251-square-foot gym, which attracted about 900 students daily, Muñoz said.

He toured the building and explained how it continues to serve the University as a center for the Army ROTC training and kinesiology classes, including basketball, volleyball, fencing and martial arts. He pointed out weight rooms that now are for strength and conditioning classes.

"There is no open recreation here anymore," he said as he walked down the hall toward the auxiliary gym, which was added about 20 years ago. "This place is strictly for academics and non-credit classes now."

Well, almost strictly. The complex also is used to store materials for the Haskins Center and the Department of Kinesiology.

Muñoz walked past the front foyer, which still has comfortable sofas, a foosball table, message boards and trophy cases. Basketball and volleyball classes were being conducted in the main gym. He said it was the students who brought the building to life on a daily basis, especially as the student population grew and became more aware of the facilities.

Kezito "Zesu" Ekechukwu, a sophomore pre-pharmacy student, said he appreciated Memorial Gym as a place where he could shoot baskets, play pick-up games and find a comfortable place to study and meet friends before or after classes.

"I have a whole court to myself," he said before his basketball class began.

While the role of the building has changed through the years, it still serves the University and will continue to do so, said Greg McNicol, assistant vice president for facilities services. 📍

WHERE GLORY ROAD — MEETS — MEMORY LANE

*First Lady of
UTEP Basketball
Recalls Pivotal
Time in University's
History*

1961: **Arriving in El Paso**

I never will forget. Don chose the route to bring us into town over Scenic Drive. He'd been here before and he wanted to show it off to us. We looked down at the city below and the mountains above, and we drove straight to the college, and right to Miners Hall. That is where we were going to live for two years, and we did.

It was wonderful;
I loved it.

Use your smartphone to scan this code for a video about Mary Haskins.

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



There probably were about 100 athletes there: football, basketball and some track guys, and I must say they were all fine gentlemen. I don't know if they were afraid of Don, but they were very nice.

We had a cafeteria in the dorm, which I just loved. We had four little boys of our own, so it was boys, boys, boys everywhere. I was the only female, except for the cooks.

I think the community was very supportive of our college, everybody was, and they greeted us very warmly. Women called on me, and I loved that. There was just a warm feeling here.

We kind of inherited the [basketball] team that had already been recruited and played, and most of them lived in the dorm. They were nice guys.

They did (start winning right away). We had good attendance. People were very much behind us. It was great. Don's team played the first game in Memorial Gym. They had just completed [the gym], and on our way to Miners Hall [that first day] we drove by Memorial Gym so he could show us the gym. He was so proud of it.

After two years in Miners Hall on the campus, we did move into a home of our own in Coronado Hills. Don's teams kept winning, and by 1966 our Texas Western team was winning on a national level.

1966: The NCAA Championship Game

The game was in College Park, Md., which is just right outside of Washington, D.C. We had had a game the night before

and beaten Utah, who was very good. I mean, this was the Final Four. Kentucky had beaten Duke University. It was a really prestigious group of schools and we were just thrilled to death to be there.

The day of our game, I can remember thinking 'Well, we're here, we've done so well. Whatever happens, just happens.' And then, I could see that we were going to win. I remember looking down at our cheerleaders, and they were so cute. I think we had a band there too. We were sitting behind the team, so I had my eye on Don, and he was just going about business. And then when we actually won the game, we all went running down to the floor. There was just a handful of us because everybody else was for Kentucky. It was closer for them to get to the game. We just had a handful of people, maybe 100 people, who were really, really thrilled. I can remember Don kind of lifted me up and whirled me around when I got down to the floor with him.

After that, we went to a restaurant and had a celebratory dinner, I guess you'd call it, and it was so much fun. Talk about high spirits and happiness. Then we all went back to the motel and we stayed up all night long. Our charter flight was going to leave early the next morning. Everyone ran from room to room and visited. No one wanted to go to sleep, so we never changed clothes, we were just happy, happy people.

A bus came and got us at 5:30 or 6 and took us to the airport. We boarded the plane, came straight back to El Paso, and our pilot said, "Well folks, there's a really big crowd down there at the airport." We had little TV monitors by our seats, and

we could see the crowd right there. [The pilot] said, "I'm just going to let them see our plane," so he circled the whole town and came back and landed. There must have been about 10,000 people there. It was awesome.

2006: Glory Road, the Movie

The people who portrayed us [in the 2006 movie *Glory Road*] were darling people. Don and Josh Lucas became real close friends. I had a chance to know Emily Deschanel, who played me. I always felt so flattered that they'd pick somebody like her. We went down to New Orleans where they were doing some filming on the movie, and I became acquainted with her down there. For the last six years, Emily has been starring in the TV series *Bones*.

I think maybe they had to overdramatize some of the black issues [in the movie] that we never thought anything about, to tell you the truth. We had some really great guys [on the team], and they all played at different times. Don wanted to play his best players; he wanted to win. And nobody thought anything about it. I'm sure he played all the black players at one time here in El Paso — I can't even remember. As a matter of fact, when we got back from the tournament and the win, somebody called, and he had a real southern accent. He said, "Me and my buddies have this bet that you all played just black players when you beat Kentucky. Did you?" And I said, "I don't remember." I know he thought I was crazy, but it didn't matter to me. I could not even remember that we had played just black kids in that final game.

It was a wonderful time to come here. I never, ever regretted it. We love El Paso; we've never wanted to leave here. 📍

Mary Haskins grew up in Oklahoma. After high school, she went to Oklahoma A&M, now Oklahoma State University, where she took a business course. She married Don Haskins in 1951. They had four sons, one of whom has died, and three grandsons. She worked as a travel agent at Sun Travel for 30 years and retired in 2007. Don Haskins died in 2008. Mary Haskins still resides in El Paso.

From left: Brent, Don, Steve, David, Mary and Mark Haskins are pictured in 1966, shortly after the Texas Western men's basketball team won the national championship game.

Photo courtesy of Mary Haskins



2014 COMMISSION CALLS ON COMMUNITY *to be Part of Legacy*

Stories by Stephanie Sanchez

As The University of Texas at El Paso approaches its 100th birthday in 2014, it will schedule commemorative activities, and organizers want as many members of the Miner Nation to be involved as possible.

But there is more to this celebration than fun and games, said Richard J. Daniel, Ph.D., associate vice president for university advancement and special projects.

"This celebration should not solely be based on a number of events or activities," said Daniel, vice chair of the UTEP 2014 Commission and liaison to President Diana Natalicio. "There also will be some level of grounding in the sense that there will be some type of legacy this Centennial will leave behind."

The commission, a group of 100 community and campus leaders led by Honorary Chair and UT System Board of Regents Vice Chair Paul L. Foster,

is planning the celebrations. Edward Escudero and Laura Tate Goldman are co-chairs.

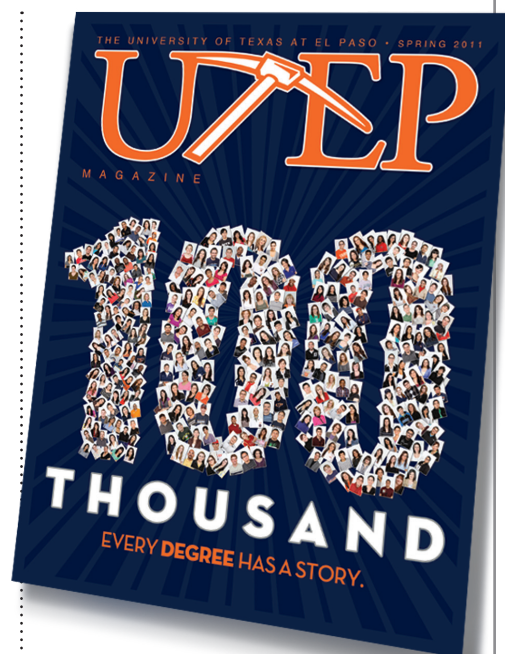
The commission is focused on leaving a lasting impression on everyone in the border region, Escudero said.

"It's important for us to identify ways to leave a lasting impact through the Centennial Celebration," he said. "We're putting in place campus projects that students, alumni, faculty, staff and the El Paso community can enjoy and appreciate long after the celebration is over."

The celebration kicked off with the awarding of the University's 100,000th degree during Spring Commencement 2011. In the fall, the new University Mace was unveiled, and President Natalicio began hosting intimate roundtable discussions called Centennial Conversations with students, faculty and staff about the University's Centennial.

Festivities will continue at the end of the spring 2012 semester when the University participates in Opportunity Nation, a national grassroots effort to promote the importance of a college education and tie that to social and economic opportunities.

During that event, the University will showcase campus programs and generate excitement about its Centennial. 📌



The celebration kicked off with the awarding of the University's 100,000th degree during Spring Commencement 2011.

Centennial Campaign

QUICKLY APPROACHES GOAL

Just one year after the public launch of *At the Forefront: The Centennial Campaign for UTEP*, the University has fulfilled nearly 70 percent of the campaign's \$200 million goal.

The campaign — the most ambitious and comprehensive fundraising effort in UTEP's history — surpassed the \$137 million mark in October. When it was publicly launched during the University's annual Fall Convocation on Sept. 14, 2010, it had already raised \$100 million.

Funds raised will build the University's endowment, advance campus infrastructure, provide financial

support for students, and encourage the recruitment and retention of highly competitive faculty who enhance research and academics.

"We launched the [quiet phase of the] UTEP Centennial Campaign in 2007 and set a goal of \$200 million," President Diana Natalicio said during a press conference in October. "Based on the generous response to date from UTEP alumni and friends, we believe our original goal will prove to be far too modest."

Sylvia Acosta, Ph.D., UTEP's associate vice president for development and

alumni relations, said the University is benefitting from the generous contributions of its many friends and private sector partners, as well as from a tremendous response to the campaign by alumni, who recognize the importance of giving back to their alma mater.

"We're ahead of schedule because our alumni and friends believe," Acosta said. "They believe in UTEP, they believe in our students, they believe in the importance of higher education, and they know firsthand how an education can transform lives, communities and families." 📌



President Receives Highest Decoration by Mexican Government

By Jenn Crawford • Photos by Sergio Ochoa

Ambassador of Mexico to the United States Arturo Sarukhan pins the *Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca* on UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

Mexican President Felipe Calderón selected UTEP President Diana Natalicio to receive the Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca (Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle) at a ceremony in December at the Mexican Cultural Institute in Washington, D.C.

The Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca is the highest decoration awarded by the Mexican government to foreign nationals whose work has benefited Mexico and Mexicans.

"I am deeply honored to receive this recognition from President Calderón for our contributions to provide access and excellence to thousands of talented Mexican and Mexican-American students at UTEP," President Natalicio said. "I'm especially pleased to receive this award from distinguished Ambassador of Mexico to the United States Arturo Sarukhan. UTEP highly values our longstanding collaborations with sister universities and research centers across Mexico, and we are very proud of our many Mexican and Mexican-American alumni and students."

Sarukhan presented President Natalicio with the medal. In a letter announcing the

award, he praised her for her commitment to provide access to outstanding higher education to young, talented Mexicans who commute to The University of Texas at El Paso every day from Juárez, Mexico, and for her visionary policy of facilitating the enrollment of a large majority of Mexican-American students.

"The Mexican Government fully recognizes the promotion of bilingualism but moreover, of the concept of 'binationalism' that you have actively carried out throughout your long and distinguished academic career," Sarukhan wrote. "Under your leadership, UTEP stands today as a paradigm; as a true binational, multicultural and diverse university that genuinely understands the dynamics and certainly, the needs of a third entity known as the Mexico-U.S. border."

The Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca was established in 1933. Previous recipients include former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, former U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, former President Dwight Eisenhower, Microsoft founder Bill Gates, poet Gary Soto, and philanthropist and founder of Starkey Lab William F. Austin. 📌



THE ORDEN MEXICANA DEL AGUILA AZTECA

is the highest decoration awarded by the Mexican government to foreign nationals whose work has benefited Mexico and Mexicans.

UTEP JOINS NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE THE AMERICAN DREAM



**OPPORTUNITY
NATION**



THE SHARED PLAN TO RESTORE OPPORTUNITY

By Stephanie Sanchez

The University of Texas at El Paso's efforts to increase access to an excellent education will be highlighted during the spring 2012 semester, as the University assists in a nationwide campaign to promote opportunity, social mobility and entry to the American Dream.

In a crusade called Opportunity Nation, UTEP will be among 200 educational institutions, businesses, non-profits and military organizations to formulate a plan to create better skills, jobs and communities. The effort was launched in November at the Opportunity Nation Summit in New York.



< UTEP students Gabriela Terrazas, senior psychology major, and Jacob Bilbo, senior multidisciplinary studies major

OPPORTUNITY NATION SCHOLARS



Ana Martinez,
senior studying
political science
and English/
American literature



**Kristine
Velasquez, '11,**
earned bachelor's
degrees in
chemistry and
biology



Jesus Smith,
graduate student
studying sociology

"UTEP has been invited to participate in this nationwide campaign to make people, specifically minorities, aware of the importance of a college education and how it opens doors and opportunities, ultimately leading to the American Dream," said President Diana Natalicio. "For nearly a century, our University has been the gateway to helping students, mainly low-income Hispanic students, achieve social and economic success. In line with Opportunity Nation's goals, UTEP has been dedicated to increasing the access to academic excellence to all young people."

President Natalicio; UTEP alumna Dr. Willarda V. Edwards, former president of the National Medical Association; Pat Mora, poet and author; and Woody Hunt, chairman and CEO of Hunt Companies, Inc., were invited to join the Opportunity Nation Leadership Council. They are working with high-level personalities such as New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, TIME Managing Editor Rick Stengel and musician/producer Will.I.Am.

UTEP already has started to plan its role in the campaign.

The University will play host to UTEP Opportunity Days: Access to Opportunities for Success, a two-day event in early May that will showcase the University's programs, generate excitement for its Centennial anniversary in 2014, and serve as a major outreach initiative to expose students and their families to the opportunities generated by a college education.

The first day will consist of a conference that will bring national experts to El Paso to discuss "Opportunity" as a core American value. Local audiences will help define challenges and potential solutions. Day two will include a major outreach initiative to expose middle school students from the Paso del Norte region to the opportunities generated by a college education with participation by UTEP faculty and students in research, artistic and athletic demonstrations. The two-day event will conclude with an evening show presented by UTEP performing groups and special guest artists.

"UTEP sees itself in this Opportunity Nation campaign as a model institution that can go out and demonstrate to the country and world that we are doing some great

things here to educate our students, so they can have the social mobility and economic opportunities our education provides," said Richard J. Daniel, Ph.D., associate vice president for university advancement and special projects. "We see that it is our responsibility as an institution to help provide a bridge. To take them where they are, bring them to the institution and bridge them to the next level, whether it's graduate school, professional school or their first professional position."

University students across the country will play an important part in Opportunity Nation as Opportunity Nation Scholars. Among them are three UTEP students – Ana Martinez, Jesus Smith and Kristine Velasquez.

Ana Martinez, a senior studying political science and English/American Literature in the College of Liberal Arts, has represented the University at various activities and events as a Miner Ambassador.

She said she is happy to help UTEP with this campaign.

"I really believe in the campaign to bring back economic mobility to the students and bring that voice back to us. We will let our community — not only our local community but communities throughout the nation — know that there are some problems going on with regard to education," she said. "There also are very visible solutions. It just takes a group to come together and form that initiative in order to hear that voice out and bring solutions to fruition."

Jesus Smith, a graduate student studying sociology in the College of Liberal Arts, helped establish the Rainbow Miner Initiative, a program formed within UTEP's Student Development Center that is dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered students, faculty and staff on campus, as well as "heterosexual allies."

Smith has a passion for social equality for all and said Opportunity Nation is in line with his interests.

"Opportunity Nation is dedicated to overcoming some forms of social inequality through economic empowerment," he said. "By crafting forms of economic opportunity, it can allow for economic equality, which is great."

Kristine Velasquez, a December 2011 graduate who earned bachelor's degrees in

chemistry and biology, provides financial literacy mentoring to fellow UTEP students. She is part of Money Matters, a program designed to help students manage their money so they can meet their financial and educational goals.

Today, Velasquez is committed to giving back to this nation and its people. Her passion to succeed comes from her grandmother, Ignacia Rodriguez, who left Mexico at age 15 as an orphan and with only a first-grade education. Rodriguez deeply rooted in her granddaughter a love for America because of the economic opportunities it provided her.

"As an American at UTEP, I see the great academic opportunities," she said. "I understand other countries don't have these opportunities. In America, we have an obligation to reach out and help, not only fellow Americans but also people of other countries. We are given these opportunities. I'm just fortunate for everything America has given me and my family."

Through the campaign, she will work with hundreds of college students throughout the country to help make their communities aware of the importance of a college education, and how it leads to improved socioeconomic opportunities. 📌



UTEP sees itself in this Opportunity Nation campaign as a model institution that can go out and demonstrate to the country and world that we are doing some great things here to educate our students, so they can have the social mobility and economic opportunities our education provides."

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

W I N T E R 2 0 1 1 COMMENCEMENT

Congratulations, Graduates!

The University of Texas at El Paso celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2011 during three Winter Commencement ceremonies on Dec. 10. Nearly 2,000 students walked across the stage at the Don Haskins Center to

receive their diplomas and become full-fledged members of the Miner Nation.

Among the candidates were the first class of seven Master of Social Work (MSW) graduates. Launched in the fall of 2010, UTEP's MSW program is the first in the nation that prepares students to address the social and health needs of families and communities in the U.S.-

Mexico border region.

Winter Commencement also marked the first time that the University Mace was used at a UTEP graduation ceremony. Created by alumna and metalsmith Beverly Penn, the Mace will be part of the lasting legacy of UTEP's Centennial commemoration in 2014. 📌



A Presidential Honor

By Chris Lechuga • Photo by Laura Trejo



FROM THE MOMENT JAMES WAS APPOINTED TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS, IT WAS AS IF HE MADE IT HIS PERSONAL GOAL TO FIND OUT ABOUT UTEP, TO EMBRACE ITS PHILOSOPHY AND ITS GOALS."

Diana Natalicio
UTEP President



UTEP President Diana Natalicio awards the President's Medal to former UT System Board of Regents Chairman James Huffines during the opening of the new Health Sciences and Nursing Building in September.

the grand opening of the new Health Sciences and Nursing Building at The University of Texas at El Paso was met with much anticipation as University, community and statewide leaders gathered to officially welcome the newest addition to campus. The warm late-September afternoon also served as the setting for UTEP President Diana Natalicio to honor James Huffines, former chairman of The University of Texas System Board of Regents, with the President's Medal.

"I am profoundly touched and honored – it means a great deal to me," Huffines said. "UTEP was the first campus I visited after being appointed as a regent, and my wife and I fell in love with it from that first visit eight years ago."

A native of Austin, Texas, Huffines was first appointed to a six-year term on the UT System Board of Regents by Gov. Rick Perry in February 2003. Perry reappointed Huffines for a second consecutive term in 2009.

During his tenure, Huffines became a strong advocate for UTEP's expansion.

As chairman of the Facilities Planning and Construction committee, he was instrumental in securing the resources needed to plan, research and begin many new infrastructure and building projects across the UT System, including the new Health Sciences and Nursing Building (HSN) at UTEP.

"From the moment James was appointed to the Board of Regents, it was as if he made it his personal goal to find out about UTEP, to embrace its philosophy and its goals," President Natalicio said. "In a way, our mission became his mission – to offer access and excellence in higher education to the young people who live here."

The President's Medal is the highest honor the University bestows upon individuals who exhibit exemplary professional accomplishment and an extraordinary commitment to UTEP and its institutional values. Cast out of argenteum silver with gold electroplating accents, the medal features a Bhutanese building representing UTEP's unique architecture and a mandala made with blue and orange stones on its face.

Huffines is the second recipient of the medal since its establishment in 2010, following El Paso businessman and UTEP friend Woody Hunt. He attended the opening of the HSN Building to witness the state-of-the-art technologies, laboratory spaces and simulation center firsthand.

"I've been on every campus in the UT System, and I dare say we really don't have any facility in the nursing schools and health sciences quite this modern and sophisticated in all aspects," Huffines said. "I really believe this building will have a much greater impact than just in this community; I think it will have an impact on the region and the state." 📌

Use your smartphone to scan this code for a video about the President's Medal.

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



HSN

BUILDING

OPENS

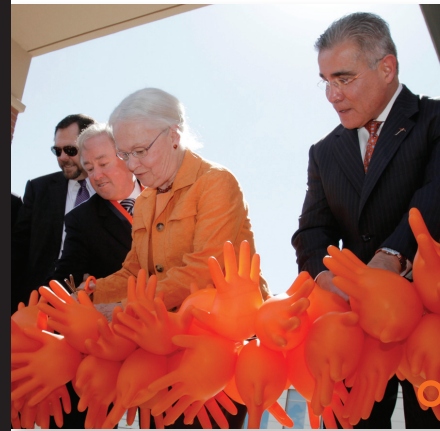
The University of Texas at El Paso's new Health Sciences and Nursing (HSN) Building is a dramatic example of the dynamic transformation that the UTEP campus is experiencing, University President Diana Natalicio said during the facility's grand opening celebration on Sept. 29.

She was joined by The University of Texas System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa, M.D.; UT System Board of Regents Vice Chairman Paul L. Foster; UT System Regent Steven Hicks; former UT System Board of Regents Chairman James R. Huffines; community and business leaders; students; faculty; and staff for the official opening of one of the University's most highly anticipated building projects.

"This state-of-the-art facility is a tangible symbol of UTEP's commitment to – and leadership in – providing students with access to excellent programs in nursing and health professions education and research," President Natalicio said.

Use your smartphone to scan this code to watch a video about the Health Sciences and Nursing Building.

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



From left: UT System Board of Regents Vice Chairman Paul L. Foster; former UT System Board of Regents Chairman James R. Huffines; UTEP President Diana Natalicio; and School of Nursing Dean Elias Provencio-Vasquez, Ph.D., cut a string of orange nursing gloves to symbolize the grand opening of the UTEP Health Sciences and Nursing Building.



In UTEP's Simulation Center, nursing students practice on state-of-the-art programmable mannequins that simulate life-threatening and non-life-threatening scenarios.



UTEP's Simulation Center Labs are equipped with video cameras that are monitored in the center's control room, where faculty can watch and evaluate their students.



Clinical Laboratory Science Professor Delfina Dominguez leads a tour of the 4,500-square-foot Human Immunology and Infectious Disease Laboratory, where research is conducted on human infectious diseases, vaccines are developed and blood chemistries are analyzed.



Thanks to a \$1.5 million grant from the Paso del Norte Health Foundation, UTEP's Simulation Center features technologically advanced hospital equipment such as Hoyer lifts (pictured), IV pumps, feeding tubes and ventilators.



UT System student regent John Davis Rutkauskas holds an infant mannequin, which is used to simulate deliveries in UTEP's Simulation Center.



UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa, M.D., and Huffines tour UTEP's Simulation Center.



From left, Foster, Natalicio and UT System Regent Steven Hicks walk across UTEP's pedestrian bridge, which connects the S-3 parking lot to the HSN Building's outdoor terrace.



Tom and Dayna Curlin stand in the Barbara Price and Jack V. Curlin Plaza, named after Thomas Curlin's parents, who were ardent supporters of UTEP. Located in the heart of the HSN, the plaza provides a serene desert garden environment that accommodates outdoor activities and informal meetings.



The Metabolic, Nutrition and Exercise Research (MINER) Laboratory on the fourth floor of the Health Sciences and Nursing Building provides space for researchers to study body composition, bone density and risks for metabolic and cardiovascular diseases.



From left: Cigarroa, Curtis and Provencio-Vasquez get a bird's-eye view of the new HSN Building from the University Library.



The HSN Building is located on the south end of Wiggins Road on the UTEP campus. The 130,000-square-foot Bhutanese-style structure includes laboratories, research space, classrooms and a simulation center where students train in "real life" health scenarios. ➡



NURSES REUNITE AFTER 50 YEARS

By Laura L. Acosta • Photo by Laura Trejo

Fifty years after graduating from the Hotel Dieu School of Nursing, five students from the class of 1961 reunited at The University of Texas at El Paso to reminisce about their school days and share their joy of nursing with UTEP students.

The Hotel Dieu School of Nursing was established in 1898 by the Sisters of Charity. The school was transferred to The University of Texas System in 1971. Five years later, the UT System placed the School of Nursing under UTEP's administrative oversight. Today, UTEP's School of Nursing serves more than 1,600 students.

Patricia Fashing Stuelpnagel, Willie Flournoy Streeter, Inez Muñoz Mahon, Virginia McKibben Jones and Louisa Martinez Villanueva were five of 22 students who met in August 1958 at the Hotel Dieu

School of Nursing in downtown El Paso.

One student dropped out on the first day of the semester. The class had dwindled to eight students by the time they reached graduation three years later.

"The education requirements were pretty stiff," remembered Mahon, who was the school's student body president. "The first day one quit. She said, 'I can't take this' and we said, 'We haven't done anything, yet.'"

The women came from different walks of life but shared the same ambition: to help people.

Patricia Fashing Stuelpnagel followed in her mother's footsteps. Her mother graduated from a nursing program in St. Paul, Minn., in 1927, similar to Hotel Dieu's hospital-based nursing diploma program.

Stuelpnagel spent most of her career in Denver, retiring three years ago. In her early

days as a nurse, she used glass syringes, and needles were sterilized in a steam autoclave and reused.

She said each of her peers did something special after graduation. Stuelpnagel and Virginia McKibben Jones went to San Antonio together to pursue their bachelor's degrees in nursing.

Jones wanted to become a nurse from the time she was 4 years old. She was raised by her father, a doctor in the U.S. Army, and her stepmother, a nurse. As an Army child, she traveled the world before her family settled in El Paso. She met Inez Muñoz Mahon when both attended Loretto Academy.

After graduation, Jones and Mahon enrolled in nursing school together. Jones remembered how she and her classmates had practiced by giving shots to one another and inserting nasogastric tubes through

*"You give more love than you receive,
but that's what nursing is all about."*

Luisa Martinez Villanueva '61

their noses.

Before retiring in 2002, Jones traveled the world practicing nursing and teaching. She and her husband, an ophthalmologist, and her three children went on medical missions to countries including the Dominican Republic and China.

When Mahon's credits did not transfer to the University of California, Los Angeles, Bachelor of Nursing program, she decided to change her career and become a lawyer until Jones' father persuaded her to stay with nursing.

Mahon lived in Colorado and returned to school for her bachelor's degree after her oldest child was in college. She eventually earned her master's and worked as a nurse practitioner in the U.S., Saudi Arabia and Malaysia.

She remembers her days at the Hotel Dieu School of Nursing as an incredible learning experience.

"As a charity hospital, it covered the whole state and we got to see everything," Mahon said. "And the students were medical students, nursing students, dental students, nutrition and psychology."

One of Mahon's most memorable moments occurred when she and her lab partner, Willie Flournoy Streeter, spilled a tuberculosis sample.

"We closed the windows, turned the air conditioner off and every one put masks on," she said, adding that the room caught on fire. "But we made it through."

Willie Flournoy Streeter was the first black student enrolled at the Hotel Dieu School of Nursing. She wanted to be an artist but a counselor convinced her to go into nursing instead.

Streeter earned her bachelor's degree from California State University, Los Angeles and went to work for a veteran's hospital in Los Angeles. She worked as a public health nurse for 30 years.

Before retiring in 2007, Streeter worked as the public health liaison at Los Angeles County - USC Medical Center and as part of a public health surveillance unit that cares for females with syphilis in Los Angeles.

Mahon remembered the discrimination her friend was subjected to while they were nursing students.

"It was really sad. We'd go Downtown to

eat and some places would just not serve us," she said. "Willie was cool about it, but I wouldn't be cool about it."

Out of the five classmates, Louisa Martinez Villanueva was the only one who stayed in El Paso after graduation.

Villanueva had 10 siblings. Her father encouraged her seven brothers to attend school but he wanted his daughters to become domestic workers.

Instead, Villanueva got married, but her husband died when she was 28 years old, leaving her with two children to raise on her own.

She enrolled at the Hotel Dieu School of Nursing nine months after her husband's death.

She worked as a nurse for 34 years until a stroke in 2010 forced her to quit.

Villanueva's career was an adventure. For 14 years, she cared for undocumented immigrants at a detention center in El Paso.

Early one morning in September 1970, one of Villanueva's neighbors knocked on her door asking for help to deliver a friend's baby. Word spread quickly, and soon Villanueva was working days and delivering babies at night — something she continued for the next 20 years.

She said working as a nurse was a great experience.

"You give more love than you receive, but that's what nursing is all about," she said.

Lindsey Valderrama, a UTEP pre-nursing student, was inspired after listening to the five nurses share their life stories.

Valderrama worked as a scrub tech in the U.S. Army for eight years. Her goal is to go on humanitarian missions after she receives her nursing degree.

"It was incredible to hear their journey throughout nursing," she said. "I really enjoyed hearing about their missions to different countries and how they used their nursing skills throughout the world," she said.

The reunion was an opportunity for old friends to catch up.

"These people have been so close to me," Jones said. "I grew up in the Army so I never stuck with anybody. These are my closest friends." 📷



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Pictured on page 44, from left: Class of 1961 Hotel Dieu School of Nursing graduates Patricia Fashing Stuelpnagel, Willie Flournoy Streeter, Louisa Martinez Villanueva, Virginia McKibben Jones and Inez Muñoz Mahon.

LAW PROGRAM

By Stephanie Sanchez • Photos by Laura Trejo

SENDS HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS TO LAW SCHOOL



Bill Weaver, second from left, poses with UTEP President Diana Natalicio, former LSPI student Amanda Escobar and Texas Bar Association President and UTEP Distinguished Alumnus Bob Black '77.

When we send these students out all over the country, we're sending out the face of El Paso.

Lisa Soto
Visiting Associate Professor

The journey to law school was not easy for UTEP alumnus Felix Valenzuela, but he is grateful for the help he received from The University of Texas at El Paso's Law School Preparation Institute (LSPI).

Valenzuela, who earned his law degree from Yale, said the institute helped him understand the legal profession, prepare for the Law School Admission Test and apply to colleges. He is among the more than 300 UTEP students to get into law school with the help of the University's LSPI program.

The 2003 UTEP graduate praised William G. Weaver, Ph.D., and Robert

Webking, Ph.D., for starting the program in 1998. It includes high school and college components that build on each other and opportunities for clerkships during law school.

The college LSPI has two phases, which are held during the summer. In each phase, students are expected to attend classes from 8:30 a.m. to around 5 p.m. five days a week.

Students learn about legal thought, research and writing. They develop analytical and critical reading skills; are exposed to law students, faculty and legal professionals in the El Paso community; prepare for the LSAT;

OF THE LSPI STUDENTS ACCEPTED TO LAW SCHOOL SINCE THE PROGRAM BEGAN:

81% WERE MEXICAN-AMERICAN

15% WERE WHITE

3% WERE BLACK

33% OF ALL LSPI STUDENTS
HAVE ENROLLED AT TOP
15-RANKED LAW SCHOOLS.

come up with strategies to become attractive to law schools; and get assistance selecting and applying to law school. There also is the law school boot camp, which LSPI students take the summer before the first year of law school.

“(Organizers) have it so well mapped out,” said Valenzuela, who works as a legal clerk for U.S. District Judge Philip R. Martinez in El Paso. “Students don’t really notice until a few years afterward that LSPI doesn’t just prepare you to take the test, it doesn’t just prepare you for your first year of law school, but it actually prepares you for life as a lawyer.”

Amanda K. Escobar, who graduated from UTEP in 2011 with bachelor’s degrees in political science and history and who completed both phases of LSPI, said the program tested her desire to be a lawyer. It gave her a taste of how difficult law school could be, but also the confidence to know she could succeed.

“It’s really intense,” she said. “I think the program is great because it gives you an opportunity to really experience if law school is really what you want to do.”

Escobar said she received her LSAT scores in October and plans to apply to at least 15 schools with the help of Weaver and his team.

“I’m pretty sure if I didn’t go through the program, I wouldn’t be going to law school,” she said. “I think that’s true for a lot of students who go through the program. It’s not because they’re not smart enough or they weren’t going to get good enough scores (on the LSAT), but because the classes are so different and they prepare you to succeed.”

Weaver, who continues to oversee the program, and Webking came up with the program’s concept after a student who had a good grade point average was not accepted to law school. LSAT scores and the student’s approach to law school applications were to blame, Weaver said.

Since the program started, it has helped increase the number of Mexican-American lawyers.

Of the LSPI students accepted to law school since the program began, 81 percent were Mexican-American, 15 percent white and 3 percent were black. Thirty-three percent of all LSPI students have enrolled at Top 15-ranked law schools.

However, much more needs to be done to get more Latino students into the legal field.

In Texas, Hispanics make up around 8 percent of the bar, but are 37 percent of the population. In El Paso, they make up 38 percent of the bar but 82 percent of the population, according to an LSPI information packet.

“The representation of Mexican-Americans in law school is absolutely abysmal,” said Weaver, who also has a law degree. “We’re a state that now will be approaching 40 percent Latino/Latina in very short order, but they are highly underrepresented in law. From a historical perspective, if you don’t have representation in law then no one is looking out for you.”

Lisa Soto, a lawyer, visiting associate professor at UTEP and LSPI outreach coordinator, said LSPI students who go on to law school offer a unique perspective in the classroom because of their

experience living on the border.

“Law is power,” she said. “When we send these students out all over the country, we’re sending out the face of El Paso. To me, it’s important to build the skill and maximize their growth before we send them off. We want them to experience success; we want them to do well. The time we have to work with them, we really do put our hearts into it.” 📖

Felix Valenzuela and Amanda Escobar are graduates of the LSPI program. Valenzuela earned a law degree from Yale University and works as a legal clerk for U.S. District Judge Philip R. Martinez in El Paso. Escobar graduated from UTEP in 2011 and plans to apply to at least 15 law schools.



FALL CONVOCATION

HIGH STANDARDS PAVE ROAD TO TIER ONE

By Laura L. Acosta

The collective commitment to achievement and high standards of excellence enrich the climate at The University of Texas at El Paso, said UTEP President Diana Natalicio in her Fall Convocation speech. /She delivered her annual State of the University address on Sept. 20, 2011, in Magoffin Auditorium, noting that the common focus helps UTEP meet its high expectations, including its vision to become a Tier One institution. /“Campus climate may mean many things in U.S. higher education, but at its core at UTEP, it characterizes an environment in which student, faculty and staff aspirations and accomplishments steadily grow, fueled by an energizing vision of our promise to become the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic,” she said to a packed house. /UTEP’s President highlighted the accomplishments of the past academic year, including increases in student enrollment, financial aid and research funding, along with the successes of faculty and staff, and the completion of several construction projects on campus.

SOME OF THE UNIVERSITY’S MOST NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE:

Record Enrollment

The student population reached an all-time high of 22,640 for the fall semester, a 2.4 percent increase above last year. Of that, 90 percent come from the Paso Del Norte region, with 84 percent of students from El Paso County and 6 percent from Mexico.

UTEP is the only research university in the U.S. with a Mexican-American-majority student population, President Natalicio noted.

Financial Aid Availability

More than 16,800 financial aid grants were given to students last year – 10 percent more than the previous year. Nearly \$11.5 million in scholarships were awarded to UTEP’s highly competitive students for the 2010-11 academic year, 14.5 percent above the previous year.

President Natalicio credited these merit scholarships with helping the University recruit 63 percent of the region’s Top 10 percent high school graduates who attend a public university in Texas.

Research Funding

Faculty and staff received 188 awards for grant funding proposals in the last year, totaling \$54 million. The University’s annual research expenditures are expected to reach \$70 million in 2011-12, setting another UTEP record.

“This continued progress in securing increased research funding and expanding the scope of externally funded research activity is especially remarkable in the current context of shrinking federal and state agency budgets and increasingly intense competition for research support,” President Natalicio said.





➤ **“THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN AT UTEP FOR A WHILE WILL AGREE THAT EVEN MORE DEEPLY TRANSFORMATIONAL THAN OUR PHYSICAL CHANGES HAVE BEEN THE CHANGES IN ATTITUDES, ASPIRATIONS, AND EXPECTATIONS AMONG UTEP STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS. WE EXPECT MORE OF OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER, AND WITH GROWING PRIDE AND CONFIDENCE, WE HAVE BECOME BOTH A MORE AUTHENTIC AND AMBITIOUS INSTITUTION.”**

Diana Natalicio
UTEP President

➤ **Campus Construction**

The UTEP campus has added nearly a million additional square feet of teaching, research and support space during the past decade. In the last three years alone, the University has invested nearly \$300 million in campus construction and renovation projects, with several of those projects either completed or near completion.

Among the completed projects are the new Health Sciences and Nursing Building and the newly renovated Student Recreation Center. The new Chemistry and Computer Science Building is expected to open in the spring.

President Natalicio also announced that UTEP's Campus Master Plan has been updated to accommodate an expected growth in enrollment predicted to reach 30,000 students by 2020.

➤ **Service Awards**

The contributions of UTEP faculty and staff whose service to the University ranged from five to 45 years were honored during Fall Convocation.

Among the honorees was Yasuhide Kawashima, Ph.D., professor of history, who has been with UTEP for 45 years.

President Natalicio was recognized for her 40 years of service at UTEP. She came to the University in 1971 to fulfill a one-year contract as a visiting assistant professor of languages and linguistics without a clue that she had embarked on a far longer and more eventful journey, she said. She was named UTEP President in 1988.

During the past four decades she has seen UTEP undergo more than a physical transformation — the changes have been in attitudes, aspirations and expectations.

➤ **Centennial Celebration**

During Convocation, President Natalicio looked to the future as UTEP prepares to celebrate 100 years of access and excellence in 2014. She introduced the new University Mace, which she said will be a lasting legacy of UTEP's Centennial.

The University Mace was created by UTEP alumna and metalsmith Beverly Penn, a faculty member at Texas State University in San Marcos and a 2010 College of Liberal Arts Gold Nugget Award recipient. 🏆

Use your smartphone to scan this code to view a Convocation video.

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



TOP OF THE WORLD

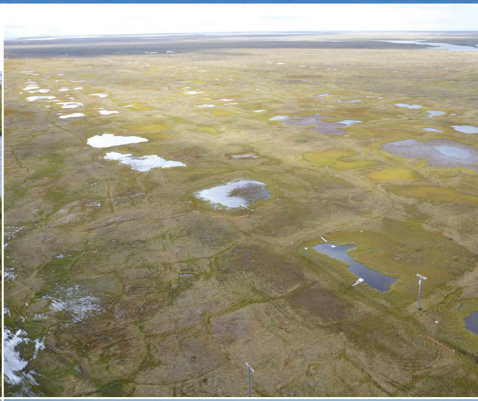
Photos by Vanessa Lougheed and Christian Andresen

FIVE UTEP STUDENTS

traveled with UTEP associate professors of biological sciences Vanessa Lougheed, Ph.D., and Craig Tweedie, Ph.D., to the northern tip of Alaska for three months in summer 2011 to study the effect of climate warming on tundra ponds and plant communities in the Arctic. From polar bear sightings and 24-hour daylight to firsthand knowledge of the effects of a changing climate, they came away with valuable research experience, important data on a subject with global implications, and an appreciation for the indigenous culture of the Arctic.

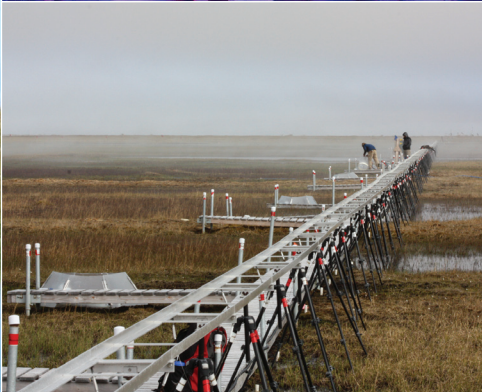


From left, Vanessa Lougheed, Ph.D., and the students in her Aquatic Ecology Lab – Christina Hernandez, master's student in environmental science; Francisco Reyes, who graduated in December with a bachelor's degree in environmental science; and Christian Andresen, Ph.D. candidate in environmental science and engineering – take a break from their work revisiting historic research sites last sampled in the 1970s. Their goal was to determine how arctic tundra pond environments have changed with climate warming during the past 40 years.



"How many people get to be in the presence of a polar bear, witness the traditions of the arctic indigenous people or see the frozen ground you walk on top of thaw and deteriorate? I remember reading about the arctic tundra, the permafrost, the sea ice and the freezing temperatures when I was a child, but to grow up and have the opportunity to live there and witness such a rapidly changing world is humbling and life changing."

Francisco Reyes, '11
(B.S., environmental science)



"With modern scientific studies documenting drastic environmental changes, it is no surprise that the Arctic has been the focus for scientific research in the past few years. I personally have had the opportunity to be a part of some of this research and experience firsthand some of these changes and the effects it has had on the local arctic tundra plant communities in northern Alaska. Being able to live among the native Alaskan communities and learn their culture has also had a tremendous impact on me."

Sergio Vargas, Ph.D. candidate in
environmental science and engineering



“To those whom much is given, much is expected.” John F. Kennedy



The University of Texas at El Paso's Department of Geological Sciences was recognized as the first department where 100 percent of its faculty, some of whom are pictured here, committed donations to UTEP's Family Campaign, which will benefit the University and its students.

100 FACES & PLACES

Employee Support Needed for Successful Giving Campaign

By Rebecca Downey and Daniel Perez • Photo by Laura Trejo

100 percent of the faculty has committed to the UTEP Family Campaign. Anny Morrobel-Sosa, Ph.D., dean of the College of Science, said she expected nothing less from one of the University's founding departments.

“To those whom much is given, much is expected,” she said quoting former U.S. President John F. Kennedy.

As part of the Family Campaign, employees will receive a digital newsletter highlighting the work of UTEP employees who are lifetime donors (those who have committed to give to UTEP as long as they are employed). The “100 Faces and Places” newsletter also will introduce employees to little known or unique locations around campus.

Employee tax-deductible gifts will be accepted by check or through payroll deduction, and can be earmarked for a particular department or program, or can be directed to a brand new effort — UTEP's campus transformation project. The initiative will encourage more walking on campus and includes plans for wider sidewalks and more benches, tables and shade trees. 📌

there are a hundred different reasons why UTEP's faculty and staff choose to give back to UTEP. The most common response is, “I want to help students fulfill their dreams.”

Whether it is volunteering their time as mentors to students, serving as advisers for student organizations, working in offices, or teaching in classrooms and labs, UTEP employees shape campus life.

It is therefore essential that the UTEP Family Campaign take a central place in the University's major fundraising effort, *At the Forefront: The Centennial Campaign for UTEP*. The Family Campaign is expanding its efforts from one year to two, beginning in January 2012 and ending in September 2014, just in time to celebrate UTEP's 100th

birthday.

The Annual Giving Office, which is spearheading the faculty and staff effort, believes that expanding the window of giving will provide more opportunity for employees to consider how much to give, and encourage those who already are giving to increase the amount of their gift.

“Our faculty and staff are the backbone of this institution,” said Samantha Dena, director of annual giving and donor relations. “They provide support and make a major impact on the future of UTEP and our students. Through their participation in the Family Campaign, they are reaffirming their commitment to the success of our students.”

Dena cited the leadership of the Department of Geological Sciences, where



UTEP Plans to Open MILITARY SERVICE CENTER

By Daniel Perez
Photo by J.R. Hernandez



UTEP will open a Military Service Center in spring 2012 in the University Library to better answer questions from active duty service personnel, veterans and their families that can guide them through the higher education process.

The University of Texas at El Paso plans to open in spring 2012 a new “one-stop shop” in the UTEP library where members of the military – active duty, veterans and family members – can find information to ease access and streamline their academic journey through higher education.

Craig Westman, Ph.D., associate vice president for student solutions and outcomes integration, said the new Military Service Center will provide answers to questions about registration, admissions, military benefits, financial aid, counseling, academic advising and disabled student services.

The synergistic collaboration is the initial phase of a multipronged effort by the University to respond to the growing academic needs of soldiers, veterans and their families. It will be done in conjunction with UTEP’s Division of Student Affairs and Office for Undergraduate Studies.

Westman, the project’s point person, said that the University’s Military Services Office will relocate to the University

Library from the Academic Services Building and probably increase its staff, which includes four full-time employees and five work-study students, several of whom are military veterans.

“These students do a great job,” he said. “They know about military benefits, speak the (military) language, and know important contextual issues.”

The center will occupy about 3,000 square feet in the north wing of the library’s second floor that had been a temporary home for an engineering space research program. Its business hours probably will start as 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, but Westman said additional hours will be added as needed.

Future efforts will include additional online curriculum and supplemental resources at UTEP’s Fort Bliss office, which has been in operation for two years.

“We have developed an expertise in (Veteran’s Administration) education benefits and application processes and have been interested in additional outreach opportunities,” said Holly

Denney, director of UTEP’s Military Services Office, who added that the University wanted to provide a complete higher education picture to military families.

The one-stop shop where military, veterans and their families can get the right answers in a timely manner will be helpful to navigate the college experience, said Hector Atilano, an Army veteran, sophomore business major, and work-study student in Denney’s office.

The plan comes on the heels of the University being named a “Military-Friendly School” for the second year in a row in the October 2011 issue of G.I. Jobs, a monthly magazine that caters to military personnel in transition.

The University merits the designation, said Army Col. Joseph A. Simonelli Jr., Fort Bliss garrison commander.

“They’ve continued to refine their capability to provide the best service and higher educational experience to our military community,” he said. ☑

ON COURSE

Miner Runner Excels on the Field and in the Classroom

By Joe Velarde

Photos courtesy of UTEP Athletics



For the third consecutive year, junior nursing major Risper Kamaiyo finished at the top of her game.

“I remember looking into her eyes just before the race was over,” said Miner cross country head coach Paul Ereng, speaking about the NCAA Cross Country Championships in November. “There is something that happens when a runner reaches their emotional, mental and physical threshold. Like wrestlers in a wrestling match, someone is bound to fall – Risper has never fallen.”

In just three years, Kimaiyo, a stand-out athlete originally from Kenya, has kept the legacy of Miner cross country alive and intact. In addition, she has managed to keep a solid grade point average, spending 30 hours a week in class and maintaining a grueling training schedule that involves 20 hours of practice per week.

That’s 50 hours of school, lab work and her sport. This doesn’t include the tedious and sometimes mentally draining regimen of travel and study time. In fact, she estimates that she works close to 60 or 70

hours a week.

How does she do it? Easily, she says. With a soft voice and a smile to warm the hearts of her pickaxe-wielding fans, this fighter has never anticipated “hitting the canvas.” Since she was in sixth grade, she has been taking it one day at a time, one mile marker at a time.

With a 3.67 GPA, this three-time All-American became the first woman in program and conference history in 2010 to claim back-to-back Mountain Region titles. The 2010 C-USA Athlete of the Year and NCAA Mountain Region Athlete of the Year clocked the 25th-best time of 20:12.7 at the NCAA Championships, giving her three Top 25 finishes at the national meet.

In many cases, Kimaiyo takes to her studies the same way she takes to the field. Like many long distance runners, she finds unique ways to prioritize her distances and divide them into small and quickly reached goals. She does the same thing in the classroom.

“She’s very good about asking for assignments, rescheduling exams and keeping up with her studies,” said Jose

Blanco, Ph.D., professor of clinical nursing.

Blanco has watched a diligent Kimaiyo grow. Like the long strides she takes on the field, she adapts herself in the classroom.

“She is a very well disciplined and hard worker,” Blanco said. “With her talent, she could go anywhere and do anything.”

Ereng says a cross country runner may or may not be “built” for the sport. However, he attributes Kimaiyo’s success to her ability to adapt to the challenges she faces and the dedication she shows in order to conquer these challenges.

“At UTEP, we train all of our runners to compete at the highest level of the sport, but we still and always insist that they are students first,” Ereng said. “Risper understands this, and she handles herself with much grace.”

As for Kimaiyo, it’s as though grace is all she knows.

“I never really feel pressured by anything,” she said with a soft smile. “I just tell myself, ‘OK, this is what needs to be done. Let’s do it.’” 📌



"She is a very well disciplined and hard worker. With her talent, she could go anywhere and do anything."

Jose Blanco, professor of clinical nursing

22

NCAA Division I National
Championship Teams

119

Conference USA Commisioners
Honor Roll Recipients

600

Nearly 600 All-Americans

3,500

More than 3,500 Community
Service Hours This Past Year

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MINERMANIA

Photos by J.R. Hernandez

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



Gabriela Vazquez Gonzalez

Sport: Tennis

Class: Sophomore

Major: Biology

Hometown: Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

The Miners are expecting great things from women's tennis player Gabriela Vazquez Gonzalez, who came to UTEP as a freshman in 2010 after being the top-rated junior player in Puerto Rico in singles in every age bracket. In her freshman year, she competed in the top flight of each of the four fall tournaments, often squaring off against juniors or seniors. In addition, she earned a C-USA Commissioner's Academic Medal as a freshman for a G.P.A. of 3.75 or greater and was named to the Commissioner's Honor Roll.

A woman with dark hair, wearing an orange and black basketball uniform, is shown in profile from the waist up. She is holding a basketball with both hands in front of her. The background is white.

Kayla Banica Thornton

Sport: Basketball

Class: Sophomore

Major: Criminal Law

Hometown: El Paso

Kayla Banica Thornton graduated from Irvin High School in El Paso as the school's record holder for points (1,953) and was named the 1-4A Female Athlete of the Year by the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. As a freshman at UTEP in 2010-11, she ranked second on the team in double-doubles (3), free-throws made (61) and attempted (90), offensive rebounds (68) and rebounds per game (5.8).



Shang-Fan Huang

Sport: Golf

Class: Senior

Major: Marketing

Hometown: Sugar Land, Texas

A four-time member of the C-USA Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll, Shang-Fan Huang excels on the golf course and in the classroom. As a junior at UTEP, she was ranked second on the team in stroke average (76.4) and was the Miners' top finisher a team-leading five times in 11 competitions. She was named to the All-Conference USA Second team in 2009-10 and 2010-11, and as a sophomore, she tied for second place at the Conference USA Championships with a score of 212.



Andrea Vautrin

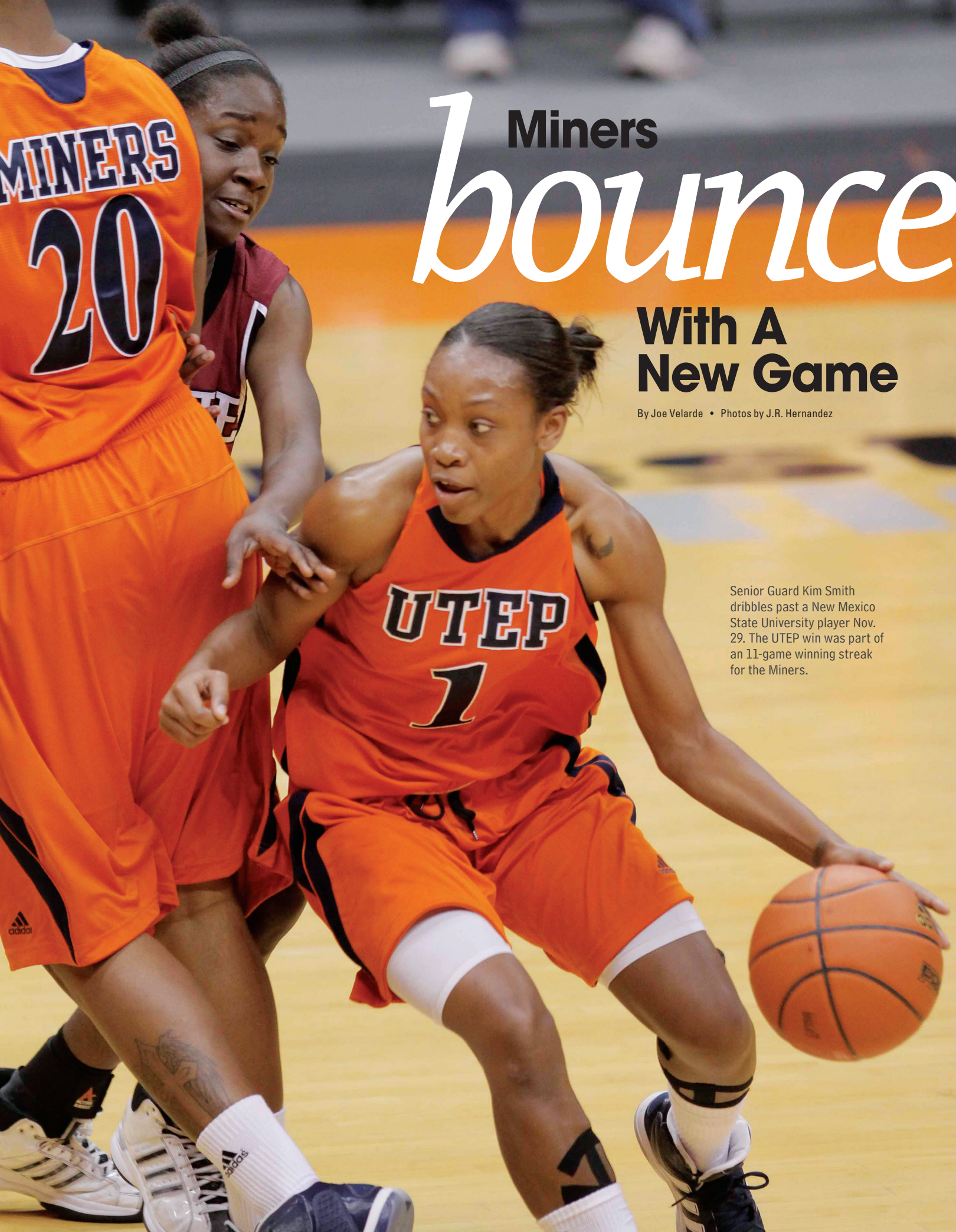
Sport: Rifle

Class: Sophomore

Major: Nursing

Hometown: Cusseta, Ga.

Andrea Vautrin set a new National Army JROTC record in 2009 while attending Chattahoochee County High School in Georgia and was ranked first in the nation. During the 2010-11 season – her freshman year at UTEP – she recorded an average of 577.9 in air rifle, which was third best on the team, and shot a 580 or higher in five matches. 🏆



Miners *bounce*

With A New Game

By Joe Velarde • Photos by J.R. Hernandez

Senior Guard Kim Smith dribbles past a New Mexico State University player Nov. 29. The UTEP win was part of an 11-game winning streak for the Miners.

back

The UTEP women's basketball team brought fresh faces and a new attitude to its 2011-12 season.

"We put in the work during the off-season and made the adjustments we needed to make," said head coach Keitha Adams, the winningest coach in program history, who is in her 11th year at the helm.

Starting off undefeated in their first 11 games of the season, it's clear that all the hard work paid off.

The Miners were heavily plagued by injury during the 2010-11 season, though still managed to topple Southern Methodist University in the first round of the Conference USA Tournament before being ousted by the University of Houston during the second round.

In the 2011-12 season, second-year transfer student Gloria Brown has shined once again as her towering 6-2 figure has proven to be a force down in the paint. Brown averaged a .590 field goal percentage and racked up 32 blocks for UTEP through Dec. 31.

Among the new faces is undeclared freshman Jenzel Nash, who came into the Don Haskins Center heavily recruited, and as a favorite for the Miners.

Nash started the season as the first Parade Magazine All-American recruited in UTEP history, and averaged 37.7 points and 8.7 rebounds per game at Worthing High School in her native Houston.

While Nash has dug her heels into the court at the Don Haskins Center, it has been sophomore El Pasoan Kalya Thornton who has really shined, averaging 8.8 points per game at a .539 field goal percentage, just behind team-leader Brown in points with 115 as of Dec. 31.

The name of the game is effort, and Adams is known for pushing her team to the limits. With the chips falling in place, these ladies look to be having a "turn-head" season. 🏀

UPCOMING GAMES

Feb. 5	at Rice	10 a.m.
Feb. 9	vs. Marshall	7:05 p.m.
Feb. 12	vs. Tulane	1:05 p.m.
Feb. 16	at Tulsa	6 p.m.
Feb. 19	at Houston	12 p.m.
Feb. 23	vs. SMU	7:05 p.m.
Feb. 26	vs. Rice	2:05 p.m.
March 1	at UAB	6 p.m.

"We put in the work during the off-season and made the adjustments we needed to make."

Keitha Adams
Women's Basketball Head Coach

Freshman guard Chrichauna Parker attempts to block a shot by a New Mexico State University player.





The Miners Start *fresh*

By Joe Velarde • Photos by Josh Garcia

With eight freshmen and two sophomores on the roster, UTEP Men's Basketball coach Tim Floyd is laying the foundation for long-term success. Add in the fact that the Miners are also making noise in college basketball recruiting circles by targeting some top high school seniors to add to the mix in another year, and everything is pointing to championship basketball in the years ahead.

Could it be that Floyd's plan is to have it all come together in time for the University's Centennial celebration in 2014? It sure looks that way.

Now in his second year as head coach, Floyd likes the look of his young, talented team.

"These are young guys, though they've made many improvements," Floyd said. "They're much more comfortable on the floor now. We're all still learning as we go."

After spending the first part of the season on the bench due to injury, senior criminal justice major Gabe McCulley

has lit the spark igniting this young and fresh squad. Coming back onto the court, McCulley had a strong showing in December's Diamond Head Classic in Hawaii, helping the Miners take third place. Averaging 11.8 points per game, this senior is sure to leave a mark on this flourishing group of ballers.

Drafted as the No. 24 small forward in the country, freshman guard Julian Washburn has had a fiery start in orange in blue, averaging 9.9 points per game and third on the team in points as of early January. Expect some noise from this rookie down the road.

Junior forward Malcolm Moore looks for an open teammate during the Nov. 5 victory against Sul Ross State University.



“These are young guys, though they’ve made many improvements. They’re much more comfortable on the floor now. We’re all still learning as we go.”

Tim Floyd
Mens Basketball Head Coach

It would be hard to mention Miner success without noticing another rookie, who in his senior year at O’Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, S.D., was the Gatorade and McDonald’s Player of the Year. As of early January, freshman Cedrick Lang led the Miners in field goal percentage at .689, trailing Washburn in points with 112.

Suffice it to say, these Miners are charged and ready. Only time will tell when Floyd will unleash the pickaxe on the C-USA, and as the numbers look – the league had better be ready.



UPCOMING GAMES

Feb. 1	at Rice	6 p.m.
Feb. 4	vs. UAB	7 p.m.
Feb. 8	vs. Tulsa	7 p.m.
Feb. 11	vs. Tulane	7 p.m.
Feb. 18	at Memphis	11 a.m.
Feb. 22	vs. Southern Miss	7 p.m.
Feb. 25	at UCF	6 p.m.
Feb. 29	vs. Rice	7 p.m.
March 3	at SMU	1 p.m.

March 7-10
Conference USA Championship
Memphis, Tenn.

< Senior forward Gabriel McCulley goes up for a layup against New Mexico State University.



Head volleyball coach Ken Murphy talks to his team during a timeout. The Miners finished the season with a 19-14 record.

MINERS AROUND THE YARD: *A Semester in Sports*

By Joe Velarde • Photo by Josh Garcia

It was another fall season to remember for the Miner Nation. Picks were up and stretched clear across University Field to the Sun Bowl, celebrating the tremendous athleticism of the University's hard-working and dedicated student athletes.

On the volleyball court, the Miners were serving up a slew of outstanding players, like sophomore business major Xitlali Herrera and sophomore psychology major Jeane Horton, who finished the season with All Conference USA first team honors. Senior psychology major Stephanie Figueroa excelled both on and off the court. For the second season in a row, she was

awarded the C-USA All-Academic medal for her flawless 4.0 G.P.A. Figueroa completed the season ranked first in the conference with service aces (.36).

Senior Shang-Fan Huang closed out the woman's golf season heroically. Fan shot for 14-over-par at 930 (78-77-75) to tie for 21st place and lead UTEP at the Blue Raiser Invitational in Tennessee in October. The Miners pick their season up this February in Peoria, Ariz.

UTEP Tennis finished a triumphant season, finishing with a combined 39-35 in singles and 18-17 in doubles. Standouts included the doubles pairing of Carolina

DeLuca and Marie LeBlond. The two did a doozy on Akron's Angelina Jogasuria, closing out the match 8-1 during the North Texas Classic in November. The ladies return to action Jan. 27.

Senior accounting major Alix Moncada helped tip the Miners in the win column with rifle this season. The Elite 88 and two-time NRA First Team All-American outshined her competition during their final showing of the season in November against Nevada. The Miners shot for an aggregate 2350, while Moncada finished her season post 592, a season high. The Miners return to the range Jan. 28.

PICKS UP

It was another fall season to remember for the Miner Nation.



Senior Katie Dorman

Miner Soccer has *Bright Future*

By Joe Velarde

For just a few short seconds during the final minutes of the Miners' soccer season, it seemed as though they would strike gold inside the Mike Rose Soccer Complex in Memphis.

Knotted up at one goal apiece, The University of Texas at El Paso players kept their hopes alive against rivals and undefeated Memphis Tigers at the Conference-USA Championships in November. As the clock reached the 100-minute mark, it was Tiger Kaitlyn Atkins who snuck the ball past nearly unbreakable freshman education major Sarah Dilling, making the final score 2-1.

Dilling, who was playing on the cusp of her finest game all season, had amassed a total of 10 saves – just before Christable Oduro's corner kick to Atkins sealed the Miners' fate.

"I'm super proud of our team," UTEP head coach Kevin Cross said. "They showed the heart and character that we knew that they had. During conference we had a few tight games and tied a few that we were winning so we put it all together and got healthy in the tournament. I told them that I was really proud of them and I couldn't ask any more of them. They had an excellent season."

The setback brought to a close the Miners' tremendous run at the tournament, in addition to their 2011 campaign. UTEP toppled second-seed Colorado College, 2-1, in the quarterfinals on Nov. 2, advanced into the finals on penalty kicks (0-0; 3-1) over Rice on Nov. 4, before ultimately coming up just shy versus the homestanding Tigers.

The future appears bright for the Orange

"I'm super proud of our team. They showed the heart and character that we knew that they had."

Kevin Cross
Women's Soccer Head Coach

and Blue, who have piled up 136 victories while posting 10 straight winning seasons. Thirteen individuals started 10-plus matches for UTEP in 2011, with nine either freshmen or sophomores.

Sophomore Lauren Katada will return in 2012 having stacked five goals and five assists on 12 shots. Also returning will be physical therapy major Tess Hall, who will lead the Miners as a senior after gaining an additional six goals and five assists in 2011.

A few weeks after UTEP brought the season to a close, freshman science major Azia Nicholson was awarded a spot on the 2011 Capitol One All-District 7 first team. She was tabbed as a second-team All C-USA performer and was a key cog for the Miners. She tied for fifth on the squad in goals (four) and assists (three). During league action she was particularly strong, scoring three times. Nicholson boasts a 4.0 GPA and is pursuing a degree in biology. ☒



'92 Squad

Holds A Special Place in
UTEP Basketball History

By Jeff Darby • Photos courtesy of the Associated Press

Ralph Davis, #23, helped the Miners beat top-seeded Kansas, 66-60, in the second round of the NCAA Tournament in 1992, allowing the team to reach the Sweet 16 for the final time under legendary coach Don Haskins.

The high and low points of one of the greatest seasons in UTEP basketball history occurred just days apart in March of 1992.

On March 14, BYU's Kevin Nixon sank a 54-foot shot from beyond halfcourt, lifting the Cougars to a 73-71 victory over the Miners in the championship game of the Western Athletic Conference Tournament in Fort Collins, Colo.

A little more than a week later, UTEP

rallied to stun top-seeded Kansas, 66-60, in the second round of the NCAA Tournament to reach the "Sweet 16" for the final time under legendary coach Don Haskins.

Nearly two decades have passed, and the '92 squad remains the last Miner team to win a game in "The Big Dance." UTEP has made three NCAA Tournament appearances since then.

While the 1966 national championship

team is justifiably the most recognized in school history, the 1991-92 squad – which finished 27-7 – may be the second-most revered. On Feb. 11, UTEP will honor its 20th anniversary during a home game versus Tulane, with many team members expected to attend.

Sadly, three major components of that squad – Haskins, Gym Bice and Roy Howard – have passed away. The legendary

Johnny Melvin, pictured at right and below, was an integral member of the 1992 UTEP men's basketball team. Members of the team will reunite Feb. 11 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of their memorable appearance at the NCAA Tournament.



"We came through Coach Haskins' system and we thought we could compete every night."

Ralph Davis



Haskins died at the age of 78 in September 2008. Bice, a junior guard and the team's best three point shooter, was electrocuted while helping install a friend's sprinkler system in May 1996. Howard, a junior forward who made 14 starts that year, was killed in a trucking accident in August 2006.

"I watched the Kansas game recently," Marlon Maxey, the team's leading scorer (15.2 ppg) said from his home in Chicago. "Coach Haskins was like a dad to me. Gym and Roy were great teammates and fun to be around. Those guys are going to be missed."

The 1991-92 season didn't begin with great expectations. The Miners were coming off a 16-13 campaign, and were widely viewed as too inexperienced in the backcourt and lacking in size up front to make a title run.

Haskins, however, had several pieces to work with. Junior college transfer Eddie Rivera joined returnees Prince Stewart and Bice to form a swift and heady backcourt. The Miners weren't very big, but they were long and athletic up front with 6-5 Ralph Davis and Johnny Melvin and the 6-8 Howard. Maxey (6-8, 250 pounds) was a big body inside and 6-9 David Van Dyke was a prolific shotblocker.

"A lot of us had played together three or four years prior," said Davis, who also lives in Chicago, as do Maxey and Melvin. "We came through coach Haskins' system and we thought we could compete every night."

"We just liked each other," Melvin said. "We were like family."

It didn't take long for the Miners to show that they were better than advertised. They rocketed to wins in 16 of their first 17 games and rose to 19th in the Associated Press top-25 poll. UTEP didn't lose more than two

consecutive games all season, and tied for first place in the WAC with a 12-4 mark.

The BYU loss could have been demoralizing, but Haskins was quick to tell his players to get past it.

"He said that's how games go," Maxey recalled. "He said 'We're going back to El Paso; let's lace 'em up and learn from this.'"

"Coach was a hell of a guy. He was something special. It was an emotional loss, but everybody fell in suit with the captain of the ship and we made a run."

Did they ever. Seeded ninth in the NCAA Tournament Midwest Regional at Dayton, the Miners dispatched eighth seed Evansville, 55-50, in the first round. Few gave UTEP a chance against the deep and talented Jayhawks, who were 27-4 a year removed from reaching the national title game.

Haskins knew it would be a long night for his team unless it could control the tempo. So in the final minutes of practice the day before the game, he installed a spread (four corners) offense, with Stewart and Rivera running the show.

When asked if Kansas coach Roy Williams could have prepared for it, Haskins said, "He hasn't seen it unless he got a tape of yesterday's practice."

Melvin scored 18 points, including a banked layup with 2:18 to go that put UTEP ahead 57-52 ("I made a whoop-de-do shot and got fouled," he said). Defensively, the Miners limited the Jayhawks to 42 percent shooting and 24 points below their season

average.

UTEP would come up short in the regional semifinals five days later in Kansas City, bowing out to fourth seed Cincinnati, 69-67. The Bearcats drubbed Memphis in the Elite Eight, 88-57, showing just how close the 1992 Miners were to making a trip to the Final Four.

The memories remain.

"It has been a long time," Melvin said. "I'm 42 years old, and I've got pictures of that stuff on the wall."

"A lot has happened, but it doesn't seem like it has been 20 years," Davis said. "I like the fact that we can come back and re-connect with the community." 📧



Texas Bar President Comes Home

By Joe Velarde • Photos by Laura Trejo



1. 2.



3. 4.



5. 6.



7.

In a homecoming fit for a statesman, UTEP alumnus Bob Black convened the first meeting of the board of directors of the State Bar of Texas on Sept. 16 in the Hall of Champions at UTEP's Larry K. Durham Center.

Black, who was sworn in as president of the Texas Bar Association in June, earned his bachelor's degree in history in 1977 from UTEP. In September, he was named a UTEP 2011 Distinguished Alumnus and was honored during Homecoming ceremonies in late October.

"It's customary for the newly elected president to host the first dinner for members of the bar in a city of his choosing," Black told the 300 members in attendance. "I chose UTEP because this is my home, as it always will be my home."

During his speech, Black lauded Bill Weaver, Ph.D., for his work as director of UTEP's Law School Preparation Institute and presented him with a plaque from the bar association that honored the program for its accomplishments. According to institute statistics, more than 60 percent of its students have continued their education at top-tier law schools such as Yale, Harvard and Stanford.

Senior U.S. District Judge David Briones said he was impressed with Black's dedication and commitment to UTEP, especially the Law School Preparation Institute.

"It helps when you have a person of great authority assisting in the development of a young person's career and progress," said Briones, who attended the Sept. 16 dinner. "Being from El Paso and being from UTEP, I think Black understands the makeup of the UTEP student body, and his passion for the University is unwavering." 📌

1. Bob Black '77 and UTEP President Diana Natalicio
2. Senior U.S. District Judge David Briones and Delia Briones
3. U.S. District Judge Philip Martinez and Mayela Martinez
4. U.S. District Judge Kathleen Cardone and Texas District Judge Maria Salas-Mendoza
5. Attorneys Damon Edwards of Houston and Daniel Ramirez '98 of El Paso
6. Attorneys Theresa Chang and Barrett Reasoner of Houston
7. Bob Black



Young Alumni Connect Through New Network

By Stephanie Sanchez • Photo by Laura Trejo

Richard Daniel, Ph.D., associate vice president for university advancement and special events and executive director for alumni relations, and UTEP Alumni Association Board member Art Gloria helped launch the new UTEP Young Alumni Network.

After graduating from The University of Texas at El Paso, young alumni are not staying away; they're emerging from all over the border region to show off their Miner spirit and camaraderie.

The UTEP Young Alumni Network is giving recent graduates an outlet to reconnect to the University. The group provides academic, social, athletic, community service and career networking programs. Recent graduates get their first experience as young alumni at the UTEP Grad Fair, where a one-year membership to the Alumni Association is included in their Grad Pack.

"The UTEP Alumni Association is invested in the continued development of a comprehensive Young Alumni Network," said Richard Daniel, Ph.D., associate vice president for university advancement and executive director for alumni relations. "It's a program based on best practices that can help to bridge outreach, membership development and service delivery on behalf of these recent graduates."

The National Educational Alumni Trust (NEAT) awarded the UTEP Alumni Association a grant in May 2011 for outreach events and programs targeted to young alumni.

"The planning grant has allowed us to supplement our efforts to develop opportunities to engage our young alumni," Daniel said. "We started with a young alumni mixer this fall and expect to offer other opportunities in the near future. It's important for us to establish a program geared to young alumni as the group represents a significant percentage of our alumni base."

When elected to the UTEP Alumni Association Board in 2011, Art Gloria, the board's vice president of public and student relations, said his main goal was to create a group for young alumni. Soon after, the network was launched.

"It's basically part of the association, and we provide events for young people to network and mingle," said Gloria, a 2008 political science graduate. "Eventually, we'll have a lecture series on how to grow within your career, how to meet other people in the city who are young professionals and how to become engaged with University activities." 📧

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/utepyoungalumni.

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Photo courtesy of Alfonso Batres

Alum Honored for Service to Military Veterans

By Daniel Perez

UTEP alumnus Alfonso Batres, Ph.D., earned the 2011 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Career Achievement Medal in September for his efforts during almost 30 years to build a national network of small, community-based centers where veterans traumatized by combat can obtain counseling, job assistance, medical referrals and other services.

Batres, a disabled Vietnam War veteran and clinical psychologist, was appointed in 1994 as the chief officer of Readjustment Counseling Service with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C. Among his accomplishments are the expansion of the number of Vet Centers to 300 from 200 six years ago, and the development and launch of 50 Mobile Vet Centers in the past two years.

The El Paso native is the son of Alfonso and Alicia Batres, who promoted their belief in education to their four sons and one daughter. He enrolled at UTEP after his Army tour and earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from The University of Texas at El Paso in 1975.

"The basic education and skills I received at UTEP were second to none in rigor and quality. It laid the foundation for the rest of my academic achievements," Batres said. He subsequently earned two master's degrees and a doctorate in psychology.

The "Sammie" is the highest award bestowed on a civil servant outside the government and the career medal recognizes the significant accomplishments of a federal employee throughout a lifetime of achievement in public service. 📌



Photo courtesy of Maria Castañón Moats

UTEP Alumna Climbs Corporate Ladder

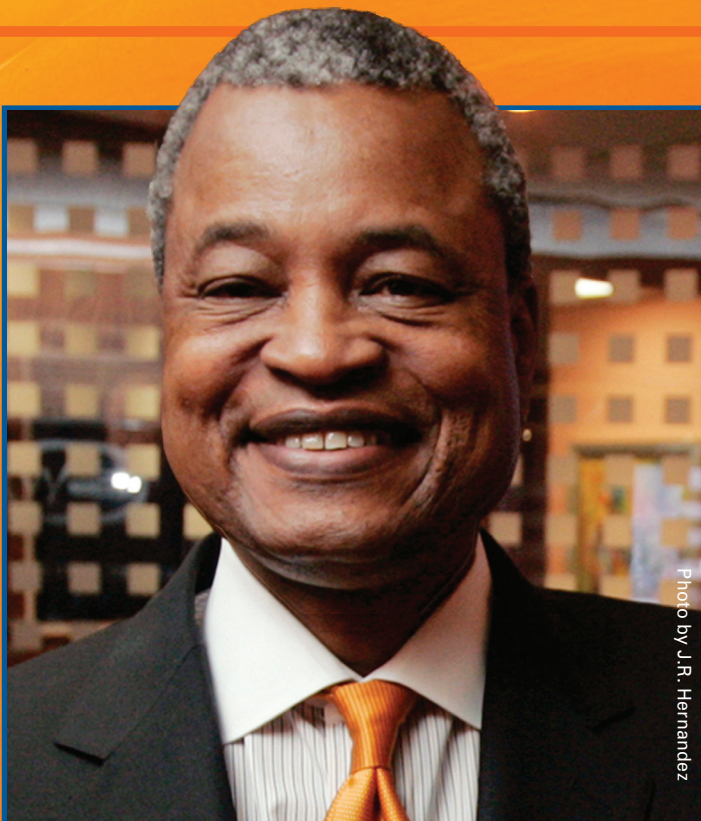
By Chris Lechuga

Some 20 years after completing a bachelor's degree in accounting at The University of Texas at El Paso, Maria Castañón Moats earned a seat on the leadership team of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), one of the world's largest accounting firms, when she was named chief diversity officer in July 2011. As the first Latina in her new position at PwC, she said her education from UTEP was critical in her development as an accountant and as a professional.

"It was the right thing to stay in El Paso," Castañón Moats said. "I don't have a job; I have a career, and I happen to love it."

Castañón Moats began at UTEP in 1986 and spent her time studying at the newly built University Library and playing intramural sports after a full day of classes and working part-time at a local Walmart. After becoming the first in her family to graduate from college, in 1990, she became a certified public accountant and started working for Bank of America before joining PwC four years later. Her hard work and dedication immediately made a mark at the firm.

"Maria always thinks about the people on her team and how we can make their experience at the firm more positive," said Paul Gendron, North Texas market assurance leader at PwC. "She has a passion for her work at PwC, and she consistently displays this passion in everything she does for her clients and her PwC teams." 📌



UTEP Alumnus Helps Realize MLK Memorial

By Chris Lechuga

On Aug. 28, 1963, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. delivered one of the most significant public addresses in American history as he stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Nearly 50 years after the "I Have a Dream" speech, a movement to forever commemorate the historic event and honor the man who spearheaded the national civil rights movement came to fruition with help from Robert Wingo, advertising executive and alumnus of The University of Texas at El Paso.

Wingo, as a member of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project, played an instrumental role in helping create the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial that was dedicated Oct. 16 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

"It was a thrill of a lifetime to be involved in something as momentous as building this memorial for Dr. King," Wingo said. "It's a humbling experience to participate at that level."

The movement was initiated by Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity in the late 1990s to honor its prestigious member. In the early years, the group sought public, corporate and Congressional support for the \$120 million project.

Wingo, president and chief executive officer of El Paso-based Sanders/Wingo Advertising Agency, became involved in 2001 when he helped organize one of the first benefit dinners in El Paso to raise funds and support for the monument in the region. The successful event netted nearly \$100,000 toward the project and helped the 1973 UTEP graduate and 2002 Gold Nugget Award recipient to be named to the memorial's Board of Directors in 2004. ☒

For more about the memorial, visit www.buildthedream.org.



Former Miners' Prosthetics Innovation Helps Many

By Daniel Perez

A UTEP alumnus who has revolutionized the prosthesis industry in developing nations through low-cost, easy-to-assemble products said his desire to help others is tied to a snide remark.

El Paso native Roger Gonzalez, Ph.D., recalled how, as a youngster, he ridiculed another child with a disability. The comment earned him a stern rebuke from his father.

Gonzalez earned his bachelor's in mechanical engineering from UTEP in 1986 but began to focus on biomedical research as he earned his master's and doctoral degrees from UT Austin. He joined the faculty at LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas, in 1996 and decided to see how, with the help of his biomedical and mechanical engineering students, he could assist people with missing legs in developing countries.

His research team created a cost-effective, highly durable and easy-to-make prosthetic knee in 2004 that has benefitted people in Asia, Africa and South America. He became the founder and president of LIMBS International, a nonprofit group, in 2011.

Gonzalez visited UTEP in November to discuss his work with faculty and students. He said he developed discipline and multiculturalism at UTEP, which have helped him achieve success as he integrates his work with universities and clinics around the world.

"It's an opportunity to build a network where people can work on a project that makes a difference," he said.

Noe Vargas Hernandez, Ph.D., assistant professor of mechanical engineering, said Gonzalez's work is a prime example of how engineering can dramatically improve the quality of life. The two have discussed possible future collaborations. ☒

To learn more about Gonzalez's nonprofit, visit limbsinternational.org.

30s Thaddeus A. Steele Sr. (B.A. '33) was posthumously inducted into the 10th class of the UTEP Athletic Hall of Fame in October for his athletic accomplishments while attending the University. While at UTEP, Steele was named Best All-Around UTEP Athlete during the 1930-31 and 1931-32 seasons.

50s James M. Peak (B.A. '58), a fundraising executive at Peak Fundraising in El Paso and fundraising consultant at El Paso Lighthouse for the Blind, was recognized in July by the El Paso Downtown Lions Club as Outstanding Lion of the Year.

60s Abel Aldaz Jr. (B.A. '67) completed his second term as chair of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program's (RSVP) board of directors in June. RSVP provides volunteers to Central Oklahoma organizations who fulfill essential community services, including cooking and delivering meals.

Bernadette C. Flynn Low (B.A. '66; M.A. '69), a retired professor of English, was granted the rank Professor Emerita by the Community College of Baltimore County Board of Trustees in May after more than 37 years of service. CCBC grants emeritus status only to retired/retiring college employees who have had distinguished careers, helping improve the growth, strength and integrity of the college. Flynn Low is a resident of Darlington, Md.

J. Roberto Oaxaca (B.A. '69; M.B.A. '75), attorney, joined injury litigation and trials firm Scherr & Legate PLLC in El Paso in August.

Miguel "Mickey" Solis (B.S. '64), a lawyer and former El Paso County Commissioner, was posthumously honored in June by the El Paso Bar Association for his contributions to the bar.

70s Dwayne M. Aboud (B.A. '70) was named to the CIMA Hospice 2011-12 Women's Advisory Board in June.

Irene Chavez (B.A. '79) was named senior vice president and area manager of the Kaiser Permanente San Jose Medical Center in San Jose, Calif. in July.

John F. Cook (B.B.A. '77), El Paso mayor, was recognized by the El Paso Yucca Council of Boy Scouts of America at the Good Scouts Dinner in August for his continued support of scouting programs in the Southwest.

Martha A. Cooper (B.S. '79; M.S. '83) was named to the CIMA Hospice 2011-12 Women's Advisory Board in June.

Robert E. "Bobby" Doyle (B.A. '72), a former Woonsocket High School track and cross country coach and seven-time Ocean State Marathon winner, was honored and posthumously inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame in June for his contributions to Rhode Island sports.

James R. "Jim" Forbes (B.S.Ed. '79), boys basketball coach at Andress High School in El Paso, was inducted into the 10th class of the UTEP Athletic Hall of Fame in October for his athletic accomplishments while attending UTEP. Forbes' accomplishments include recording 20 double-doubles in 61 games and averaging 10.74 rebounds in 27 games during the 1971-71 season. He also was part of the 1972 U.S. men's Olympic basketball team.

Gabriel S. Gaytan Sr. (B.A. '79), graphic artist, art instructor and television producer at El Paso Community College, introduced his new mural "Twin Serpents" on a concrete freeway support column in El Paso's Lincoln Park in August. Gaytan has two previous works on display in the park and also has his work displayed in private collections and public buildings across Texas, New Mexico, Nevada and California.

Zelma Jane Barnum Gragg (B.A. '76; M.Ed. '98) graduated with a Ph.D. in educational psychology from Texas A&M University in May.

William B. "Bill" Hooten (B.A. '70), treasurer of Hooten Real Estate in El Paso, was elected an officer of the El Paso Central Business Association's board of directors in June. The association is an El Paso downtown shopping and information networking organization, benefitting business-to-business, business-to-government and business-to-consumer relations.

James K. Horan (B.S.Ed. '78; M.Ed. '88) was appointed principal at Most Holy Trinity Catholic School in El Paso in July.

Ruth Ellen M. Jacobson (B.S.Ed. '70) was named to the CIMA Hospice 2011-12 Woman's Advisory Board in June.

Michael J. Kennedy (B.A. '76), history teacher, head softball coach and freshman football coach, retired in July from Del Valle High School in El Paso after 38 years of coaching high school sports.

William D. "Danny" McKillip (B.A. '71; M.S. '74) retired in June after 41 years of coaching El Paso High School's track and cross country team. McKillip led the El Paso High School Tigers to five state championships throughout his career.

Laurie R. Miller (B.A. '75) was named to the CIMA Hospice 2011-12 Women's Advisory Board in June.

Michael F. Quatrini (B.S. '75; Ed.D. '03), of El Paso, retired from the San Elizario Independent School District in July after more than 15 years as the district's superintendent. Quatrini has led the district longer than any other superintendent from the nine districts in El Paso County.

Roberto "Robert" Rivera (B.S.C.E. '71), a professional engineer for more than 30 years, retired from El Paso County's Road and Bridge Department in July. Rivera, throughout his career, has worked on projects including the McKelligon Canyon Amphitheater located in Franklin Mountains State Park, the El Paso County courthouse and El Paso County morgue.

Ernst E. Roberts (M.A. '75), of El Paso, was named interim president of El Paso Community College in July.

Ronald R. "Ron" Rush (B.B.A. '70), president of title insurance and escrow/closing services company Lawyers Title of El Paso, was elected vice president for corporate representation of the El Paso Central Business Association in June. The association is an El Paso downtown shopping and information networking organization, benefitting business-to-business, business-to-government and business-to-consumer relations.

Armenia D. Smith (B.S.Ed. '72; M.Ed. '85) was named principal at Eastwood High School in El Paso in June.

Josefina V. Tinajero (B.S.Ed. '73; M.Ed. '76), dean of UTEP's College of Education, was appointed to the Parents as Teachers board of directors in July. The Parents as Teachers organization develops curricula that support a parent's role in promoting school readiness and healthy development of children.

Jose L. "Joe" Vargas (B.S.E.E. '73), a professional engineer, joined Emerging Solar Technologies as an energy consultant in June. EST, located in Anthony, N.M., installs and maintains state-of-the-art solar-based systems for residential and commercial applications.

Donald L. Williams (B.A. '73), attorney/mediator and counselor at law at the El Paso-based Law Offices of Donald L. Williams, was honored at the State Bar of Texas annual meeting in San Antonio for his exceptional service to the public and legal profession in June.

80s Charlene Alba (B.B.A. '84) was named to the CIMA Hospice 2011-12 Women's Advisory Board in June.

George P. Andritsos (B.B.A. '89) was appointed to the El Paso Bar Association board of directors in June.

Anthony P. "Tony" Benitez (B.B.A. '80), a Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow and New York Life Insurance Co. agent of El Paso, received the Minority Small Business Champion of the Year Award from the Small Business Administration's El Paso District Office in June. The award recognizes individuals who have fulfilled a commitment to support minority entrepreneurship.

Nora F. Ellis (B.B.A. '85) was named to the CIMA Hospice 2011-12 Women's Advisory Board in June.

Victor H. Hernandez (B.B.A. '83), a member of the Lubbock City Council, was appointed by the Texas Municipal Retirement System Board of Trustees to the Advisory Committee of Retirement Matters in June.

Shahidul H. Joarder (M.S. '88), a professional engineer at Dewberry's New York City office, was promoted to department manager of mechanical, electrical and plumbing services in June.

Gloria A. Magallanez (B.S.Ed. '83; M.Ed. '91), of El Paso, was named principal of Ysleta Independent School District's South Loop Elementary School in June.

David A. Montoya (B.S. '86), special agent in charge in the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General, Western Area Field Office in Denver, was nominated to the position of inspector general in the Department of Housing and Urban Development by President Barack Obama in July.

Marian E. "Marnie" Rocha (B.A. '88; M.Ed. '05), of El Paso, was named principal of Alderete Middle School by the Canutillo [Texas] Independent School District in July.

Carla A. Sierra (B.A. '85; M.A. '98) was promoted to administrative director of marketing and communications for Las Palmas Del Sol Healthcare in El Paso in August.

Sandra J. "Sandi" Smith (B.S.Ed. '81) was named to the CIMA Hospice's 2011-12 Women's Advisory Board in June.

90s Ricardo "Rick" Barraza Jr. (B.S. '98), of El Paso, was named head football coach of San Elizario High School [Texas] in June.

Rocio E. Benedicto (B.A. '91), a mathematics educational specialist and project coordinator at New Mexico State University, was sworn in as a member of the El Paso Independent School District's Board of Trustees in August. Benedicto is a resident of El Paso.

Soma Dutta (B.B.A. '95), of Prescott Valley, Ariz., was inducted into the 10th class of the UTEP Athletic Hall of Fame in October for her athletic accomplishments while attending UTEP. Dutta became only the second female to win a National Collegiate Athletic Association championship in rifle smallbore, as well as being a three-time All-American for the Miners during the 1990, 1991 and 1992 seasons. She also held the University's record score of 1,171 for eight years. She competed in the Olympics, representing India, in 1984, 1988, 1992 and 1996.

Gary E. Edens (B.B.A. '90; M.P.A. '94; Ed.D. '07) was appointed interim vice president of student affairs at UTEP in August. Edens is a recipient of the UTEP Distinguished Achievement Award for his service to students. The award is the University's highest staff recognition.

Sandra K. Flores (B.A. '99, M.Ed. '06), a mathematics teacher at Fabens [Texas] High School, was named 2012 Secondary Teacher of the Year for the El Paso region by Region 19 in August. Region 19 serves school districts in El Paso and Hudspeth counties, aiding teachers and administrators in professional development including technology and curriculum development.

Samuel "Sammy" Garza (B.S. '96), of Irving, Texas, was inducted into the Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame in June for his accomplishments as an outstanding quarterback for the Harlingen Cardinals, the UTEP Miners and the Canadian Football League.

Thomas Gamboa Jr. (B.S. '98; M.Ed. '05) was named head coach of boy's basketball at Socorro High School in El Paso in July.

Daniel Gomez (B.I.S. '97), of El Paso, was named principal of Ysleta Independent School District's North Star Elementary School in June.

Kimberly R. Hayes (B.B.A. '98), of El Paso, joined business data processing company Datamark Inc. as a commercial manager in July.

Gerallyn M. "B.B." Jones (B.B.A. '98) was promoted in June to tape operations and asset management supervisor at oil and gas company ExxonMobil in Houston.

Charmaine A. Martin (B.S. '91) was named Texas Tech Health Sciences Center Paul L. Foster School of Medicine's Outstanding Faculty of the Year in August. Martin is an assistant professor of family and community medicine in El Paso.

David R. Medina (B.I.S. '99; M.Ed. '01) was named principal at Pasodale Elementary School in El Paso in June.

Ginger Pineda Raya (B.B.A. '99; M.P.A. '03), of El Paso, was appointed clinical administrator for the Department of Obstetrics

and Gynecology at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center's Paul L. Foster School of Medicine in July.

Marco A. Salcido (B.S.N. '98), of El Paso, was appointed administrative director for emergency services at Del Sol Medical Center in June.

Javier E. Salgado (B.S. '94; M.A. '98) was named principal at Parkland Middle School in El Paso in June.

Ivette Savina (B.I.S. '96, M.Ed. '03), of Canutillo, Texas, was named principal of Northwest Early College High School by the Canutillo Independent School District in July.

Norma L. Sierra (B.S.Ed. '90; M.Ed. '02), of El Paso, was named principal of Ysleta Independent School District's LeBarron Park Elementary School in June.

Roberto Strongman (B.A. '93; M.A. '95) was promoted to associate professor with tenure at the University of California, Santa Barbara in June.

Aleta "Michelle" Taylor (B.B.A. '96) was promoted in June to market controller at Las Palmas Del Sol Healthcare in El Paso.

Obadele O. Thompson (B.B.A. '97), of Austin, was inducted into the 10th class of the UTEP Athletic Hall of Fame in October for his athletic accomplishments while attending UTEP, which include winning 200 meter titles in 1996 and 1997 and recording the fastest 100-meter time in the world, which stood for 12 years. Thompson was an Olympic bronze medalist in the 100 meters in 2000 and holds a standing world record of 5.81 seconds in the 55-meter dash.

Sandra T. Tolliver (M.Ed. '92), of El Paso, was featured in the 2012 edition of *Dos Gatos Press' Texas Poetry Calendar*. *Dos Gatos Press* is an Austin nonprofit corporation that supports poetry writers in Texas and the Southwest.

Loretta G. Aguilar (B.I.S. '03), a first grade bilingual teacher at Tornillo [Texas] Elementary School, was named 2012 Elementary Teacher of the Year for the El Paso region by Region 19 in August. Region 19 serves school districts in El Paso and Hudspeth counties, aiding

teachers and administrators in professional development including technology and curriculum development.

Raul Bencomo Jr. (B.B.A. '04), an independent financial advisor at LPL Financial Services in El Paso, was recognized as a top financial advisor and named to the LPL Financial Freedom Club in August, a distinction based upon an annual production ranking of all registered advisers.

Marian L. Bennett (M.Ed. '05) joined the Oñate High School faculty in Las Cruces as volleyball coach in July. Bennett is a 1996 El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame inductee for her role in volleyball coaching and training.

Jerry W. Brem (M.Ed. '00) was named principal of Columbus [Texas] High School in June.

Daryl W. Cole (B.M.S. '09), El Paso Department of Transportation director, received the 2011 Camino Real Excellence in Transportation Award in August for having demonstrated leadership in advancing transportation.

Oniel Cousins (B.M.S. '07), former UTEP football lineman, joined the NFL's Cleveland Browns as an offensive tackle in August.

Samuel F. Hogue (Ed.D. '08), principal of Andress High School in El Paso, was named Principal of the Year for the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals in Education Service Center Region 19.

Raymond J. Karpovage (B.A. '06) received a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in May 2011.

Quinton N. Martinez (B.A. '09), a sports reporter for the San Angelo [Texas] *Standard-Times*, was honored with the Best in Scripps quarterly award in feature writing for the first quarter of 2011.

Victor Santana-Melgoza (B.A. '08) launched diversity and social injustice education consulting company Diversity Talks in June. The company website is www.diversitytalks.com.

Paola Riveillo Mijares (B.A. '07), of El Paso, joined CIMA Hospice as a provider relations executive in July.

Henry J. Mineros (B.S.N. '02; M.B.A. '11) was appointed director of emergency services at Del Sol Medical Center in El Paso in June. Mineros will provide oversight to the emergency department and the ER Fast-Track Services.

Hugo Olivares (M.Acy '09), a Texas Certified Public Accountant, joined Licon Engineering Co. as a senior accountant in August. Olivares will be managing the accounting department and coordinating company financial reviews and audits.

Lourdes G. Pacheco (B.S.C.E. '08; M.S. '10) was promoted to graduate engineer in the El Paso operations office of Professional Service Industries Inc. in June. Professional Service Industries Inc. is a national engineering, consulting and testing firm.

Kelly E. Parker (B.A. '04), a former UTEP assistant soccer coach and former UTEP women's soccer player, played for Canada in the 2011 Women's World Cup in June. She also was the 2004 and 2010 Most Valuable Player of the W League, the highest women's soccer league.

Jaime "Jimmy" Portillo (B.A. '02; B.A. '05), of El Paso, completed the sixth and final installment of his comic book series *Hell Paso: The Story of Dallas Stoudenmire* in August. The new issue was premiered in September at All Star Comics in El Paso.

Gustavo E. "Gus" Schneider (B.A. '04), a Phoenix-based attorney for business counseling firm Bryan Cave, received the "New Volunteer Attorney of the Year" award in June for donating 130 pro-bono hours to numerous cases referred to him by Volunteer Lawyers Program.

Bernadette R. Segura (B.A. '01), a staff attorney at Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid in El Paso, was appointed to the Project BRAVO board of directors in June. Project Bravo is a nonprofit community action program that provides social services to elderly, disabled and low-income residents, including housing, housing counseling and foreclosure avoidance services.

Marlon A. Terry (B.M.S. '07) joined the staff of the University of Maryland Eastern Shores as assistant basketball coach in July. Throughout his coaching career, Terry has coached Matt Walsh,

Rob Kurz and Pops Mensah-Bonsu, who currently play in the NBA.

Stacie K. Townsend (B.B.A. '09; M.B.A. '11), a former UTEP softball standout, played for Great Britain in the World Cup of softball in July. Townsend is a law student at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

Alejandro Vidales Jr. (B.A. '00), a Socorro [Texas] municipal judge, received an award in August from Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande for supervising Workforce Solutions' summer work program.

10s Kristofer B. Adams (B.B.A. '10), a former UTEP football wide receiver, signed with the NFL's Chicago Bears in July.

Sarah A. Burchett (B.A. '11), of El Paso, joined business data processing company Datamark Inc. as an intranet document administrator in July.

Daniel E. Chavez (B.S.C.S. '11) of El Paso, joined business data processing company Datamark Inc. as a software support engineer in July.

Carlos M. Silva, Jr. (B.A. '10) joined the *Silver City Sun-News* in New Mexico as a reporter in June.

Alexander I. Solot (B.M.S. '11), a former UTEP football standout tackle, signed with the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers in August.

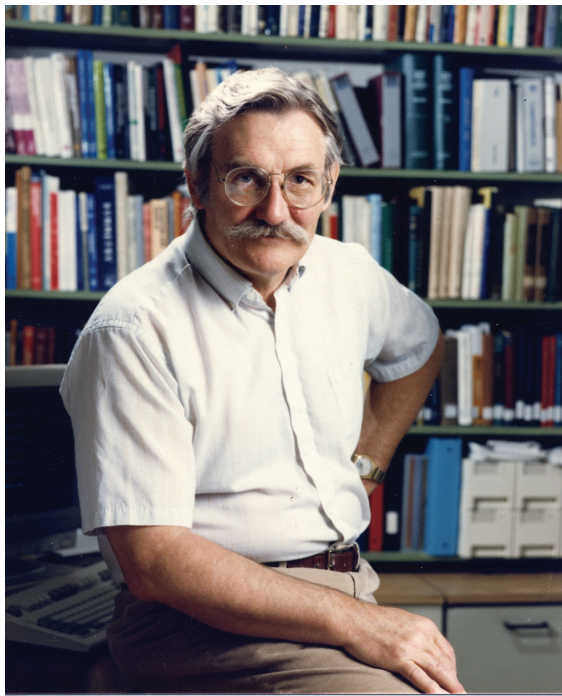
James E. Thomas II (B.B.A. '10), a former UTEP quarterback, signed with the Tri-City Fever Indoor Football League team in June.

Trevor L. Vittatone (B.B.A. '10), a former UTEP football quarterback, signed with the NFL's Chicago Bears in July.

William C. “Bill” Herndon

A LARGER-THAN-LIFE FIGURE

By Daniel Perez



William C. “Bill” Herndon, Ph.D., professor emeritus of chemistry at The University of Texas at El Paso, was remembered by colleagues as a larger-than-life figure whose intellect matched his gregariousness.

Herndon died Oct. 20 in El Paso at age 79. He joined the UTEP faculty in 1972 and served the University as a professor, chair of the Department of Chemistry and dean of the College of Science.

The El Paso native earned his bachelor’s in chemistry from Texas Western College (now UTEP) in 1954 and his doctorate in chemistry from Rice University five years later. By the time he returned to UTEP, he already was an internationally recognized scientist for his work in experimental chemistry. His theoretical work included the origins of what would become nanoscience.

Long-time colleagues Lawrence Ellzey, Ph.D., and Keith Pannell, Ph.D., both UTEP professors of chemistry, remembered Herndon as a scholar and a friend.

“He was one-of-a-kind,” Ellzey said. “He had great drive and lived with a great deal of happiness.”

Pannell said Herndon often shared a joke as he ushered you into his office to discuss his latest research while opera music played in the background. “He was a great guy who excelled as a chemist,” he said.

Marco Olguin, a UTEP doctoral student, said Herndon inspired him, motivated him and changed his life.

“I owe him a debt I can never repay,” said Olguin, a graduate student under Herndon from 2003-08.

Herndon is survived by his wife, Nancy; his sons William and Matthew; a grandchild, Lucas; and his brother Robert. 📧

George C. McCarty

HELPED INTEGRATE COLLEGE SPORTS

By Daniel Perez



Former UTEP Athletic Director George C. McCarty, the man credited with hiring Don Haskins and recruiting UTEP’s first black athletes, died Nov. 30, 2011, in Marble Falls, Texas. He was 96.

McCarty, a native Texan, accepted a scholarship to play football for New Mexico A&M – now New Mexico State University (NMSU). He left school to serve as a bomber pilot in World War II, but returned in 1947 to finish his degree and begin his successful professional life as an athletics coach, administrator and fundraiser at academic institutions including The University of Texas at El Paso.

He came to Texas Western College – now UTEP – in 1953 to coach basketball. Through the years he also became the college’s Dean of Men and eventually athletic director until he left in 1970.

McCarty helped integrate college sports in the South with the signing of black basketball player Charlie Brown in 1956, hired future Hall of Fame basketball coach Don Haskins in 1961 and others whose teams brought unprecedented success to the University, and used a combination of grit and Southern charm to raise funds for the athletics program.

“He was a magician,” said Eddie Mullens, former UTEP sports information director from 1962-70. He chuckled at his former boss’s ability to find donors “a day or two before payroll.”

Longtime El Paso sports writer Ray Sanchez said McCarty played a significant role in UTEP’s “golden decade” of athletics when it won two Sun Bowls (’65, ’67), and NCAA championships in basketball (’66) and cross country (’69).

McCarty was preceded in death by his wife, Marietta, his two children and a grandchild. He is survived by several generations of family. 📧

Gladys R. Shaw

AN INSPIRATION TO STUDENTS

By Stephanie Sanchez



Gladys R. Shaw's legacy will live on in every student she taught as they impact the lives of others, her colleagues and friends said.

Shaw, director of UTEP's Student Support Services Program (SSSP), died Sept. 29. To respect her reserved personality, her age and cause of death were not disclosed.

Soon after her 1957 graduation from New Mexico Highlands University with a master's degree in business and education, Shaw became associate director of UTEP's Upward Bound, a federally funded program for at-risk youth.

"Gladys was one of the first people I met on my very first day on campus (as an undergraduate)," said Gary Edens, interim vice president for Student Affairs at UTEP.

He shared with her his concerns that he was not college material, but she listened to him long enough that he convinced himself that he could make it. She inspired many students through the years to believe in themselves.

"She helped me understand that through hard work, determination and through real focus in your academics, you could succeed in college," Edens said.

Tita Yanar, director of UTEP's Upward Bound, described Shaw as gregarious, humble and dedicated.

"It's thanks to her efforts that hundreds and hundreds of students have had the benefit of these services," said Yanar, who worked closely with Shaw. "She was personally responsible for the success of hundreds of students who were able to fathom this challenge and be successful."

Shaw led UTEP's Tutoring and Learning Center from 1982 to 2001 and became the director of SSSP in 1993. 📌

Paula Ford

A DEDICATED TEACHER

By Laura L. Acosta



Paula Ford's passion for her research was an inspiration to the students she mentored, the colleagues she worked with, and the family she loved.

Ford, Ph.D., assistant professor of health sciences at UTEP, died Oct. 8 after a two-year battle with breast cancer.

"She was a very energetic, loving person," Ford's husband, Bill Hargrove, Ph.D., director of UTEP's Center for Environmental Resource Management, told The Prospector. "She was passionate about her work and teaching especially. Her students were extremely important to her."

Since joining UTEP in 2009, Ford made an impact on faculty, staff and students who were inspired by her work, her teaching and her struggle, and her legacy will live on at the University through the Paula Ford Scholarship Fund for students in UTEP's public health sciences program.

Ford's dedication to her students was palpable.

Terri Anchondo, an interdisciplinary health sciences doctoral student, was Ford's first graduate student.

"She reviewed my thesis many times while undergoing chemotherapy," Anchondo said. "She showed so much strength and not once ever complained about feeling ill. Dr. Ford's focus and dedication to her career is inspirational and I am privileged to have been her student."

Amir Kamel, a health sciences doctoral student, credits Ford with guiding him to his research goals and encouraging him whenever she saw him struggling.

"I have to say one aspect of truly leading a happy life is being passionate about what you do, and Dr. Ford had that," he said. "She was passionate about her work and knew how to make others see how important her work was." 📌

Robert W. "Bobby" "Beto" Brooks Jr. (B.S.E.E. '75)
Scottsdale, Ariz.; March 24, 2011.

Alfred J. Rydzewski (B.B.A. '83) El Paso; April 12, 2011.

Scott Merton Pepper (B.B.A. '86) San Angelo, Texas; April 18, 2011.

David B. Mussey (B.S.Ed. '87) Ruidoso, N.M.; May 11, 2011.

Paul G. Wendler (B.A. '54)
Roslindale, Mass.; May 13, 2011.

Francis P. Smith III (B.A. '71) Elgin, Texas; May 19, 2011.

Bill J. Todd (B.B.A. '54)
Houston; May 19, 2011.

William S. Porter, Sr. (B.S.M.E. '79) Monument, Colo.; May 26, 2011.

Arturo Borunda Jr. (B.S.Ed. '85) Sunland Park, N.M.; May 30, 2011.

Marjorie A. Thurston (B.A. '42; M.A. '60) El Paso; June 2, 2011.

Mary L. "Mary Lou" Aho (M.A. '56) Dallas; June 4, 2011.

Felix Canales (B.S. '60) El Paso; June 4, 2011.

Peter L. Grattan II (B.B.A. '41) Silver City, N.M.; June 4, 2011.

Sarah Kathryn Williams (B.S.Ed. '83) El Paso; June 5, 2011.

J.D. Partridge (B.A. '52) El Paso; June 6, 2011.

Richard B. Wessling, Jr. (M.A. '77) El Paso; June 9, 2011.

B. Frances Schulenburg Hemphill (B.A. '72) Crete, Ill.; June 9, 2011.

Edward Turner (B.B.A. '96) El Paso; June 11, 2011.

Genoveva Villalobos (B.S.Ed. '90) El Paso; June 12, 2011.

Lucio Neftali Cano (B.B.A. '71) El Paso; June 14, 2011.

Harvey Garvin, Jr. (B.B.A. '51) Odessa, Texas; June 14, 2011.

Margaret Ann "Peggy" Schillinger (B.A. '54) El Paso; June 16, 2011.

Richard M. Hallmark (B.S. '66) Kenai, Alaska; June 17, 2011.

Thomas J. Garcia (B.S.N. '85) El Paso; June 21, 2011.

Justin A. "Tony" Hodges (B.A. '05) El Paso, June 21, 2011.

Jorge L. Dieppa (M.A. '93) El Paso; July 5, 2011.

Donald C. "Don" Lance (B.A. '43) Altamonte Springs, Fla.; July 11, 2011.

Nancy Jane LaRock (B.B.A. '89) El Paso; July 14, 2011.

Betty Jean Lord (B.S.Ed. '69) Green Valley, Ariz.; July 14, 2011.

Minnie Ann McKee (M.A. '55) El Paso; July 14, 2011.

Rosemary Katherine Kourey (B.S.Ed. '70) El Paso; July 15, 2011.

Jeffrey Stephen Edmonson (B.A. '79) Roswell, N.M.; July 17, 2011.

Maria Luisa Escajeda Hornedo (B.A. '38) El Paso; July 20, 2011.

David Mackie (M.Ed. '70) Rio Rancho, N.M.; July 21, 2011.

Robert Rea Miller Jr. (B.B.A. '50) El Paso; July 21, 2011.

Carmen V. Chavez (B.B.A. '76) Anacortes, Wash.; July 23, 2011.

Armando Garcia (B.B.A. '08) El Paso; July 23, 2011.

Willard L. McDaniel (B.B.A. '60) El Paso; July 23, 2011.

Burnadine Grove Kohn (B.A. '75) El Paso; July 25, 2011.

Samuel P. Drake Jr. (M.B.A. '77) El Paso; July 28, 2011.

Gustavus Addison Morgan III (B.S.E.E. '02) Salt Lake City, Utah; July 29, 2011.

Estela B. Ibarra (B.A. '39; M.A. '56) El Paso; July 30, 2011.

Edward A. "Ed" Eberhardt (B.B.A. '78) El Paso; July 31, 2011.

Lynn Edward Parsons (B.B.A. '60) El Paso, July 31, 2011.

Yvonne Wakeem Milligan (B.S.Ed. '62) El Paso; Aug. 4, 2011.

Francisco M. "Frank" Cordero (B.S.M.I. '42) El Paso; Aug. 5, 2011.

Christopher Alex Woodhouse (B.M. '93) El Paso, Aug. 7, 2011.

Norman Elmer Eiting (B.S.E.E. '59) Heber City, Utah; Aug. 08, 2011.

Peter V. Baehr (B.S.E.E. '51) Yachats, Ore.; Aug. 9, 2011.

Coleen Shamaley (B.S.Ed. '72) El Paso; Aug. 11, 2011.

Rosemary "Dittoe" Lyons (B.S.Ed. '70; M.A. '70) El Paso; Aug. 12, 2011.

Elvia Zavala (B.B.A. '06) El Paso; Aug. 17, 2011.

Frank B. Serrano (B.B.A. '50) The Woodlands, Texas; Aug. 18, 2011.

Linda Hollenshead Knox (B.S.Ed. '65) Anthony, N.M.; Aug. 18, 2011.

Agustin Solis (B.A. '83) El Paso; Aug. 21, 2011.

Elizabeth M. Wiehe (B.S.Ed. '76) El Paso; Aug. 25, 2011.



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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.



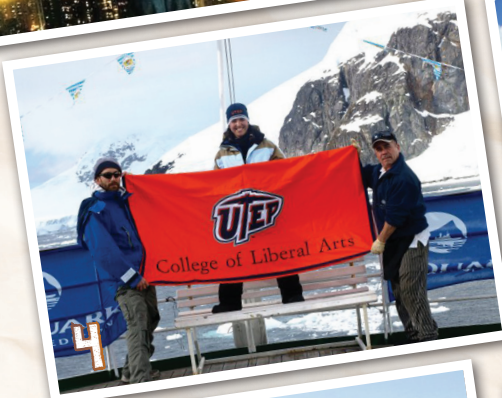
1) Allison Vega, a UTEP student, is shown in Sydney, Australia, during summer 2010. She's in front of the Sydney Opera House.



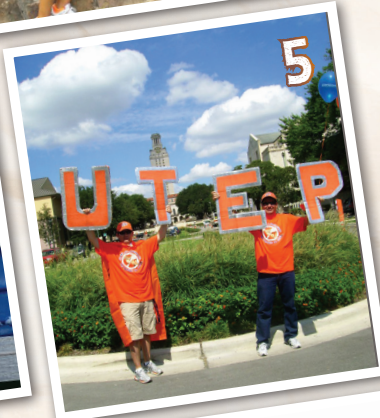
2) Daniel Montoya, a UTEP alum, is standing on Victoria Peak, overlooking Hong Kong and the Victoria Harbour.



3) Rosemary Saucedo, a UTEP student, poses with her father, Jaime Saucedo, at the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico. It is home of the animated character Smokey Bear.



4) Mitzel Aveytia, a UTEP alumna, is in Paradise Harbor, Antarctica, in December 2007. She was among other then-UTEP students who traveled to Antarctica as part of the International Polar Year — Research and Educational Opportunities in Antarctica for Minorities.



5) John Murillo and Mike Martinez, both UTEP alumni, are standing in front of the University of Texas Tower in Austin.



6) Manny Rodriguez, a UTEP alumnus, is in Paris in front of the Eiffel Tower.



7) UTEP alumnus Jaime Alfonso Contreras is in front of the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart, Germany.

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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UTEP Opportunity Days

May 2 – 3

The American Dream combines hard work, education and seizing the right opportunities. The University of Texas at El Paso has created a successful model that helps residents of the Paso del Norte region and beyond to achieve that dream. As a result, organizers of Opportunity Nation, an economic and social mobility initiative, chose UTEP as one of 12 sites around the nation to discuss integration of academic goals and industry needs to create opportunity for the residents of the region.



On May 2 and 3, some of the brightest minds in education, business, health care, non-profits, and the military will participate in UTEP Opportunity Days to develop a synergistic, grass-roots plan for success. It also will include a visit to the University by thousands of area youth and will conclude with a **free communitywide party** that promises to be one of the biggest of the year.

Bright Minds Will Dream Big at UTEP's Opportunity Days.
opportunity.utep.edu