

Centennial Series

UTEP

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

MAGAZINE

FALL 2013

WELCOME HOME, MINERS!

INSIDE: A FULL GUIDE TO HOMECOMING 2013



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
PRESIDENT  DIANA NATALICIO

**ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT
FOR UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS**

CHRIS LOPEZ

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
JENN CRAWFORD

ART DIRECTOR
RENÉ WONG

LEAD DESIGNER
GRIS CAMPOS

PRODUCTION MANAGER
ROSE COOPER

PHOTO EDITOR
LAURA TREJO

EDITORIAL

LAURA L. ACOSTA, REBECCA DOWNEY
KEITH EREKSON, LISA Y. GARIBAY,
TIMI HAGGERTY-MUÑOZ, CHRIS LECHUGA,
VERONIQUE MASTERSON,
DANIEL PEREZ, LAURA M. URIBARRI,
MARIBEL VILLALVA, NADIA M. WHITEHEAD

DESIGN

BOBBY DANIELS,
JOHN DOWNEY, TROY TOMBERLIN

PHOTOGRAPHY

J.R. HERNANDEZ, JOSHUA GARCIA

COPY EDITOR

DAVID PEREGRINO

ONLINE EDITOR

FRANK DURAN

WEB AND VIDEO

NAHUM AVILA, JAVIER LOYA, LIZA RODRIGUEZ

BUSINESS SUPPORT

PATSY ACHIM

**SENIOR ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
FOR COMMUNICATIONS & UNIVERSITY RELATIONS**

JEFF DARBY

SPORTS INFORMATION

Brumbelow Building
500 W. University Ave.
El Paso, TX 79968-0579
915-747-5347
www.utepathletics.com

Contents © 2013 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 2013 • Volume 5, Issue 3
The University of Texas at El Paso

All rights reserved.

Reproduction in whole or in part in any
format without permission is prohibited.

 Printed on 10% post consumer recycled paper.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear UTEP Alumni and Friends:

"Welcome, Miners!" is a greeting you'll hear often when you return to the UTEP campus this fall to enjoy Homecoming 2013 festivities and join in the 100-day countdown to the 2014 celebration of the Centennial of this remarkable university.

This year's Homecoming will enable us to showcase the activities and programs that we've already planned for our celebration of this major milestone in our history. A 100th anniversary comes around only once in a lifetime. This year and next represent our opportunity to create the best possible UTEP Centennial commemoration. We're determined to pull out all the stops to ensure that our celebration captures our collective sense of pride and excitement in all we've achieved over the past century, and our confidence in how well those accomplishments have positioned us for our even brighter future as the nation's first

research university serving a 21st century student demographic.

Campus headquarters for our 100th anniversary celebration will be UTEP's historic Centennial Museum, which is being converted into the "UTEP Centennial Welcome Center." Museum Director Maribel Villalva and the staff at the Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens have been working hard to create for members of our extended UTEP family and other campus visitors an experience that will be interactive, informative and enjoyable.

Scheduled to open Sept. 23, 2013 – the 100th day in the countdown to the Jan. 1, 2014 Centennial launch – the Welcome Center will offer Homecoming 2013 participants the opportunity to be among the first to sample such offerings as exhibits that highlight specific aspects of UTEP's first 100 years, themed campus walking tours that will showcase UTEP's past and present, screenings of short documentaries about UTEP, and a children's activity center for future Miners.

You may have noticed that we're delivering this annual Homecoming issue of *UTEP Magazine* earlier than in years past. We know that it's important to get this issue to all our alumni well ahead of UTEP's Sept. 29-Oct. 5 Homecoming week, and we hope that you'll be able to use it to plan your participation in many Homecoming events and activities.

When you arrive for Homecoming, you'll immediately notice that major construction is under way at the heart of the campus to convert it into a new Centennial Plaza, the centerpiece of an extensive redesign of our outdoor spaces. Your enthusiastic support of this campus transformation project has been deeply gratifying, and we thank you for this and all the many other ways that you have helped UTEP assume its well-earned place among today's great U.S. universities.

The extensive construction on campus led to a re-scheduling of our annual Homecoming Parade from Friday to Saturday. This accommodation created an opportunity to build a new UTEP tradition that brings together our students, alumni and friends for a daylong Homecoming celebration that begins with a morning parade, continues with an afternoon pep rally and tailgating, and culminates with the Homecoming football game early in the evening. Details of these and other events are included in a full guide to Homecoming Week which begins on page 17.

As always, Homecoming 2013 will celebrate a very special group of UTEP graduates: our Distinguished Alumni and Gold Nugget Award honorees. We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of this year's outstanding UTEP alumni and the role models they've become for their professions, their communities and our students. We feature them on pages 23-32, and hope that you'll proudly join with us in honoring them in October.

We look very much forward to welcoming you to this very special UTEP Homecoming 2013. At the age of 99, UTEP has never been stronger, more confident, and well-prepared to launch our second century in 2014. We'd love to have you be a part of this excitement.

Go Miners!

Diana Natalicio
President

CONTENTS

UTEP MAGAZINE | FALL 2013

STAY CONNECTED TO UTEP



UTEP'S 130TH COMMENCEMENT

CENTENNIAL SERIES

This issue of *UTEP Magazine* marks the second of six special collector's editions commemorating The University of Texas at El Paso's 100th anniversary in 2014. Each Centennial edition features a Centennial Series banner on the cover. Inside, content related to the Centennial Celebration fills the front of the magazine, followed by the other features, research, news, athletics and alums' stories. For more on the Centennial Celebration, visit utep100years.com.



IN 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 for more content related to a story.

CORRECTION

On page 7 of the Spring/Summer 2013 *UTEP Magazine*, Art Gloria was incorrectly identified as the former UTEP Alumni Association president. Gloria is the former Student Government Association president, and was a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors at the time the photo was taken. *UTEP Magazine* regrets the error.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

2 COUNTING DOWN TO OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR

The countdown begins Monday, Sept. 23 – exactly 99 years after the first classes began and 100 days before the Centennial Year kicks off.

4 CENTENNIAL PLAZA IS FACE OF CAMPUS TRANSFORMATION

"The Centennial Plaza will capture all of the important elements of UTEP's essence by placing students first, carving our history into stone on the timeline ... and connecting us more responsibly to our natural environment."

6 TRANSFORMATION IS AMONG UTEP'S DEFINING MOMENTS

UTEP's campus transformation is taking shape as some projects finish and others begin.

8 OPERA BHUTAN: STUDENTS REALIZE A NEW WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

As Opera Bhutan preparations continue, academics are the first priority for students.

12 40 YEARS OF M.B.A. INNOVATION

Forty years after it began, the UTEP M.B.A. program is internationally ranked and recognized for innovation and the success of its graduates.

14 UTEP GEAR

Gear up for Homecoming and the Centennial festivities with T-shirts, caps, mugs and other new items from the University Bookstore.

16 WELCOME HOME

The Centennial Museum will serve as UTEP's Welcome Center during the Centennial Celebration.

FEATURES

17 HOMECOMING EVENTS GUIDE

23 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

28 GOLD NUGGET AWARD RECIPIENTS

33 2013 TOP TEN SENIORS

36 AMERICAN GRAPHENE

RESEARCH

38 STUDY SHOWS ENGINEERED NANOPARTICLES CAN ENTER FOOD SUPPLY

40 UTEP WELCOMES NEW CENTER FOR LAW AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR

42 RESEARCHERS CROSS DISCIPLINES TO HELP OLDER ADULTS

44 ENGINEERING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

46 GRANTS ROUNDUP

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

48 NEWS

56 ATHLETICS

60 ALUMS

63 IN MEMORIAM



ON THE COVER

UTEP students, from left, Ruben Chavez, a junior operations and supply chain management major; Paulina Lopez, a junior corporate communication major and Student Government Association president; Mario Sosa, a junior biochemistry major; and Karen Reyes, a junior psychology major, welcome UTEP alumni back to campus for Homecoming 2013 as well as the University's Centennial Celebration festivities, which begin with a 100-day countdown Sept. 23, 2013.



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



C O U N T I N G D O W N T O O U R CENTENNIAL YEAR

By Keith A. Erikson • Executive Director, Centennial Celebration

Our Centennial year is fast approaching! For 99 years, students have made UTEP the first step toward making their dreams come true. Thousands of lives have been transformed over the past century, and so it is fitting that we spend the entire calendar year of 2014 celebrating our distinguished past and looking forward to an even brighter future. The events, activities and keepsakes planned for the Centennial Celebration are so exciting that we are counting down the days until 2014 arrives. We invite everyone to join a public countdown beginning this fall.

The countdown will begin on Monday, Sept. 23, 2013, for two important reasons. First, this date marks the 99th anniversary of the first day of class at the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy on Sept. 23, 1914. Second, in a convenient coincidence, this date is also exactly 100 days before Jan. 1, 2014. The public countdown will therefore extend from our 99th birthday to the eve of our Centennial year.



UTEP100years.com



Day 100 of the countdown — on Sept. 23 — will be marked by a midday celebration on campus. The Division of Student Affairs is organizing a fun event with food, music and entertainment. Students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends are invited to experience the grand opening of the new Welcome Center in the Centennial Museum (see page 16) and to witness the start of the official countdown clock. There will be a physical clock on the lawn in front of the museum and digital versions will be available for display on department websites and personal Web pages. Website managers may obtain the code for the clock at UTEP100years.com.

Day 1 of the countdown — Dec. 31 — will be marked by Orange New Year's Eve parties around the globe. The Office of Alumni Relations is preparing an orange party kit that Miners everywhere can use to turn any party into an Orange New Year's Eve. Partiers may be interested in two new Centennial wines, a red and a white that have been vinted by the Miner Winery in Napa Valley, Calif., under the sponsorship of the UTEP Alumni Association. Both are available for purchase online. We invite Miners everywhere to turn their parties orange — wherever they are around the world — and then to share photos of their event through social media. We want to see Miners ringing in the New Year in any place and any time zone all around the world. For information about party kits, Centennial wine, and social media sharing, visit UTEP100years.com.

During the 100 days of the countdown, we invite Miners to tune in to traditional and social media. Each day we will post trivia questions about UTEP history and buildings, share stories of Miners past and present, and release secrets about the coming Celebration. Fridays will be "Orange Fridays" and we will share inside tips on orange gear and showcase Miners who take their pride to work, school and home.

Community and campus events also will become part of the countdown. Wells Fargo employees will wear orange on Fridays. Centennial banners will begin to appear throughout town and around campus. On Nov. 1-3, the Junior League of El Paso, Inc., will wish UTEP a special happy birthday at its Christmas fair by jointly celebrating our Centennial with the league's 80th and the fair's 40th anniversaries. Visitors to the fair will receive a commemorative tote and can visit the UTEP booth to buy Miner gifts for everyone on their shopping lists. The activities of the Opera Bhutan performance and tour group will be reported during the countdown. Campus activities such as Homecoming and Commencement will receive Centennial twists. The Master of Business Administration program will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

We invite everyone to participate in the countdown. A new section on UTEP100years.com provides specific ideas about how to join the fun. Let the celebration begin! ➤

UTEP'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

SAVE THESE DATES

2013

- **Aug. 25**, New Miner Convocation
- **Sept. 23**, 100-day Countdown begins
- **Sept. 30-Oct. 5**, Homecoming Week
- **Oct. 6-14**, Exclusive UTEP Tour of Bhutan
- **Oct. 12**, Opera Bhutan (in Bhutan)
- **Dec. 31**, Orange New Year's Eve

2014

- **March 14**, TCM Day campuswide
- **Apr. 11-13**, Campus Open House
- **May 17**, Spring Commencement
- **July 12**, Alumni PICK-NIC
- **August**, Centennial Plaza complete
- **Aug. 24**, New Miner Convocation
- **Sept. 5**, Minerpalooza
- **Sept. 23**, 100th Anniversary
- **Fall**, Opera Bhutan (in El Paso)
- **Fall**, Homecoming Week
- **Dec. 20**, Winter Commencement



Use your smartphone to scan this code to read more about the Centennial Celebration.



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

CENTENNIAL PLAZA

THE FACE OF CAMPUS TRANSFORMATION

By Daniel Perez

The big summer blockbuster that contractor CF Jordan Construction produced at The University of Texas at El Paso in 2013 was its own version of *Transformers*, starring the campus core.

Workers spent the majority of the summer prepping the property – rough grading and utility work – from behind chain-link fences. The good news is that people who pass the jobsite this fall should start to see the actual metamorphosis into the inviting Centennial Plaza shown in renderings. The project remains on schedule for a fall 2014 debut.

The simple but elegant plaza, the flagship of UTEP's ambitious \$25 million Campus Transformation plan tied to the University's 100th birthday next year, promises to be fun and functional, said Greg McNicol, associate

vice president for facilities services.

The expansive oval patch of Bermuda hybrid grass – approximately two-thirds the size of a football field – will be bordered by native shade trees and vegetation, a historical ground-level timeline ring around the plaza, and benches that hide an irrigation system that uses reclaimed water. It will be an attractive, environmentally friendly addition to the campus, McNicol said.

Planners also expect the new plaza to enhance the campus' Tier One potential as a tool the University can use to recruit talented students and distinguished faculty and staff.

"When you create a space like this, people start seeing opportunities (for activities)," McNicol said. "People will migrate there. I know this area will get very popular because

it's going to be such a great space. It's like, 'Build it and they will come,'"

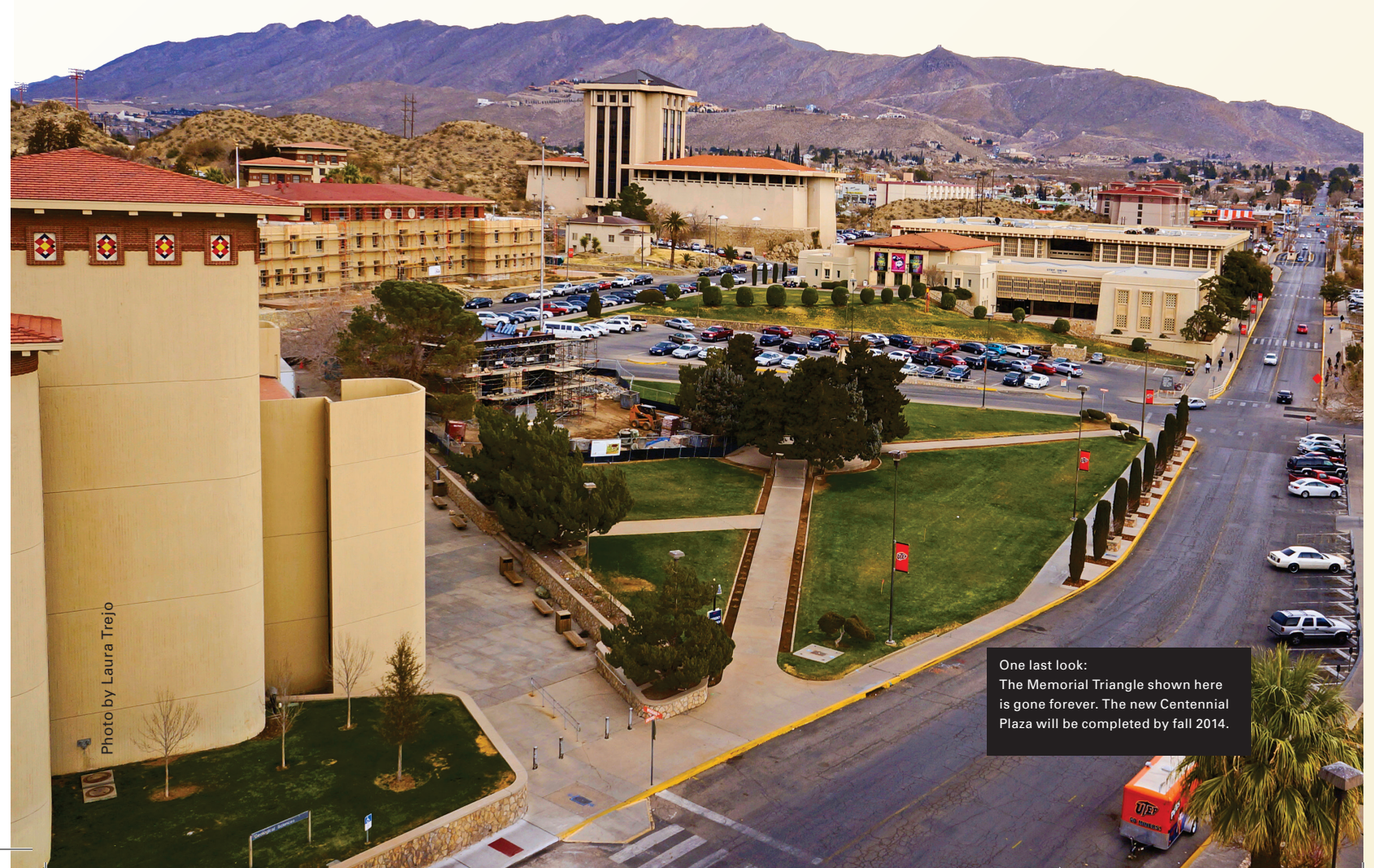
THE SEED

Several people involved in the 2002 UTEP master plan suggested to University President Diana Natalicio that the campus core be closed to most vehicles as part of a summer experiment because of concerns that the inner campus streets, built in the 1960s, were becoming too congested.

After additional discussion, planners dismissed the "experiment" because of several issues, including a lack of enough perimeter parking and difficult access from Interstate 10, where westbound vehicles exiting at Schuster Avenue could create a dangerous backup along the freeway's emergency lane

Photo by Laura Trejo

One last look:
The Memorial Triangle shown here
is gone forever. The new Centennial
Plaza will be completed by fall 2014.





An artist's rendering depicts what Centennial Plaza will look like when completed.

during peak periods. However, many agreed it was an idea worth pursuing.

As the University focused on its ambitious 10-year, \$383 million construction boom that enhanced and added to UTEP's classroom, research and support space, University leaders also started conversations with the city of El Paso and the Texas Department of Transportation on issues important to the University's future such as mass transit, bicycle lanes, freeway improvements and upgrades to adjacent city streets.

In four years, starting in 2007, the University built two perimeter parking garages, teamed with the city of El Paso to build a third, and advised TxDOT in its project to enhance the Schuster Avenue on-ramps and off-ramps from I-10.

"It became the perfect storm in a nice way of everything coming together," McNicol said. "Now we had momentum to make the campus more pedestrian-friendly."

As the final strains of "Pomp and Circumstance" bounced off the University's Bhutanese architecture after the May 18 Commencement ceremony, CF Jordan's workers began to erect chain-link fences around the inner campus, effectively closing it off until the Centennial Plaza project is completed in fall 2014.

The fenced-off area north of the planned plaza that includes Old Main, Quinn and Prospect (formerly the Computer Science Building) halls, and the Fox Fine Arts Center will be landscaped to create a transition from the old to the new.

THE FUTURE

The plaza's grassy area will be bordered by a 20-foot-wide walking path that incorporates different textures, including exposed aggregate and chat, which is compacted gravel that is softer than concrete, but hard enough to not inconvenience people with disabilities. The site will encompass about 11 acres.

A "timeline" that highlights milestones in the University's history will be part of the

plaza, said Keith Erikson, Ph.D., executive director of UTEP's Centennial Celebration Office.

"The new Centennial Plaza will capture all of the important elements of UTEP's essence by placing students first, carving our history into stone on the timeline ... and connecting us more responsibly to our natural environment," Erikson said. "It will be the largest and most enduring keepsake of the Centennial Celebration."

Decorative and functional mini-bridges will span the natural, curving arroyos that will be uncovered. Some could become holding ponds, or acequias, during El Paso's monsoon season, according to Christine E. Ten Eyck, president of Austin-based Ten Eyck Landscape Architects Inc. She is working with University experts on a landscaping reference guide of native and drought-resistant trees and plants that flourish in El Paso. The tentative list includes Texas honey mesquite and Mexican elderberry.

"We're trying to make this campus feel as if it is part of the Chihuahuan Desert eco-region. There are lots of fabulous plants here like desert willows and mesquites, and they'll act like big green umbrellas," Ten Eyck said.

The first major events scheduled for the plaza are the 2014 Minerpalooza, the annual back-to-school function that draws about 30,000 people, and the U.S. debut of Opera Bhutan, an original production involving UTEP students and faculty that combines traditional Western opera with Bhutanese music, dance and other cultural elements. It will premiere this fall in Bhutan as the first live Western-style opera performed in the Himalayan kingdom.

Catie McCorry-Andalis, Ed.D., associate vice president and dean of students, said the plaza will provide opportunities for fun and academic activities. She said administrators will encourage faculty, students and staff to share their ideas and help define the plaza's role. ➤

[CENTENNIAL PLAZA] FUN FACTS

14 types of trees are proposed.

The total area affected is approximately 10.66 acres.

More than 1.25 miles of construction fencing has been installed.

5,000 tons of concrete and rock will be recycled.

3,000 tons of asphalt will be recycled.

500 tons of vegetation will be recycled.

4.5 tons of steel will be recycled.

23,000 cubic yards of excavated rock will be exported for recycling.

4,950 linear feet of chilled water piping will be installed.

5,560 linear feet of hot water piping will be installed.



TRANSFORMATION IS AMONG UTEP'S DEFINING MOMENTS

By Daniel Perez • Photos by J.R. Hernandez



CENTENNIAL PLAZA



SPUR 1966



SUN BOWL DRIVE

Days before chain-link fencing went up around The University of Texas at El Paso's Centennial Plaza construction zone, an official with The University of Texas System Office of Facilities Planning and Construction was on campus to preview what he called one of the most exciting and challenging projects in his 33-year career.

David R. Dixon, executive director of program management, said the plaza will be a defining moment in the life of UTEP because of the influence it and other Campus Transformation projects will have on students, faculty and staff.

He referred to studies that emphasize the impact that campus grounds have on recruiting and retaining top students and

distinguished faculty, and student degree completion. The redevelopment could "absolutely change" the way people view the campus as an academic institution and a workplace as it marches toward its goal of becoming the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic, he said.

"Great universities create great spaces in between the (buildings). This will give UTEP a sense of place that students will remember for the rest of their lives," Dixon said. "It's great to be part of this. I'm looking forward to the whole process."

Recent UTEP graduate Rachel Romero, who earned her bachelor's degree in biology in May, said she supports the campus effort to

go green and be more pedestrian friendly. She spent many hours as an undergraduate sitting in the shade of an Italian pine on the Geology Lawn near what will become Centennial Plaza.

"It's a good step for the campus and for El Paso," said Romero, who experienced construction detours on more than one occasion during her time on campus, but she said the inconvenience was minimal. "I may come back (after the work is done) to walk around."

Here is an update on the Campus Transformation and other projects on and around the UTEP campus.

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION, VISIT ONTHEMOVE.UTEP.EDU



Use your smartphone to scan this code to read more about Campus Transformation.



LHAKHANG

The Bhutanese building's exterior was completed during the spring and inspected by Karma Wangchuk, the Bhutanese landscape architect and urban designer who supervised the original construction of the *lhakhang* during the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C. Bhutanese artisans will visit campus this fall to touch up the beautiful cloth paintings that adorn the interior and bring additional artwork to finish the inside. The hand-carved, hand-painted building is expected to open to the public in fall 2014 after work is completed on Centennial Plaza. The people of Bhutan gave the *lhakhang* to the people of the United States with the request that it be rebuilt at UTEP because of its strong connection to the Himalayan kingdom. It will be used as a cultural center.



WIGGINS PLAZA

The circular plaza – part park, part parkway – includes shade trees, benches and an elliptical labyrinth between the University Library and the Health Sciences and Nursing Building. Major construction of this project was completed in May 2013; but the enhanced landscaping was expected to be finished this fall. Its environmentally friendly bioswells – slivers of earth between paved, multi-textured single lane roads and walkways – allow water to seep back into the ground.

OTHER PROJECTS

OREGON STREET

The city of El Paso expected to complete a raised, elongated, shaded platform at Oregon Street and Cincinnati Avenue near the Glory Road Transfer Center and Parking Garage by mid-August. The station will be a stop along its Mesa Rapid Transit System Corridor that will take people from downtown El Paso to the city's West Side. Patrons can expect near-level boarding similar to entering a subway. The project started in June.

WIDENING OF SUN BOWL DRIVE

TxDOT plans to add one lane in each direction of Sun Bowl Drive from the Don Haskins Center to the Sun Bowl Parking Garage. The \$4.4 million project should go to bid in August, start in October and last 10 months. UTEP will pay 20 percent of the cost. The project will include a two-lane roundabout at the intersection of Glory Road and Sun Bowl, sidewalks, and a 14-foot outer lane that will allow for bicycle traffic.

SPUR 1966

The Texas Department of Transportation expected to reopen in August the portion of Schuster Avenue that it had closed for the summer to work on a critical piece of the project: the elevated, 148-foot diameter roundabout at the southern tip of campus. As vehicles travel above them, pedestrians who park in the Schuster perimeter lots can walk to campus. TxDOT will build a bridge that connects Paisano Drive with Schuster at the roundabout about a quarter mile away. It will span several sets of railroad tracks and Interstate 10. Work began in April 2013 and should be completed in about two years. TxDOT officials have said that the \$31 million project will improve access to the University, the area's medical facilities and the surrounding neighborhoods.

HAWK LIGHTS

The University and the city of El Paso will install High-intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) lights along Schuster Avenue at Prospect Street and Lawton Drive to enhance pedestrian safety. They are expected to be operational in time for the fall semester. 🚦



OPERA BHUTAN

STUDENTS REALIZE A NEW WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

By Lisa Y. Garibay

Months before the world premiere of Opera Bhutan in the Himalayan kingdom, students and faculty were already working on tackling the details of the unprecedented production that will be performed on the other side of the world.

The special relationship between Bhutan and UTEP has a proud history when it comes to student cultivation. The first Bhutanese doctoral candidate received her Ph.D. from UTEP in May, while two dozen students from the United States and Mexico are working hard in preparation for their October trip to Bhutan for the opera.

These gifted students will be among only a few thousand foreigners allowed to visit the kingdom this year due to a strict “low-impact” tourism policy designed to protect the Bhutanese environment. They will get to experience a country that has never been colonized or occupied by any foreign power, the breathtaking natural beauty of its location, languages rarely heard outside the kingdom, and — for most of them — travel overseas on the longest plane ride of their lives.

The young talents also get to perform in the first-ever staging of a live Western-style opera — a Baroque masterpiece by Handel, no less — in Bhutan on an outdoor stage with the audience all around them, amphitheater-style. In front of the royal family in celebration of the king and queen’s second wedding anniversary. No sweat.

To their credit, what students seem to be most concerned about is getting their schoolwork done and staying on track for graduation. Leslie Yapor, a senior expected to graduate in December, is hoping to stick to that plan and isn’t sorry she took on the extra work required for Opera Bhutan.

“I thought I’d better audition because even if I don’t get it, at least I tried,” she said. “I would’ve regretted it forever if I hadn’t.”

Yapor joins 13 other UTEP students and faculty as chorus members, which, she says “is a really important role, actually. A lot of people kind of overlook the role of the chorus, but we do play an important



J.R. Hernandez



J.R. Hernandez

UTEP student chorus members (top) and musicians (bottom) go over *Acis and Galatea* at a May rehearsal for Opera Bhutan.

I NEVER IMAGINED

“I was hoping to learn new music and perform, but I never imagined the magnitude of a performance like Opera Bhutan and where it could take me.”

Leslie Yapor, senior chorus member

part in commenting on what’s going on and helping set the mood and helping create the story along with the soloists and instrumentalists.”

Born in Chihuahua, Mexico, Yapor came to El Paso at age 11 and decided to attend UTEP to hone her passion for music into marketable skills.

“I was hoping to learn new music and perform, but I never imagined the magnitude of a performance like Opera Bhutan and where it could take me,” she said.

Nathan Black, a sophomore cellist originally from the Washington, D.C., area, came to UTEP to study under renowned cellist Zuill Bailey.

“He was my childhood hero, my favorite cellist, and I had all his CDs,” Black said. “I actually got to play for him at the Kennedy Center through my teacher, and he invited me to come to school here. I auditioned all over the country, but he was such a huge influence on me that I said, ‘Let’s bite the bullet!’ I didn’t know anything about the school, but I came and it’s been wonderful!”

Black’s 130-year-old instrument will sit in a plane seat next to him en route to Bhutan. “It’s not a cello or a tool, it’s a part of me now,” he said.

Vice President for Student Affairs Gary Edens, Ed.D, will be among the faculty on the trip to support the students involved.

“It’s very important for us to make sure that students aren’t delayed in their progress toward graduation,” he said. “We want this to be an educational opportunity much more than just a travel opportunity.” Each student on the trip is required to take a full course load during the fall semester, even though they’ll be off campus for three weeks, Edens said. He will work with faculty to tie in some course requirements with the Bhutan experience. Travel to tourist sites and educational opportunities where students can interact with Bhutanese families and professionals are also being planned in order to spark discussions on the religious, cultural, language and philosophical differences between Bhutan and the United States.

Two UTEP voice teachers will conduct group voice lessons and song literature and diction classes to make sure the students stay in good shape and prepare their repertoire for their return to UTEP. Steve Wilson, D.M.A., who teaches music fundamentals to music majors and non-majors, will work with other faculty to make sure that the students have all of their assignments, lectures, and other academic expectations in place before they



UTEP students will have the opportunity to meet and talk with Bhutanese people about cultural differences during their trip.

leave the country. Homework time will be scheduled every day so students don’t have to worry about fitting that in with everything else. Wilson will administer quizzes, check homework, and help with theory and tutoring.

“We’re doing our best to frontload that so that there is no stress and the students will know what to expect,” Wilson said.

Music education graduate student Raul Chavira — who works full-time as the band director at Indian Ridge Middle School — will play his flute in the Opera Bhutan orchestra. He learned the instrument with no formal training until he got to UTEP. As a teacher, he knows how important academics can be, but also how much real-world experience matters, especially in his profession.

“I’m going to be able to say, ‘I performed here in my hometown, I performed overseas, and I got to collaborate with international artists and directors,’” he said. “I think it’s a milestone that’s going to make me stronger, and I’ll hopefully pass that knowledge on to my students as they aspire to be performers as well.”

Elisa Wilson, D.M.A., associate professor of voice and music theatre — who is traveling to Bhutan as chorusmaster — has been taking advantage of every moment to help students prepare before the trip. By the end of the spring semester, she was already in rehearsals with vocalists and instrumentalists and said singers would be working hard throughout the summer to learn their lines in preparation for the most intense rehearsal period in August.

Cellist Nathan Black explained, “We’re playing this music in the style of the 1700s, the way they used to play, not how it’s heard today, and it takes months and months of training and hundreds of hours, especially doing Baroque opera. So there is probably about a year of preparation going into this.”

Yapor is looking forward to the opportunity to expand her talents as a performer and believes the experience of world travel will help to expand her ambition and sharpen her goals. Even though her focus has not been on classic music as a commercial



J.R. Hernandez

Elisa Wilson, D.M.A., right, chorusmaster for Opera Bhutan, conducts students during a rehearsal.

music major, she knows that this kind of exposure can't help but make her a better professional. She has already branched out as a member of UTEP's Arabic ensemble Layali-Al Sham.

"In my view, learning all kinds of music is beneficial for whatever type of music you choose to specialize in," she said. "By participating in this project and working with Dr. Wilson and the rest of the crew, I will be learning some good things that I will be able to manipulate and use toward my goal."



J.R. Hernandez

Elisa Wilson is emphatic that this opportunity is ultimately about giving UTEP students the best possible education. She stressed that the working relationship between professionals and students is unheard of for a production this big.

Black echoed her statement.

"For any place or a music student at any school, this would be a huge opportunity," he said. "You could take professionals on a trip like this, but why not take students so they can learn?"

In thinking about future plans, Black is considering Julliard's historical performance program, which is exactly what he's doing with Opera Bhutan, and thus the experience may just pave the way for his graduate studies. Whatever his or any of the other students' futures may hold, they will be forever changed by this once-in-a-lifetime event.

"This is not just a UTEP thing; this is a world first," Black said. "Everyone at this University should be so proud. We're representing everyone, not just ourselves, and we're really, really happy doing it." 📌

Elisa Wilson will also perform in Bhutan as a member of the chorus.



A WORLD FIRST

“This is not just a UTEP thing; this is a world first. Everyone at this University should be so proud. We’re representing everyone, not just ourselves, and we’re really, really happy doing it.”

Nathan Black, sophomore cellist

The bridge at Punakha dzong in Bhutan resembles UTEP’s pedestrian bridge over Sun Bowl Drive.



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

40 YEARS OF M.B.A. INNOVATION

By Laura M. Uribarri • Assistant Dean for M.B.A. Programs • Photos courtesy of COBA



Members of the first Executive M.B.A. cohort, shown here, began the program in January 2010 and completed it in July 2011.

Established in 1973, the UTEP Master of Business Administration program celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2013. What began as a small program has grown to embrace a variety of formats tailored to meet the needs of full-time students and working professionals in the Paso del Norte region. Today, the UTEP M.B.A. program is internationally ranked and recognized for innovation and the success of its graduates.

EARLY YEARS

When it was established in 1967, the College of Business Administration (COBA) awarded only a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. COBA received approval to create the M.B.A. degree on April 13, 1973, and launched the program in fall 1973 with five evening courses. John Marvin Richards, Ph.D., who was COBA dean at the time, explained in an *El Paso Herald Post* article that M.B.A. courses would be offered in the evenings to make it possible for both part-time and full-time students to make progress toward completion of the M.B.A. degree. One hundred students enrolled that first semester, and in 1974 the first four M.B.A. degrees were conferred. Two years later, the annual total had risen to 25, including the first three women recipients. From 1973 to 1982,

courses were taught in the Liberal Arts Building.

In 1983, COBA moved into a new 80,000-square-foot building – its current home off Rim Road. Over the next five years, COBA revised curricula, established new admission and retention standards, and hired 33 new faculty and professional staff – all of which contributed to accreditation in May 1989 from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business for all undergraduate and graduate programs.

FROM ACCREDITATION TO INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

The UTEP M.B.A. entered the new millennium with nontraditional methods of delivery for coursework. Beginning in the late 1990s, under the leadership of then-dean Frank Hoy, Ph.D., the UTEP M.B.A. expanded into online and off-campus environments.

In 1998 The University of Texas System's telecampus created a consortium of eight UT colleges of business to jointly offer an online M.B.A. The UTEP M.B.A. managed 20 to 30 online students at a time during its involvement between 1999 and 2005.

The UTEP M.B.A. also began a partnership with The Boeing Company to offer a pilot Accelerated M.B.A. (AMBA) at Boeing's El Paso manufacturing

MBA TIMELINE

1967

College of Business
Administration
established

April 1973

M.B.A. approved

Fall 1973

M.B.A. program
launched - graduate
enrollment boosted by
100 new M.B.A.s

Fall 1974

First M.B.A.s awarded

1989

COBA granted
AACSB accreditation

1999

UTEP offers "Online
MBA" through UT
Telecampus Consortium

1999/2000

COBA offers
"pilot" Accelerated MBA
at Boeing



College of Business Administration Dean Robert Nachtmann, D.B.A., second from left, and Laura Uribarri, assistant dean for M.B.A. programs, center, accept the Vision of Excellence Award from the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in 2012.

facility. The AMBA was structured as a cohort-style format that consisted of six-week courses offered in lock step. Starting in 1999, the UTEP AMBA offered two tracks on site for Boeing employees – one for students with B.B.A.s and another for students from other academic fields. The venture proved so successful that COBA partnered with JP Morgan Chase Bank to offer a new AMBA in the bank's downtown conference room.

In 2005, when Dean Robert Nachtmann, D.B.A., assumed leadership of COBA, he quickly moved to update the M.B.A. curriculum and hire staff to grow the program. UTEP "re-launched" the AMBA program in fall 2007 with two large cohorts hosted in part by the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce and Wells Fargo Bank. In fall 2008, another large AMBA cohort launched through a hosting partnership with GECU.

Nachtmann responded to the increasing demand for M.B.A. options by proposing new executive and full-time M.B.A. formats. In spring 2010, COBA celebrated the grand opening of the Graduate Business Center, a 12,000-square-foot facility in the Chase Building downtown that featured three classrooms, student collaboration areas and administrative offices. In January 2010, the EMBA began in an 18-month cohort format designed to serve business and nonprofit leaders with at least 8 years of managerial experience. The full-time M.B.A. launched in fall 2010 as a 22-month daytime format to serve full-time students interested in participating in co-curricular activities including language workshops in business-related Chinese and Spanish, as well as corporate engagement projects. The UTEP M.B.A. exceeded growth projections for the Graduate Business Center within the first full year of operations. By spring 2011, the center was home to four AMBA cohorts, two EMBA cohorts and a full-time M.B.A. cohort.

In 2008, the UTEP M.B.A. received its first

national ranking, placing sixth in *Hispanic Business* magazine's "Best Business Schools" top 10 list. In 2009, the program moved into second place. In 2010, 2011 and 2012, the program received the No. 1 ranking.

During the 2012-13 academic year, the UTEP M.B.A. also received the following accolades:

- No. 10 ranking in "Best of the Best MBA Schools" by *Professional Woman's Magazine* and *Hispanic Journal*
- No. 28 ranking among the world's top 35 "Rising Star" business schools identified by FindyourMBA.com
- Named the "Example of *Excelencia*" for graduate programs by *Excelencia* in Education, a Washington, D.C., nonprofit organization dedicated to identifying best practices in Latino educational attainment
- Awarded the "Vision of Excellence" recognition by the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Selected by The Public Relations Society of America to participate in a groundbreaking pilot program focused on strategic communication and reputation management education provided to M.B.A. students

On its 40th anniversary, the UTEP M.B.A. is providing a dynamic graduate business education to almost 300 students from all over the world. By offering flexible schedules and class formats in a state-of-the-art downtown facility, the UTEP M.B.A. continues to meet the needs of full-time students and working professionals from industries ranging from health care, engineering and education to cross-border business.

The UTEP M.B.A. program will commemorate its 40th anniversary with a reunion celebration on Sept. 27 in the Undergraduate Learning Center on the UTEP campus. All UTEP M.B.A. alumni and friends are invited to attend. For more information, go to mba.utep.edu. 📄

MBA TIMELINE

Spring 2003

COBA offers first Accelerated MBA Downtown

Fall 2008

UTEP M.B.A. ranked 6th by *Hispanic Business* magazine - first national program ranking. It would be ranked No. 1 in 2010-2012

March 2009

First M.B.A. international research course

Fall 2009

MBA moves to Graduate Business Center; grand opening in January 2010

January 2010

EMBA launched

Fall 2010

Full-time M.B.A. launched

2012

M.B.A. program ranked highly both nationally and internationally



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

UTEP

100 YEARS



Check out this new UTEP gear available at the University Bookstore in the fall. Stock up on Miner clothing and accessories for Homecoming week, and stay tuned for more items commemorating UTEP's Centennial year, the countdown for which begins Sept. 23, 2013! Alumni Association members receive a 20 percent discount at the bookstore, and faculty and staff can take advantage of a 15 percent discount. ☑



HOMECOMING TEE



SHIRTS



CAPS



CHILDREN'S GEAR



MUGS

To see a larger selection of available gear, visit utep.bkstr.com
 Location: 2201 Sun Bowl Drive (at University Ave. and Sun Bowl Dr.)
 Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday - Thursday
 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday



Use your smartphone to scan this code to order your Miner gear directly from the bookstore.

SHARE YOUR [CENTENNIAL LOVE STORIES]



Romeo and Juliet is one of history's great love stories. Of course the UTEP version of forbidden romance might be an engineering student wooing a liberal arts major ... or an Aggie. The collectors of Centennial stories want to know your stories of love that involve our University students, faculty, staff and campus. Your story doesn't have to be dramatic, but it's best if it comes from the heart. Let us know how the Miner mojo became part of your family lore. Send your story electronically to centennialstories@utep.edu and it will become part of the Centennial Celebration Oral History in the University Library's Special Collections. Some may wind up in the future pages of this magazine. Wouldn't you love that? 📧

CALLING ALL PETES



Are you a former Paydirt Pete mascot? *UTEP Magazine* wants to hear about your experiences for a future story! Do you know someone who played Pete? Help us get in touch with that person. Please contact UTEP's University Communications office at univcomm@utep.edu or 915-747-7526. 📧



File Photo

[The museum's] coincidental name evoked the excitement of UTEP's grand Centennial Celebration.

WELCOME HOME

By Maribel Villalva
Director, Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens

When members of UTEP's 2014 Commission began planning for the University's milestone 100th anniversary in 2014, one thing was clear: They wanted to include the entire El Paso community in the celebration. What better way to invite the community than to establish a Welcome Center on campus as celebration headquarters?

It didn't take long to find the perfect spot for the Welcome Center. Beautifully situated on a hilltop overlooking the center of campus is the historic Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens. Granted, the museum is named for a different Centennial (the Texas Centennial of 1936), but its coincidental name evoked the excitement of UTEP's grand Centennial Celebration.

The museum's main floor – traditionally used for traveling exhibits – is being transformed for the Welcome Center. It is scheduled to open its doors on Sept. 23, 2013 – the 99th anniversary of the University's first day of classes. Coincidentally, that date also falls 100 days before Jan. 1, 2014 – the perfect opportunity to begin a countdown to UTEP's Centennial year. A great celebration is planned for the opening of the Welcome Center, which will include the launch of a special clock that will count

down the days to 2014.

The Centennial Welcome Center will offer activities for visitors, as well as for members of the UTEP community. A large gallery will showcase a yearlong exhibit chronicling UTEP's rich history. A smaller gallery will display rotating exhibits throughout the year that highlight specific aspects of UTEP, such as a student exhibit that examines technology across the decades; UTEP Athletics; UTEP in the News; UTEP and the Chicano Movement; UTEP and the Kingdom of Bhutan; and a Centennial Photo Contest to close out the milestone year.

Every month, the Welcome Center will offer a different themed walking tour of campus, again, to showcase different aspects of UTEP's past and present. The themes range from athletics to architecture, as well as arts and culture. A special Haunted Tour is planned for fall 2014 to explore some of the ghost stories that have persisted through the years.

The museum's gift shop will be the central location on campus to purchase Centennial keepsakes – everything from collectible scarves and ties to a special line of dips and salsas created just for this once-in-a-lifetime occasion. ☒

OTHER WELCOME CENTER ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:

- Daily screenings of short documentaries about UTEP and Centennial Stories
- A Children's Activity Center
- Brochures and information about events happening around campus
- Special lectures to be scheduled throughout the Centennial year

Parking for visitors will be available at the Sun Bowl Parking Garage on the corner of Sun Bowl Drive and University Avenue. The Welcome Center is located on the corner of University Avenue and Wiggins Road, just a short walk from the parking garage.

NOTE:

Throughout the 2014 Centennial Celebration, the Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens will continue to showcase its Permanent Exhibit, located on the museum's third floor, which chronicles the history of the Chihuahuan Desert. The Desert Gardens will also remain open to the public. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Information: 915-747-5565

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

HOMECOMING

EVENTS GUIDE

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS, TAILGATING & GAME DAY

UTEP VS. LOUISIANA TECH | OCTOBER 5

FOR FULL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE, SEE PAGE 57

TRANSFORMATION PROJECT ADDS TWIST TO HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES

By Daniel Perez

Construction of UTEP's Centennial Plaza in the heart of campus necessitated logistical changes to the University's standard Homecoming plans, but it also is expected to spark additional interest in the hallowed tradition, organizers said.

As a result of the project, the Homecoming parade will take a new route and the pep rally will be at a new location. Both will be on a different day – Saturday – starting a few hours before the big game Oct. 5.

But the changes should increase awareness among the Miner Nation, and take participation to a higher level, said Richard Daniel, Ph.D., associate vice president for university advancement and special projects.

"It's important for our alumni to return to campus and celebrate the great advancement and growth of the University," said Daniel, who added that

the festivities will include a "tease" about Homecoming 2014, which will include events at UTEP's new Centennial Plaza honoring the University's 100th birthday.

This year's activities will start with the Homecoming Pageant Sept. 29, followed by student organization competitions and receptions by colleges, departments and alumni groups. Among the highlights is the annual Distinguished Alumni Dinner at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, in the Don Haskins Center.

The parade, including the Marching Miner Regiment and student floats, will start at 11 a.m. at University Towers and proceed along Oregon Street. It will turn down Glory Road toward campus and continue until Glory Field at Sun Bowl Drive, the site of the pep rally. There the four Distinguished Alumni, 18 Gold Nugget Award recipients and other VIPs will disembark and head to the pep rally.

Organizers plan to offer refreshments and open game booths so families can spend the day on campus in preparation for the 5:30 p.m. football game.

Transportation will be available for those who need assistance to visit campus and see how the \$25 million Campus Transformation plan is progressing.

The Homecoming changes will set the stage for the 2014 celebration, said Paulina Lopez, 2013-14 president of UTEP's Student Government Association.

"I'm excited about the changes," the junior corporate communication major said. "It'll be fun."

The day will involve careful orchestration of staff and resources, said Jorge Vazquez, UTEP's executive director of special events.

"Homecoming is our opportunity to showcase the University, so we have to be on top of our game," he said. 📌

"Homecoming is our opportunity to showcase the University, so we have to be on top of our game."

Jorge Vazquez, executive director of special events



PLANNING ON HEADING OUT TO THE EVENTS? HERE IS YOUR

SATURDAY ITINERARY

HOMECOMING PARADE

Begins at 11 a.m.

PEP RALLY

Noon at
Glory Field

TAILGATING
AT MINER ALLEY
(LABELED YELLOW ON
PARADE MAP)

2 p.m.

ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
TAILGATING
(GLORY FIELD)

2:30 - 5 p.m.

HOMECOMING GAME

Kickoff 5:30 p.m.

UTEPALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

2013 TAILGATE PARTIES

TOUCHDOWN
SPONSOR



Liberty
Mutual™

SEPT07

VS NEW MEXICO

3pm TAILGATE
6pm KICKOFF

SEPT21

VS UTSA

3pm TAILGATE
6pm KICKOFF

OCT05

HOMECOMING

VS LA TECH

2:30pm TAILGATE
5:30pm KICKOFF

OCT12

VS TULSA

tba TAILGATE
tba KICKOFF

NOV16

VS FIU

3pm TAILGATE
6pm KICKOFF

LEAVE THE GRILLS AT HOME AND BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TAILGATES! ENJOY GREAT FOOD AND A FUN ATMOSPHERE - FOOD, MUSIC, AND PRIZES!

Purchase your Pre-Game Tailgate Party tickets at alumni.utep.edu/tailgate or by calling 915-747-8600.

2013

SEPT. 29 - OCT. 5, 2013

HOMECOMING CALENDAR

FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION, VISIT
ALUMNI.UTEP.EDU/HOMECOMING

PICKS
UP,
MINER
NATION!



4TH ANNUAL COMMITMENT TO FITNESS RUN/WALK

Sunday, Sept. 29 • 8 a.m. - noon
Location: UTEP campus roads
Hosted by Kinesiology/College of Health Sciences
chs.utep.edu/runwalk

SGA HOMECOMING 2013 PAGEANT

Sunday, Sept. 29 • 7 - 9 p.m.
Location: Magoffin Auditorium
Hosted by Student Government Association

HANG YOUR PICK ON THE LINE

Monday, Sept. 30 - Saturday, Oct. 5
Location: Health Sciences and Nursing Building
Hosted by School of Nursing

COFFEE AND DOUGHNUT BREAK FOR UTEP STAFF

Tuesday, Oct. 1 • 8 - 10 a.m.
Location: Union Building East and the Physical Plant
Hosted by Staff Council

VISIT UTEP'S CENTENNIAL WELCOME CENTER

Tuesday, Oct. 1 - Saturday, Oct. 5
10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Location: Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens
Hosted by Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES GOLD NUGGET RECEPTION

Wednesday, Oct. 2 • 4 - 5:30 p.m.
Location: Health Sciences and Nursing Building, Curlin Plaza
Hosted by College of Health Sciences
Invitation only

MINER MORNING MANIA

Wednesday, Oct. 2 • 5 a.m.
Location: Lot P-9 by Sun Bowl Stadium
Hosted by University Communications

OPEN HOUSE: THE HISTORY OF UTEP

Wed., Oct. 2 - Fri., Oct. 4 • 10 a.m. - noon
Location: UTEP Heritage House
Heritage Commission

SCHOOL OF NURSING GOLD NUGGET BREAKFAST

Thursday, Oct. 3 • 9 a.m.
Location: Health Sciences and Nursing Building, terrace
Hosted by School of Nursing

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH HOMECOMING RECEPTION

Thursday, Oct. 3 • 3 - 4:30 p.m.
Location: Hudspeth Hall Foyer
Hosted by Department of English

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE GOLD NUGGET PRESENTATION

Thursday, Oct. 3 • 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Location: Chemistry and Computer Science Building
lobby, ground floor
Hosted by College of Science

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS GOLD NUGGET RECEPTION

Thursday, Oct. 3 • 4 - 6 p.m.
Location: Tomás Rivera Conference Center, Union Building East, Rm. 300
Hosted by College of Liberal Arts - Dean's Office
RSVP to 915-747-7013

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION GOLD NUGGET CEREMONY

Thursday, Oct. 3 • 4:30 - 6 p.m.
Location: Hilton Garden Inn
Del Norte Ballroom
Hosted by College of Business Administration

UTEP BLACK ALUMNI NETWORK (UBAN) BBQ

Thursday, Oct. 3 • 6 - 8 p.m.
Location: Alumni Lodge
Hosted by UTEP Black Alumni Network

COBA MILITARY APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Friday, Oct. 4 • 7:30 a.m.
Location: El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center
Hosted by College of Business Administration

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION GOLD NUGGET BREAKFAST

Friday, Oct. 4 • 8:30 a.m.
Location: Union Building East, Templeton Suite, Rm. 303
Hosted by College of Education

HOMECOMING OPEN HOUSE

Friday, Oct. 4 • 9 a.m. - noon
Location: College of Liberal Arts - Rm. 109
Hosted by Languages and Linguistics

SGA PAST PRESIDENT LUNCHEON

Friday, Oct. 4 • 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Location: Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center
Hosted by Alumni Association / Office of Alumni Relations
RSVP by Friday, Sept. 27 to Judy at 915-747-6361

ENGINEERING ALUMNI LUNCH

Friday, Oct. 4 • Noon
Location: Courtyard between Chemistry and Computer Science Building & College of Engineering
Hosted by College of Engineering
Register at engineering.utep.edu

UBAN MEET AND GREET

Friday, Oct. 4 • 4 - 6 p.m.
Location: Hilton Garden Inn
Hosted by UTEP Black Alumni Network

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS DINNER

Friday, Oct. 4 • 6 p.m.
Location: Don Haskins Center
To purchase tickets, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 915-747-8600

UBAN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, Oct. 4 • 7 - 10 p.m.
Location: Magoffin Auditorium
Hosted by UTEP Black Alumni Network
To purchase tickets, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 915-747-8600

AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES RECEPTION

Saturday, Oct. 5 • 9:30 a.m.
Location: Liberal Arts Building, Rm. 401
Hosted by UTEP Black Alumni Network

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING ALUMNI AND GOLD NUGGET BREAKFAST

Saturday, Oct. 5 • 8 a.m.
Location: Tomás Rivera Conference Center
Union Building East, Rm. 300
Hosted by College of Engineering
*\$20 per person.
Register at engineering.utep.edu*

POLITICAL SCIENCE HOMECOMING RECEPTION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Saturday, Oct. 5 • 9 - 11 a.m.
Location: Benedict Hall Front Lawn
Hosted by Department of Political Science
RSVP to Department of Political Science at 915-747-5227

ANNUAL HOMECOMING BRUNCH

Saturday, Oct. 5 • 10 a.m. - noon
Location: Communication Lawn
Hosted by Department of Communication

HOMECOMING PARADE & PEP RALLY

Saturday, Oct. 5 • 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Location: Parade starts at University & Oregon and will proceed up Oregon to Glory Road. Pep rally after parade on Glory Field.
Hosted by Student Development Center

UTEP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TAILGATE PARTY

Saturday, Oct. 5 • 2:30 - 5 p.m.
Location: Glory Field
Hosted by Office of Alumni Relations
Cost \$15 members, \$18 non-members

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME UTEP VS. LOUISIANA TECH

Saturday, Oct. 5 • Kickoff 5:30 p.m.
Location: Sun Bowl Stadium
Hosted by UTEP Athletics
Ticket price varies

CLASS OF
1963

OCTOBER 3 - OCTOBER 5, 2013

GOLDEN GRADS CALENDAR



ONCE A GOLDEN GRAD,
ALWAYS A GOLDEN GRAD

Our motto, "Once a Golden Grad, always a Golden Grad," encourages all alumni from the class of 1963 and earlier to join us for the celebrations especially designed with our TCM and TWC graduates in mind. A weekend full of social, educational and entertainment activities has been planned for you, featuring a bus tour of campus and a luncheon with UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

Visit alumni.utep.edu/goldengrads
or call
915-747-8600
to register.

COFFEE AND CHECK-IN

Thursday, Oct. 3
10 a.m.
Location: Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center
Coffee and a light breakfast

CAMPUS TOUR

Thursday, Oct. 3
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Location: Meet at the Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center

WELCOME LUNCH

Thursday, Oct. 3
1 p.m.
Location: Geology Reading Room
Welcome Class of 1963 to Campus

DINNER AND DANCE AT THE LARRY K. DURHAM CENTER

Thursday, Oct. 3
7 p.m.
Location: Larry K. Durham Center

OPEN HOUSE AT THE ALUMNI LODGE AND VISIT BOOKSTORE

Friday, Oct. 4
8:30 a.m.
Location: Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center

HERITAGE HOUSE TOUR

Friday, Oct. 4
10 - 11 a.m.
Location: Heritage House

GOLDEN GRADS LUNCH WITH PRESIDENT NATALICIO

Friday, Oct. 4
11:30 a.m. check-in / noon lunch
Location: El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center

STUDENT COMPETITION

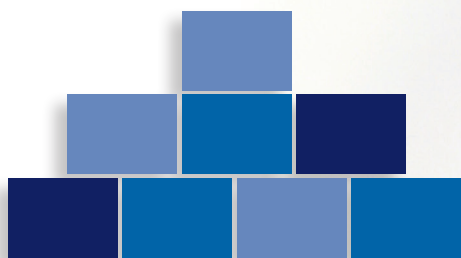
Friday, Oct. 4
3 p.m.
Location: TBA
Students vs. Alumni

HOMECOMING PARADE AND PEP RALLY

Saturday, Oct. 5
11 a.m.
Location: Meet at Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center at 9 a.m.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TAILGATE

Saturday, Oct. 5
Tailgate 2:30 p.m. / Game 5:30 p.m.
Location: Glory Field/ Practice Field
Cost \$15 members, \$18 non-members

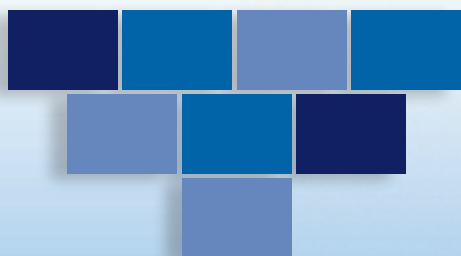


THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Stories by Jenn Crawford

Every year, The University of Texas at El Paso honors men and women who stand out for their achievements, dedication, integrity and hard work. They are the Distinguished Alumni.

This year, the University has selected four outstanding Miners as the 2013 Distinguished Alumni. Please join us in honoring them for their achievements and example.



SALLY A. HURT DEITCH



In less than 18 years, Sally Hurt Deitch worked her way up from a 22-year-old staff nurse in an endoscopy department to CEO of one of El Paso's newest hospitals.

Her interest in health care goes back to her elementary school days, when she almost lost her mother to an autoimmune disease.

Deitch's mother, Toni Canales Hurt, has idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, a disease that causes low platelet levels and affects the blood's ability to clot. Deitch was in fifth grade when the family took Hurt out of the hospital for lunch on Mother's Day. Hurt had no hair because of chemotherapy treatments, she used a walker, and her face was large and round – a side effect of her medications.

"I remember people staring at her," Deitch recalled. "I remember being angry and thinking, 'Stop looking at her,' and at the same time being fiercely proud and fiercely defiant in wanting to defend her."

Because of that experience, Deitch knew she wanted to go into a health care field after graduating from Burges High School, but it wasn't until her freshman year at UTEP that she narrowed down her interests even more. She became fascinated with what her older brother was doing in the UTEP nursing program and decided to follow in his footsteps.

"The hardest thing I had ever done was nursing school," she said. Her class started with about 70 students, and by the time she graduated, the group had shrunk by about half. From making beds with "hospital corners" and moving patients from a stretcher to giving bed baths and folding washcloths, her education went beyond medical knowledge.

"They (our professors) took us to a whole other level and not only turned us into nurses, but really taught us what a professional was and what it meant to embrace the profession ... and know that what you do every day impacts somebody's life," she said. "I can never say thank you enough nor explain to them what they instilled in me."

Deitch earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1990 and a Master of Science

in Nursing in 1994. Her first job was at Sun Towers in 1990, later called Columbia Medical Center and now Las Palmas Medical Center, as a staff nurse in endoscopy and the operating room. As a young, single, energetic nurse in her early 20s, Deitch had the drive to learn as much as she could.

"By the end of my first year, I had rewritten [my boss's] policies and procedures, I was doing her payroll, I was doing the scheduling, I'd done the operational budget, the capital budget; I was doing all these things and, honestly, it was because I didn't know any better," Deitch said.

When her boss announced her retirement, the doctors advocated for Deitch to fill in as the director of endoscopy services and the operating room, Deitch recalled. The CEO at the time was skeptical since she was only 23, but he gave her six months to prove herself, she said.

She did, and she continued to move up the ladder. By 1996, she was chief nursing officer. She moved to Del Sol Medical Center and became chief operating officer before taking a position as chief executive officer at Edmond Medical Center in Edmond, Okla.

Before her 40th birthday, she was recruited back to El Paso to preside over the \$150 million project that became Sierra Providence East Medical Center, a 110-bed hospital in far East El Paso. It opened in May 2008 with Deitch as CEO.

"I can remember when [Deitch] was working from a trailer before the hospital opened and how easily she spoke of the challenges of opening a medical center," recalled Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D., dean of UTEP's College of Health Sciences and a founding member of the Sierra Providence East Medical Center Governing Board. "She has shown a great ability to pull together a strong team, provide stable leadership, take advantage of the opportunities that have emerged and steadily move toward some very specific goals."



"... TO PURSUE MY PASSION, TO GROW A HOSPITAL, TO CARE FOR PATIENTS ... AND TO GIVE BACK TO THAT COMMUNITY ARE MY GOALS."

Sally A. Hurt Deitch

UTEP honored Deitch with a Gold Nugget Award for the School of Nursing in 2003.

"Sally's energy, enthusiasm and commitment to health care has provided the platform for her success as a chief executive officer," said UTEP School of Nursing Dean Elias Provencio-Vasquez, Ph.D. "She continues to make a difference in El Paso and health care in our region."

When she's not actively running the hospital, Deitch's husband, Greg, and their five boys are the focus of her existence, she said.

With a full-time job and a full-time family, Deitch doesn't have much time to reflect on her success. But when she does, she measures it by the accomplishments of those she has mentored along the way.

"I look at the people that have worked for me and I've worked with, and the places they've gone and the things that they've done, and they far exceed my expectations," she said.

What's next on her agenda?

"Another day granted to pursue my passion, to grow a hospital, to care for patients, to see my staff become stronger and stronger leaders, to provide service to the community, and to give back to that community are my goals," she said. "One day, things may change and another opportunity will present itself, but until that day, I will stay and do what I do."

KATHY PATRICK



She has been involved in some of the biggest cases of the last three decades and called “the woman Wall Street fears most” by *Forbes* magazine, but for Kathy Patrick, a pro bono case she worked on as a young lawyer stands out as a highlight of her impressive career.

Patrick, a partner at the Houston-based litigation boutique Gibbs & Bruns LLP, represented Calvin Burdine in Harris County, Texas, beginning in 1986, not long after she finished law school and completed a one-year law clerkship with Judge John R. Brown of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Burdine had been sentenced to death for murder. His case was made famous because his lawyer slept through a significant portion of his 1984 trial. Through the efforts of Patrick and others, he was able to plead guilty in 2003 in exchange for three life sentences.

“I remember thinking how horrifying it must be to meet a 26-year-old woman and realize she was the only thing standing between you and dying,” Patrick said, recalling her first encounter with Burdine at the Harris County Jail. “I’m very proud that I stood up for Calvin and that others stood up with me over time, and he was not executed.”

Patrick has a deep respect for life. She knows from firsthand experience how quickly it can be taken away. When she was 14, her house in Canutillo caught fire in the middle of the night. Her mother and father got Patrick and her sister out of the house, but her father went back in to try and fight the fire. He was overcome by a wall of heat and smoke and died.

That experience helped shape her next steps.

Born in Rapid City, S.D., Patrick moved to the El Paso area in 1966 when her military father was transferred to what was then Biggs Air Force Base. She applied to several universities as she finished her senior year at Canutillo High School, but chose UTEP because she wasn’t ready to leave home only four years after her father’s death. The fact that UTEP offered her a full scholarship also helped make a college education possible for her.

Enrolling at UTEP was like opening her eyes to the world around her.

“My memory is of windows and doors opening,” Patrick said. “I remember every day thinking that there was so much more to the world than I had ever known. I went to a small rural high school without a lot of resources,

and when I got to UTEP, the amount of energy and insight and challenge was just staggering.”

She started out as a psychology major but switched to history with a concentration in Soviet and Eastern European studies when she learned that psychology majors were required to take statistics. Her program placed a strong emphasis on critical thinking and writing, two skills essential for lawyers that Patrick “improved upon tremendously” while at UTEP, she said.

After graduating with a B.A., with highest honors, in 1982, she attended Harvard Law School and earned her J.D. in 1985. She began working for Gibbs & Bruns in 1986 after her law clerkship.

Patrick works on high-dollar, high-stakes commercial litigation, including a number of currently-pending mortgage-backed securities cases that will take several years to resolve. So far, she and her firm have negotiated settlements with Residential Capital, or ResCap, a large mortgage originator that went bankrupt, and one with Bank of America for \$8.5 billion – the second biggest legal settlement in American history. Patrick also represented Enron’s outside directors after the company collapsed, and secured a \$1.7 billion settlement for chemical company Huntsman Corp. in a dispute with two large banks.

When she’s not working, Patrick sings in the praise band at Faith Lutheran Church in Houston, teaches an adult Bible study class, and spends time with her husband, Arthur Murphy, and their two teenage sons.

Paul Yetter, a 1980 UTEP graduate and 2008 Distinguished Alumnus, said Patrick started making her mark even as a college student. The two were involved in student government in



“IT BROUGHT HOME TO ME BOTH WHAT UTEP MEANT TO MY SUCCESS AND HOW FAR I’VE COME BECAUSE OF HOW UTEP EQUIPPED ME.”

Kathy Patrick

the late 1970s and early 1980s. Now, they both practice law in Houston.

“Kathy was passionate about bringing positive changes to the campus,” Yetter recalled. “As just a freshman, she had a big role in what turned out to be a great year. At the same time, she was making straight A’s and winning a slew of beauty pageant titles. She was a dynamo.”

Her success is a result of her determination and high standards, Yetter added.

“She excels because she is better prepared and fearless,” he said. “She is not afraid to tackle huge issues, knowing that with hard work she can find the right approach ... Her clients know they have a relentless advocate on their side.”

Despite her tough demeanor, Patrick has a soft spot for her alma mater. When she learned that she had been selected as a UTEP Distinguished Alumna, she was overcome with emotion.

“It was so profound to have people who knew me when I was just a teenager come and say, many years later, ‘You’ve accomplished something we’re proud of,’” she said. “It brought home to me both what UTEP meant to my success and how far I’ve come because of how UTEP equipped me.”

GARY WAGNER



His degree in engineering has served Gary Wagner well, even though fairly early in his career he began to redirect his focus to business and management.

“Beyond enabling me to get a real job, my UTEP education was an achievement that proved that I could complete a difficult course of study and compete in a competitive marketplace,” he said.

Wagner, the former president and chief operating officer of Los Angeles-based Ameron International Corp., retired in 2011 after almost 27 years with the company.

Wagner’s military family settled in El Paso when he was in sixth grade. He graduated from Jesuit High School in 1969 and enrolled at UTEP so he could become an engineer like his uncle.

“My uncle was the only relative that had gone to college,” Wagner said. “He was held up as somebody that had been able to achieve more because of his education.”

Wagner had friends who dropped out of UTEP’s engineering program because it was too difficult, but he was determined to challenge himself and finish. He graduated in 1973 with a B.S. in electrical engineering.

Hughes Aircraft Co. in Los Angeles recruited Wagner out of UTEP, and he took a position as a field engineer. During his seven years with the company, he had an assignment in Germany, where the company was rolling out a helicopter missile system. While there, he took classes through an extension program offered by Boston University.

“I was an aggressive, ambitious guy at the time, and I thought that if I wanted to get ahead, I was going to have to keep working and getting more education,” he said. He earned an M.S. in business administration in 1977 from Boston University. When he returned from Germany, he took another overseas assignment in the Middle East. Upon his return to California, he left Hughes and enrolled full time in the University of California, Los Angeles Master of Business Administration program, which he completed in 1982.

He partially attributes his engineering background to helping him secure his next job lending money as an investment analyst for PruCapital, a subsidiary of Prudential Insurance Co.

“There was a bias in favor of people who had engineering backgrounds,” he said. “The assumption was that somebody with an engineering background has a fairly logical

way of looking at things, can get into the details and be very rigorous. All those things are necessary to be a successful investment manager.”

However, with interest rates at more than 14 percent in the early 1980s, people were not interested in borrowing money. Three years later, Wagner jumped at the opportunity to become an assistant treasurer at Ameron, a publicly-traded company that manufactured concrete, steel and fiberglass piping and protective coatings at plants around the world. Instead of lending money, he would be borrowing it.

He worked his way up the management ladder at Ameron, from vice president and treasurer to chief financial officer and then president and chief operating officer. As the No. 2 person in the company, he oversaw its day-to-day operations.

His international background served him well during his tenure at Ameron, where he managed the company’s worldwide businesses and was the primary contact for its foreign affiliated companies.

Wagner retired in October 2011 following the acquisition of Ameron by National Oilwell Varco. He and his wife, Karen, continue to live in Manhattan Beach, Calif. One of his close neighbors, and a friend of about 45 years, is fellow UTEP alum John Lapham, a 2013 Gold Nugget Award recipient for the College of Business Administration.

“[Wagner] is determined and has a kind of dogged persistence,” Lapham said about his friend. “He’s very hard-working, and I think that’s really been the reason he’s been so successful. You combine innate intelligence



“BEYOND ENABLING ME TO GET A REAL JOB, MY UTEP EDUCATION WAS AN ACHIEVEMENT THAT PROVED THAT I COULD COMPLETE A DIFFICULT COURSE OF STUDY AND COMPETE IN A COMPETITIVE MARKETPLACE.”

Gary Wagner

with a really good work ethic and an adaptable personality that people generally like, and that’s a pretty good combination for success.”

Lapham and Wagner both worked for PruCapital, earned M.B.A.s from UCLA, and became very successful businessmen – and both were the first in their families to earn college degrees. For Wagner, his UTEP engineering degree was an important foundation for his success.

“Typically to be a good engineer, you have to have certain skills – you have to be able to work hard, you have to be able to think logically, you have to have an interest in solving problems. Those things will help you succeed in whatever you do,” he said.

While engineering was the path for him, he advised his two sons, now in their 20s, that choosing a technical specialty in college – like engineering – is not the only way to go.

“The one piece of advice I did give them is that they not specialize too early in their lives, and that they try a number of things,” he said. “Go to college and get more of a general background that would serve them well in whatever they wanted to do.”

ROBERT V. WINGO



Robert Wingo has been to the White House twice. When former President George W. Bush invited the 1966 Texas Western College championship men's basketball team to the White House for dinner in 2006, UTEP President Diana Natalicio was instrumental in securing an invitation for Wingo.

As a member of the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial Foundation board, he was invited again for cocktails with the Obamas in conjunction with the opening of the memorial.

Despite his work with the memorial foundation board in Washington, D.C., job offers in New York and clients from major companies around the country, Wingo feels most at home in El Paso.

Wingo, now president and CEO of Sanders\Wingo Advertising Inc., moved to the Paso del Norte region in 1960 from Ohio when his military father was stationed at Ft. Bliss.

After graduating from Bel Air High School, he served with the U.S. Army from 1966-68. His experience as a soldier in Vietnam was his motivation to go to college.

"Getting out of [high] school, college really wasn't part of my game plan," he said. He changed his mind while in a bunker in Vietnam.

"I decided that if I live through this, there has to be a better way than being in the Army getting shot at," he said with a laugh.

Not long after he returned home from Vietnam in late 1968 with a Purple Heart, Wingo enrolled at UTEP. He became the first in his family to earn a college degree – a B.B.A. in marketing – in 1973.

Tim Roth, Ph.D., professor and chair of UTEP's Department of Economics and Finance in the College of Business Administration, was one of his professors at UTEP and has since gotten to know him as a marketing professional.

"I don't know anyone with more energy and determination to succeed than Bob Wingo," Roth said. "In addition to intellectual power, he's got what I would call 'street smarts.' He knows how to deal with people and he knows how to create and exploit opportunities."

Wingo has worked with major companies around the country, including AT&T, Burger King, Mini Cooper, State Farm Insurance, and the United States Postal Service. His local clients include Peter Piper Pizza, GECU, the Convention and Visitors Bureau and El Paso Water Utilities.

"One of the principal reasons that his firm has been so successful is that he is an enthusiastic and informed purveyor of ideas," Roth added. "In my opinion, that's a necessary condition for success in his industry."

Wingo's passion comes through as he describes what he loves about his job.

"It's about being able to share with people those key insights that show the difference between what they were doing and what they could be doing," he said. "When you're connecting with those audiences and you've created the emotional connection between their brand and what they are trying to accomplish with their brand, you are really able to feel the energy and the synergy in the room."

Wingo didn't start his career in advertising. His first job was as a part-time engineering aide at Braddock Dunn McDonald, a scientific engineering and analysis firm, while a student at UTEP. He learned very quickly that engineering wasn't for him, but the job gave him the opportunity to see how important education is for career success.

After graduation, he took a customer service job with Billy the Kid, a now-defunct El Paso boys apparel company. After about a year, he was promoted to assistant to the national sales manager and eventually vice president of advertising for the company that did more than \$100 million in annual sales. During that time, Billy the Kid was a client of Sanders Company Advertising, and Wingo worked closely with the company. When Billy the Kid was sold and moved to New York, Wingo had the opportunity to follow, but decided El Paso was a better fit for his family. He joined what became Sanders, Wingo, Galvin and Morton



"BEING A PART OF THE UTEP FAMILY IS PROBABLY THE GREATEST JOY..."

Robert V. Wingo

Advertising as executive vice president and owner in 1984.

The company, now called Sanders\Wingo, has expanded its operations to Austin and New York, with satellite operations in Atlanta and Los Angeles. Wingo's daughter, Leslie Wingo Martinez, is a partner in the business and heads up the Austin office.

Wingo is proud of all his family's success. His other daughter, Shana Wingo Davidson, is a surgeon in Phoenix. His wife, Paulette Wingo ('92, '96), received the Gold Nugget Award for the UTEP College of Education in 2009 in recognition of her impact as a teacher, tutor, lecturer and advocate for children.

Wingo also received the Gold Nugget Award, from the College of Business Administration, in 2002.

Now, he is focused on bringing opportunities to other young people. He invites UTEP classes to visit Sanders\Wingo every year and offers student internships each semester.

"The more people we can help and train to be better leaders for today and tomorrow, the better off we are," he said.

"Being a part of the UTEP family is probably the greatest joy as you look at astronauts and physicians and all the wonderful graduates that have come out of our university and have gone on to create their own businesses." 📌

2013 GOLD NUGGET AWARD RECIPIENTS



The University of Texas at El Paso and the UTEP Alumni Association are proud to present the 2013 Gold Nugget Award recipients. These outstanding alumni are recognized by each of the University's colleges and school for their achievements and dedication.

We recognize them because they inspire others – including the current students who will follow their paths, guided by their bold examples.

Stories by Laura L. Acosta, Rebecca Downey, Lisa Y. Garibay, Timi Haggerty-Muñoz, Chris Lechuga, Veronique Masterson, Daniel Perez and Nadia M. Whitehead



YOLANDA BERUMEN-DEINES

B.S. IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, 1972
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

The encouragement Yolanda “Yoli” Berumen-Deines received to lead a UTEP spirit committee transformed an introvert into a passionate advocate for herself and for the rights of others. Berumen-Deines, who earned her bachelor’s in elementary education in 1972 with a minor in sociology, learned to stand up for those who cannot speak adequately for themselves, such as abused and neglected children.

Today, Berumen-Deines is cabinet secretary for the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department. She said the opportunity at UTEP to organize student rallies and bonfires awakened her inner activist. Through more than 30 years of private practice that coincided with work for nonprofits and government agencies, she has worked to improve the lives of those less fortunate and at the same time raise the level of professionalism within each organization.

Despite her numerous professional successes and leadership positions, she continues to see herself as a servant. “I consider myself a grunt,” she said. “My heart is in service.”

Reflecting on her time at UTEP, Berumen-Deines said she was initially interested in engineering, but she decided she could have a greater impact on society as a teacher and then through social advocacy agencies. The result has been generations of children who are better off because of her efforts.

She wants today’s students to break out of their cocoons of self-doubt and challenge themselves to accomplish what they don’t think they can.

“Don’t overthink things. Just do them,” said the self-described former introvert. “Sometimes our greatest obstacle is ourselves.”



LAURA BOSWORTH BUCHER

B.S. IN METALLURGICAL AND MATERIALS
ENGINEERING, 1988 • COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Laura Bosworth Bucher is the prototype for the UTEP female engineer: multi-dimensional, dynamic and engaged.

As a 1988 metallurgical and materials engineering graduate, Bosworth Bucher has gone on to management positions at IBM, Dell, and EDCO Ventures, a nonprofit mentor for business startups. Now she has embraced the spirit of entrepreneurship herself as CEO and co-founder

of TeVido BioDevices with UTEP engineering professor Thomas Boland, Ph.D. TeVido is an early-stage life sciences/biotech startup developing innovative tissue-engineered products for reconstructive surgery, wound healing and burns.

Laura is passionate about mentoring entrepreneurs who want to develop their own high-growth companies. She shares her 25 years of cross-functional industry experiences with them and with science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)-focused organizations across Texas. Bosworth Bucher is a member of the UTEP College of Engineering Board, where she previously served as chair and led a task force that recommended a strategy to create a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship at UTEP — a strategy now under implementation.

“When I was at UTEP, I don’t know that I believed in myself, but Professor Stephen Stafford did,” she said. “He gave me the chance to prove myself, and all through my career I’ve been given many chances to grow and I embraced each one. The core principles of engineering teach you to think differently and to problem-solve. These are skills that will serve you lifelong.”



HELEN M. CASTILLO, PH.D.

B.S. IN NURSING, 1974
SCHOOL OF NURSING

Helen M. Castillo's pursuit of a bachelor's degree in nursing more than 40 years ago came at a time of transition in nursing education in El Paso.

In 1972, the Hotel Dieu School of Nursing became part of The University of Texas System School of Nursing.

The move allowed Castillo to build on her training at St. Vincent's College of Nursing in Los Angeles, where she earned her R.N. diploma in 1957, and her

subsequent experience as an operating room nurse to be among the first to graduate from the RN to B.S.N. (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) program in 1974.

As a nurse, Castillo combined her two passions – helping others and teaching. In 1976, Castillo began teaching leadership and management courses at what is today the UTEP School of Nursing.

Castillo continued on as a faculty member at the school, eventually serving as chair of the UTEP nursing program when it was part of the College of Nursing and Allied Health. During that time, she developed the school's first master's program in nursing administration.

Castillo earned her Master of Science in Nursing from The University of Texas at Austin in 1977 and her Ph.D. in Educational Administration from New Mexico State University six years later.

She said her UTEP education allowed her to advance her career and serve as dean for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at The University of Texas - Pan American and as dean of the College of Health and Human Development at California State University at Northridge (CSUN). She retired from CSUN in 2009.

"UTEP continues to be a moving and positive force in my personal, academic and community endeavors," she said.



E. ANTONIO CHIOCCA, M.D., PH.D.

B.S. IN BIOLOGY, 1982
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

One of E. Antonio ChioCCA's greatest achievements has been genetically altering the herpes virus to kill brain tumor cells, and ultimately, translating the treatment from the laboratory to clinic.

"Neurosurgery is the one field where you can see and visualize the brain and the diseases that occur within it," he said. "And rather than just diagnose, you can conduct surgery and other

interventions to help and sometimes even cure people."

ChioCCA is the chair of neurosurgery at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School. Since 2012, he has also been the Harvey W. Cushing Professor of Neurological Surgery at Harvard Medical School.

ChioCCA was instrumental in establishing The Ohio State University's Department of Neurological Surgery in 2004, which he helped build from two to 26 faculty. He left to return to Boston in 2012.

Today, ChioCCA is grateful to UTEP for providing his initial foundation in science.

Originally from Italy, he came to El Paso when his father, who worked for NATO, was transferred to Ft. Bliss.

New to America and desiring to stay close to his family, at the age of 19 he applied to attend the local University – UTEP – and pursue a degree in science.

After graduating he earned an M.D. and Ph.D. from the UT Medical School at Houston, and then completed his residency in neurosurgery in Boston at Massachusetts General Hospital, where he stayed as faculty until 2004.



RAMON DOMINGUEZ, PH.D.

B.S. IN SECONDARY EDUCATION, 1971;
M.ED. IN COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE, 1974
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Ramon Dominguez, Ph.D., has achieved personal and professional success through diligence and by following a "servant leader" philosophy developed as an undergraduate at The University of Texas at El Paso.

He started mentoring younger students while attending UTEP and realized he was more interested in helping others than in personal

accomplishments. Dominguez earned two degrees at UTEP: a bachelor's in secondary education in 1971, and a master's in counseling and guidance three years later. He received his doctorate in educational administration from New Mexico State University.

The educator said his more than 40 years of service, which included stints as president of El Paso Community College, interim president of Carlsbad Community College and associate provost at NMSU, is a natural progression of his values. He saw teaching, counseling and administration as opportunities to help others the way he was helped through the years. This was his chance to pass it on.

While he has earned numerous excellence awards for teaching, service and leadership, he is just as proud of having chaired more than 30 dissertations and helping those students with their careers.

"It's all about service," said Dominguez, the Stan Fulton Chair for the Improvement of Border and Rural Schools in NMSU's College of Education. "You can only do so much, but whatever you do, you try to do it right and do the best you can."



CHARLES R. GARCIA

B.S. IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, 1971;
M.S. IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING, 1980
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Charles Garcia's first job after high school was ensuring that the destruct transmitters for errant missiles were working correctly. He got the opportunity through a cooperative education program between White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) and The University of Texas at El Paso.

Garcia applied to the program while attending Burges High School and was accepted to work and earn his

bachelor's at the same time.

After working on the range for a few years, he returned to his alma mater for a graduate degree.

"I felt the need to hone my skills in statistics and probability theory," he said. "UTEP's master's curriculum also had an applicable management option that prepared me for the future."

During his career, Garcia has served as the executive director of White Sands Test Center, division chief of Space and Missile Defense and Space Operations at WSMR, and chief of range support at the Pentagon in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

He is currently the program manager of Trax International LLC., where he supervises more than 500 employees at WSMR, and senior vice president of the Trax International Corp. headquartered in Las Vegas. There he provides support to the corporate team in overseeing the company's contracts and business development.

"My career has centered around problem solving, and the longer I work, the more it seems like there is always a solution, no matter how tough," he said. "I think it's my ability to lead and mentor, and the fact that I am surrounded by great people to help."



STAN HARMON

B.S. IN NURSING, 1993
SCHOOL OF NURSING

Stan Harmon grew up in the Appalachian Mountains in Tennessee, a region of the country known for its extreme poverty.

"My parents never finished the eighth grade," Harmon said. "We plowed our fields with a mule. There were days we didn't know where our next meal was going to come from."

Harmon sought his escape from the Appalachian region's cycle of poverty through higher education. Seeking the promise of the GI Bill to fund his education, he joined the Army and was stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso, an area that – like the Appalachians – endures some of the greatest economic and social challenges in the country.

The hardships Harmon witnessed and experienced as a youth fueled in him a compassion for mankind that today is contributing to the advancement of health care delivery and quality of life across his adopted home state of Texas.

With a bachelor's degree in nursing from UTEP and an M.S.N. from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Harmon is now a family nurse practitioner at William Beaumont Army Medical Center at Fort Bliss. He serves on the Advanced Practice Advisory Committee to the Texas Board of Nursing and two committees for the Texas Nurse's Association representing Advanced Practice. Through those statewide leadership positions, he is helping lead the charge to expand the role of advanced practice nurses in the health care system, a transformation that will increase access to quality care and improve health outcomes throughout the state.



TONY HARPER

B.A. IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION, 1968
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

From the moment Tony Harper set foot on the court in Memorial Gym to play basketball at Texas Western College (now UTEP), he laid the foundation for his future as one of the most successful high school basketball coaches in the United States.

Recruited from El Paso's Austin High School in 1964 by legendary coach Don Haskins, Harper developed the all-around basketball skills to dominate on the court and the academic fortitude to become a champion in the classroom.

"It was a tough, no nonsense education that prepared me for the real world," Harper recalled. He left the team in 1966 to play baseball and returned the following season. Harper graduated with a bachelor's degree in life science in 1968.

In his 41 years coaching varsity basketball, the El Paso Hall of Fame inductee has piled on the accomplishments. In April, Harper became the fourth high school coach in the nation to win 900 games when he led the Montwood High School Rams to victory. He is the seventh-winningest coach in the history of high school basketball in Texas and is ranked No. 1 in wins among active coaches in the state.

This spring, Harper left the Rams after 23 years to become head basketball coach at Cathedral High School, where he looks forward to continuing his winning streak and molding the Irish into an impassioned group of young men who are prepared for their futures.



RENARD U. JOHNSON

B.B.A. IN MANAGEMENT, 1995
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Renard Johnson founded and incorporated Management and Engineering Technologies International Inc. (METI) in 1994 when he was still a student at UTEP.

"UTEP offered me a college that is not only top rated, but a University that gave me the ability to balance between working and going to school," he said.

The company became Johnson's full-time job in 1998 when he hired seven employees. METI now has more than 300 employees around the world, including El Paso; Lima, Peru; and Freetown, Sierra Leone.

"My UTEP professors gave me the foundation and structure that helped me to be successful in my business," said Johnson, president and chief executive officer of METI. "The knowledge gained in my accounting, marketing, speech and statistics classes has been invaluable."

METI is a professional services company that provides systems engineering and information technology support to federal and commercial customers. It recently was awarded a \$100 million contract from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Office of International Programs.

METI has twice been ranked in *Inc. 500* magazine as one of the fastest growing privately held companies in the United States.

In January 2012, Johnson was appointed to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas' El Paso Branch Board of Directors. He also serves on UTEP's 2014 Commission.

"I have so many fond memories of UTEP," he said. "Most important to me are the many friendships I made along the way."



JOHN G. LAPHAM

B.B.A. IN BUSINESS, 1974
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

A seasoned globetrotter, John G. Lapham regularly flies across the United States, Europe and Asia to meet with clients for whom he helps manage more than \$9 billion in assets. A four-day trip in April, for example, took Lapham, the managing director and co-head of leveraged finance for money-management company PineBridge Investments, to South Korea and Japan.

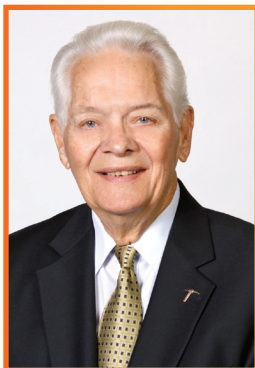
The journey that started it all: a short drive from his Central El Paso home to UTEP in fall 1970.

"I wasn't particularly focused on college as I finished high school," said Lapham, who now lives in Manhattan Beach, Calif. "In fact, I never even applied to UTEP or any other college until the day classes started when I drove over to campus and asked how to get in."

Lapham put himself through school working odd jobs and graduated with a B.B.A. in 1974. He later earned an M.B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles. Today, Lapham's leveraged finance group manages about 13 percent of PineBridge Investment's overall assets of \$71 billion.

"I shudder to think what would have happened if UTEP hadn't been there for me," Lapham said. "If you grow up in an environment like I did where college wasn't a priority, life can just take you on its way without giving you a chance to change it and make it better. UTEP clearly gave me that chance."

Lapham now ensures other kids get the chance to succeed and go on to college. Between his travels, he serves as chairman of the Al Wooten Jr. Heritage Center, a safe haven and intervention program for underprivileged kids in South-Central Los Angeles.



DAVID H. LINDAU

B.A. IN ACCOUNTING, 1961
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

While working part-time as a railroad clerk throughout his college career at Texas Western College (now UTEP), David H. Lindau understood the struggles of paying for college that some El Paso families face. Even with help from a scholarship, making ends meet was a challenge.

That was part of his motivation to establish three scholarship funds at UTEP: the Guille M. Lindau Endowed Scholarship in Nursing, the Fred G. Lindau Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Engineering, and the David and Guille Lindau Endowed Scholarship.

"I always believed that education can really change a person's life," Lindau said. "The fact that someone doesn't have enough money to go to school is likely to make a big impact for their whole lifetime."

Lindau began his college career at Texas Western in 1958, taking 18 credit hours most semesters while working. He was able to earn his bachelor's degree in accounting in 1961 after only three years. He went on to earn a master's degree in professional accountancy from The University of Texas at Austin.

Today, Lindau is the senior wealth advisor and former president of Lauterbach Financial Advisors, LLC in El Paso, and is a certified public accountant, financial planner and valuation analyst. He also serves as a member of the UTEP Trust.

Lindau also boasts that three of his four children are also UTEP graduates.

"We're kind of a UTEP family," he said.



RAY MALOOLY

B.A. IN HISTORY, B.A. IN ENGLISH, 1959
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Ray Malooly originally attended Texas Western College in hopes of earning a medical degree. After several classes and labs, he realized medicine was not intended for him. He graduated in 1959 with a B.A. in history and English.

However, after thoroughly enjoying his economics class, his family roots and true talents led him to the business world.

"Texas Western opened my eyes to the world around me," said Malooly, who knows three languages: English, Spanish and Arabic. "Through my sociology and psychology classes, I learned how to converse and understand people. In my business classes, I studied the economics of supply and demand, and the importance of learning every aspect of your product, as well as how to market it to the public."

After several decades of business ventures with his parents and four siblings, Malooly ultimately branched out. He founded his real estate and investment company, which acquired several shopping centers, including the historic Mills-White House Building and Cortez Building in downtown El Paso. Currently, Malooly is founder and CEO of Malooly Corp. and its subsidiaries, specializing in commercial lending, real estate, and investments.

"Education and a strong work ethic is something that has been passed down from my parents," he said. "During college, I attended classes daily from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., then headed downtown to my brothers' store to sell furniture until the last customer left."

Today, as a lifelong El Pasoan, businessman, and proud UTEP supporter, it's hard to imagine he ever considered a different path.



DAVID A. MONTOYA

B.S. IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE, 1986
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

As the first Hispanic inspector general of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Honorable David A. Montoya knows that UTEP was a critical part of his career path.

After graduating from Ysleta High School in 1979, Montoya was interested in a service career, and his studies at UTEP guided him to criminal justice.

"I felt like it satisfied all of my interests," he said. "It gave me an ability to provide service to the community, it allowed me to understand the social aspects of communities, and taught me the psychology behind why people do certain things."

Montoya worked as a sales agent for Continental Airlines during the six years it took him to complete his bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Almost 26 years old at graduation in 1986, Montoya was ready to hit the ground running with law enforcement. He had his opportunity with the Drug Enforcement Administration. For six years he worked as a criminal investigator/special agent in the Rocky Mountain Division in Denver.

Montoya progressed to fighting white collar crime, moving to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigations Division, where he rose through the ranks to become deputy director. He later joined the Department of the Interior's Office of the Inspector General as the assistant inspector general for investigations before arriving at his current position, for which he was nominated by President Obama in July 2011.

Montoya is proud to have given himself a college education with no debt upon graduation. He encourages current students who may be in the same boat not to give up.



SUSANA NAVARRO, PH.D.

B.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, 1968
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Born and raised in El Paso, Susana Navarro followed her father, uncles, aunts, and great uncle to UTEP, continuing a legacy of higher education that she has in turn worked to help countless families attain.

Navarro earned her bachelor's degree in political science, graduating in 1968.

"I was always interested in issues of equity and working in one form or another to try and improve the quality of life for everyone, but particularly for

Mexican-American students and their families," she said.

A job as a research analyst for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in Washington, D.C., where she worked on a landmark study of Mexican-American education, solidified her career path.

After completing her doctoral degree at Stanford University in educational psychology in 1980, she worked for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) as national director of research and policy analysis, then the Achievement Council, a California nonprofit organization that she helped create.

In 1991, she returned to El Paso, where with regional education, business and civic leaders, she founded the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, a citywide effort to improve academic achievement among all young El Pasoans. The collaborative has become a national model for urban school reform.

Navarro retired from the collaborative in 2011 after 20 years, but she's not stopping. These days, you can find her consulting on all the issues she's passionate about and working to ensure all students have access to an opportunity for higher-education success.



IRENE RICO

B.S. IN CIVIL ENGINEERING, 1984
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

From Alabama to Arizona, and Oregon to Virginia, Irene Rico's 28-year career with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has literally taken her across the country – and it all started at UTEP.

During her senior year of college she attended the University's career fair. There, FHWA recruiters met Rico and kept her resume. Unfortunately, they didn't offer her a job at the time.

Two years later, they gave her a call.

"They called randomly and said, 'We're ready to bring you on board,'" Rico said with a laugh. "And I was like, 'Wait, who is this?' It had been so long since the fair."

Since joining the FHWA in 1985, Rico has continuously moved up in the organization. Today she is Virginia's division administrator. She is the first Hispanic woman to hold the position.

Growing up in Juárez, Mexico, Rico's first language was Spanish. She attended high school in El Paso where she learned English as a second language. Seeing her strength in mathematics, Ms. Wo, her teacher, recommended that she study civil engineering.

"I'm so thankful that she did that. I probably never would have considered the degree, and I ended up loving it," Rico said. She earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1984.

At UTEP, Rico gained the foundation necessary to become a leader in engineering, in particular, the project management and teamwork skills that she still uses today.

"I want to be remembered as someone who influenced and encouraged others to pursue their own professional development when opportunities arose, and to not be afraid of change," she said.



JOE R. SAUCEDO

B.B.A., 1966
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Joe R. Saucedo, a first-generation graduate who earned a Bachelor of Business Administration at Texas Western College (now UTEP) in 1966, has always felt indebted to UTEP for the professors who encouraged his love of economics and for his degree, which gave him the keys to greater career and educational opportunities. Saucedo went on to earn a postgraduate degree from the University of Washington Pacific Coast Banking School.

Joe believes in both the academic mission of UTEP and the UTEP Athletics Program. He sees athletics as a much-needed financial resource for creating awareness and respect for UTEP and for helping to sustain a climate of academic success.

Through every step of his career, Saucedo has demonstrated his persistence, resilience and determination. This attitude of never giving up has helped to shape his highly rewarding career in financial management. From a cost accountant in 1966 for North American Rockwell, to President and Chief Executive Officer of Queen City Bank in 1982, to the creation in 1992 of Bolsa Resources Inc., his own management consulting firm — Joe has adroitly combined his aptitude for finance and management with his passion for helping others succeed.

"This, I hope, will be my legacy: that my children and grandchildren will understand the importance of an education and of becoming a productive member of society — that by contributing to the success of others, you, in turn will find great satisfaction," he said.



MARY CARMEN SAUCEDO

B.S. IN EDUCATION, 1965; M.A. IN ENGLISH, 1968;
M.ED. IN LINGUISTICS, 1970
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

As a newly minted teacher in the mid-1960s, Mary Carmen Saucedo considered it her duty to positively influence her students' future. She eventually had the same impact on women's rights throughout the El Paso Independent School District.

After several years in the classroom, Saucedo began to climb the administrative ladder and broke several glass ceilings along the way. Each step — assistant principal, principal, modern languages consultant, director of personnel, and associate superintendent — involved more responsibilities, and a greater opportunity to influence the district and society, which was undergoing a transformation with the women's rights movement in the early 1970s.

She earned her bachelor's in education in 1965 from Texas Western College (now UTEP) and followed that with a master's in English five years later and another master's in educational linguistics in 1972. Saucedo had self-doubt as she broke up the "boys clubs," but remembered what she learned at home and at UTEP: women can succeed at anything.

"We were taught about equality. We all took the same courses. We were all in the same boat," she said.

Through her award-winning years at EPISD, Saucedo helped other women achieve their full potential. Saucedo retired in 1986 and became office manager for the family locksmith business. She also served in numerous civic groups such as the El Paso Community Foundation and the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas — El Paso Branch.

"I enjoyed the fight to change the culture for women in the educational system," Saucedo said. "And UTEP was the spark."



RAY TULLIUS

B.S. IN SOCIAL WORK, 1989
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

After a serious illness ended his career in construction and farming, Ray Tullius found himself homeless. He had a difficult time finding a job even with a degree in philosophy and theology from St. Thomas Seminary in Denver. It was during this tough time that Tullius' sister suggested he go back to school.

Tullius earned his bachelor's degree in social work from UTEP in 1990 and his master's in social work from The University of Texas at Austin in 1993. As an Army veteran, the military paid for his education.

Since then, he has paid it forward by offering homeless persons a warm meal, a place to sleep and the support they need to get off the streets. He is the founder and executive director of the Opportunity Center for the Homeless in El Paso.

Opened in 1994, the center is now the largest homeless shelter system in west Texas and southern New Mexico.

Tenants benefit from comprehensive programs that include a medical clinic, substance abuse counseling and mental health services. The center also offers youth programs; on-site educational classes; and assistance with employment, housing and legal services.

Tullius' personal experience gave him the insight to develop a system of support services to help homeless people get their lives together. While he was a student at UTEP, he lived in the Rescue Mission of El Paso, where he set up a social services office.

"I was 40 years old when I entered UTEP, seeking a degree in social work," Tullius remembered. "UTEP helped me take the first painful step into a new career and to a refocus of my life toward (helping) El Paso's homeless people." ☑



Diana A. Arrieta • Multimedia Journalism & Creative Writing



Daniel H. Hernandez • Mechanical Engineering



Juan C. López, Jr. • Mechanical Engineering



Stephanie Moreno • Cellular and Molecular Biochemistry

2013 TOP TEN SENIORS



Juan C. Muñoz • Electrical Engineering



Shannon J. Murphy • Interdisciplinary Studies

The University of Texas at El Paso is proud to present the recipients of the Top Ten Seniors Awards for 2013, presented by the UTEP Alumni Association.

These outstanding seniors – selected for their academic success and University and community involvement – represent the quality education that UTEP provides its nearly 23,000 students. The Top Ten Seniors were recognized at the April Honors Convocation and May Commencement ceremonies. 📷



Ramiro Piñon • Mechanical Engineering



Claudia I. Vargas • Media Advertising



Andrew Velazquez • Economics and Finance



Joel Zapata • History

UTEP'S 130TH COMMENCEMENT
CELEBRATES MORE THAN

**2,600
GRADUATES**

Photos by J.R. Hernandez and Joshua Garcia

A record-breaking more than 2,600 graduates from The University of Texas at El Paso celebrated the culmination of years of hard work, study and sacrifice during the University's three spring Commencement ceremonies May 18 at the Don Haskins Center.

During the evening ceremony, UTEP celebrated the first cohort of eight graduates from the Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree program in the School of Nursing. The D.N.P. is the school's first doctoral degree.

The morning ceremony included the first four graduates of the Liberal Arts Honors Program. In the afternoon, the first Bhutanese student to earn a doctoral degree, Khendum Choden, received her Ph.D. in international business.

During her Commencement remarks, President Diana Natalicio acknowledged the contributions that members of the spring 2013 class made to the University's exciting transformation in its quest to become the nation's first national research university with a 21st century demographic.

"Today we joyfully celebrate not only your achievements as UTEP students, but also your many anticipated accomplishments as UTEP alumni – and members of a fast-growing Miner Nation, rich in tradition and even richer in promise!" she said.

"As we rapidly approach UTEP's 100th birthday in 2014, it is truly exciting to consider the enormous impact of this University's 100 years of work to create educational opportunities for residents of this region, and of the more than 110,000 who seized those opportunities and went on to lead highly successful lives," she added. "It's hard to imagine what this region would be like without this University and the many outstanding alumni who have remained here to contribute to our collective well-being."



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

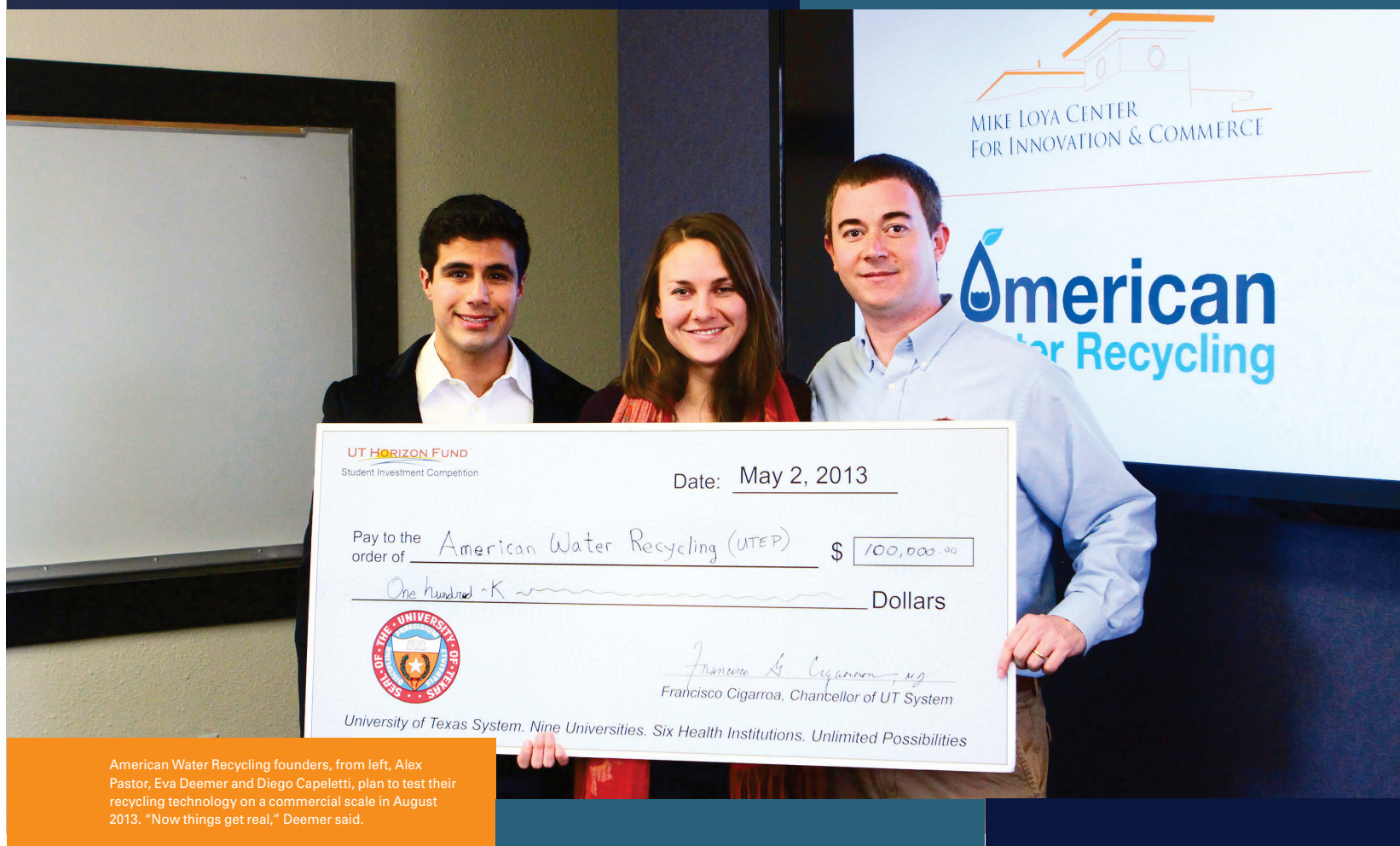




“Today we joyfully celebrate not only your achievements as UTEP students, but also your many anticipated accomplishments as UTEP alumni...”

DIANA NATALICIO
UTEP PRESIDENT





American Water Recycling founders, from left, Alex Pastor, Eva Deemer and Diego Capeletti, plan to test their recycling technology on a commercial scale in August 2013. "Now things get real," Deemer said.

AMERICAN GRAPHENE

UTEP CENTERS HELP STUDENTS WIN PRESTIGIOUS VENTURE CONTESTS

By Daniel Perez • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Commitment, passion, teamwork and a heck of a good product were among the factors that helped UTEP students win almost \$122,000 from grants and venture competitions this past spring. Another factor was the help they received through The University of Texas at El Paso.

Three students – Eva Deemer, Diego Capeletti, and Alex Pastor – spent several months creating a business plan that capitalized on Deemer's research into graphene, a thin and strong carbon-based substance used to recycle water in an affordable, environmentally friendly way.

They worked with UTEP's Center for Research Entrepreneurship and Innovative Enterprises (CREIE) and Mike Loya Center for Innovation and Commerce to enhance their knowledge and refine their presentation.

The trio's American Water Recycling (AWR) plan won the Paso del Norte (PDN) Venture Competition at UTEP in March (\$10,000) and the UT Horizon Fund Student Investment Competition in Austin in early May (\$100,000). About the same time, the team finished in the Top 10 at the Global Venture Labs Investment Competition, considered the Super Bowl of student venture contests. They competed against

“If you’re going to be an innovator and an entrepreneur, you have to think big to change the world.”

Gary Frankwick, Ph.D.

Co-director of the Loya Center and professor of marketing and management

about 40 teams from top universities around the world. AWR also received a “seed” grant for the commercialization of their product by a UT System program that promotes innovation among UT campuses. Altogether they earned \$121,750.

AWR, an incorporated business, invested its winnings into a commercial pilot program that it planned to launch in August 2013 in Las Cruces, N.M., to test the recycling process and validate their technology.

“Now things get real,” said Deemer, a doctoral student in materials science and engineering.

Deemer, an El Paso native, earned her bachelor’s degree in chemistry from UTEP in 2008. As an undergraduate she was part of a team that received a patent for a method to measure biodiesel composition. After working in research and development for several El Paso-based energy companies, she returned to UTEP to work on her doctorate and decided to focus her research on graphene. She responded to a CREIE suggestion to get involved in the PDN competition, but she needed partners who knew business.

She was introduced to Pastor, a junior economics major who was an intern with the Hub of Human Innovation, an El Paso technology incubator that helps develop technology-based businesses. His duties included editing business plans and conducting market research. The El Paso native had earned an entrepreneurial scholarship and a national award for operating his own seafood stand. He wanted to participate in the competition and went to CREIE, where he met Deemer.

Pastor could market Deemer’s technology, but knew they needed someone with a stronger financial background, so he called fellow Hub intern Capeletti, an Argentine native who enrolled in UTEP’s M.B.A. program in 2011. He had participated in the 2012 PDN. Although his team lost, his written business plan was judged the best.

The trio spent long hours working and reworking every aspect of their plan until they were confident it was ready. They are proud of their achievements and grateful for the structure and constructive criticism they received through CREIE and the Loya Center.

Officials with the two centers said the AWR results are an example of how UTEP students

can use what they learn in the classroom and, with the centers’ guidance, learn how to turn that information into a successful business.

“There are other AWRs out there and we have to identify them,” said David Novick, Ph.D., professor of computer science and a co-director of the Loya Center. “We want to inspire those students who have significant technological ideas but don’t understand their commercial potential.”

The two-year-old Loya Center is a partnership between the University’s colleges of Engineering and Business Administration. It is focused on developing technology, and business and academic processes that will help students gain real-world experience as they create companies that could boost the region’s economy.

Gary Frankwick, Ph.D., professor of marketing and management and the center’s other co-director with Novick, said the Loya Center looks forward to working with students with bold ideas.

“If you’re going to be an innovator and an entrepreneur, you have to think big to change the world,” he said.

Frankwick said the Loya Center, which is focused on research of entrepreneurship, innovation and commercialization, complements the work done by CREIE, which is directed more toward implementation and product launch.

Gary Williams, Ph.D., CREIE director, said the four-year-old center guides students through the innovation process from concept through commercialization. He said he is working with his counterparts at the Loya Center and the Hub of Human Innovation to maximize collaboration and minimize duplication of services.

Williams, who has more than 40 years of executive experience with multimillion-dollar companies, said engineers and business types do not always speak the same language, but they quickly understand the value of the other.

“It doesn’t matter to us where the idea comes from. All we want is somebody that has the passion and the interest and is willing to take the time to learn,” Williams said. “Going forward, things are only going to get brighter. This story is just beginning.”

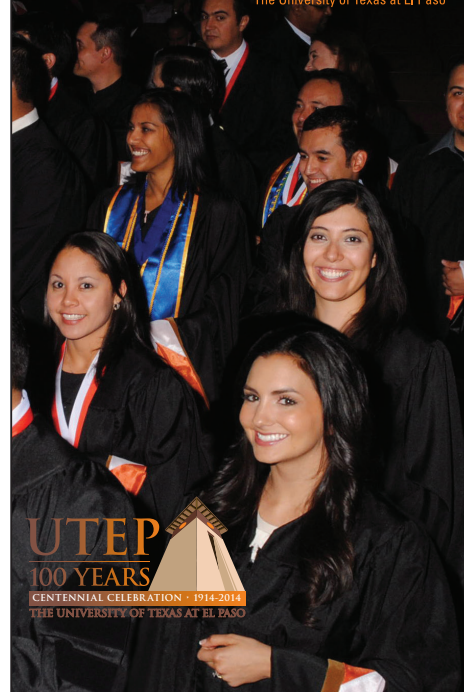
College of Business Administration

40 Years of MBA Excellence

Established in 1973, the Master of Business Administration program has excelled and become internationally ranked and recognized for innovation, quality, and the success of its graduates.

Today, the UTEP program provides a dynamic graduate business education in formats designed for students at any point in their professional career.

**FULL-TIME
ACCELERATED
EXECUTIVE**



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



mba.utep.edu



STUDY SHOWS

Engineered Nanoparticles

CAN ENTER FOOD SUPPLY

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

Although we can't see them, tiny manmade nanoparticles are all around us – in our makeup, sunscreen, fuel, and even powdered donuts.

And the number of nanoparticles is only going to increase.

With a diverse range of potential applications, engineered nanoparticles are used more and more to create novel technologies and medicines. For instance, in sunscreen, titanium dioxide and zinc oxide nanoparticles are used to protect against both UVA and UVB rays.

Between 2006 and 2011, reports showed that the number of nanotechnology-related products worldwide grew by 521 percent. By 2015, the market for nanoproducts is expected to hit \$2.4 trillion, according to a study by Global Industry Analysts Inc.

Despite this rapid increase, scientists don't yet know how these manufactured nanomaterials are affecting the environment and humans, and whether or not further regulations are needed on nanomaterial production.

"A growing number of products containing engineered nanoparticles are in the market and eventually they will get into the soil, water and air," said Jorge Gardea-Torresdey, Ph.D., Dudley Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Science and Engineering at UTEP and chair of the chemistry department. "This is why it is very important to study the interactions of crops with nanoparticles, as their possible translocation into the food chain starts here."

Funded by \$24 million from the National Science Foundation and the Environmental Protection Agency, Gardea-Torresdey is a co-investigator of the University of California Center for Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology (UC CEIN), which studies how manufactured nanomaterials can get into the environment via fuel fumes and wastewater runoff, and ultimately land in soil and affect plant life.

Experiments led by the chemist have shown that some of these manmade nanoparticles that land in soil can move from the roots of plants to the grains, thus entering the food supply via crops grown for human consumption.



↑
 Doctoral chemistry student Jose Hernandez-Viezcas, left, and Jorge Gardea-Torresdey, Ph.D., chair of UTEP's chemistry department, have discovered that engineered nanoparticles that land in soil can be absorbed by plants and are entering the food supply via crops grown for human consumption.



Use your smartphone to scan this code to view a video interview with Gardea-Torresdey and Hernandez-Viezcas.

The study, published this year in the American Chemical Society journal ACS Nano, tested two of the most common manmade nanoparticles – zinc oxide and cerium dioxide – and laced the soil of soybean plants with them, the idea being that the plants would absorb them.

"When we got the grant from the NSF and EPA, we selected the nanoparticles that are used and produced the most," Gardea-Torresdey said. "These are produced in millions of tons."

One key question was whether or not the nanomaterials would break down once the plants absorbed them, or if they would remain a metal oxide nanoparticle, which could potentially have effects on humans if consumed.

Cerium dioxide, which is commonly used in sunscreens and oil refining, remained intact when it was absorbed by the plant, and was transferred all the way into the edible soybean grains.

On the other hand, zinc oxide – commonly used in sunscreens and cosmetics – was transferred to the grain, but had broken down to a nontoxic form.

The team tested the effects of the nanoparticles on about 100 soybean plants that were grown at the University of California, Santa Barbara, under the direction of Patricia Holden, Ph.D., professor of environmental microbiology.

After the plants were fully grown, they were shipped to UTEP, where Gardea-Torresdey and his team studied the concentration and biochemical effects of the nanomaterials, among other things.



"A growing number of products containing engineered nanoparticles are in the market and eventually they will get into the soil, water and air."

Jorge Gardea-Torresdey, Ph.D., Dudley Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Science and Engineering

"My role was to determine how much was taken up by the plant," said Jose Hernandez-Viezcas, a doctoral chemistry student at UTEP who used plasma spectroscopy and synchrotron advanced techniques to make the scientific observations. "In this experiment, we found that the plants do uptake the metal. In other words, we found high concentrations of zinc in the pods, stems and leaves."

"Cerium oxide didn't break down, and that's the problem," Gardea-Torresdey said. "It's going to go into the food chain, and go into humans that eat them. We saw before in another [research] paper genetic DNA damage that can create new genes upon exposure to cerium oxide, and so people who eat this could have genetic damage down the road, but we're not sure yet."

Andre Nel, Ph.D., director of UC CEIN and division chief of nanomedicine at the University of California, Los Angeles, specializes in nanomedicine and nanobiology, including the study of nanomaterial properties that lead to biocompatible and biohazardous interactions in humans.

"If I have to tell you if any of those [nanomaterials] have been shown to cause any health affects on humans that is clearly documented or confirmed, the answer is no," he said. "But, if you ask the question, 'Are there experimental data out there that show these materials, in some settings, could be hazardous?' then the answer is yes."

Nel has been studying the effect of these nanomaterials on different cells and animals, such as mice and zebra fish, to find which nanomaterials are potentially hazardous and need safety implementation measures.

"In a nutshell, nanomaterials have amazing effects in terms of their industrial use potential," he said. "But because engineered nanomaterials are relatively new materials with new properties, it's important that we study their possible impact on humans and understand whether they might interact with the biology of humans, plants and other organisms in the environment."

According to Gardea-Torresdey, there are more than 1,400 nanomaterials produced in the market today, meaning many more tests on food crops and manufactured nanoparticles are needed to understand the full effect nanotechnology is having on the environment and humans.

For doctoral student Hernandez-Viezcas, the research has opened his eyes to a potential danger that he didn't even know existed before.

"Since I have been doing this research for five years now, I've become very conscious about the subject," Hernandez-Viezcas said. "[Humans] end up being exposed to all these things, and we assume we're protected, but we're not. Maybe in the future this will help to make some laws on regulating nanoparticles." 📧

FACULTY PROFILE: JORGE GARDEA-TORRESDEY, PH.D.



POSITION:

Dudley Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Science and Engineering; chair, Department of Chemistry

EDUCATION:

Ph.D., environmental chemistry, New Mexico State University, 1988

HOBBIES:

Because of my fascination with chemistry and nanotechnology, I fell in love with gems.

I CHOSE MY CAREER BECAUSE...

of my love for mining. As a child, while going to my grandfather's mines, I often wondered why gold was yellow and why silver was so shiny. This led me to my journey into science and engineering and looking, always, for answers.

MY GREATEST INSPIRATION IS...

my paternal grandfather, Jose Gardea (a miner), my maternal grandfather, Alejandro Torresdey (a businessman), and my first cousin, Jose Gardea (recently ran for Los Angeles City Council). These three men are exemplary, hard-working people who never give up.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

leading the Department of Chemistry to Tier One. Our junior chemistry faculty recently told me "as a chair you are our role model because you are very active, have grants, publish, and are nationally recognized; additionally, you love the El Paso del Norte region." This made my day.



The Center for Law and Human Behavior includes, from left, Founding Director Christian Meissner, Ph.D.; Daniel Jones, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology; Jennifer Eno Loudon, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology; CLHB Interim Director Harmon Hosch, Ph.D.; CLHB Program Manager Leonora M. Ortega; Michael R. Smith, Ph.D., vice provost for strategic academic initiatives; Maria Cristina Morales, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology; Stephen Crites, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology; and Gaspare Genna, Ph.D., associate professor of political science.

UTEP WELCOMES NEW CENTER FOR

Law and Human Behavior

By Lisa Y. Garibay • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

In a space that used to house the University's computer science department, a very different kind of research is taking place. It is focused on the "wiring" inside human brains, exploring behavior with regard to law and security, and ultimately seeking the reasons why humans break laws.

"There's a wonderful space in that context for scholars to interact and to engage in interdisciplinary science, but there's really been no mechanism to allow for that," said Christian Meissner, Ph.D., founding director of the Center for Law and Human Behavior, which opened this summer with the mission to "empirically investigate human behavior in

legal and security contexts."

For Meissner — who recently departed UTEP for Iowa State University, but will remain involved with the center and ongoing research at UTEP — what's at the heart of the center is the opportunity "to draw those scholars from within the college who are interested in common issues."

Under the banner of the College of Liberal Arts, the center already has access to a broad array of research focusing on law-related issues — whether it's sociologists or anthropologists studying issues of immigration, race and crime; political scientists studying intergroup violence; economists working on economic issues related to crime; or psychologists interested in various facets of legal psychology from decision making to law enforcement. Whatever the combination, the center's vision includes sparking scientific innovation and highlighting the intellectual strengths of the University that is leading the nation in solving problems of social importance.

"It's a broad and ambitious vision, and we're just starting out, but securing and establishing the footprint of the center is one of the most important steps," Meissner said.

The center's space, for the most part, is designed to facilitate collaboration.

"We see ourselves as an interdisciplinary

center that attracts scholars who want to work on projects that have a focus in law and human interaction," Meissner said. "We want to have space that brings them together to collaborate."

Harmon Hosch, Ph.D., oversees the center's everyday operations as interim director, while Leonora M. Ortega acts as program manager. Regular offerings will include workshops by invited speakers; hosting of collaborative research networks featuring faculty from across disciplines; support for undergraduates and graduate students who want to engage in research; and dissemination of findings to the operational and legal community.

Meissner and Hosch are leading from their experience as program directors at the National Science Foundation (NSF). Both served as program directors for an interdisciplinary program titled "Law and Social Science." This support for research on human interactions with law is the foundation for the center at UTEP.

"There are very few institutions in the U.S. that meet this challenge," Meissner said. "Both of us have had the experience of appreciating multidisciplinary approaches, appreciating what the different disciplines offer in terms of methods and theory, and understanding the extent to which they fail to communicate to one another on common

"It's a broad and ambitious vision, and we're just starting out, but securing and establishing the footprint of the center is one of the most important steps."

Christian Meissner, Ph.D., founding director of the
Center for Law and Human Behavior

issues that they're interested in. That drives both of us toward this vision of law and human behavior here at UTEP as a hub where scholars who are interested in immigration, for example, can get together and talk about what's important to them in their approach, how they view immigration, and find common ground in an interdisciplinary space."

Hosch and criminologist and sociologist Howard Daudistel, Ph.D., now the University's senior executive vice president, paved the way for this focus on law and human behavior at UTEP years ago. The two have collaborated regularly over the past few decades under a previous incarnation of the CLHB funded by the NSF. The two examined juries, court decisions, and the impact of ethnicity on the outcome of cases, such as whether it mattered if a defendant testified on his own behalf in Spanish, and much more.

Though this kind of work at UTEP was an established collaboration between a few scholars, nothing formal had been created. Meissner's arrival heralded an official version of the CLHB, and discussions about its creation began around 2010. Meissner's acceptance of a position at the NSF coincided with his team receiving the Federal Bureau of Investigation's High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group Intelligence Interviewing and Interrogation Contract, which gave them the foundational support to formalize a future for the center.

Meissner emphasizes that the center envisions not only engaging researchers, but also coordinating and collaborating with the local community. The desire to have impact on those who deal with the law on a daily basis is echoed again and again in discussions about what the center is working on and how its founders hope it will be used. Working with federal, state, and local law enforcement, the intelligence community, the military, or the judicial system, the center's aim is not only to be a producer of knowledge, but also a

disseminator, offering practical, scientifically grounded advice.

To that end, Hosch has been meeting with the public defender's office to prepare a grant proposal for the National Institute of Justice examining this question: When people are preparing to commit crimes, what do they think about?

"We can use (the public defender's) resources to talk to those who are involved in the criminal justice system and learn more about the thought processes that people go through or don't when they're involved in these kinds of activities," Hosch said.

During the center's first years, its founders aim to host an annual symposium and a series of seminars featuring UTEP scholars and nationally recognized speakers. They will also disseminate research findings to scholars, practitioners, policymakers and community members to ensure that society benefits from scholarly interaction.

For now, the center is leveraging funding from its FBI contract and an NSF grant on immigration and crime as starting points, identifying faculty who have common interests and would want to operate within these spheres. They are developing several research coordination networks, bringing together groups of scholars who are interested in topics such as race and crime, or studying factors — political, psychological or otherwise — that motivate conflict among groups leading to acts of terrorism.

"Most of us who do this research are motivated by its products, who it helps and how it helps," Meissner said. "Scholars are often attracted to UTEP to do research that helps the community, that has an impact on society, and to do so in a multicultural context. That's every bit of what this center's about. We want to have an impact on legal process and legal understanding by citizens, lawmakers, and law enforcement in our community." 📌

**IT ALL
STARTS WITH
LIBERAL ARTS...**



**TAKING YOU
WHERE YOU
WANT TO
GO!**

**UTEP'S
COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.UTEP.EDU/LIBARTS**



Fall Prevention Research Coalition members include, from left, Candyce S. Berger, Ph.D. (Social Work); Rebecca Reed-Jones, Ph.D. (Kinesiology); João Batista Ferreira-Pinto, Ph.D. (UTEP's Center for Interdisciplinary Health Research and Evaluation); Amanda M. Loya, Pharm.D. (Pharmacy); Donna Cude-Islas, MSSW (Social Work); Guillermina Solis, Ph.D. (Nursing); Katherine Lawson, Ph.D. (Occupational Therapy); and from the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juárez Angeles Lopez (Psychology) and Francisco Llera (Urban Planning).

Researchers Cross Disciplines to Help Older Adults

By Laura L. Acosta • Photo by Laura Trejo

For health investigators at The University of Texas at El Paso, finding practical solutions to a community health problem can often transcend one discipline or program.

That is why the College of Health Sciences has engaged faculty from the School of Nursing and the Department of Economics and Finance in the College of Business Administration in an interdisciplinary collaboration to conduct research that improves the lives of older adults. Formed in 2011, the Fall Prevention Research Coalition at UTEP combines perspectives from a wide range of disciplinary experts to analyze fall prevention among elderly Hispanics.

The team involves social workers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, kinesiologists, pharmacists, a certified family nurse practitioner and occasional input from an economist on health care cost implications. They've also partnered with several home care agencies and Bob Wood, Ph.D., director of the Falls Lab at New Mexico State University, to enhance their research.

The goal is to identify risk factors for falls from all kinds of perspectives – age, muscle weakness, home hazards and medication use, for example. Serious falls can lead to hospitalizations and intense morbidity in older adults, said Candyce S. Berger, Ph.D., chair and professor of the UTEP Department of Social Work.

"The community is the future of health care," Berger said. "Since 1985, the push is to do more community-based care and reduce (hospital) readmissions. One of the major

sources of hospital readmissions among the elderly is due to falls."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that each year, one in every three adults age 65 and older falls, and they can suffer moderate to severe injuries, such as hip fractures, lacerations and head traumas. These injuries can make it hard for them to get around or live independently and increase their risk of death.

Berger launched the coalition with Donna Cude-Islas, a clinical instructor in the Department of Social Work, in response to a citywide initiative by the Visiting Nurses Association to reduce the risk of falling among the elderly.

They assembled a team of health professionals, and with support from a \$5,000 grant from the National Library of Medicine, the coalition partnered with two home care agencies to conduct comprehensive in-home assessments to evaluate fall risk factors among older adults.

"You can't approach this from a single discipline," Berger said. "You really need a multidisciplinary approach to this effort. And our ultimate goal is to design an intervention that can be tested."

About 50 participants have been evaluated in their homes by a faculty member or graduate student in nursing, social work, pharmacy or occupational therapy. The group members then combine their findings

SMALLER PROJECTS

The two grants have allowed their research to go one step further. And while the group is committed to working together, the coalition also has been a catalyst for smaller projects.



to analyze the problem areas.

While a comprehensive falls risk assessment has been done on Caucasian and African-American populations on the East Coast, Cude-Islas found that not many studies had been done about the Mexican-American population.

According to Cude-Islas, cultural factors play a significant role in the health of Mexican-American older adults who tend to live at home with family, instead of being institutionalized. But she wonders if living at home offers them a more protective environment.

"Do they stay healthy longer because they live in this multi-generational household, or is that a risk factor because there are grandchildren in the house? Or is it better because there are a lot of people around to help take care of them?" Cude-Islas said.

These questions and more are being investigated with the support of a \$20,000 grant the coalition received last year from the UTEP Office of the Provost and the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects to conduct interdisciplinary research.

The funding has allowed the group to move its research from in-home visits to the UTEP Virtual Reality and Motor Control Research Laboratory, where Rebecca Reed-Jones, Ph.D., assistant professor of kinesiology uses motion analysis equipment to analyze full three-dimensional body movements.

Participants stand on force plates that allow Reed-Jones to measure their balance and gait as they get up from a chair, walk a short distance and sit back down. She captures information about what's happening at the joint and how much force the joint is using to move.

Test results are then compared to the problems that were identified during the home assessment.

"We are really interested in whether we're picking up on the problem in the home visit,"

Reed-Jones said. "With the motor analysis, we can begin to see if there is something else that we can be doing in the home that will address those issues that we can't necessarily see with the naked eye during the home visit."

For Reed-Jones, being part of an interdisciplinary team that involves health sciences has made it possible for her to engage with the elderly population, even though she is not a clinician.

"Health professionals like social workers might look at why this (fall) is happening from a social perspective, whereas I'm looking at it from a very neurological movement-control scenario," Reed-Jones said. "So if your knee is not moving correctly, that may be an underlying issue. If so, how can a physical therapist help them with that issue and prevent them from falling?"

Berger said the two grants have allowed their research to go one step further. And while the group is committed to working together, the coalition also has been a catalyst for smaller projects.

In December, Guillermina Solis, Ph.D., assistant clinical professor in the School of Nursing, and Katherine Lawson, Ph.D., a lecturer in occupational therapy, received a \$2,500 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health to implement a fall prevention program for women ages 55 and older in El Paso County.

The coalition's next step is to provide simulation training to health professionals, such as occupational and physical therapists.

"It's really easy to say, 'Let's pull together an interdisciplinary group,' but you've got to really put time and effort into building that group to get a sense of direction," Berger said. "Each of us came with our own ideas, but together we collaborated to identify a mutual agenda to provide the elderly a safe and healthy environment."

UTEP SCHOOL OF NURSING



The UTEP School of Nursing has been preparing the best and brightest nurses since the Hotel Dieu Training School for Nurses opened in 1898.

Today, the School remains loyal to its guiding principles: excellence, innovation and diversity.

We look to our future with pride and confidence that our graduates will continue to make a difference in health care.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
GIVE TO THE SCHOOL
OF NURSING AT
GIVINGTO.UTEP.EDU**





Hector Olvera, Ph.D., a research assistant professor at UTEP's Center for Environmental Resource Management, is working to create a clearinghouse of air quality information at UTEP that can be used by health researchers for future studies.

Engineering a Healthy Community

By Laura L. Acosta • Photo by Laura Trejo

While working on an air pollution study his senior year at the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez (UACJ), Hector Olvera, Ph.D., realized how something as benign as taking a breath could be hazardous to a person's health.

A native of Juárez, Mexico, Olvera planned to become a structural engineer. He was awarded a scholarship to attend graduate school in Canada once he received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from UACJ in 1999. But his plans changed after he designed a low-emission brick kiln, which reduced particle pollution by 90 percent.

"I got hooked," recalled Olvera, a research assistant professor at UTEP's Center for Environmental Resource Management. "I had taken a bioethics class in high school, so I was already very passionate about the environment. But it was there (in the lab) that I thought, 'I want to do this for a living.'"

He forfeited his scholarship and enrolled at The University of Texas at El Paso, where he earned a master's in environmental science in 2002 and a Ph.D. in environmental science and engineering four years later.

Instead of designing bridges or tunnels, Olvera is integrating engineering principles to develop solutions to environmental health problems.

Since August 2012, the environmental health engineer has been applying the same concept to his air quality research at the Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center (HHDR) at UTEP.

Established in 2003 with support from the National Institutes of Health, the HHDR is a collaborative effort between the School of Nursing and College of Health Sciences at UTEP and The University of Texas at Houston School of Public Health, El Paso Regional Campus. The center's aim is to research and eliminate racial and ethnic health inequalities across the nation.

"Dr. Olvera brings in the environmental side and nurses bring in the health care side,

FACULTY PROFILE: HECTOR A. OLVERA, PH.D.



POSITION:

Research Assistant Professor

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in environmental science and engineering, 2006, UTEP

I CHOSE MY CAREER BECAUSE...

... it integrates key elements to human growth: 1) challenging work, 2) the opportunity to contribute to something greater than oneself, and 3) the requirement for continuous learning.

MY GREATEST INSPIRATIONS ARE...

my grandmother, my mother and my daughter.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

... that it does not feel like one.

“We really need to know our region to be able to study what happens within. I think the work that I’m doing is a strong foundation, and we are really getting to know where our problems are.”

Hector Olvera, Ph.D.

and together we build a synergy to look at environmental health indicators that impact health, like pollution and its effects on the lungs,” said Elias Provencio-Vasquez, Ph.D., nursing school dean and the HHDR’s administrator.

As a member of the center’s environmental core, Olvera helps researchers investigate the determinants of environmental health disparities in Hispanic populations. He is mapping areas of El Paso to indicate zones with the highest and lowest pollution levels, which will help researchers identify populations that are at risk for respiratory conditions or heart disease.

According to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the health effects of air pollution include respiratory diseases such as asthma, cardiovascular diseases, changes in lung function, and death.

Ultrafine particles from diesel vehicle emissions can travel from the lungs into the bloodstream and reach the heart, brain, kidneys and bone marrow, Olvera said.

“When you study environmental health, you look at whether the environment can cause a disease,” he explained. “At the core of health disparities is the socioeconomic component. If everybody made a similar income, then everyone could afford to live in a healthier environment and have access to health care.”

By working closely with nursing school faculty, Olvera’s input will make it possible for nurses to become more aware of the environmental health risks to which their patients are susceptible.

This year, Olvera launched a study to see if traffic emissions put elderly Hispanics at higher risk for a second heart attack.

“After a heart attack, a caregiver may tell patients what foods to avoid and how to keep down their cholesterol levels,” Olvera said. “They’re educating patients on all the known health risk but there are also environmental risks that patients should be told to avoid. I think our nurses would be better prepared if they also understand this part of the problem.”

Olvera’s goal is to build on data that he collects while working with researchers to create a clearinghouse of air quality information at UTEP that will be valuable for future studies.

The work is already paying dividends. A map that Olvera created a few years ago is being used by Rodrigo X. Armijos, M.D.,

Sc.D., associate professor of public health sciences, to investigate the adverse effects of air pollution on the cardiovascular health of children. Olvera is working with Armijos to set up portable air monitoring stations around schools in El Paso to see if transient exposure to high levels of air pollution causes oxidative stress and systemic inflammation in elementary school-aged children.

Olvera’s air monitoring data has also contributed to two transdisciplinary studies at the HHDR that involve Sara Grineski, Ph.D., co-director of the environmental core and assistant professor of anthropology, and Timothy Collins, Ph.D., associate professor of geography.

The first study looked at disparities in children’s lung health. Collins and Grineski worked on a social survey related to respiratory health, while Olvera conducted air quality monitoring to develop a surface map of air pollution for the El Paso Independent School District. Researchers combined the data to determine the impact of particulate matter on children’s respiratory health.

The researchers will next study the effects of daily air pollution on respiratory and cardiovascular hospitalizations among Hispanics in El Paso.

With help from research assistants Gabriel de Haro and Omar Jimenez, and El Paso Water Utilities, Olvera sets up air monitoring stations next to water wells throughout the city. After collecting particle matter samples and analyzing the data, he creates land use regression models to assess air quality conditions in neighborhoods.

The experience has allowed de Haro to develop the critical thinking and analytical skills he needs to pursue a career as an environmental health engineer.

“[Olvera] trains his students to be more effective, so when they go out to the real world to work, they will be prepared and be successful,” said de Haro, an undergraduate civil engineering major.

Olvera expects his air quality maps will help researchers design better studies, produce more competitive proposals, and create a more innovative research program.

“We really need to know our region to be able to study what happens within,” he said. “I think the work that I’m doing is a strong foundation, and we are really getting to know where our problems are.”

(Heritage + Tradition)
x Transformation
A bright future

UTEP
100 YEARS
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION - 1914-2014
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

UTEP

COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

The College of Engineering
for the 21st Century

ENGINEERING.UTEP.EDU



GRANTS ROUNDUP

Between January and May 2013, The University of Texas at El Paso received a number of research grants to study a range of topics. The following is a sampling of grant research in each college started during that five-month period.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Mark Lusk, Ed.D., and **Eva Moya**, Ph.D., each received a grant from UTEP's Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center (HHDRS). Lusk, professor of social work, is studying the link between secondary trauma among caregivers and their exposure to migrants who have been severely traumatized as a result of violence and crime in Mexico. Moya, assistant professor of social work, is investigating the health and social consequences of intimate partner violence.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Judith Munter, Ph.D., associate dean of the College of Education and associate professor of teacher education, received a grant from the University of California, Berkeley, to support "Bridging Worlds," a binational project based at UTEP that links the University with the University of Yucatan in Merida, Mexico, and a community-based center in San Francisco that offers health care to a Mayan immigrant community. The goal is to develop binational approaches to health education through health promotion for the Mayan-speaking health care workers.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Christopher Kiekintveld, Ph.D., assistant professor of computer science, was awarded a five-year grant from the National Science Foundation to study ways to improve the robustness of decision-making in the face of challenging problems. Potential applications for the research include guiding security and defense strategies for such institutions as the Federal Air Marshals Service and the U.S. Border Patrol. Other applications include trading strategies in auctions, and improving security in computer networks.

Chintalapalle Ramana, Ph.D., assistant professor of mechanical engineering, received a grant from the National Nuclear Security Administration through the University of California, Berkeley to investigate more efficient structural materials for nuclear

reactors. Choosing nuclear structural materials is challenging since materials are exposed to extreme conditions of temperature, pressure and nuclear irradiation that induce damage and diffusion. The goal of this study is to achieve higher temperature tolerance, materials' strength, and superior physiochemical compatibility to develop next-generation structural materials for nuclear reactors. Ramana's team will collaborate with scientists and engineers at the McClellan Nuclear Research Center in McClellan, Calif.

Soheil Nazarian, Ph.D., director of the Center for Transportation Infrastructure Systems and professor of civil engineering, received funding from the Federal Railroad Administration in partnership with the University of Illinois to help develop a practical tool for railroad personnel to quickly and non-destructively assess the condition of track substructure using seismic wave propagation principles. The team hopes to advance understanding of using seismic techniques to assess soil deposits, pavements and bridge structures to improve safety and minimize derailment.

Patricia Teller, Ph.D., professor of computer science, received a grant from The University of Texas at Austin to participate in its National Science Foundation-funded project "Stampede," a world-class supercomputer with comprehensive computing and visualization capabilities for the national open science community. Teller and her research team will bring special expertise to the project and will work with the operations team to ensure successful support of computer science research.

Roger V. Gonzalez, Ph.D., professor of mechanical engineering, received funding from the National Science Foundation to study and quantify knee stability and instability, in particular for those who have suffered ACL injuries and no longer have the ligament. Gonzalez hopes to quantify the involvement of ACL injuries in knee stability, an important topic within musculoskeletal biomechanics.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Zita Arocha, senior lecturer in the Department of Communication, received a grant from the McCormick Tribune Foundation covering a three-day training workshop for 15 journalists from small to mid-size newspapers to teach them how to report and write about immigration in their local communities, including how to analyze U.S. Census and immigration data and employ visualization and social media tools for effective storytelling.

Carol Brochin, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of English, was awarded a West Texas Writing Project Seed Grant Program grant from the National Writing Project. These funds may be used for program work, stipends, local travel, and any other expenses relevant to re-establishing her research site. In addition, a speaker will be invited to work with teachers in a three-day institute on campus to develop research projects related to writing and literacy.

Stephen Crites, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Psychology, received a National Science Foundation grant award for his research on "A Priming Paradigm for Eliciting Neural Correlates of Concealed Attitudes," which aims to extend and strengthen previous studies on time-specific brainwaves as a psychophysiological alternative for detecting deceit when people lie. These new studies will demonstrate that response conflict and cognitive complexity can be indexed by time-specific brainwaves when people are deceptive.

Theodore Curry, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology and anthropology, received an award from the National Science Foundation for a grant titled "Why Are Immigrant Neighborhoods Low Crime Neighborhoods?" A growing body of research shows that crime is much lower than expected in immigrant neighborhoods. Curry's co-PIs are Cristina Morales, Ph.D., department of sociology and anthropology associate professor and Harmon Hosch, Ph.D., interim director of the Center for Law and Human Behavior.

Keith Erikson, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of History, was awarded a Humanities Texas Summer Teacher Institute grant from Humanities Texas for the Summer Teacher Institute exploring topics in U.S. history central to the state's 11th grade U.S. history curriculum. Humanities Texas and The University of Texas at El Paso presented the three-and-a-half day institute in June.

Laura O'Dell, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, was awarded a minority internship grant for her project "Diabetes Enhances Susceptibility to the Rewarding Effects of Nicotine." The grant will fund an undergraduate internship for student Jesus Jurado to work approximately 20 hours a week on studies involving nicotine self-administration in diabetic and control rats across a range of nicotine doses as well as whether a normalization of glucose levels via insulin replacement returns nicotine intake back to control levels.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Xiujun (James) Li, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry, received a grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences to study and develop a more rapid, low-cost and highly sensitive diagnosis of meningitis. Li plans to use a small paper-based 'lab-on-a-chip' – a device that integrates multiple laboratory functions onto a tiny microchip – as the new diagnosis method, which he expects will be as simple to use as a pregnancy test strip.

Jerry Johnson, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences, and co-principal investigator Michael Moody, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences, received a grant from the National Science Foundation to start a Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)

summer program at UTEP to study Chihuahuan Desert biodiversity. Research topics will include conservation, ecology, parasite-host relationships and biomedical issues related to the ecosystem. Field trips to the surrounding desert habitats, such as the Indio Mountains Research Station, will take place for students to collect data.

Laura Serpa, Ph.D., professor and chair of geological sciences, and co-principal investigator Olga Kosheleva, Ph.D., associate professor of teacher education, received a two-year grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to provide professional development to middle school mathematics and Earth science teachers with the goal of increasing student success and interest in the disciplines.

Helmut Knaust, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematical sciences, received a grant from the Mathematical Association of America to fund five undergraduates within the department during an intensive six-week summer research experience. Students investigated discrete wavelet transformation applications, such as whether FBI fingerprint algorithms can be modified to other images like facial portraits.

Renato Aguilera, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences, received a four-year grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences to further study and characterize novel compounds discovered in his lab that are toxic to B- and T-cell lymphomas. B- and T-lymphomas are blood cancers that affect Hispanics and African-Americans at a higher proportion than the rest of the population, and some of these cancers are incurable. The research may lead to the development of a new drug that targets the specific cancer.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Holly Mata, a research associate in UTEP's Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center (HHDC), received a grant from the HHDC to fund a project that promotes health equity to reduce Hispanic health disparities. Funded by the National Institutes of Health, the HHDC is an ongoing collaboration between the School of Nursing, the College of Health Sciences and The University of Texas at Houston School of Public Health.

Elias Provencio-Vasquez, Ph.D., School of Nursing dean, received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to award 12 scholarships to students in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Fast Track Program during the 2013-14 academic year. The RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program provides scholarships directly to students from groups underrepresented in nursing or from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Guillermina Solis, Ph.D., assistant clinical professor in the School of Nursing, and co-principal investigator Katherine Lawson, Ph.D., a lecturer in the College of Health Sciences' Occupational Therapy Program, received a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health to implement a fall prevention program for women ages 55 and older in El Paso County. 📍



UTEP'S COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
Leading the Road to Tier One
For more information visit science.utep.edu



UTEP'S
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

RANKED #1

BY THE HISPANIC OUTLOOK IN
HIGHER EDUCATION MAGAZINE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT COE.UTEP.EDU**

UTEP
100 YEARS
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION - 1914-2014
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Spring Convocation Celebrates Excellence

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



UTEP President Diana Natalicio poses with three of the four Distinguished Achievement Award recipients, from left, Harvey Castellano, Juan A. Camacho and Igor C. Almeida, Ph.D.

At The University of Texas at El Paso's Honors Convocation in April, students, faculty and staff gathered to reflect on the University's humble beginnings nearly 100 years ago, and celebrated the successes that have transformed UTEP into one of the most vibrant, relevant and innovative universities in the United States.

"Our University's success is measured by the accomplishments of all of our students, faculty and staff," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio during her remarks. "Our standards of academic and research excellence have reached ever-higher levels, and our goal of becoming the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic is within our reach."

Hundreds of family members, friends and UTEP supporters filled Magoffin Auditorium to honor the professional and academic excellence in the UTEP community.

Among those recognized were UTEP student-athletes, the University's Top Ten Seniors, professors emeriti, and Benjamin Alire Saénz, professor and chair of UTEP's Department of Creative Writing and recipient of the 2013 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.

President Natalicio presented the University's Distinguished Achievement Awards, the highest honor given to faculty and staff members for excellence in service to students and the University. 📌

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS INCLUDED:

- Faculty Achievement Award for Research: Igor C. Almeida, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences
- Faculty Achievement Award for Teaching: Yolanda Chavez Leyva, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of History
- Distinguished Service to Students: Juan A. Camacho, administrative services officer and adviser in the Department of Biological Sciences
- Distinguished Service to the University: Harvey Castellano, assistant library director for instruction and information literacy

“UTEP is among the region’s research institutions that can catapult our emerging biomedical community onto the global stage.”

Emma Schwartz
President, MCA Foundation

Robert Kirken, Ph.D., dean of the College of Science, and Emma Schwartz, president of the Medical Center of the Americas Foundation, are working together to accelerate the growth of biomedical innovations and businesses in the area.

Partnership to Improve Region’s Biomedical Industry

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

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO AND THE PASO DEL NORTE REGION.

In addition to the University’s campus transformation and the city’s new baseball stadium, the local biomedical sector is expected to boom soon, thanks to a partnership between UTEP, the Medical Center of the Americas (MCA) Foundation, and other institutions in the area.

“UTEP is among the region’s research institutions that can catapult our emerging biomedical community onto the global stage,” said Emma Schwartz, president of the MCA Foundation.

Schwartz plans to enhance the MCA Foundation’s partnership with UTEP through the recently established Biomedical Institute of the Americas, a nonprofit organization created to help research institutions in the region transition more quickly and easily from research to bedside treatment, ultimately accelerating the growth of biomedical innovations and businesses in the area.

“This new local entity is a great opportunity,” said Robert Kirken, Ph.D., dean of UTEP’s College of Science and professor of biological sciences. “If a research project was picked up, the faculty member in charge would be able to help oversee and develop it right next door – making relocation unnecessary. The power in it is that it’s here – it’s local – and it will create opportunities for our science and engineering students to pursue in the workforce locally.”

Although Kirken is excited for the new partnership, he said UTEP has already been successful with several spinoff companies from research innovations.

In May, he spoke of examples at the first-ever “State of the Life Sciences” address, presented by the MCA Foundation and Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce. The event brought together representatives from several organizations, including UTEP and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso, to discuss their ongoing life sciences studies and how they could potentially impact

the region’s economy.

Thus far, the University’s success stories include MSF, a drug created to treat Alzheimer’s disease, and special eyewear technology to treat migraines and sleep disorders. The former is currently under contract with Brain Tools LLC, while PhotoKinectics Inc. licenses the latter. TeVido BioDevices, LLC, is another example – it holds an exclusive license on 3-D skin printing technology developed by UTEP researchers.

Schwartz said the MCA Foundation is excited about the work being done by UTEP investigators, which will help lead to a robust life sciences community.

“(The region is) capable of competing on the global level in the life sciences if we think and act regionally, leverage our research and industrial assets, capitalize on our two-nation and three-state geographical location, and take the lead on investigating the health concerns of El Paso’s demographic, which is the nation’s 21st century demographic,” she said. 📍



Roxana Delgado, a UTEP doctoral student, and her husband Army Sgt. First Class (retired) Victor Medina, a student in the University's Master of Rehabilitation Counseling program, started advocating for people with traumatic brain injury after Medina suffered a head injury while on patrol in Iraq in 2009.

Hope to Wounded Warriors

By Laura L. Acosta • Photo by Laura Trejo

ON JUNE 29, 2009, AS SGT. FIRST CLASS VICTOR MEDINA'S CONVOY DROVE DOWN A DUSTY ROAD IN THE CITY OF NASIRIYAH IN IRAQ, HE WAS UNAWARE THAT HIS TRUCK WAS ABOUT TO BE STRUCK BY AN EFP (EXPLOSIVE FORMED PROJECTILE).

When the device went off, the blast was so tremendous it felt like his head had been hit with a baseball bat. Medina, a former soldier at Fort Bliss, was transported to an aid station and checked out. Having no visible injuries, he soon returned to duty, but it quickly became apparent to him that something was wrong. His speech was slurred and he had trouble remembering orders. Doctors mistakenly attributed his condition to headaches and stress.

"I do not remember losing consciousness, but I do remember waking up ... I was confused and extremely slow. It was like that day being in slow motion," Medina, a graduate student at UTEP, wrote on his blog at TBIWarrior.com.

A week after the explosion, Medina made a video call over the Internet to his wife, Roxana Delgado. She immediately noticed something was terribly wrong with her

husband. The left side of his face drooped and he shook uncontrollably.

Delgado, who was about to start the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. Program at UTEP, was certain that her husband had suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI).

"He couldn't understand what I was saying," said Delgado, a senior research associate at the Samueli Institute's Military Medical Research Division on Fort Bliss. "I found that he wasn't the same person he was the week before."

She contacted Medina's First Sergeant, who later sent Medina for a CT scan.

Medina was transferred to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, where an MRI showed bleeding in his brain. After a battery of tests, he was diagnosed with a moderate TBI. Three weeks later, Medina was sent home to El Paso and the long road to

recovery began.

The couple was down but not out.

"Ours is a story about hope," Delgado said.

The husband and wife became outspoken advocates for TBI awareness, working tirelessly to improve the medical care that military service members and civilians receive to treat brain injuries.

"You'll never see me saying, 'Oh, this is so horrible,'" Delgado said. "I'm moving on. This is part of the healing process."

Since the incident, Medina has made significant progress. At first, Medina, who once had a photographic memory, had trouble remembering what he read. Today he's a student in the Master of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) program in UTEP's College of Health Sciences.

"I had a sudden career shift," Medina said. He retired from the Army in September 2012, a month after he started the MRC program.

"My classes have given me a broader understanding (about other disabilities) and it has brought more compassion out of me," he said. "I've been advocating for people for a few years, and now I understand their condition better."

Graduates from the two-and-a-half-year MRC program serve those with disabilities by helping them achieve their personal, career, and independent living goals through rehabilitation counseling.

MRC Program Director Timothy N. Tansey, Ph.D., describes Medina as an excellent advocate. He said Medina has learned the skills that will help him assist people with the resources they need to improve their capacity for overall independence.

"We're focusing on what we do on the professional side, and how he can integrate that into his life as an advocate," Tansey said.

Medina, who has problems processing speech and remembering information, receives assistance through the University's Center for Accommodations and Support Services.

He uses a LiveScribe Smartpen that records everything he writes and hears. He also listens to electronic textbooks on his iPad.

Delgado has become Medina's "academic coach." As an undergraduate student, she worked as a tutor for students with disabilities and used that experience to help her husband prioritize his studies and manage his schedule.

"That first semester I told Victor, 'I know it's going to be a different type of life and it's going to be challenging, but I'll be there and we'll work it out together,'" Delgado said.

By his second semester, Medina was managing on his own. He'd lost most of his peripheral vision, but new prescription glasses made it possible for him to drive to class by himself, which freed up Delgado to dedicate more time to her doctoral studies.

Delgado started the IHS program the same day Medina returned home from Germany. It was Sept. 1, 2009, and she remembers meeting him at William Beaumont Medical Center at 9 a.m., spending hours in the emergency room, taking him home and then rushing to UTEP to make it to class by 5 p.m.

Their experience inspired her dissertation

on the phenomenology of blast-induced traumatic brain injury, which takes a philosophical approach to examining the effect of brain injuries on the lives of service members.

With the full support of her dissertation adviser, Leslie Robbins, Ph.D., Delgado supplemented her studies by taking philosophy classes to better understand the phenomenological aspects of her research. She also earned a certificate in qualitative research from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

"When she decided that her particular type of study required a philosophical background, she learned about the philosophy," said Robbins, assistant dean for graduate nursing

at UTEP. "This has allowed her to understand her research better and has also led to a better interpretation of her findings."

Medina and Delgado are grateful for the opportunities they've had to help other wounded warriors and their families by sharing their story.

They've talked before an audience of neuroscientists at UCLA, in front of 100 generals at the Pentagon and before a congressional roundtable.

Their efforts have resulted in the opening of the Warrior Care Center – TBI Clinic on Fort Bliss, where soldiers are now able to receive all treatment services under one roof. The clinic features a 22-member team that offers speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, neuropsychology and primary care oversight. Thirteen similar centers are expected to open on military bases across the United States.

Their story also has gained local and national media attention. Medina was profiled by NPR in 2010. The couple was featured in the December 2012 issue of *Redbook* magazine. Medina spoke at the One Mind for Research "Circle of Hope" Gala at the Beverly Hills Hotel in September 2012, where he shared his story with Hollywood's elite, including Tom Hanks and Sally Field.

"One thing that we say in talks is that people shouldn't feel pity for us," Delgado said. "Life is what it is and we just made the best out of it. Our faith is an integral part of what we do and we like to count our blessings." 📖

"You'll never see me saying, 'Oh, this is so horrible.' I'm moving on. This is part of the healing process."

Roxana Delgado



College of
Health Sciences

**One of UTEP's Fastest
Growing Colleges**

**Find your future
in one of our
nine hot
career fields.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT CHS.UTEP.EDU



LAW SCHOOL PREPARATION INSTITUTE GOES ABOVE & BEYOND



LSPI is certainly contributing to the next generation of legal minds, but even more importantly, it is equipping UTEP students with critical life skills that can help them get anywhere they want to be.

LSPI faculty and staff include (back row, from left) William Weaver, Ph.D., director; Lisa J. Soto, clinical associate professor; Charles Gaunce, law librarian; and John Brown, data coordinator. Front row, from left: Brent McCune, assistant director; Rachel Serrano, administrative services coordinator; and Alejandra Hobbs, pre-college outreach.

FOR 15 YEARS, UTEP'S LAW SCHOOL PREPARATION INSTITUTE (LSPI) HAS BEEN THE CONDUIT FOR UTEP STUDENTS TO ATTEND SOME OF THE TOP LAW SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY.

Funded in part by the state of Texas, UTEP's LSPI is the first undergraduate program of its kind and has amassed impressive stats during its history. For instance, 35 percent of LSPI students matriculate to a Top 15 law school, compared to 5 percent of applicants, on average.

LSPI aims to capture students' attention early on, first with a high school summer program run by Alejandra Hobbs. The free, three-week program has served more than 25 local high schools over the past decade with case law instruction taught the way that law schools teach.

"We also have a writing workshop, field trips, and invite people from the local legal community to talk to the students about their own experience and how they ended up in law school," Hobbs said.

A middle school program is being planned for 2014.

"The pipeline is terribly important, for law school particularly," said LSPI Director William Weaver, Ph.D. "They need to see it as a possibility of a career ... When they come to it late, they're sometimes unprepared and past the point where we can help them."

Clerkships and internships provide law school and undergraduate students with real-world experience that can mean the difference between a job and post graduation panic. The chance for students to work alongside established professionals extends through LSPI's community-based programs with EMPOWER (Encouraging More Positive Opportunities With Empathy and Respect) and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

EMPOWER's pilot year ended in May and served 21 young people with advocacy provided by LSPI students, the El Paso County Juvenile Justice Center, and mental health community collaborators.


"The goal is to divert these kids from further penetration into the juvenile justice system due to their mental illnesses when it's more appropriate to get them services and on a successful path," said Clinical Associate Professor Lisa Soto.

"The students from UTEP's Law School Preparation Institute have provided invaluable assistance in implementing, coordinating and sustaining the EMPOWER program," said Richard Ainsa, associate judge for the 65th District Court, a designated Juvenile Court.

For the last three years, LSPI students have also been part of a win-win situation within the local legal community via CASA's relationship with the institute – the first system of its kind in the United States, whereby a university offers an undergraduate class to support the service-learning component of CASA work.

Future plans include instituting a writing course throughout the academic year, which will put students through the steps of legal writing. The course is intended to address a dramatic drop in writing skills across the country over the last two decades, LSPI officials said. Also in the works is a program to groom students' job interviewing skills with the help of seasoned legal pros.

"[Law] is the most flexible degree you can get in this country," Weaver said. "You'll find attorneys in every walk of life – in business, in publishing, in analysis – just name it. ... [Law schools] love to see people from the sciences and from business, finance, and accounting – across the spectrum."

LSPI is certainly contributing to the next generation of legal minds, but even more importantly, it is equipping UTEP students with critical life skills that can help them get anywhere they want to be. 

UTEP PROFESSOR NAMED TO ACADEMY OF **DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS**

By Lisa Y. Garibay • Photo by J.R. Hernandez



Beth Brunk-Chavez, Ph.D.

Beth Brunk-Chavez, Ph.D., associate dean for the College of Liberal Arts and an associate professor of rhetoric and writing studies in the English Department, has been appointed to The University of Texas System's Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

Brunk-Chavez was one of 12 outstanding educators from the UT System's nine academic institutions inducted into the academy's inaugural class in April. The academy will serve as a System-level advocacy group dedicated to enhancing teaching, fostering innovation in the classroom, and promoting interdisciplinary perspectives on education.

"Great teachers are so critical to the success of students, and we are fortunate that the best teachers in the world work for University of Texas institutions," said Pedro Reyes, Ph.D., executive vice chancellor for academic affairs. "The academy honors the best of the best and

recognizes educators who are leaders in their field and who are committed to improving teaching across the UT System."

Brunk-Chavez is a 2009 recipient of the UT System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award and has been a professor at UTEP since 2002. Her research is related to teaching and technology, writing and technology, writing evaluation and assessment, and writing program administration.

"The collaborations I've engaged in with UTEP's First-Year Composition program, the Rhetoric and Composition program, Instructional Support Services, and CETaL have been incredibly rich and rewarding, and I owe a debt of gratitude to these programs for the ways they support and encourage innovation and excellence in teaching," Brunk-Chavez said. "I look forward to collaborating with the fellow academy members to provide pedagogical leadership and encourage innovation across UT System universities." 📌

"The academy honors the best of the best and recognizes educators who are leaders in their field and who are committed to improving teaching across the UT System."

Pedro Reyes, Ph.D., executive vice chancellor for academic affairs



The planned student housing complex on the north end of campus is an essential building block in UTEP's plan to increase the number of students who live on campus.

UNIVERSITY BREAKS GROUND ON NEW RESIDENCE HALL

By Daniel Perez

Construction began this summer on a \$23 million complex that will house 352 students starting in Spring 2015.

The project consists of 83 total units in two four-story residential buildings that include one-bedroom efficiencies and four-bedroom suites with four or six beds. Each unit will include a small kitchen, living area and bathroom. The buildings will have elevators, lobbies, lounges, study rooms and laundry facilities. The complex also will have a commons building that will include a computer lab, kitchen, meeting hall, conference room and staff offices.

The University of Texas System Board of Regents and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the project in May.

UTEP officials see academic benefits to living on campus, including students sharing a common goal to succeed and positive peer pressure. Studies have shown the positive impacts living on campus has on college students, such as retention and degree completion.

"We are thrilled at the opportunity to educate (students) outside of the classroom, and give them the chance to practice skills that they need to be a successful student and a responsible member of the community," said Kevin M. Marshburn, assistant director of UTEP's Department of Residence Life.

El Paso-based Mijares-Mora Architects Inc. designed the 103,606-square-foot complex using the University's signature Bhutanese-style architecture. It is set on a six-acre knoll that overlooks an arroyo north of the Helen of Troy Softball Complex. Arizona-based Sundt Construction is the general contractor.

The residence halls will be paid for through Revenue Financing System Bonds.

Residents of the new housing complex can use the Miner Metro bus service to get to campus. 📌



Did you know
that UTEP offers
75 master's and
19 doctoral programs?

**TAKE YOUR
NEXT
STEP**

TOWARD TIER ONE
graduate.utep.edu

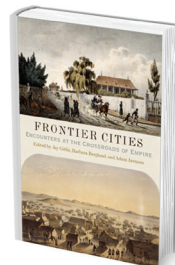


**Mike Loya Academic
Services Bldg. Room 223**
500 West University Ave.
El Paso, Texas 79968-0587
Tel: (915) 747-5491

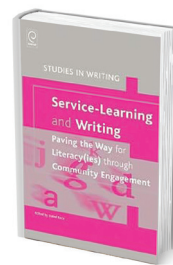
FACULTY MUST-READS



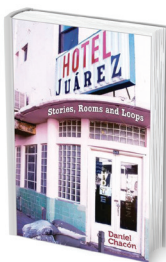
The Lust of Unsentimental Waters, by Rosa Alcalá, Ph.D., associate professor of creative writing (Shearsman Books, 2012)



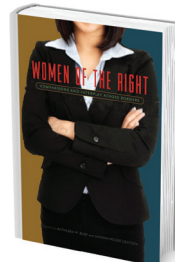
Frontier Cities: Encounters at the Crossroads of Empire, edited by Adam Arenson, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, et al. (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013)



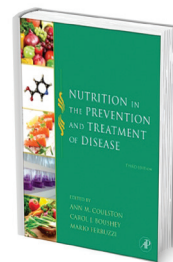
Service-Learning and Writing: Paving the Way for Literacy(ies) through Community Engagement, edited by Isabel Baca, Ph.D., assistant professor of English (Emerald Group Publishing Limited, 2012)



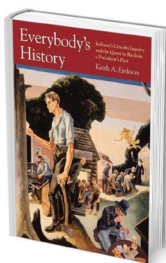
Hotel Juárez: Stories, Rooms and Loops, by Daniel Chacon, professor of fiction writing (Arte Publico Press, 2013)



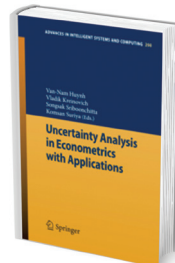
Women of the Right: Comparisons and Interplay Across Borders, edited by Sandra McGee Deutsch, Ph.D., professor of history, et al. (Penn State University Press, 2012)



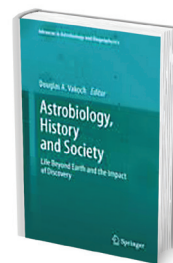
Nutrition in the Prevention and Treatment of Disease, contributor Maria O. Duarte, Ph.D., professor and chair of public health sciences (Academic Press, 2012)



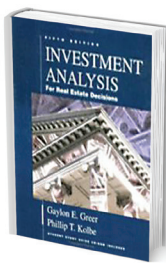
Everybody's History: Indiana's Lincoln Inquiry and the Quest to Reclaim a President's Past, Keith A. Erikson, Ph.D., assistant professor of history (University of Massachusetts Press, 2012)



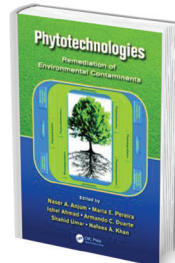
Uncertainty Analysis in Econometrics with Applications, edited by Vladik Kreinovich, Ph.D., professor of computer science, et al. (Springer, 2012)



Astrobiology, History and Society, contributor M.M. "Meg" Weigel, Ph.D., professor of public health sciences (Springer, 2013)



Investment Analysis for Real Estate Decisions, 8th edition, by Phillip Kolbe, Ph.D., visiting professor, et al. (DF Institute Inc., 2013)



Phytotechnologies: Remediation of Environmental Contaminants, contributor Jorge Gardea-Torresdey, Ph.D., department chair and professor of chemistry (CRC Press, 2012)



El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center: El Paso - The Wild West Welcomes Holocaust Survivors and Epilogue, by Mimi Gladstein, Ph.D., professor of English, et al. (Brandeis University Press, 2012)

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



2

1) In March, the University Honors Program launched its Global Opportunities Student Enrichment Experience in Krakow, Poland. A group of 15 UTEP students explored cultural and historical sites such as the Wieliczka Salt Mines, photographed here.

2) Chelsea Villa, junior kinesiology major, shows her UTEP Miner pride in Skagway, Alaska.



3



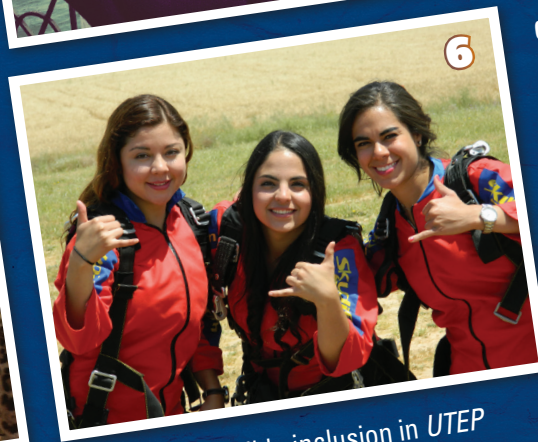
4

3) Erick Garcia (B.S.C.S., 1995) and his family pose for a photo before visiting Dunn's River Falls and Park in Jamaica.

4) Claudia Moreno (B.B.A., 2004) and Alberto Ruiz (M.Ed., 2008) are all smiles as they put their "Picks Up" in Venice, Italy.



5



6

5) Erika Johnson (B.A., 2000; M.A., 2008) poses in front of Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* at the Louvre in Paris. "She's quite small in person, but still spectacular," Johnson said.

6) From left, Carolina Perez and Paulina Lopez-Gonzalez, both sophomore health science majors, along with Kim Martinez, a senior digital media production major, are suited up to skydive in Seville, Spain.

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



ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

SPRING DRILLS BODE WELL FOR KUGLER'S FIRST SEASON

By Jeff Darby • Photos by J.R. Hernandez

In only 15 days, the Miners needed to install a new offensive and defensive system. For the most part, progress hinged on how quickly the players and coaches could adapt to one another. Kugler established his tough, no-nonsense persona from the day he was hired, and UTEP's spring practices reflected his character – short, efficient and highly physical.

There were some expected growing pains, but overall Kugler pronounced his first edition of spring ball to be a success.

"The guys enjoyed competing," he said. "We put them through a physical spring ball and they responded well. I thought there was improvement on both sides of the ball."

The Miners conducted off-season conditioning throughout the summer, then reconvened on the practice field Aug. 9 as they began final preparations for what should be a most intriguing 2013 season.

With construction taking place on the UTEP campus over the next year, the Miners will play only five home games this fall. The plan is to compensate with seven home games in 2014, the University's Centennial year. Fans thirsty for a sixth home game in 2013 should make plans to drive up the road for the I-10 matchup at New Mexico State University on Sept. 14.

The Miners will launch the campaign in the Sun Bowl versus another Southwest rival, New Mexico, on Sept. 7. The home schedule certainly isn't lacking in quality, as UTEP will battle UT San Antonio (eight wins last season) on Sept. 21, Louisiana Tech (nine wins in 2012) on Oct. 5, Tulsa (defending Conference USA champion) on Oct. 12 and Florida International on Nov. 16. The UTSA game will commemorate exactly 50 years since the Sun Bowl Stadium opened on Sept. 21, 1963.

The Miners will play four of their first six games at home and four of their last five on the road.

"It doesn't matter when or where we play teams. We'll be ready for everybody," Kugler said.

UTEP returns eight starters on offense and



Use your smartphone to scan this code to view a football promo video.



**"WE'LL BE READY
FOR EVERYBODY."**

SEAN KUGLER /// UTEP FOOTBALL COACH

UTEP 2013 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

09/07/13	vs. New Mexico Sun Bowl	/// 6:00 p.m. MT
09/14/13	at New Mexico State Las Cruces, N.M.	/// 6:00 p.m. MT
09/21/13	vs. UTSA * Sun Bowl	/// 6:00 p.m. MT
09/28/13	at Colorado State Ft. Collins, Colo.	/// 1:30 p.m. MT
10/05/13	vs. Louisiana Tech * Sun Bowl	/// 5:30 p.m. MT
10/12/13	vs. Tulsa * Sun Bowl	/// TBA
10/26/13	at Rice * Houston, Texas	/// TBA
11/02/13	at Texas A&M College Station, Texas	/// TBA
11/09/13	at North Texas * Denton, Texas	/// 1:30 p.m. MT
11/16/13	vs. Florida International * Sun Bowl	/// 6 p.m. MT
11/23/13	at Tulane * New Orleans, La.	/// 1:30 p.m. MT

four on defense this season. Kugler said many players made their presence felt during spring workouts.

"Wesley Miller stood out at safety," Kugler said. "Ishmael Harrison did a nice job of transitioning from offense to defense [wide receiver to defensive back]. I thought Anthony Puente had the most consistent spring at the linebacker position. Adam Ayala probably had the most consistent spring ball of the defensive linemen, although all of them showed some good things.

"Offensively, I think the tight ends were the most impressive group. All four of those guys can play. I think we've got some good tailbacks. We need to find a fullback, whether it's someone on our roster [now] or somebody incoming. We need to keep developing that position since it's critical to our success. I think we've got some receivers who can play. I thought all three quarterbacks got better each day. That competition will continue into the fall. We've got a good mix of young players and veteran leadership in the offensive line."

The Miners lost their defensive coordinator when Jeff Choate accepted a position at the University of Florida. Scott Stoker was instantly hired away from Sam Houston State to fill the spot, albeit after spring ball was

completed.

"There will be changes, just because I'm expecting Scott to come in and implement his defense and not Jeff's defense," Kugler said. "The players will have a learning curve, as will all of the coaches. But I think we've got an outstanding coach coming in. He's a great teacher, and I don't anticipate any problems with these guys picking up a new system."

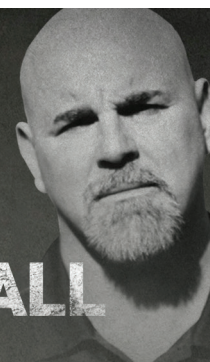
Also to watch early this fall will be the quarterback battle, especially with the infusion of Texas A&M transfer Jameill Showers. He brings some impressive credentials to El Paso, although Kugler stressed that it's a wide-open derby.

A lot of questions were answered in the spring, and further resolution will come in August. The on-the-field results remain to be seen, but Kugler has a message for the fans as the Miners prepare to embark on their 96th season.

"They should know that we're going to be working our hardest to put a product on the field that they can be proud of and excited to see week in and week out," he said. "We're going to give it our best on a daily basis."

Season tickets start at just \$50 and are available now by calling 915-747-5234. 📞

A NEW ERA OF UTEP FOOTBALL



2013 HOME SCHEDULE

09/07 - NEW MEXICO	6 P.M.
09/21 - UTSA	6 P.M.
10/05 - LA TECH	5:30 P.M.
10/12 - TULSA	TBA
11/16 - FIU	6 P.M.

SEASON TICKETS STARTING AT \$50

FACULTY AND STAFF
DISCOUNTS ALSO AVAILABLE

CALL 747-6150 TODAY!



SUPPORT STUDENT-ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIPS

DONATE TODAY!

WWW.MINERATHLETICCLUB.COM
915.747.8759



**MINER
ATHLETIC CLUB**



AZIA NICHOLSON

*Class: Senior
Sport: Soccer
Major: Biology
Hometown: Grand Prairie, Texas*

Azia Nicholson is a three-year letterwinner, starting all 62 career games played in that time frame. She was a Conference USA all-freshman team honoree in 2010 after tallying one goal and one assist. Nicholson broke through in 2011, contributing four goals and three helpers en route to securing both All C-USA (second team) and National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-Central Region (second team) accolades. Nicholson posted six goals and three assists for 15 points in 2012, which earned her recognition from C-USA (second team) and the NSCAA Central Region (third team) for a second straight year. She has also excelled in the classroom as a three-time member of the Conference USA Academic Honor Roll and a two-time coSIDA Academic All-District honoree with a 3.7 G.P.A.



MALIA PATTERSON

*Class: Senior
Sport: Volleyball
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Honolulu, Hawaii*

Malia Patterson earned a spot in the 2012 All-Conference USA second team for her dominance on the court. During the 2012 season, the setter started in all 28 matches and ranked 51st in the nation in assists per set (10.8). The senior led the team in assists and rated second in the league with a total of 1,177 assists. Patterson tallied 10 double-doubles for the Miners, including 52 assists and 15 digs versus C-USA Champions the University of Tulsa. She was named C-USA Setter of the Week twice last season and aided UTEP to secure the top spot in the conference for hitting percentage (.241). Patterson concluded the season with 31 or more assists in 27 of the 28 matches, and finished the Spring semester with a 3.76.



REBECA CALVILLO

Class: Senior
Sport: Tennis
Major: Organizational and Corporate Communication
Hometown: Durango, Mexico

Rebeca Calvillo enjoyed a career season in 2012-13. The junior set it off when she won the singles main draw at the 2012 Aggie Women's Tennis Invitational. The victory carried over into 2013, when she won a career-best 16 singles matches that helped the Miners post 12 wins. Calvillo moved into the No. 1 spot for the first time in her career and notched 12 wins at that spot. Her success earned her a spot on the 2013 All-Conference USA third team. Calvillo also excels in the classroom as she was placed on the C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll.



NATHAN JEFFERY

Class: Junior
Sport: Football
Major: Kinesiology
Hometown: Caddo Mills, Texas

Nathan Jeffery is a two-year letterwinner on the UTEP football team. The Miners' rushing leader in 2012, Jeffery gained 897 yards on 184 carries and scored seven touchdowns while averaging 4.9 yards per carry and 81.5 yards per game. Relatively quiet his freshman campaign, Jeffery broke out in UTEP's season opener versus fourth-ranked Oklahoma when he compiled 177 yards on 21 carries, had a kick return for 24 yards and a punt return for a touchdown, earning Conference USA Offensive Player of the Week for his efforts. Jeffery had four 100-yard contests and recorded three multiple-touchdown games. 🏈

UTEPALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Dear Alumni Family:

As many of you know, the campus is buzzing as the implementation of plans for the Centennial Celebration is in full swing. I would like to invite all of you to join me and the rest of the alumni board of directors for the Homecoming 2013 activities. Your return to campus is sure to rekindle the memories of your time at UTEP.

I am honored to serve as president of the Alumni Association during our Centennial year and look forward to meeting you.

Picks up ... GO MINERS!

Russell Autry, '75, '07
President
UTEP Alumni Association

CONNECT TO US

 /UTEPALUMNIASSOCIATION
 /UTEPALUMNI
 ALUMNI.UTEP.EDU

PETER AND MARGARET DE WETTER CENTER
500 W. UNIVERSITY AVENUE
EL PASO, TX 79968
915.747.8600
1.866.GO MINERS (TOLL FREE)



UTEPALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ALUMNI RELATIONS


Dear Alumni,

The Alumni Association continues to refine its efforts to provide the best programs and services for our alumni members. This past year, we implemented a new strategic plan which has enabled the establishment of key partnerships that are proving to be beneficial to our alumni and students.

We would like to thank and recognize David Veloz for his leadership and commitment to the Alumni Association as president this past year. It is imperative that we thank those volunteers (board members, chapter officers, committee chairs, committee members) who give of their time and talent to serve this great University. Without the support of our dedicated volunteers, we would not be as successful in advancing the University.

Over the past few years, the UTEP Alumni Association has actively engaged with our alumni across the country to establish relationships and connections back to the alma mater. These connections have resulted in our learning more about the wonderful alumni legacies that exist from generations of Miners.


Every great university has alumni who have opened the doors for family members to be able to obtain a college education. UTEP is no exception, as we have many alumni who were the first in their families to earn a college degree and subsequently their families have benefited greatly from this University. As we approach our Centennial Celebration, I am calling on all alumni to share your family legacies with the UTEP Alumni Association. This is one of the most important milestones in our history and the ability to share alumni family legacies will be enriching for our UTEP family.

Please take a moment to respond to my request by emailing alumni@utep.edu to share your family legacies as we get ready to celebrate our 100th birthday. *Go Miners!* 

Richard J. Daniel, Ph.D.

*Associate Vice President for University Advancement and Special Projects
Executive Director for Alumni Relations*

HARRIS CONNECT PROJECT



ATTENTION MINER ALUMNS

In the next few months, you will be hearing from Harris Connect as we update alumni information to include in the upcoming Centennial Alumni Directory.

Why is this important?

- BE PART OF THE COMMEMORATIVE ALUMNI DIRECTORY IN 2014.
- GET CONNECTED TO ALUMNI WITH WHOM YOU MIGHT HAVE LOST TOUCH.
- TELL US ABOUT THE GREAT THINGS YOU HAVE BEEN DOING SINCE YOU LEFT UTEP.
- STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR ALMA MATER.



“I have to give credit to the people at UTEP who showed me that I had something to contribute”

Corine Prieto

Corine Prieto, president of Integrated Geophysics Corp. in Houston, supports UTEP students through a scholarship she co-established and through her role as chair of the College of Science advisory board.

GEOPHYSICS CONSULTANT WAS **‘CAPTURED’ BY UTEP**

By Timi Haggerty-Muñoz

“I’VE ALWAYS SAID – AND TO THIS DAY I STILL SAY IT – YOU WALK ONTO THIS CAMPUS AND YOU GET A SHOT OF ADRENALINE.”

That’s Corine Prieto’s explanation for her continued service and financial support of UTEP, even though she hasn’t lived in El Paso since she graduated from the University in 1968 with a B.S. in physics.

Now president of Integrated Geophysics Corp. in Houston, Prieto said, “It’s incredible to see the dynamic work being done to prepare UTEP students for the world market. I find it very rewarding to be a part of that kind of direction.

“I see that the philosophy in the College of Science is bent toward preparing students to be aware of what to expect, and to be equipped to step into a job. I like that business concept. There’s no time to arrive ill equipped in the world market today. There’s too much competition.”

Prieto stresses that the competition the

current generation of students will face isn’t limited to graduates from America’s top universities.

“I’m talking about universities from Bucharest, from Russia, Romania, Britain and Africa,” she said. “If I were to announce an open position for a geophysicist today, I guarantee you that before I got an American to send me a resume, I’d have 10 from other places around the world.”

At IGC, Prieto is herself competing within the global market. The consulting firm she started in 1981 interprets geophysical and geological data for such leading oil and gas companies as BP, Chevron, Exxon and Hunt Oil.

“My competitors are not in the United States,” she said, “they’re in England, they’re in Australia, they’re Russian. My projects are worldwide.”

Prieto, who received the College of Science Gold Nugget Award in 2007, is contributing

toward the preparation of UTEP’s students as chair of the college’s Advisory Board. She also established a scholarship with her cousin, fellow UTEP alumnus Philip Prieto, and his wife, Jan, to support science and kinesiology students. Through her membership on the University’s Centennial Campaign Leadership Council, she now encourages others to support UTEP.

“I have to give credit to the people at UTEP who showed me that I had something to contribute,” she said. “I feel like I wasn’t so much committed to UTEP as I was captured by it. I didn’t know what I could contribute, but UTEP showed me there’s a lot that can be done here. Then I saw that what I was doing was resulting in great things, and I have enjoyed doing it. So, people should ask to be captured, because it’s very rewarding.” ☑



DRIVEN TO RUN

By Jenn Crawford • Photo by Jan Vandendriessche

A former kicker who started out taking a one-credit P.E. class at UTEP is now a world champion endurance runner.

Jon Olsen, who earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from UTEP in 1998, recently won first place in the 2013 International Association of Ultrarunners' 24-Hour World Championships in Steenbergen, Netherlands. That means he covered more miles than any of his competitors during a 24-hour run.

That's right, he ran continuously for a full 24 hours, covering nearly 168 miles. He only stopped to walk once ... for about 10 seconds.

"I'm pretty stubborn and not easily bored," he said. "Thinking about it seems absurd ... it's hard for me to look at people with a straight face and say, 'Yeah, I ran all of it but 10 seconds.'"

But when you look at his other ultrarunning accolades, Olsen's accomplishment is not that surprising. He has first-place medals from the Rocky Road 100-Mile Endurance Run in Coto de Caza, Calif.; the U.S. 24-Hour Championships in Cleveland; the Lake Tahoe 72-Mile Race in California; and the Desert Solstice 100-Mile Run in Phoenix – and those were just his 2012 races.

People often ask Olsen, who will be 39 in August, how he completes these ultra races, and why.

"The first 12 hours [of a 24-hour race], it's not excruciating, you're not bored ... you really just concentrate on eating and drinking, you're talking to people, you have a lot of distractions," Olsen said after returning from the Netherlands

as the 24-hour world champion in May. "The last 12 hours become a constant argument with yourself to keep going ... Most of the time, you're really not as bad off physically as your mind will make you think you are."

His motivation? It's very simple.

"My motivation is just to see how far I can go," he said with a matter-of-factness that made running for 24 hours sound like a logical thing to do. "In one day, how far can I run? I don't want hills. Give me something flat, a loop where I don't have to carry water with me."

Olsen had always been a motivated athlete. From the time he was 8 or 9 years old, he wanted to play college football. He was so determined that he would go out and practice by himself, even at a young age.

Current UTEP Head Football Coach Sean Kugler recruited Olsen out of Sacramento City College in California, and he played kicker and punter for the Miners in 1995 and 1996. Kugler, who was a tight ends and strength coach at the time, remembers Olsen as a "hardworking kid, very dedicated and well liked," he said.

A few years after graduating from UTEP and starting work as a sixth grade teacher at Edgemere Elementary School, Olsen and his wife, Denise, a former UTEP soccer player, decided to train for a marathon. After the first race, he was hooked. In 2001, Olsen began his first formal running experience: a one-credit running class that he took at UTEP.

His instructor for that class, El Paso endurance runner and race director Mark Dorion, is now a close friend of Olsen's.

"My motivation is just to see how far I can go."

Jon Olsen '98

"He is a great role model for other student-athletes and what they can accomplish after UTEP," said Dorion, who has also been an adjunct professor in UTEP's English department. "Jon has been a very successful educator, coach, parent and, of course, athlete – in a sport so different from football. As far as his raw talent, I have had a few students in UTEP P.E. classes who had as much physical talent, but lacked Jon's mental focus and determination."

When he's not running, Olsen is a full-time middle school math teacher and coach in Modesto, Calif. He coaches the Teens Run Modesto Program, which trains boys and girls ages 12-18 to run a full or half-marathon. The program's goal is to give disadvantaged youth an opportunity to accomplish a seemingly insurmountable goal and apply the determination and hard work that helped them succeed to other parts of their lives.

Every weekday morning, his alarm goes off between 4 and 4:30 a.m. He puts in a two-hour run before work, then heads to school. He'll typically try to fit in a second run during lunch or his planning period, or after school with the students he coaches. In the evenings, he gives his full attention to his wife, who graduated from UTEP in 2001 with a master's degree in physical therapy, and children Nathaneal, 8, and Lauren, 6.

"It's like a well-oiled machine during the week," Olsen said about his daily routine. "It's pretty busy, but I'm a pretty driven person, so it doesn't bother me. I can't sacrifice the family stuff; I have to sacrifice on my end, so I get up in the morning ... and when I'm home, I'm home. My wife is very supportive of what I do."

His next race will be the IAU 100K World Championships in Durban, South Africa, in October. He also has his sights set on breaking a couple of American records: the existing 100-mile record of 12 hours, 12 minutes and the 24-hour record of 172.5 miles.

As someone who must have incredible focus, drive and a very high pain tolerance to not only complete 100-mile and 24-hour runs, but to be among the fastest and best in the world in those events, Olsen has remained down-to-earth with a healthy perspective on his success.

"I arrived at UTEP as a football player, and now I'm a runner, and just happen to be doing really well," he said, adding with a laugh: "I'm a world champion now and I started out taking a one-credit P.E. running class." 🏃

Robert Murrell Stevenson (B.A. '35)
Santa Monica, Calif.; Dec. 22, 2012.

Walter C. McGee (B.B.A. '71)
Oak Grove, Texas; Feb. 21, 2013.

Bobby L. Garner (B.S.Met. '59)
Louisville, Ky.; Feb. 24, 2013.

Richard E. Lindberg (B.S.M.I. '50)
Tracyton, Wash.; Feb. 27, 2013.

Daniel A. Nichols (B.A. '74)
Albuquerque, N.M.; Feb. 27, 2013.

Morgan Richard "Dick" Jones (B.S. '58)
Benson, Ariz.; March 2, 2013.

Neale L. Baker (B.A. '78; M.Ed. '88),
Horizon City, Texas; March 3, 2013.

Jose R. "Bob" Garcia (B.S. '67; M.S. '72)
Denver, Colo.; March 3, 2013.

Bessie Cramer Graf (B.S.Ed. '66)
El Paso; March 4, 2013.

Harry R. "Bob" Hirsch (B.S. '56)
Kerrville, Texas; March 4, 2013.

William A. Chamness (B.B.A. '68)
El Paso; March 5, 2013.

Sam M. Paxson (B.B.A. '55)
El Paso; March 11, 2013.

Anthony Z. Dube (M.A. '64)
Sherwood, Ark.; March 13, 2013.

Alvis R. Glidewell (B.A. '58)
El Paso; March 14, 2013.

Gerald B. Rogers (B.A. '52; M.A. '55)
Ransom Canyon, Texas; March 15, 2013.

Martha T. Flores (B.A. '47)
El Paso; March 16, 2013.

Patricia A. Graves (B.A. '51)
Los Alamos, N.M.; March 16, 2013.

Burgess W. "Bud" Collier, Jr. (B.S. '60)
Galveston, Texas; March 18, 2013.

Joanna L. Walker (B.A. '99)
El Paso; March 19, 2013.

Mario Aguilar Sanchez (B.B.A. '74)
El Paso; March 21, 2013.

Charles M. "Charky" Van Eman (B.B.A. '72)
Midland, Texas; March 21, 2013.

Yolanda "Yoli" Lucero (B.S.Ed. '71)
El Paso; March 22, 2013.

Charlie G. Ramsey (B.B.A. '47; M.Ed. '80)
El Paso; March 27, 2013.

Harrison M. Gamble (B.A. '67)
Bartlesville, Okla.; March 30, 2013.

Hortencia Barcena Fernandez (B.S.Ed. '70)
El Paso; April 3, 2013.

Gloria Grajeda Arzola (B.S.Ed. '83)
El Paso; April 5, 2013.

Edwin L. Lent (B.A. '59)
El Paso; April 6, 2013.

Jane A. Verduin (M.Ed. '80)
Plano, Texas; April 7, 2013.

Basil R. Smith, Jr. (B.I.S. '76)
Gilbert, Ariz.; April 8, 2013.

Rebecca M. "Becky" Craver (M.A. '80)
Santa Fe, N.M.; April 10, 2013.

Rafael Portillo, Jr. (B.B.A. '90)
Clint, Texas; April 10, 2013.

Julian A. Borschow (B.A. '49)
El Paso; April 11, 2013.

Ricardo F. "Rick" Gonzalez (B.S.E.E. '68; B.S.I.E. '78) San Antonio; April 11, 2013.

Melissa A. Miranda (B.S.W. '03)
Dallas; April 11, 2013.

Jesus R. "J.R." Provencio (B.S. '48; M.S. '66)
El Paso; April 18, 2013.

Charles H. Bowman (B.B.A. '81)
El Paso; April 22, 2013.

David Q. Gates (B.S. '09)
Baton Rouge, La.; April 23, 2013.

Evelyn J. Davidson (B.S.Ed. '72; M.Ed. '86)
El Paso; April 24, 2013.

Linda Navarro (B.A. '74)
El Paso; April 24, 2013.

Yolanda "Yolie" Rosales-Lopez (B.S.Ed. '84)
El Paso; April 24, 2013.

Yldefonso G. Luna (B.A. '55; M.Ed. '76)
El Paso; April 26, 2013.

Paul J. "The Strelz" Strelzin (M.S. '71)
El Paso; April 26, 2013.

Ann D. Loew (B.S.W. '89)
San Antonio; April 28, 2013.

Joyce J. Hearn (M.Ed. '81)
El Paso; May 2, 2013.

Kenneth H. Boesse, Jr. (B.M. '75)
El Paso; May 3, 2013.

Charles S. "Chuck" Gara (B.B.A. '70)
Albuquerque, N.M.; May 3, 2013.

Jorge Perez (B.S. '94)
El Paso; May 9, 2013.

Michael D. "Mike" Empson (B.B.A. '71)
El Paso; May 12, 2013.



Michael Ian Davis

By Nadia M. Whitehead

Professor Emeritus of chemistry Michael Ian Davis, Ph.D., who established the doctoral chemistry program at The University of Texas at El Paso, died May 9. He was 76 years old.

In addition to launching the doctoral program, he was credited with making the department more research-oriented during his 44 years at UTEP. He also played a significant role in developing physical and computational chemistry courses at the University.

"Dr. Davis was interested in all areas of physical chemistry, including quantum mechanics and thermodynamics, and he possessed a fine insight for the mathematical analysis of these studies," said Lawrence Ellzey, Ph.D., a UTEP professor of chemistry who collaborated with Davis on various theoretical studies.

UTEP alumnus K. W. Hipps, Ph.D., said that Davis ignited in him a fire for "all things quantum."

Hipps, who is the chair of chemistry at Washington State University, said that in addition to Davis' remarkable teaching ability, "Mike was always a gentleman in his dealings with others. There was more than one occasion when my actions merited a sharp rebuke, but it never came."

Born in London, the gentle chemist earned his bachelor's degree from University College London and his doctoral degree from the University of Oslo, in Norway studying under Noble Laureate Odd Hassel.

Aside from his research, he and his wife, Sandra, shared a love for dogs. He served on the Rio Grande Obedience Dog Club and the Humane Society of El Paso Board of Directors.

Davis' wife said one of her favorite quirks of her husband was when he would thank the toaster for popping up his toast.

She added, "I am so grateful to have spent 37 blissful years married to this brilliant, loving, sweet man, who treated me, and everyone, with uncommon respect and courtesy." 🐾

1950s

Helen T. "Holly" Cox (B.A. '54), El Paso artist, spoke of the "3 Generations" exhibit at the Hal Marcus Gallery in El Paso. "3 Generations" consists of artwork done by her grandmother, Fern Thurston, her father, Eugene Thurston and herself.

Rosa E. Guerrero (B.A. '57; M.Ed. '77), motivational speaker, humanitarian and educational consultant in El Paso, represented the Mexican-American community as a guest speaker at the YWCA Mary Ann Dodson Camp's fourth annual Imagine Peace Celebration in March.

1960s

Patricia D. "Trisha" Ainsa (B.A. '67), a UTEP professor in the Department of Teacher Education, was named a Top 25 Woman professor in Texas in March by college information aggregate website OnlineSchoolsTexas.com.

Sandra "Sandy" Boswell (B.S.Ed. '64; M.Ed. '87), RE/MAX real estate agent, was honored in March at the company's awards luncheon as an executive club member for her 2012 sales production.

Bobby C. Lesly (B.S.Ed. '64), of El Paso, was inducted into the 58th annual El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame's Coach category in May. Lesly coached Eastwood High School to the state basketball championship in 1976.

Larry R. McFarlin (B.A. '69; M.Ed. '84), an El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame inductee, was inducted into the El Paso Fastpitch Softball Hall of Fame in May.

1970s

Carlos Aceves (B.A. '76; M.Ed. '96), president of Tonal Teokalli, or the Sun Church of El Paso, represented the Native American community as a guest speaker at the YWCA Mary Ann Dodson Camp's fourth annual Imagine Peace Celebration in March.

Katherine Brennand (M.B.A. '79), of El Paso, was named vice chair of the El Paso Museum of Art Foundation board in March.

Bill Burton, Jr. (B.A. '70), chief executive officer at advertising firm Mithoff Burton Partners in El Paso, was inducted into the Worldwide Partners Hall of Fame in May.

John F. Cook (B.B.A. '77), El Paso mayor, was honored in May by the Juárez City Council for his leadership and promotion of the border region. Cook also was inducted into the Fort Bliss Hall of Fame in March and was honored

earlier that month by the Central Business Association for his leadership and commitment to the El Paso community.

Robert I. Davidoff (B.A. '73), of El Paso, was selected in March to create artwork for the new Triple-A baseball stadium that will be built in El Paso. Davidoff is known for his large metal installations.

Gaspar Enriquez (B.A. '70), of San Elizario, Texas, was selected in March to create artwork for the new Triple-A baseball stadium that will be built in El Paso. Enriquez is known for his airbrushed Chicano portraits.

Gloria Estrada (B.S.Ed. '79), of El Paso, was inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame in May. Estrada is a former Fabens High School basketball standout who starred on the first women's basketball team at UTEP in 1974.

Joyce Feinberg (B.A. '71), of El Paso, was named adviser of the El Paso Museum of Art Foundation board in March.

Oscar G. Gabaldón, Jr. (B.A. '79), El Paso County judge, was given the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Disproportionality Advisory Committee Award for his work on eliminating racism, disproportionality, and disparities in the Texas foster care system.

Lisa S. Magers (B.A. '77), director of communications and community relations at Cleburne Independent School District in Cleburne, Texas, was the recipient of the 2012 Bayard H. Friedman HERO Award in December. The award honors outstanding school employees.

Paul W. Pearson (B.S.Ed. '75; M.Ed. '78), of El Paso, was inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame in May. Pearson is a former UTEP runner who over a 40-year career competed in state, regional, national and international events.

Luis G. Perez (B.S.C.E. '71; M.S.C.E. '86) was appointed as acting director of UTEP's Regional Center for Cyber and Energy Security in April.

Bernardino "Bernie" Olivas, Jr. (B.S.Ed. '79; B.S. '81), Sun Bowl Association executive director and 2011 El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, was grand marshal of the St. Patrick Cathedral School St. Patrick's Day parade in March.

Guadalupe "Lupe" Rivera (B.B.A. '71), 168th District Court Judge in El Paso, was recognized by the Tejano Democrats Paso del Norte and

the West El Paso Tejano Democrats at the Tejano Trailblazer Awards Ceremony in March for her work in the community.

Wayne Thornton (B.A. '77), special promotions coordinator with the City of El Paso's Parks and Recreation Department, was named to the Sun Bowl Association 2013-14 board of directors in April.

1980s

Yvonne M. Acosta (B.S.N. '83; M.S.N. '88), executive nursing director at the UTEP School of Nursing, was named president-elect of the Hospice El Paso board of directors in March.

Rafael "Ralph" Adame, Jr. (B.B.A. '80), owner-president of El Paso internet company Mexus Group, was named vice president of the Hospice El Paso board of directors in March.

Arlene E. Carroll (B.B.A. '87), first vice president at WestStar Bank in El Paso, was named vice president of the Hospice El Paso board of directors in March.

Alfredo Corchado Jimenez (B.A. '87), Mexico bureau chief for the Dallas Morning News, spoke of his forthcoming memoir, *Midnight in Mexico: A Reporter's Journey Through a Country's Descent into Darkness* (Penguin), in May.

Tamara Gladkowski (B.B.A. '87) was promoted to senior vice president, senior fiduciary officer at WestStar Bank in El Paso in April.

Christopher L. "Chris" Jacke (B.B.A. '89), former Green Bay Packers field goal kicker of Green Bay, Wis., was inducted into the NFL team's Hall of Fame in June.

Susana Martinez (B.S. '81), governor of New Mexico, was named in Time magazine's 2013 list of the 100 most influential people in the world in April. Martinez also attended the March installation of Pope Francis as part of a presidential delegation.

Jimmy A. Melendez (B.S.Ed. '80), baseball coach at Bel Air High School in El Paso, was inducted into the 58th annual El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame's Coach category in May.

Eva M. Moya (B.S.W. '81; Ph.D. '10), assistant professor in UTEP's College of Health Sciences, led a PhotoVoice training workshop for 15 clinicians and providers in Las Vegas in April. PhotoVoice is a method where people who are affected by certain conditions, such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, take pictures to document their quality of life.

James Munyala (B.B.A. '81), teacher in the El Paso Independent School District, was inducted into the 58th annual El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame in May. Munyala is a former UTEP cross country standout who won numerous NCAA titles for the Miners and competed in many world events, including the Olympics.

John D. "Danny" Olivas (B.S.M.E. '89), former NASA astronaut, released a children's book called *Endeavor's Long Journey* in May.

Guillermo Silva, Jr. (B.B.A. '88) was appointed vice president of community outreach at El Paso Electric Co. in March.

1990s.....

John R. Aranda (B.B.A. '97), vice president of commercial lending at Southwest Securities Full Service Bank in El Paso, was named to the Sun Bowl Association 2013-14 board of directors in April.

Steven T. Buraczyk (B.S.E.E. '91; M.B.A. '97) was named vice president of regulatory affairs at El Paso Electric Co. in April.

Antonio Cervantes (B.S.Ed. '90), of El Paso, was named the head coach of the Bel Air High School football team in March.

Virgilio Gonzalez (Ph.D. '99), senior lecturer in UTEP's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, in March, was recognized by college information aggregate website OnlineSchoolsTexas.com as one of 14 Hispanic Professors Making a Huge Difference in Texas.

Karen L. Hart (B.A. '97), partner at the law firm Bell Nunnally & Martin LLP in Dallas, was named a 2013 "Texas Rising Star" in March by Super Lawyers, a publication and rating service. "Texas Rising Stars" recognizes lawyers across 70 practice areas who are 40 years or younger or in the first 10 years of their practice.

Michael T. Livingston (B.B.A. '94), of El Paso, joined Sperry Van Ness Fortune Real Estate as a senior advisor in March.

Liliana I. Miranda (B.B.A. '98), senior vice president at WestStar Bank in El Paso, was named vice president of the Hospice El Paso board of directors in March.

Agustine Montes II (B.B.A. '99), recently joined Strategic Wealth Advisors as partner and director of credit and debt management in El Paso. He was also named secretary for the Sun Bowl Association 2013-14 board of directors in April.

Robert C. Moore (B.A. '98), *El Paso Times* editor, received second place for editorial writing in April at the 80th Texas Associated Press Managing Editors conference in San Antonio.

Kay L. Mooy (B.A. '98; M.A. '01; Ph.D. '12), of El Paso, was named to the Sun Bowl Association 2013-14 board of directors in April.

Stacy K. Sowards (M.A. '97), chair of UTEP's Department of Communication, was named a Top 25 Woman Professor in Texas in March by college information aggregate website OnlineSchoolsTexas.com. In February, Sowards was the recipient of the 2013 Distinguished Teaching Award from the Western States Communication Association. The award recognizes individual faculty for teaching that rises above and beyond the craft of teaching to sustained performance of excellence in pedagogy.

Leslie E. Wingo (B.B.A. '96), senior vice president and managing partner of Sanders/Wingo Advertising, Inc. in El Paso, was named a "Woman of Power" at *Black Enterprise* magazine's Women of Power Summit in March.

2000s.....

Romelia L. "Romie" Aragon (B.A. '03) was named the girls basketball coach at Americas High School in El Paso in April.

Maria-Elena Bencomo (B.S. '04), health educator, presented her lecture, "Working Toward a Healthy Parish: An Overview on Diabetes," in April at the Tepeyac Institute in El Paso.

Christina E. "Christy" Blanco (M.S.N. '03), nurse practitioner at Centro San Vicente Clinic in El Paso, was named the El Paso Pharmacy Association's 2012 Champion of Pharmacy in March.

Sandra E. Braham (M.Ed. '02; Ed.D. '05), YWCA El Paso del Norte region chief executive officer, was appointed to the inaugural YWCA USA CEO Advisory Council in April.

Patrick A. "Alex" Dimatteo (B.A. '06), of El Paso, started Oasis Community Church in March.

Bernadette M. Garcia (B.S. '04; M.P.T. '07), of Spectrum Therapy Consultants in El Paso, received her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from A.T. Still University - Arizona School of Health Sciences in March.

Michael E. "Mike" Guerra (M.B.A. '04), of El Paso, was named to the Sun Bowl Association 2013-14 board of directors in April.

Natasha Lacy (B.M.S. '07), a guard with the WNBA's Washington Mystics basketball team, was inducted into the 58th annual El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame's Athlete category in May.

Claudia Ordaz (B.A. '08) was named El Paso Museum of History's marketing coordinator in March.

Zahira Torres (B.A. '07), reporter at the *Denver Post*, received the Star Investigative Report of the Year award for midsize newspapers in April at the 80th Texas Associated Press Managing Editors conference in San Antonio for her El Paso Independent School District cheating investigation. Also, Torres was named Texas' most outstanding newspaper investigative reporter for 2012 and was awarded the Headliners Foundation Charles E. Green Investigative Report award. The Charles E. Green Awards for Excellence in Journalism, which honor journalists in five different categories, are considered Texas' most prestigious journalism awards.

Isabel Reza White (M.Ed. '08), a lecturer in the UTEP Department of Teacher Education, was named the president of the Junior League of El Paso, Inc., in May. The Junior League is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

2010s.....

Beatrice "Bea" Brackeen (B.I.S. '10) joined IT services consulting firm Makios in El Paso as a customer liaison in April.

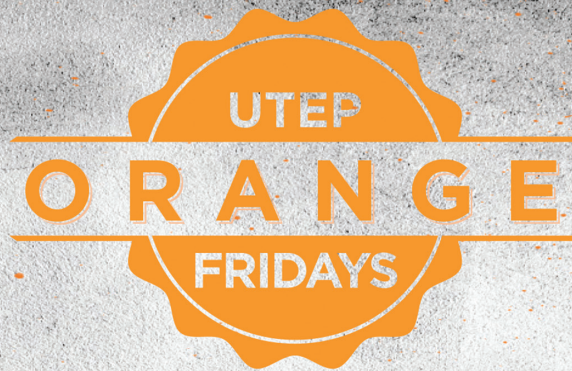
Darren L. Woodard (B.M.S. '12) signed a free-agent contract with the NFL's St. Louis Rams in April.

Abraham "Abe" Jallad (B.A. '10), of Los Angeles, was awarded a tuition scholarship in March to attend the University of Southern California's three-year MFA-Acting program. Since January 2011, Abe has played lead and supporting roles in two dozen theatrical productions, musicals, films and TV shows in Santa Fe and Albuquerque.



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

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
BURLINGTON, VT
05401
PERMIT 67



ARE YOU
ORANGE
ENOUGH?

WEAR ORANGE ON FRIDAYS!



Brought to you by the UTEP Student Government Association and the Division of Student Affairs.
For more information, contact: The Office of Student Life at 915.747.5648