

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

# UTEP

MAGAZINE

WINTER 2013

## OPERA BHUTAN

COMBINING WESTERN OPERA WITH BHUTANESE MUSIC • DANCE • CULTURE





## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As many of you know, UTEP has moved squarely into the national spotlight in recognition of our impact on the public good. *Washington Monthly* magazine recently ranked UTEP #12 among all U.S. research universities (between #11 Harvard and #13 Michigan) for overall impact and #1 for "Social Mobility." Very exciting too is that UTEP's growing prominence in U.S. higher education has been accompanied by increased international focus and engagement. There's a global dimension to many of UTEP's programs today, ranging from research collaborations to study abroad and academic exchange programs and the accomplishments of our distinguished international alumni.

The rapid rise in our annual research expenditures — to more than \$76 million last year — has positioned UTEP as a leader in conducting cutting-edge research that impacts our community, nation and the world beyond. In this issue of *UTEP Magazine*, we highlight the major grants awarded our researchers in the second half of 2012 (see page 25) and also provide a snapshot of the global scope of our research. The images on pages 28 and 29 map UTEP's presence around the world and illustrate the diverse topics that we study — from amphibians, reptiles and their endoparasites in the lowland forests of Central Africa to plant life in the Arctic and volcanoes in Kenya ... to name just a few!

The increase in UTEP's research funding has also positively impacted our ability to offer a wealth of international research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. This year, for example, the Department of Communication received nearly \$1 million from the U.S. Agency for International Development to address sustainability issues in forests and marine fisheries in Indonesia. As part of this three-year grant, UTEP students will participate in faculty-led research teams and travel with them to Indonesia. International research experiences and study-abroad programs are increasingly critical to preparing our students to compete successfully with their peers across the country and the globe. Today, UTEP students are learning in such settings as Italy, China, Qatar, Spain, the Czech Republic, Brazil and Taiwan.

UTEP alumni are also making their marks across the world. Did you know that a UTEP civil engineering graduate designed the tallest building in the world — Kingdom Tower in Saudi Arabia? Dennis C.K. Poon, class of 1977, is a 2012 recipient of UTEP's Distinguished Alumni Award, another good example of how our graduates are impacting the world in big ways!

And this year, UTEP will literally have greater presence on the world stage — with our participation in Opera Bhutan! This opera production is a partnership involving Opera UTEP, El Paso Opera, the Royal Government of Bhutan, opera professionals in Rome and other international collaborators to produce Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, the first-ever Western opera to be performed in the Kingdom of Bhutan. In this issue, Preston Scott, advisor to the Royal Government of Bhutan, takes us inside the extensive planning, logistics and coordination for Opera Bhutan (see page 39). The initial performance, which opens in Bhutan in October 2013, promises to be a musical event that will attract considerable international attention and offer UTEP another remarkable opportunity to deepen our relationship with the Himalayan kingdom that inspired the architectural designs of our campus nearly 100 years ago.

As UTEP gains increased attention for our many international initiatives and our progress toward becoming the first U.S. research university with a 21st century student demographic, we are also preparing to commemorate our distinguished history with exciting plans for UTEP's Centennial. We hope you'll enjoy the glimpse that this issue of *UTEP Magazine* offers into our many recent accomplishments and that you'll join us for the many 100th anniversary events in 2013 and 2014, including Opera Bhutan! We look forward to enjoying this once-in-a-lifetime celebration with each and every one of you!

Go Miners!

*Diana Natalicio*

DIANA NATALICIO • UTEP PRESIDENT



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Photo courtesy of Biological Sciences Department

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UTEP Associate Professor of Opera and Voice Elisa Fraser Wilson, D.M.A., and a Bhutanese dancer enjoy a *tsechu*, or sacred masked dance festival, in the city of Trongsa, Bhutan.



## 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.



# An Education that Transcends Borders

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# PROGRAMS LAUDED FOR IMPROVING LATINO ACHIEVEMENT

Photo by Laura Trejo



The UTEP Master of Business Administration program is one of the largest producers of Hispanic MBAs in the country, educating more than 360 students annually, 59 percent of whom are Hispanic. Pictured are full-time MBA students Gabriela Diaz, left, and Luis Gonzales with Assistant Dean for MBA Programs Laura Uribarri.

Elected officials and higher education leaders from across the country joined *Excelencia in Education* at the U.S. Capitol in October 2012 to honor The University of Texas at El Paso's Master of Business Administration program as America's top program for increasing academic opportunities and improving achievement for Latino students at the graduate level.

*Excelencia in Education* is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to accelerate Latino student success in higher education. Over the past seven years, the group has systematically identified and evaluated more than 500 programs and departments that have demonstrated success in boosting Latino enrollment, performance and graduation.

"We promise to hold the *Excelencia in Education* graduate program of the year award as a challenge for all of us to work even harder to ensure that our Latino students are served with access to the most advanced and competitive business education that we can provide," said Robert Nachtmann, D.B.A., dean of the College of Business Administration. "Only through excellence in educational preparation and experience can access serve well."

The UTEP MBA program is one of the largest AACSB-accredited producers of Hispanic MBAs in the country, educating more than 360 students annually, 59 percent of whom are Hispanic. Concerted efforts by program faculty and staff over the past seven years have resulted in tangible indicators of success. Student credit hours earned have grown by 82 percent. Hispanic graduates increased to 78 in 2011 from 27 in 2005. Program graduates have enjoyed growing career opportunities with Fortune 500 companies as well as regional entities. These successes have

been recognized by *Hispanic Business* magazine, ranking the UTEP MBA program No. 1 in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

*Excelencia in Education* also honored UTEP's Reverse Transfer Program as one of 16 national finalists for the 2012 Examples of *Excelencia* recognition. UTEP, embarking on a pioneering arrangement with El Paso Community College, developed a fully automated reverse-transfer system that allows transfer students to earn their final credits at the University, and then have those credits sent back to the community college. A grant from the Department of Education enabled the two institutions to create the program, resulting in a seamless electronic environment of shared student services.

Donna Ekal, Ph.D., associate provost for undergraduate studies, said the Reverse Transfer Program represents one of the many strategies the University uses in partnership with EPCC to support college access and completion for students in the Paso del Norte region.

"With more than 3,000 degrees awarded to date in El Paso and numerous presentations made around the country about our program, this reverse transfer effort is providing an opportunity for students to receive an earned (associate) degree and is providing an inspiration for institutions around the country to create a new pathway to degree completion for their students," Ekal said. ➤

Use your smartphone to scan this code to view a video about the UTEP MBA Program.





# DISTINGUISHED GUESTS



## Edmund Bertschinger, Ph.D.

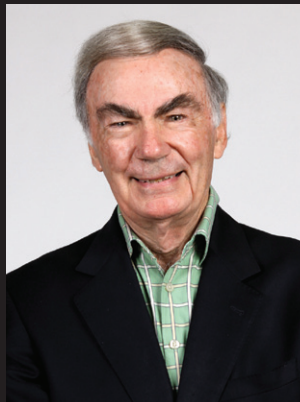
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The distinguished professor from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology spoke with UTEP undergraduate physics and engineering students during his visit to campus in October to encourage them to pursue research and graduate studies opportunities. His goal is to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (or STEM) disciplines at MIT.

## Sam Donaldson

ABC News

The distinguished UTEP alumnus visited his alma mater in October for a Centennial Lecture discussing the 2012 presidential election. A 1955 graduate of Texas Western College (now UTEP), Donaldson used his more than 40 years of political journalism experience with ABC News to offer insights into the year's campaign season.



## Sichan Siv

Former U.S. Ambassador

The former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and international best-selling author presented a lecture titled "From the Killing Fields to the White House" at UTEP in October. He offered his personal story as a survivor of Cambodia's killing fields in 1976 on a journey to becoming a prominent U.S. figure in international affairs.



## Mason Peck, Ph.D.

NASA

The NASA chief technologist came to UTEP in September to help the College of Engineering open the new Center for Space Exploration Technology Research. He also delivered the first Centennial Lecture of the 2012-13 academic year, where he talked about the newest innovations at NASA and how students can take advantage of internship and fellowship opportunities with the agency. ➡



# ENROLLMENT

## UTEP ENROLLS RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENTS



By Daniel Perez

The University of Texas at El Paso celebrated several student population milestones during the fall 2012 semester, including a record number of students: 22,749. It was the 14th straight year of increased enrollment, with growth of more than 32 percent in the past decade.

The University also enrolled the largest entering class – 4,527 students – in its almost 100-year history. The figure includes 2,890 first-time students and 1,637 transfer students, and represents a 2 percent increase compared to fall 2011.

"The healthy growth in new undergraduate students at UTEP, 83 percent of whom come from El Paso County, is a tribute to the success of our collaborative efforts with (El Paso Community College) and area schools to raise educational aspirations and attainment among young people across this region," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

The number of students seeking doctoral and special professional degrees, such as the Doctor of Physical Therapy and the Doctor of Nursing Practice, grew to 727 from 656 the previous year. The University's doctoral enrollment has increased by more than 210 percent during the past 10 years.

UTEP's continuing success in attracting a larger number of students came at the same time as a significant ranking by *Washington Monthly* magazine, which rated UTEP as the #12 university in the nation (see story, page 36). Its findings were based on social mobility, research production, community service and cost-effectiveness of degree completion. In fact, the campus earned a #1 ranking in the social mobility sub-category.

"I believe this year's overall enrollment growth, especially in new undergraduate and doctoral students, also signifies UTEP's ongoing commitment to student success," said University Provost Junius Gonzales. ➡





# BUILDING A ‘GREENER’ UTEP

## FACILITIES PROJECTS CREATE EFFICIENCY, COST SAVINGS

By Sandy Hicks • Photos by J.R. Hernandez



Manuel Arzate, operator I, monitors the central plant hot water system from the Campus Central Control Center. Operators such as Arzate keep track of the temperatures in each building, the operation of the thermal plants, the fire alarm systems and the research support monitoring systems to make sure they are running efficiently.

Imagine a university saving thousands of dollars per year by reducing its own carbon footprint and making the best possible use of its resources while respecting the environment. That university is our very own UTEP; and the Facilities Services department, with Associate Vice President of Business Affairs Greg McNicol at the helm, is doing just that.

“We believe in this department setting an example for the community,” McNicol said. “Cultivating attitudes and behaviors that save money sends a message of fiscal responsibility and will help UTEP meet its mission of access and excellence.”

Jorge Villalobos, Ph.D., director of Facilities Services, says that UTEP as a whole is passionate about its access and excellence mission, and to that end, the Facilities Services department has proactively developed and implemented “green” concepts on campus while reducing operating costs to the university.

Since 2000, the Facilities Services department has completed three separate energy audits, resulting in millions of dollars of savings. In 2007, it was estimated the initiatives undertaken by the university delivered \$2.5 million in energy savings per year.

Among these green initiatives, the largest project was the installation of a 3.6-million-gallon thermal storage tank in 2000. The tank

stores chilled water used in the buildings’ cooling systems. By producing and storing chilled water during the night and using the water during the hottest part of the day, the University does not use a significant amount of electricity during the peak hours of the day. This reduces the overall load to the electric grid and further avoids peak-hour electric charges. The tank helps UTEP save more than \$1.2 million per year in electrical costs.

“This thermal storage system gives us the biggest bang for our buck,” Villalobos said. “The thermal storage tank on Glory Road allows us to run the chillers off-peak, cool water to 42 degrees in a central location, then distribute it around campus during the peak hours of the day without having to run chillers at all, optimizing the operation of this plant.”

The replacement of old chillers with newer, more efficient systems, led by then-Assistant Director Danny Cisneros and co-funded by El Paso Electric Co., yielded peak demand savings of 773 kW per year and saved \$375,000 per year. Additionally, a temperature set-back policy that standardized building temperatures at 70 degrees with an adjustment to 73 degrees in summer further contributed to the savings.

Another green initiative to replace inefficient lighting throughout the campus was led by Associate Director of Maintenance Luis Morales

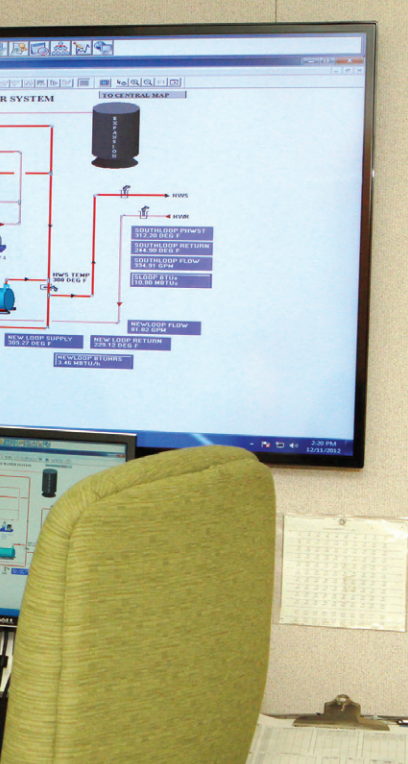
in 2008. The project sought to proactively replace lighting fixtures from incandescent or low-efficiency fluorescent lighting to high-efficiency fluorescent and/or LED lighting. Not only does the new lighting use a fraction of the energy, but the life of each bulb is expected to be five times longer than the previous fixtures.

Initiatives and efficiencies go beyond mere replacement – McNicol and former Planning and Construction Director Ed Soltero designed new campus buildings to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver standards, integrating the latest technology in energy-saving lighting fixtures; heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems; water fixtures; window selection; and other money- and energy-saving features.

In 2010, UTEP installed a 175-kilowatt solar electricity-producing station, thanks to a grant from the State Energy Conservation Office. One component of the solar-panel system, generating 75 kW, was installed at the UTEP Physical Plant. A second component, generating 100 kW, was installed on the rooftop of the new Student Recreation Center. The solar panels are estimated to generate 302,000 kW-hours of power annually, prevent 126,840 pounds of carbon dioxide from being released into the environment, and save \$37,000 per year.

“Our long-term goal is to utilize our solar





The Facilities Services central plant technicians and operations and research staff include, from left: Elizabeth Gamez, Joe Ramirez, Manuel Arzate, Paul Rodriguez, Marco Esparza, Dale Mankin, Carlo Vázquez, Marco Rodriguez and Mario Montes.

capacity as much as possible to take advantage of our most bountiful resource – the sun,” Villalobos said. The State Energy Conservation Office funded 80 percent of the \$1 million solar panel project, with a 20 percent match from UTEP.

The latest energy audit performed in 2011 indicated that many of the most obvious and easiest projects have been completed in the last 10 years, but the future holds many promising green opportunities.

Villalobos’ passion for leading the green charge at UTEP inspired him to initiate a new UTEP Facilities Operations Team.

“We have historically seen ourselves as a maintenance organization, but we are transforming our thinking to an operations and maintenance organization,” he said.

The new team, led by Facilities Assistant Director Carlo Vázquez, will continue the optimization of the university’s HVAC systems. With the assistance of Bill Kraffen in the HVAC shop and Dale Mankin in the Central Plant shop, the team already has identified systems that require automation modifications or repairs to ensure they are working efficiently.

The latest project in development is the installation of sophisticated software that optimizes the entire campus’ HVAC systems. Maintaining HVAC systems for a campus the

size of UTEP is a complex endeavor. The thermal plants, where chilled or hot water is produced for campus heating and cooling, consist of four 2,000-ton chillers and cooling towers, a thermal tank, and boilers to heat water. This is the equivalent of managing 2,400 houses with typical five-ton unit refrigeration systems.

The water is distributed to each of the buildings through a maze of underground pipelines. Each building has a complex system of thermostats, pumps and air systems that manage the space temperatures.

“It is impossible for any one person to monitor over 53,000 control points and temperature sensors in 74 buildings and structures,” Villalobos said. “Someone has to make decisions on how to run the 8,000 tons of chillers, the thermal tank, boilers, cooling towers and pumps that distribute the water to each building and how each building utilizes those resources.”

Right now, an operator keeps track of the temperatures in each building, the operation of the thermal plants, and monitors the fire alarm systems and research support monitoring systems from the Campus Central Control Center.

Villalobos, Vázquez and the team are researching technology that will radically change how buildings are monitored for HVAC optimization. The computerized system the

new team is hoping to implement monitors all of these individual systems and improves the performance and efficiency of the entire operation, helping to deliver significant cost savings.

“Our long-term goal is to create ‘smart buildings,’” Vázquez said. “When you swipe a card, we will know which floor and which room needs our attention. We can turn on that section of lights, heat or air conditioning during off hours instead of (constantly) heating, cooling and lighting an entire building.”

To start, the University is looking into consolidating weekend and evening classes into fewer buildings for more efficient heating, cooling and lighting.

McNicol, Villalobos and Vázquez have high aspirations for UTEP’s efficiency and green status. The long-range plan is to incorporate fire alarms, HVAC systems, elevators, gas and electricity into one seamless system.

“We want to be predictive, not just reactive – we should know it’s cold in your room before you know it,” Villalobos said, “and we want to make sure we deliver the most efficient building operation possible.” 🏠



# UTEP IN SPACE:

## NASA, UTEP REINFORCE SPACE EXPLORATION PARTNERSHIP



By Nadia Macias • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Luisa Cabrera and Martin de la Torre, graduate students in mechanical engineering, work in the Center for Space Exploration Technology Research to prepare for a study on optimizing energy turbines for high hydrogen content fuels and fuel flexibility.

The University of Texas at El Paso took one step closer to space on Sept. 6.

Representatives from NASA visited campus for the grand opening of the Center for Space Exploration Technology Research (cSETR) at the College of Engineering.

The opening included a dedication ceremony for the Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy (SEMAA) Aerospace Education Laboratory.

Mason Peck, NASA's chief technologist, keynoted the event.

"It's a great honor to represent NASA at today's opening of this world-class space exploration technology research center," said Peck, NASA's principal adviser and advocate for technology policy and programs. "Through this partnership, NASA will be able to tap into the incredible intellectual capital of UTEP for the development of new technologies that will enable our future missions, while also

producing innovations that will spin off to benefit the regional and national economy."

The new facilities are part of a recent \$22 million renovation in the college, which includes the Goddard Combustion and Propulsion Research Facility and the Challenger-Columbia Structures and Materials Research Laboratory.

With a particular focus on environmentally friendly propulsion, cSETR researchers will study and test technologies in relevant environments, space structures, clean power generation, solar energy and carbon dioxide management.

The event was another milestone in the ongoing collaboration between NASA and UTEP.

"Our partnership with NASA creates opportunities for our faculty to inspire another generation of technology explorers; and opportunities for our students to reach for their own stars, and to drive the innovation engine of our nation," said Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., dean of UTEP's College of Engineering.

Twenty-four UTEP students have held internships over the last two years at NASA facilities, including the Johnson Space Center, Marshall Space Flight Center, Glenn Research Center, Ames Research Center and the Jet Propulsion Lab.

Zenia Garcia, a former graduate research assistant at UTEP, was one of those students grateful for the UTEP-NASA partnership. She worked closely with NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center since she was an undergraduate in 2008.

"cSETR contributed greatly to my interest in not only space exploration but in pursuing an advanced degree concentrating in space technologies," said Garcia, who joined the NASA Marshall center workforce as a full-time employee after graduation in December. "All this would not be possible without programs such as the partnership between NASA and UTEP." 📌

**“HIS LOVE OF TEACHING AND HIS WORK WITH EDUCATORS HAVE GIVEN HIM THE ABILITY TO REACH STUDENTS AND INSPIRE THEM TO SUCCEED.”**

Laura Serpa, Ph.D.  
Chair of the Department of Geological Sciences



Philip Goodell, Ph.D., associate professor of geological sciences, and his wife, Kathy, pledged \$1 million to help start a center for entrepreneurial geosciences at UTEP. It is the largest single donation to UTEP to date by a faculty member.

## PROFESSOR PLEDGES \$1 MILLION TO TRANSFORM UTEP GEOLOGY

By Nadia Macias • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

It's the largest single gift ever made by a faculty member to any college or school at UTEP: Associate Professor of Geological Sciences Philip Goodell, Ph.D., and his wife, Kathy, have pledged a gift of \$1 million to the Department of Geological Sciences.

Kathy Goodell said President Diana Natalicio's leadership and her efforts to transform the campus were important factors in the decision to make the gift.

"(Dr. Natalicio) embodies a lot of what we want — to give everybody a chance and the best chance," Kathy Goodell said.

Philip Goodell would like the donation to help start a center for entrepreneurial geosciences at UTEP.

"You can use rocks, geology, and the Earth to create wealth," he said. "Mines, oil — things

that society uses."

Born and raised in El Paso, Goodell is an example of an entrepreneurial geologist who started out small.

"When I was 10 years old I decided to sell rocks at the bus stop," he said with a laugh. "I thought, why couldn't I enrich their lives with pretty rocks and they enrich mine with their spare change?"

After leaving El Paso to attend Yale and Harvard universities, Goodell eventually returned in 1975 to teach at UTEP. Through the years, his expertise in the field has allowed him to advise a number of companies, such as Exxon Minerals, Chevron Minerals Corp., Energy Metals Inc. and Tigris Uranium.

Laura Serpa, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Geological Sciences, praised Goodell as a "role

model for geology students at UTEP who wish to pursue careers in mining and economic geology."

Goodell has always inspired students to explore and discover, she said.

Examples of the professor's spirit include legendary spring break trips to Mexico with his geology students to explore underground mines; collecting minerals in abandoned tunnels near Durango, Colo.; and even buying wholesale rocks in El Paso and selling them up north to help fund graduate school.

"His field trips are notorious adventures and his occasional disregard for rules has inspired students to realize they can work outside the box and have a rewarding career," Serpa said. "His love of teaching and his work with educators have given him the ability to reach students and inspire them to succeed." 📧

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# WINTER COMMENCEMENT

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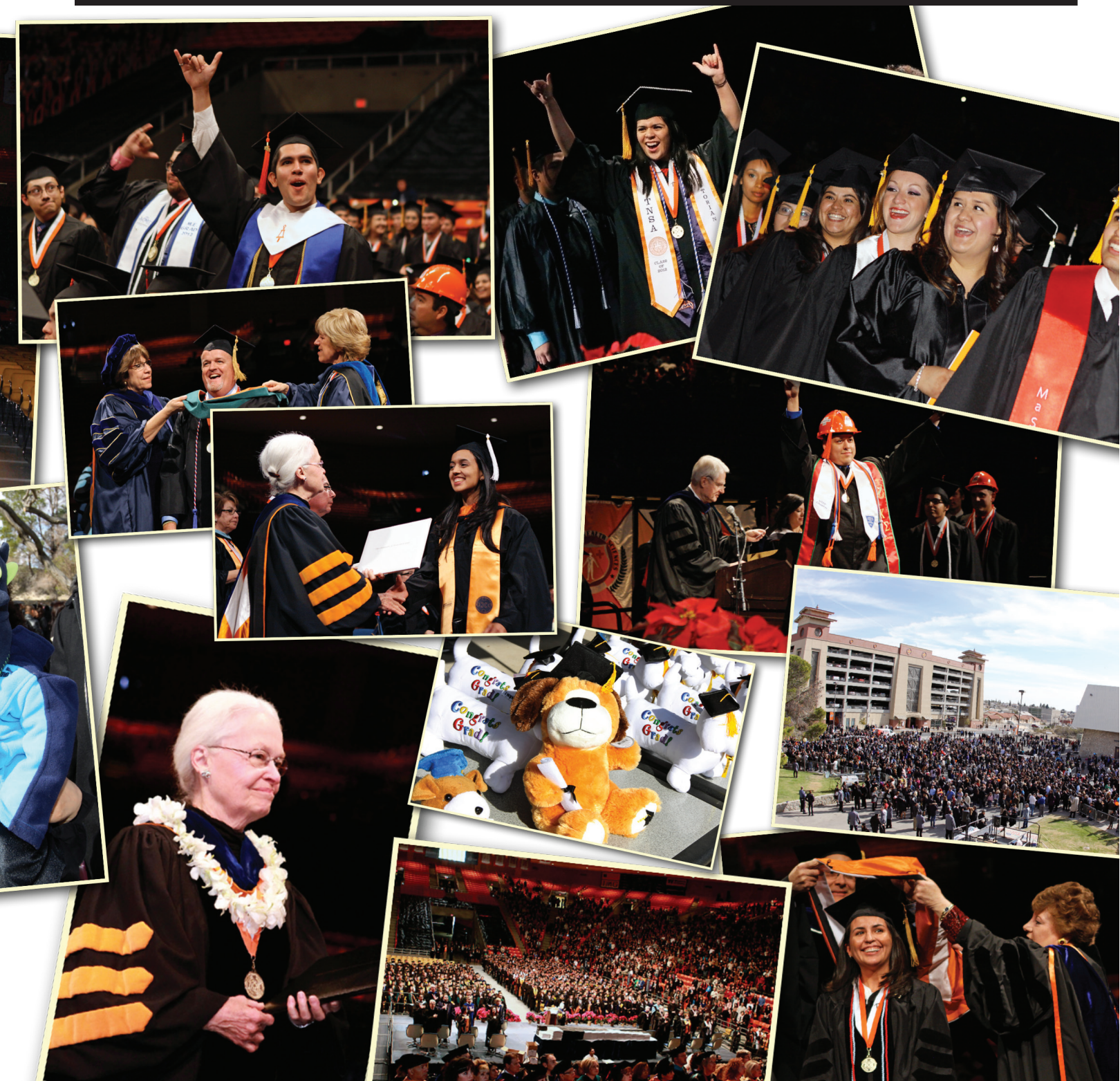


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More than 2,380 students – up from 2,014 last winter – were eligible to participate in the Dec. 15 Winter Commencement ceremonies at The University of Texas at El Paso. It was the largest Winter Commencement ever held at UTEP.

“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,” UTEP President Diana Natalicio said. “Congratulations to all of you!”

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# WINTER COMMENCEMENT

As is her custom, UTEP President Diana Natalicio highlighted some of the outstanding graduates from the Class of 2012 in her Commencement remarks. Here are the stories of a few of those graduates.



**DAVID ISAAC VALENCIA**  
**B.A. IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Upon first meeting David Isaac Valencia, or Isaac, as he is known to family and friends, you'll probably notice the beautiful black Lab always by his side. This is Izzie, his service dog. Izzie came with Isaac to UTEP in 2009 and she has guided him every step of the way to his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

Before Izzie, Isaac had a history of dropping classes due to the difficulty of navigating campus. He was on academic probation when he decided to go forward with the rigorous process of applying for a guide dog.

The month of hands-on training that Isaac received at Guiding Eyes for the Blind in New York equipped him on many levels to get through his undergraduate work at UTEP. And with Izzie by his side, Isaac was able to channel the focus he had put into training with her into his schoolwork and social life. Whether it was finding the way out of a room, leading Isaac to the bus stop, accompanying him to UTEP football games, or being an icebreaker in order to meet new people, Izzie brought out Isaac's full potential.

Throughout his time at UTEP, Isaac has volunteered with the Court Appointed Special Advocates for children program (CASA), participated in Ability Awareness Week, manned information tables at disability events for the public, and advocated for independent living on local radio shows.

Isaac is now considering a master's degree in public administration or may tackle the job market.



**JESSICA SANDOVAL**  
**BACHELOR OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES**

A desire to make a difference has driven Jessica Sandoval to help students with special needs.

The El Paso native and 2007 Franklin High School graduate realized her calling after she volunteered at a neighborhood child care center as a teen. Her patient, organized and nurturing personality meshed well with children, especially those with disabilities.

ACES, a company that helps people with autism, a mental condition that inhibits communication and social skills, hired Sandoval as a part-time behavioral interventionist in 2010 to work with a 4-year-old nonverbal and combative child. She still has a few faint scars from when the boy bit and scratched her. With persistence and techniques learned through her special education classes, she overcame her fear of the situation and helped him master basic life skills and communication through sign language.

She tied that experience to the familiar tale of a child who, when faced with a beach full of stranded starfish, throws the creatures back into the sea to give them a chance at life.

"I threw that starfish back into the ocean," she said. "UTEP now gives me the opportunity to throw every starfish I come across back into the ocean. I can now make an even bigger difference."

Jessica plans to keep her ACES job and apply for graduate school. Her goal is to earn a master's in special education with a focus in learning disabilities so she can continue to help all children have a chance at life.



**TEODULO SOTO**  
**M.S. IN ECONOMICS**

Teodulo Soto's work ethic in and out of the classroom is so inspiring that Tom Fullerton, Ph.D., a longtime UTEP economics professor, called him "one of the hardest working graduates in the history of the economics and finance department."

Teodulo, the eldest of four brothers and the family's first high school graduate, grew up in Horizon City and worked many jobs starting in middle school. He began by helping maintain the truck his father used in his rock-hauling business. Through the years, his jobs ranged from ditch digger to an internship with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to his current full-time job as an economist with El Paso Electric.

Academically, Teodulo was at the top of his class. He was a Top 10 graduate from Clint High School in 2004 before earning his bachelor's in business administration in 2009. He has been a Dean's List regular, an academic scholarship recipient, and finished his graduate studies with a 4.0 GPA. He has not earned a grade less than an "A" since 2007 when he switched majors to economics from electrical engineering.

On Dec. 15, he earned his Master of Science degree in economics. He thanks his parents who motivated and inspired him every step of the way.

"I saw how hard they worked at providing for my brothers and me with the life they never had and I desperately wanted to repay them," he said.

His goal is to use his economics background to help combat poverty around the world.



**KAREN VENTURA  
B.S. IN CHEMISTRY**

As an undergraduate, Karen Ventura participated in a lot of extraordinary research, including work to optimize fuel power, and studying the effects of plants in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's prevention.

Because of her "adventurous spirit," Karen also had the chance to do research at Shantou University in China through a COURI (Campus Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives) undergraduate research exchange program this past summer. While there, she worked on creating biosensors with copper and gold that will target cancerous cells.

She spent the summer prior to that studying French and art in Belgium through a UTEP study abroad program. She speaks English, Spanish, and even basic French and Mandarin Chinese.

Karen is grateful for the opportunities UTEP has provided her and is continuously giving back to the El Paso community to show her thanks. She has spent more than 150 hours volunteering at retirement homes and mental illness centers, and also works as a science, math and Spanish tutor.

Karen says she enjoyed completing her bachelor's at UTEP and will never forget her studies here, especially staying up late for finals and getting donuts with her friends at midnight in the library.

She plans to pursue a graduate degree in chemical education and hopes to return to UTEP as a professor.



**REBECCA LOWE  
B.S. IN NURSING**

Rebecca Lowe has never set foot on the UTEP campus. The retired U.S. Air Force captain has never studied in the University Library, or sat in class in the Undergraduate Learning Center, or chatted with friends in the Student Union.

Yet distance learning has made it possible for Rebecca to pursue her undergraduate studies in nursing at UTEP while living 6,000 miles away in northern Italy with her husband, a pilot assigned to Aviano Air Base, and their two-year-old son.

Lowe is one of more than 300 students who have benefited from the UTEP RN to BSN online degree, which offers registered nurses with an associate degree the opportunity to earn an advanced degree in as little as two semesters.

Overall, more than 4,700 students participated in the eight online programs offered at the University in fall 2012.

For Rebecca and her military family, moving around has always been a challenge. She and her husband were stationed at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas, when she discovered UTEP and the RN to BSN program. She enrolled because of the University's great reputation, she said.

The online BSN program has allowed Rebecca to continue her education from anywhere in the world and has brought her one step closer to achieving her long-term goal of becoming a nurse practitioner.

"The virtual learning world is extremely effective," she said. "Military families depend on this to further their education."



**STEPHANIE SANCHEZ  
B.S. IN ELECTRICAL AND  
COMPUTER ENGINEERING**

At the age of 20, Stephanie Sanchez was at the top of her class and graduated with a bachelor's in electrical and computer engineering.

"Graduating early is something I always envisioned myself doing," she said. "But now that it's here, it feels surreal."

Only a couple of years ago, Stephanie entered UTEP with a junior credit status after graduating from Mission Early College High School.

Motivation and persistence have led her to achieve several personal and academic goals. Stephanie is a first-generation college student who has taken full advantage of what UTEP has to offer, such as participating in undergraduate research within the department and even partaking in a research internship at Purdue University.

Under Associate Professor Stella Quiñones, Ph.D., Stephanie has been a Quantum Physics Teaching Assistant, helping students understand concepts, leading workshops and grading papers.

Stephanie is a member of several honor societies and organizations on campus and is a recipient of the UTEP Presidential Scholarship. Her most recent accomplishment is a National Science Foundation scholarship to help fund her graduate education, which she'll start at UTEP and hopes to finish at MIT.

She has maintained high standards throughout her academic career and has set an example for her siblings of what they can achieve.



**KATHERINE CARSON  
DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL  
THERAPY**

On Dec. 15, UTEP celebrated the first group of students to complete the two-year Doctor of Physical Therapy program that was established in the College of Health Sciences in 2010. With a solid foundation in diagnosis and evidence-based practice, Spanish medical terminology and advanced patient management skills, these graduates are well prepared to serve the rehabilitation needs of this community.

Among them is Katherine Carson, whose family has a special connection to UTEP's physical therapy program. Her mother, Allison Carson, a physical therapy lecturer in the College of Health Sciences, was in the first class to graduate from UTEP's Master of Physical Therapy program in 1999. Katherine was one of 21 students to graduate with a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree.

A knee injury Katherine suffered in high school set her on her career path. After undergoing surgery and extensive physical therapy, Katherine realized that by becoming a physical therapist she would be able to fulfill her desire to help others.

Katherine graduated with her bachelor's in kinesiology from UTEP in 2009 and was accepted into the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, which she describes as intense and demanding, yet it provided her with an outstanding education and the tools to have a successful career.

Katherine plans to become an orthopedic clinical specialist and physical therapist certified in manual therapy. ➤





# BEN FLORES

## APPOINTED DEAN OF GRADUATE SCHOOL

By Lisa Y. Garibay

***"I AM TRULY HONORED TO SERVE OUR INSTITUTION AT A REMARKABLE POINT IN ITS HISTORY AND TO LEAD THE UTEP GRADUATE SCHOOL IN ITS VISIONARY GOAL OF BECOMING A NATIONAL MODEL FOR EMERGING RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES THAT ASPIRE TO BRING HIGH-QUALITY GRADUATE PROGRAMS TO A 21ST CENTURY STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC."***

**Benjamin C. Flores, Ph.D.**  
Dean of the Graduate School at The University of Texas at El Paso

Benjamin C. Flores, Ph.D., was appointed dean of the Graduate School at The University of Texas at El Paso in October. Flores is a professor of electrical and computer engineering and had served as interim dean since 2010.

Flores earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from UTEP in 1985 and 1986. He began his work at the University as an assistant professor in 1990 after receiving his doctoral degree in electrical engineering from Arizona State University. During his tenure, he held several administrative positions in the Graduate School and the College of Engineering.

Flores is an expert in retention strategies

for nontraditional undergraduate and graduate students in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines. He is director of the PUENTES program, a project funded by the U.S. Department of Education that promotes post-baccalaureate opportunities for Hispanics, as well as the UT System Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, a project dedicated to increasing the number of underrepresented minorities who pursue graduate degrees across Texas.

"Drawing on his own experience as a UTEP undergraduate and the professional development that it enabled for him, Ben Flores has a deeply personal understanding of the importance of

UTEP's role in developing the talent of this region's young people and thereby contributing to greater diversity in the STEM workforce," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

In 2010, President Barack Obama recognized Flores with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentorship.

"I am truly honored to serve our institution at a remarkable point in its history and to lead the UTEP Graduate School in its visionary goal of becoming a national model for emerging research universities that aspire to bring high-quality graduate programs to a 21st century student demographic," Flores said. ☑



# OPEN HOUSE

## MARCH 2, 2013

**Orange and Blue Day is The University of Texas at El Paso's signature open house event.** It is an opportunity for future Miners to learn about UTEP's tradition of access and excellence. Students have the opportunity to learn campus traditions, talk to current students, meet with department representatives, tour the campus, and much more!



If you would like to recommend a student for attendance at Orange & Blue Day, visit

**[www.utep.edu/obdlegacy](http://www.utep.edu/obdlegacy)**

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Scan this QR code with your smartphone for more information.

# SINGHAL ADVOCATES FOR END TO POLIO AT UN

By Lisa Garibay • Photo courtesy of Arvind Singhal



Arvind Singhal, Ph.D., right, is shown with Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard at the UN General Assembly.

Leaders from around the world, including one UTEP professor, vowed to eradicate polio during the United Nations' General Assembly in September.

Heads of state from Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan stood alongside scientists and major donors to finalize what is needed to stamp out this paralyzing disease forever. Arvind Singhal, Ph.D., the Samuel Shirley and Edna Holt Marston Endowed Professor of Communication at The University of Texas at El Paso, was there representing the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

The IMB is an eight-member global body charged with monitoring progress on eradicating polio. September's meeting at the UN came from a recommendation by the IMB that world leaders, donors and spearheading agencies come together to renew their commitment to wipe out the disease.

**"Some 25 years ago, 400,000 children in 125 countries contracted polio each year. Now we are down to a few hundred cases each year in only three remaining countries..."**

Arvind Singhal, Ph.D.  
The Samuel Shirley and Edna Holt Marston Endowed  
Professor of Communication at The University of Texas at El Paso

"Some 25 years ago, 400,000 children in 125 countries contracted polio each year. Now we are down to a few hundred cases each year in only three remaining countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria," Singhal said. "This last inch, which is the most difficult, is a united and coordinated global quest to realize a universal public health good. Not since smallpox was eradicated from the face of the Earth over three decades ago have we come close to achieving a public health milestone. It is an honor to be a very small part of this history."

For UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, eradicating polio is a matter of "health and justice."

"Every child should have the right to start life with equal protection from this disease," he said during September's event. "That's why I have made eradicating polio a top priority for my second term as Secretary-General." 📧



## GARY EDENS NAMED VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

By Lisa Y. Garibay

Gary Edens, Ed.D., was appointed vice president for student affairs at The University of Texas at El Paso in September, after serving in the position on an interim basis since September 2011.

"Gary Edens has been a long-time member of the UTEP family and a visionary leader in the areas of student involvement and leadership," UTEP President Diana Natalicio said. "During the past year, he has been a highly effective campus administrator and we look forward to working with him in his role as vice president for student affairs."

During his 22 years at UTEP, Edens has served in a number of roles, from coordinator of leadership programming to associate vice president for student affairs.

In his position as vice president for student affairs, Edens oversees the Student Development Center, University Career Center, Union Services, Recreational Sports, Student Publications, Office of International Programs, Center for Accommodation and Support Services, Office of Student Life, Judicial Affairs, University Counseling Center and Residence Life.

Edens graduated from UTEP in 1990 as a Top Ten Senior with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. He went on to earn both his Master of Public Administration and doctorate in educational leadership and administration from the University.

"I'm extremely honored to serve the students attending UTEP," Edens said. "Working with colleagues from across campus, the Division of Student Affairs plays a critical role in the personal and professional development of students. I'm thrilled at the opportunity to be able to continue the division's work as UTEP continues down the path of becoming the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic." 📧





KINGS, QUEENS, GOLDEN GRADS, AND SUPERHEROES:

# 2012 HOMECOMING CELEBRATES EXCELLENCE

By Lisa Y. Garibay







First up was the election of this year's Homecoming Court: Queen Jackie Macias, King Raul Armendariz, Princess Meagan Olivas, Prince Roberto Dominguez, Duchess Tanya Loya and Duke Ramon Garcia.

Under the theme "Super Homecoming," student organizations competed in a variety of superhero contests including costume changes, catching a villain, and trivia.

Donation Wars, where each group had to collect as many clothing and toiletry donations as possible for local shelters,

netted more than 8,000 items that Miners proudly contributed to a variety of charities around town.

The annual Homecoming parade and Pep Rally featured high school ROTC students, the 2012 Homecoming Court, Golden Grads (alumni from the class of 1962 and earlier), and UTEP cheerleaders and athletes, along with plenty of alumni, current students and supportive El Pasoans lining the streets to cheer everyone on.

The University's colleges held celebrations

for their grads, open houses and campus tours, and honored Distinguished Alumni and Gold Nugget Award recipients who have distinguished themselves in their professions and lives, given back to their communities and alma mater, and serve as an inspiration for future generations of Miners.

Perhaps best of all, the UTEP Miners beat Tulane for the homecoming win with a score of 24-20, giving a packed crowd of fans something to cheer about. Go Miners! 🏈





# MINERS PICK ORANGE ON FRIDAYS

*Game days aren't the only days Miners wear orange.*

By Nadia Macias • Photo by J.R. Hernandez



Health Sciences, Nursing and P3 staff show their UTEP spirit.

Since Orange Fridays kicked off in the spring of 2012, the campus has seen thousands of students, faculty and staff sporting the University's signature color on the last day of the work week.

To help encourage participation, the Student Government Association – which started the concept to build school spirit as the University approaches its Centennial – has distributed more than 5,000 UTEP Orange T-shirts and 10,000 UTEP Orange bracelets this year.

"What is really wonderful is how the initiative has impacted the surrounding community," said Catie McCorry-Andalis, associate vice president and dean of students. "We've learned that many local businesses, schools and health care agencies are also promoting UTEP Orange Fridays."

On campus, UTEP's Food Services is encouraging Miner pride by offering a 10 percent discount to every person wearing orange on Fridays. Participating locations include Starbucks, Pizza Hut, Sandella's, Jazzman's Café and Bakery, and Chick-fil-A. The University Bookstore is also getting involved by offering 15 percent off clothing and gift item purchases.

McCorry-Andalis added, "As we work toward our Centennial celebration, we hope our alums and friends of UTEP, not only in El Paso, but throughout the nation and around the world, will join us in wearing orange on Fridays to show everyone the pride they have in UTEP!" 📧



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# HISTORIC CAMPBELL BUILDING UNDERGOES EXTREME MAKEOVER

By Laura L. Acosta • Photo by Laura Trejo



From left, College of Health Sciences Dean Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D., and academic chairs and program directors Stephanie Capshaw, O.T.D.; Deborah Diaz, Ph.D.; Anthony Salvatore, Ph.D.; Timothy Tansey, Ph.D.; José O. Rivera, Pharm.D.; and Hector Balcazar, Ph.D., cut an orange Thera-Band before welcoming guests into the renovated Campbell Building.

The University of Texas at El Paso's College of Health Sciences unveiled its new graduate health professions education, research and clinical learning environments in UTEP's historic Campbell Building last fall.

The 45-year-old building underwent a yearlong, \$2.3 million extreme makeover to enhance educational opportunities for graduate students and offer improved clinical services to the community, as well as accommodate a burgeoning research environment.

During the grand reopening, College of Health Sciences Dean Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D., along with the college's academic chairs and directors, cut the ceremonial ribbon – an orange Thera-Band – and welcomed guests for a tour of the building's upgraded classroom and lab space. The renovated facility houses more than 400 students and more than 50 faculty and staff in the college's graduate programs in occupational therapy, physical therapy, rehabilitation counseling, speech language pathology and pharmacy.

"We are beginning to see that we're having a huge impact on the quality of health care in this community, largely due to the professionals who are graduating from the programs that are offered at [UTEP]," University President Diana Natalicio said at the building's renovation celebration in October.

The refurbished 57,581-square-foot building features enhanced laboratory space on the first and second floors. The Morgan Roderick

Auditorium was transformed into three new research areas that include the Virtual Reality and Motor Control Research Laboratory and two clinical teaching laboratories for physical therapy students.

"UTEP is right in the middle of a transition phase and I'm really excited to be part of something big," said Vijo Zacharia, who started the two-year Doctor of Physical Therapy program in the fall. "This is more of a clinical setting so it'll help out more with our learning."

The renovations also will enhance the clinical services that the college offers to the community through the new Interdisciplinary Teaching and Research Clinic and the renovated Speech-Language Pathology and Concussion Management Clinic.

Other highlights include a Simulated Rehabilitation Teaching Hospital; an Independent Learning Center; the Activities of Daily Living Teaching Laboratory; the Gait Training Teaching Laboratory; a Speech, Hearing and Language Clinic; a distance learning classroom; and an updated food court called the Campbell Commons.

The Campbell Building was constructed in 1967 for the Hotel Dieu School of Nursing and housed the College of Health Sciences undergraduate and graduate programs until 2011, when the undergraduate programs were relocated to the Health Sciences and Nursing Building on the UTEP campus. 📍

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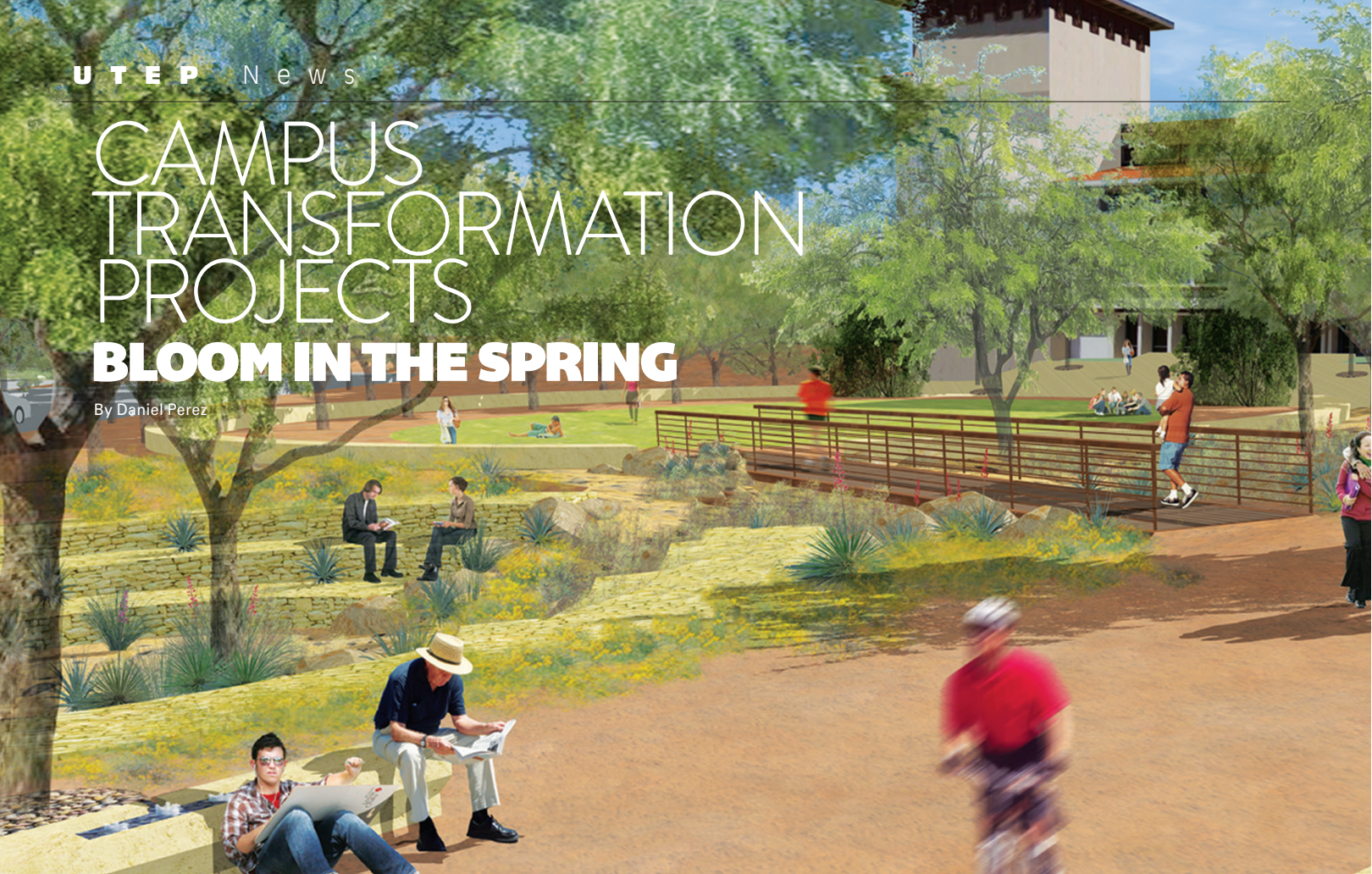
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# CAMPUS TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS

## BLOOM IN THE SPRING

By Daniel Perez



Taking a break from a class at Old Main, junior sociology and political science major Laureen Orozco enjoyed a little bit of quiet time on one of the wood benches along the redesigned Hawthorne Street, one of the main arterials at The University of Texas at El Paso.

She said the new look offers a little “escape” from the Sun City.

The work on that roughly quarter-mile stretch of Hawthorne from Rim Road to University Avenue is part of the ongoing \$25 million campus transformation plan to improve access to the central part of the University for pedestrians and bicyclists. The makeover includes broader sidewalks, lighting, landscaping, benches, niche-like parks, slatted canopy structures and large drought-resistant shade trees such as Chinese pistache and red oak. Work began in December 2011 and should be completed in early 2013.

Orozco said the shade structures will be most welcome during the summer. “I relax, cool down and use my shopping app,” she said before starting her shift in the Academic Advising Center.

As the spring 2013 semester begins, some projects are being completed, others are starting and still others remain on the launch pad. Here is an update on the campus projects.

### WIGGINS ROAD

The street will be closed from the front of the University Library to the entrance of the IC-19 parking lot on Rim Road so contractors can work on the project that involves an oval-shaped, multilevel plaza that will include shade trees, curved benches, solar lighting, and a unique labyrinth. Temporary sidewalks will be set up. Work was expected to begin in early 2013 and be completed in about six months. It also will incorporate environmentally friendly bioswells, slivers of land between paved areas that allow water to seep back into the ground.

### LHAKHANG

Contractors should finish the reconstruction of the *Lhakhang*, a Bhutanese cultural artifact, by mid-February 2013. Foundation work began on the Geology Lawn in July 2012. In 2008, the people of Bhutan presented the hand-carved and hand-painted structure to the people of the United States at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C., with instructions that the structure should be installed permanently on the UTEP campus.

### CENTENNIAL PLAZA

Centennial Plaza should break ground in May 2013 and be completed by late summer 2014. It will be a large, open grassy area in the heart of the campus that could be used for large events. It will be surrounded by a paseo lined with native mesquite trees. The first phase of the project is to replace and relocate utility infrastructure. The project will begin the closure of the inner campus to most vehicular traffic.

The other proposed campus transformation projects have not yet been scheduled.

### RESIDENCE HALL

UTEP officials plan to seek approval in May from The University of Texas System Board of Regents to construct a \$17.2 million student residence complex on approximately six acres of land in the arroyo north of UTEP’s Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

The University hopes to break ground in May 2013 – sooner if possible – and have the units ready by fall 2014.

The complex should accommodate up to 350 beds in a series of three to four, four-story structures nestled into the topography. It will include a mix of one-bedroom efficiencies and four-bedroom/six-bed suites. The four-bedroom





units will include two bathrooms with kitchen/dining/living areas and desks. Some will be ADA accessible.

The innovative design will promote community, offering students small and large gathering spaces, high-tech connections to campus and the comforts of home including full kitchens, custom furnishings and laundry facilities.

## SPUR 1966 AND SUN BOWL DRIVE EXPANSION

The Texas Department of Transportation should start two projects in spring 2013 that will affect UTEP traffic. One is the Spur 1966 bridge that will connect Paisano Drive to Schuster Avenue. The other project will widen a portion of Sun Bowl Drive.

"Both projects will provide better mobility to the University and the area's medical facilities," said Eddie Valtier, TxDOT director of transportation, planning and development. Valtier, who earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from UTEP in 1992, said the new designs were necessary to offset the area's increased traffic demands, especially during special events.

The \$55 million Spur 1966 should break ground in spring 2013 and be completed in

20 to 24 months. The bridge, which starts at Paisano near the Yandell overpass, will span more than a half-mile over several sets of railroad tracks and Interstate 10. It will connect to Schuster at a raised 160-foot diameter roundabout.

The widening of Sun Bowl Drive will stretch from the Don Haskins Center to the Sun Bowl Parking Garage and include a new two-lane roundabout at the intersection of Glory Road and Sun Bowl Drive similar to the one at Sun Bowl and University Avenue.

The \$4.4 million project, of which UTEP will pay 20 percent, is scheduled to go to bid in February 2013. Construction should begin in May and last 10 months (five months on each side). The work includes tearing up the old road and building sidewalks and new 14-foot-wide outer lanes to allow for bicycle traffic. There will be single-lane access in both directions during construction. ➤

Use your smartphone to scan this code to get the latest Campus Transformation updates.

You can also access updates directly at [campus.utep.edu](http://campus.utep.edu)



UTEP installed a new flagpole near the Psychology Building in December as part of the Campus Transformation.

## FLAGPOLE MAKES NEW HOME

By Daniel Perez • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

A new flagpole set in a commemorative triangular base is part of the The University of Texas at El Paso's campus transformation plan and should be ready in early 2013.

The 60-foot tall flagpole, topped by an eagle weather vane, stands outside the southwest corner of the Psychology Building. The centralized location and elevation above the planned Centennial Plaza, along with a new illumination system, will make it highly visible. It replaces the pole that has graced Memorial Triangle since 1947.

"It's a nice location," said Greg McNicol, associate vice president for facilities services. "It lines up nicely with the transformation oval and serves as a good benchmark."

The new pole's base, which was finished during winter break, will be covered with New Mexico travertine limestone and adorned by three street-facing plaques: the two existing plaques that commemorate the University's 50th and 75th anniversaries and a new plaque that will recognize UTEP's Centennial in 2014. The base's shape pays homage to Memorial Triangle, which will become part of Centennial Plaza.

McNicol said University officials plan to have a formal flag transfer ceremony in early 2013 when the old flagpole will be removed. ➤





UTEP honored about 2,100 area educators during the Oct. 6 Miners football game at the Sun Bowl as part of the HEROES series the University developed to acknowledge its valued partnership with K-12 schools in the Paso del Norte region.

# UTEP Honors HEROES of Student Success

HONORING EDUCATION FOR RAISING OPPORTUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE FOR STUDENTS

By Daniel Perez • Photo by Joshua Garcia

The University of Texas at El Paso recognized top incoming UTEP students, and teachers and administrators from school districts throughout the Paso del Norte region as partners in success during the fall semester.

The University organized three activities during its Honoring Education for Raising Opportunities of Excellence for Students (HEROES) series to identify the outstanding undergraduates who came from the Region 19 education system and those who inspired them.

More than 80 percent of UTEP's entering students are graduates of El Paso County schools. Almost two-thirds of the Top 10-percent area high school graduates who attend a Texas public university enroll at UTEP, said UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

"We celebrate the highly successful collaboration among UTEP, (El Paso Community College) and area school districts that have helped raise educational aspirations and attainment in this region and enhance our prosperity and quality

of life," she said before a student leadership dinner and workshop in September.

Students networked with UTEP officials, participated in icebreaker activities and learned more about the campus, its resources and student organizations. They were challenged to become campus leaders and positive role models to their peers.

That was followed by a recognition of about 2,100 area educators during the Oct. 6 UTEP football game at the Sun Bowl. The teachers received an ovation and saw a short video of new UTEP students talking about the teachers who had affected their lives. About 12 of the teachers were part of an on-field ceremony between the first and second quarters.

Gary Edens, Ed.D., vice president of student affairs, lauded K-12 teachers, administrators and support staff because of the lasting impact they have on the students who will help shape the country's future.

"To celebrate the variety and scope of student accomplishments is exciting, but is only made possible through the dedication of talented and

hard-working educators," he said. "They are truly heroes."

The University ended the series with a Dec. 6 reception in UTEP's Larry K. Durham Sports Center for the area's principals, who were recognized for their dedication, said Armando Aguirre, Ed.D., assistant provost and director of the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence.

"We wanted to celebrate their work as campus leaders and let them know that their efforts had not gone unnoticed," Aguirre said.

The University plans to make the HEROES series an annual celebration. 📺

Use your smartphone to scan this code to view a video about a HEROES event recognizing top freshmen.

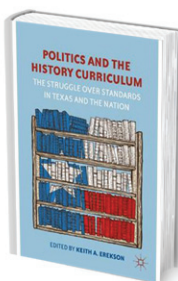
You can also view the video at [utepnews.com](http://utepnews.com).



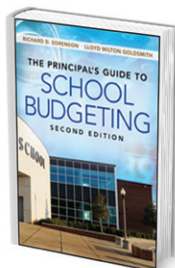
# Faculty Must-Reads



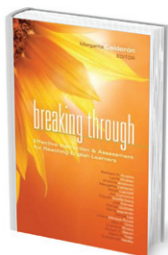
**Mobile Communications Handbook, Third Edition**, contributor Bryan Usevitch, Ph.D., associate professor of electrical and computer engineering (2012)



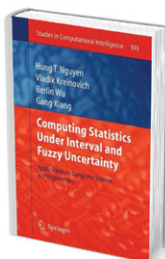
**Politics and the History Curriculum: The Struggle over Standards in Texas and the Nation**, contributor Julio Noboa, Ph.D., assistant professor of teacher education (2012)



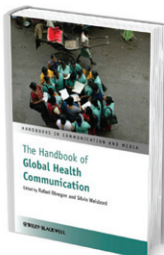
**The Principal's Guide to School Budgeting, Second Edition**, by Richard D. Sorenson, Ph.D., associate professor and department chair of educational leadership and foundations, et al. (2012)



**Breaking Through: Effective Instruction & Assessment for Reaching English Learners**, contributor Elena Izquierdo, Ph.D., associate professor of teacher education (2012)



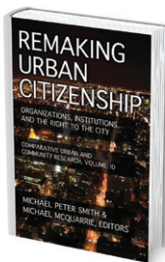
**Computing Statistics Under Interval and Fuzzy Uncertainty**, by Vladik Kreinovich, Ph.D., professor of computer science, et al. (2012)



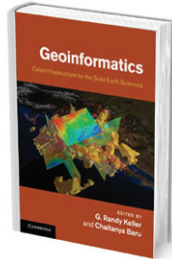
**The Handbook of Global Health Communication**, contributors Arvind Singhal, Ph.D., professor of communication; and Lucia Dura, Ph.D., assistant professor of English (2012)



**Women and the White House: Gender, Popular Culture, and Presidential Politics**, contributor José D. Villalobos, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science (2012)



**Remaking Urban Citizenship: Organizations, Institutions, and the Right to the City**, contributor Ernesto Castañeda, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology and anthropology (2012)



**Geoinformatics: Cyberinfrastructure for the Solid Earth Sciences**, contributor Raed Aldouri, Ph.D., associate professor of civil engineering, et al. (2011)



Michael Myers, senior policy officer for the Rockefeller Foundation, shared how regional leaders could leverage the region's resources and build its future as part of the University's Opportunity Days II summit in October.

## COMMUNITY LEADERS TOLD TO

# 'MEASURE WHAT MATTERS'

By Daniel Perez • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Marketing a few distinctive assets about the Paso del Norte region could spur a comprehensive economic plan, according to a pair of distinguished speakers who presented to area leaders during the Opportunity Days II summit at UTEP in October.

"Measure what matters," said Bruce Katz, vice president of the Brookings Institution and founding director of the Brookings Metropolitan Institution Program. He addressed 60 business, academic, and nonprofit leaders who attended the meeting. Opportunity Days II was a follow-up to a gathering in May where many of the same people shared ideas to build the economy and social mobility in West Texas, Southern New Mexico and Northern Mexico.

Katz, who spoke via live video, and Michael Myers, senior policy officer for the Rockefeller Foundation, shared how regional leaders could leverage the region's resources and build its future.

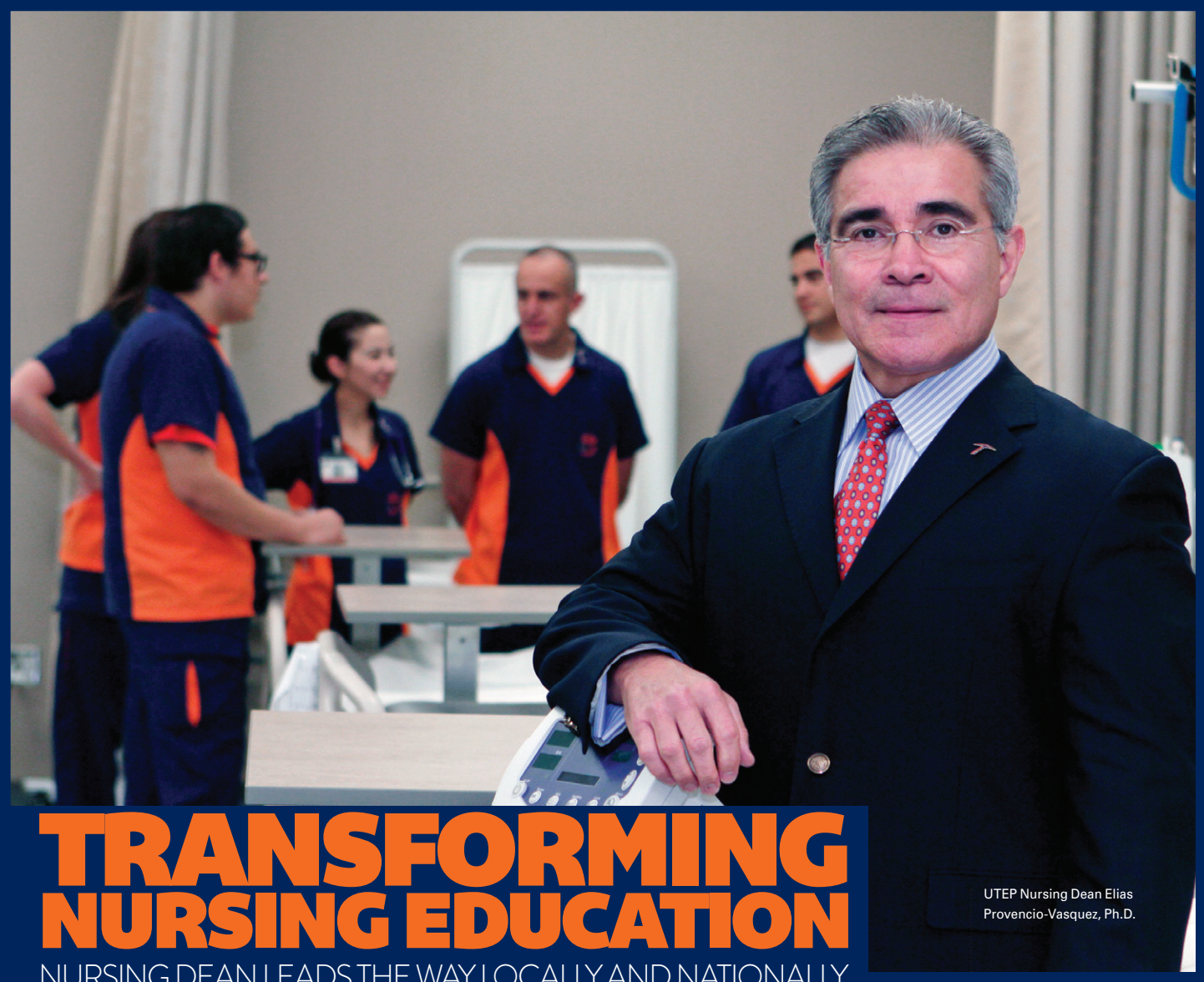
Myers, who attended the event, said participants should select and focus on developing only four to six key regional strengths, such as higher education, energy, desalination technology, and the military – Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range.

"That's the exciting aspect," Myers said. "You'll be building an economy for this region that characterizes the people, the assets and the culture of the Paso del Norte region."

Both Opportunity Days sessions were "pieces of a complex puzzle" that eventually will integrate the region's "demand" and "supply" needs, said Woody L. Hunt, CEO and chairman of El Paso-based Hunt Companies Inc. He co-hosted the event with UTEP President Diana Natalicio. Hunt said the Council for Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development, or CREEED, would coordinate the plan. CREEED is a hub that promotes industry, nonprofits, K-12 and higher education, government partners and workforce development.

The next step is to use information from the past two summits to structure a plan based on data, teamwork and transparency, said Armando Aguirre, Ed.D., assistant provost and director of the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence. ☞





UTEP Nursing Dean Elias  
Provencio-Vasquez, Ph.D.

# TRANSFORMING NURSING EDUCATION

NURSING DEAN LEADS THE WAY LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY

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

As the American health care system undergoes major changes in quality, accessibility and cost, UTEP School of Nursing Dean Elias Provencio-Vasquez, Ph.D., is leading the way in educating nurses to meet 21st century health care standards.

The American Nurses Association estimates that there are more than 3 million licensed registered nurses in the United States, making it the health care industry's largest workforce.

"Nurses play a huge role in health care," said Provencio-Vasquez, one of 20 scholars who completed the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Executive Nurse Fellows Program in September. The three-year leadership program is for nurses who aspire to lead and shape health care locally and nationally.

"Nurses are at the front line of health care on

many levels in terms of direct patient care and as nurse leaders and managers who help run the hospitals. It's important that we have input and recommendations on the way health care is delivered in the U.S.," he said.

Provencio-Vasquez was selected for the fellowship in 2009. Through it, he received coaching, education and other support to strengthen his skills in communication, self-knowledge, leadership, vision and innovation.

Provencio-Vasquez made history twice as the first Hispanic man in the country to earn a nursing doctoral degree and the first Hispanic man appointed dean of a nursing school. Now, he is relying on the lessons he learned as a fellow to raise the education standards of nurses by promoting advanced degrees and spearheading transition-to-practice residency programs.

Yvonne Acosta, the school's first executive nursing officer, believes the dean's fellowship experience coupled with his unique leadership style has helped Provencio-Vasquez reinvent and reinvigorate the UTEP School of Nursing (SON).

"Dean Provencio-Vasquez's fellowship has significantly broadened his circle of influence both locally and nationally and placed the UTEP SON at the forefront of being recognized as a true provider of quality health care practitioners," Acosta said.

Provencio-Vasquez is following a blueprint laid out by a 2010 report titled *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* released by the RWJF and the Institute of Medicine (IOM). It offers eight recommendations to transform nursing education, leadership and practice.

Provencio-Vasquez said that by aligning

**Provencio-Vasquez made history twice** as the first Hispanic man in the country to earn a nursing doctoral degree and the first Hispanic man appointed dean of a nursing school.

the School of Nursing with the IOM recommendations, the school is moving forward with its mission to create a nursing workforce that is helping to meet global health care needs.

The school already has made significant progress on three of the recommendations: increasing the number of nurses nationwide with bachelor's degrees to 80 percent by 2020, doubling the number of nurses with a doctoral degree by 2020, and implementing nurse residency programs.

As chair of the RWJF's Doctoral Advancement in Nursing Committee, Provencio-Vasquez leads a group of academics who are developing an action plan to promote doctoral education. He was instrumental in establishing the Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) at UTEP in 2011. The school will celebrate the graduation of its first D.N.P. cohort in May 2013.

"With the changing health care environment, doctoral prepared nurses will become nurse executives and leaders who will play a pivotal role in the delivery of health care," Provencio-Vasquez said.

He is also a member of the RWJF's Tri-Council for Nursing, a two-year initiative that looks to advance state and regional strategies to create a more highly educated nursing workforce. This summer, the School of Nursing launched the Believe in BSN Education initiative to encourage nurses to obtain their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees at UTEP.

Rebecca Lowe is one of several students who has benefited from the RN to BSN online degree. While living more than 6,000 miles away in Italy, Lowe graduated *summa cum laude* with her BSN from UTEP in December.

Lowe, who retired as a U.S. Air Force captain in 2007 and whose husband is a pilot assigned to Aviano Air Base, said moving around has always been a challenge for her military family, but the online BSN program has allowed her to continue her education from anywhere in the world.

"I have a long-term goal of becoming a nurse practitioner and I need my BSN to take that next step," Lowe said. "The virtual learning world is extremely effective. Military families depend on this to further their education."

Provencio-Vasquez also is a member of the foundation's New Careers in Nursing committee. The committee was created in 2008 to enable schools of nursing to expand student capacity in accelerated baccalaureate programs such as UTEP's Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Fast Track program.

In June, the school received \$50,000 in funding from the RWJF and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to provide five students in the Fast Track program with \$10,000 scholarships from the New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program.

John Reyna received his bachelor's degree in biological sciences from UTEP in 2007. He was attracted to the Fast Track program because he could earn his BSN in one year.

"That is exceptionally important to me because I can gain employment as a nurse and provide the financial resources for my family in a much shorter time period," Reyna said.

Provencio-Vasquez also is heading efforts to establish nurse residency programs between the school and its clinical partners. In February 2012, the School of Nursing received \$4 million from the U.S. Department of Labor to establish the Successful Transition and Retention (STaR) nurse residency program, which will accelerate the clinical training for new graduating nurses. The UTEP School of Nursing has partnered with several academic and clinical institutions to launch the new residency program: Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center – Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing, the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing, and eight Texas hospitals with the Hospital Corporation of America. 📍



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





Organized by the UTEP College of Health Sciences, the exhibit features snapshots from 22 migrant women who used disposable cameras to document their stories of physical, emotional and sexual abuse and sexual and reproductive health.

Social Work Associate Professor Eva Moya, Ph.D., talks about Alejandra Ferreira's photo titled, "Querida Abuelita/Dear Grandma." The photo is one of several featured in the Voices and Images gallery.

## IMAGES GIVE VOICE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE, Sexual and Reproductive Health

By Laura L. Acosta • Photo by Laura Trejo

**If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the PhotoVoice project *Voices and Images: Migrant Women, Domestic Violence, Sexual and Reproductive Health* speaks volumes.**

Organized by the UTEP College of Health Sciences, the exhibit features snapshots from 22 migrant women who used disposable cameras to document their stories of physical, emotional and sexual abuse and sexual and reproductive health.

Maria Avitia, one of the project's participants, said she wanted to share the story of how she endured her husband's abuse for more than a year.

"I know that they are out there – women and men – who are going to identify with my story because it is not only my story; it is other people's story," she said.

The exhibit is made possible by a \$4,000 Community and Academic Partnership mini-grant that Eva Moya, Ph.D., assistant social work professor, and Silvia Chavez Baray, Ph.D., a lecturer in the social work department, received from the College of Health Sciences in 2012.

Funds were used to train 16 colleagues and students as facilitators in the PhotoVoice method and to instruct the women for the *Voices and Images* project.

Participants ranged in age from 17 to 72 and were recruited from the Diocesan Migrant Refugee Services, Familias Triunfadoras in San Elizario, Texas, and from the Mexican Consulate in El Paso. They included homemakers, accountants, engineers, medical professionals, students, and volunteer health workers. Out of the 22 participants, only three had health insurance.

Money was also used to buy disposable cameras and produce the gallery.

"If these things are possible with limited resources and if these mini-grants could help to sensitize, inform and better educate those of us who are at the helm of promoting, doing, and thinking through, imagine what they could do for the residents of our communities," said Moya, the project leader.

The project inspired several of the women to continue their education either by enrolling in a GED program or pursuing a university degree. Moya has applied for funding to train 20 of the women on intimate partner violence and sexual

and reproductive health to become *promotoras de salud*, or volunteer health workers.

The Fiscalía de las Víctimas en El Estado de Chihuahua, the crime victims unit in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico, will use the PhotoVoice method in four of its units to work with survivors, caregivers and victims' families that have been affected by violence.

The *Voices and Images* gallery has been displayed at UTEP and the Mexican Consulate in El Paso. Plans are for the gallery to travel to school districts in El Paso County and to Indiana State University.

"As researchers, I think the beauty of this project is that it informs us about the gaps in services but also about the opportunities to do more exploratory work to help explain social issues like domestic violence and its association with sexual and reproductive health," Moya said. "In doing so, it's clear that there is a great opportunity to create a culture of human sexuality education." 📷





# GRANTS ROUNDUP

*Between July and December 2012, 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 six-month period.*

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**Tom Fullerton, Ph.D.**, professor of economics, and co-principal investigators Tim Roth, Ph.D., professor of economics, and Adam Walke, research associate economist, received an unrestricted corporate research gift from Hunt Communities to investigate border region economic growth.

**Fullerton, Roth and Walke** also received an unrestricted corporate research gift from El Paso Water Utilities to investigate border region economic and demographic growth.

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

**Rodrigo X. Armijos, M.D., Sc.D.**, associate professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, received a grant from the National Institutes of Health to investigate the adverse effects of air pollution on the cardiovascular health of children.

**Stephanie Capshaw, O.T.D.**, clinical associate professor and director of the Master of Occupational Therapy Program, received a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide scholarships for graduate students through the Health Resources and Services Administration Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students program. The scholarships will be applied toward tuition and fees, books and program expenses. Funds also will be used to assist students with living expenses while they complete out-of-town clinical rotations.

**Barbara Schoen, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of rehabilitation counseling, was awarded a grant from the National Institutes of Health National Library of Medicine to develop an

infrastructure at the University that will be used to educate and facilitate students' interest in health literacy topics and careers to serve vulnerable and underserved populations, including Hispanics living in border communities.

## SCHOOL OF NURSING

**The School of Nursing** received funding from Del Sol Medical Center to continue the Del Sol Medical Center Faculty Stipend Award that provides support for nursing faculty to pursue doctoral degrees.

**Diane Monsivais, Ph.D.**, assistant professor and program director of the nursing education graduate major, received a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to provide loans through the Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) to full- and part-time students enrolled in the Master of Science in Nursing degree program. The NFLP offers partial loan forgiveness for borrowers who graduate and serve as full-time nursing faculty for a prescribed period of time. The loan recipients may cancel 85 percent of the loan over four years in return for serving full time as faculty in any accredited school of nursing.

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Timothy Collins, Ph.D.**, associate professor of geography, received a grant from the National Science Foundation to support undergraduate student research as part of an interdisciplinary team that includes investigators from the University of South Florida who are analyzing the vulnerability to air pollution and flood risks in the two largest urban areas on the U.S. Gulf Coast: Miami and Houston.

**Theodore Cooper, Ph.D.**, associate professor and director of the graduate program in psychology, received a grant from the Paso del Norte Health Foundation to study how to bolster light and intermittent smokers' motivation to quit.

**Maryse Jayasuriya, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of English, received a grant from Humanities Texas to choose, along with other faculty from the English Department, a list of fiction and nonfiction literary classics and contemporary works that will be of interest to the public. The list will be publicized and the public will be invited to join a monthly book group meeting on the UTEP campus to discuss each book.

**Laura O'Dell, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of psychology, received a grant from the American Diabetes Association to study the susceptibility of diabetes patients to tobacco abuse compared to the general population.

**Ana Schwartz, Ph.D.**, associate professor of psychology, received a grant from Pennsylvania State University to adapt and extend a computerized tutorial for improving reading comprehension among Spanish-speaking students in grades 4, 5, 7 and 8.

**Arvind Singhal, Ph.D.**, the Samuel Shirley and Edna Holt Marston Endowed Professor of Communication, received a grant from the Rochester University School of Medicine to research online problem-solving skills training for mothers of newly diagnosed child cancer patients to help parents cope more effectively with the challenges posed by their child's diagnosis and treatment.





# GRANTS ROUNDUP

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS CONT.

**John Wiebe, Ph.D.**, associate professor of psychology and associate provost, received a grant from the Association of American Colleges and Universities to fund a group that recommends steps to facilitate further engagement by students, staff and faculty, and document those engagement efforts to maximize their benefit. He also received a grant from the Paso del Norte Health Foundation to help develop the El Paso Psychology Internship Consortium for predoctoral students to gain training in professional psychology in the border region. The consortium will be headed by UTEP and includes the UTEP Counseling Center, the UTEP Psychology Department, William Beaumont Army Medical Center, and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Department of Psychiatry.

## COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

**Thomas Boland, Ph.D.**, professor of metallurgical and materials engineering, received a grant from LIMBS International to help develop an inexpensive prosthetic foot for third world countries. Research will include designing, building, testing and implementing the new highly functional prosthetic foot for amputees.

**Ahsan Choudhuri, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and co-principal investigators from the department and the Center for Excellence Teaching and Learning, received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to support the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need program. It will provide four doctoral students pursuing energy science and engineering with a \$30,000 stipend, full tuition, travel, supplies and computer equipment every year for three years.

**Carlos Ferregut, Ph.D.**, professor of civil engineering, and co-principal investigators from industrial, manufacturing and systems engineering; civil engineering; mechanical engineering; educational leadership and foundations; and the Study Abroad Office received a grant from the Department of State that established a study abroad program for undergraduate engineering students in Peru. Students interested in sustainability will attend the University of Piura for four weeks during the summer and visit Machu Picchu.

**Benjamin Flores, Ph.D.**, dean of the Graduate School and professor of electrical and computer engineering, and co-principal investigator Helmut Knaust, Ph.D., of the Department of Mathematical Sciences received a grant from the National Science Foundation to continue The University of Texas System's Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (UT LSAMP) program. UT LSAMP seeks to increase the number of underrepresented minority students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in Texas.

**Ann Gates, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of computer science, and co-principal investigators Craig Tweedie, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences; Natalia Villanueva, Ph.D., research assistant professor of computer science; and Vladik Kreinovich, Ph.D., professor of computer science, received a grant from the National Science Foundation to continue the Cyber-SHARE (Cyberinfrastructure for Sharing Resources to Advance Research and Education) Center of Excellence. The center utilizes and advances cyberinfrastructure, or information technology systems that provide powerful and advanced capabilities. The center brings together experts in computer science, computational mathematics, education, Earth science and environmental science.

**Wen-Whai Li, Ph.D.**, professor of civil engineering, was awarded a grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to quantify particulate matter and volatile organic compound emissions stemming from Juárez's unpaved roads, cement plant, gasoline fueling stations and automotive paint and body shops. These are considered major contributors to the Paso del Norte region's ozone pollution.

**Eunice Santos, Ph.D.**, professor of computer science and director of the National Center for Border Security and Immigration, and John Korah, Ph.D., research assistant professor of computer science, received a grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to study the human role in cyberspace operations and how they create trust or suspicion and affect cyberwar.

**Bill Tseng, Ph.D.**, associate professor of industrial, manufacturing and systems engineering, and co-principal investigators and assistant professors Paras Mandal, Ph.D., and Eric Smith, Ph.D., received a grant from the Department of Education to support a five-year collaboration between UTEP and Drexel University that will integrate information and technology-based, real-world problem solving into green energy manufacturing courses.

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

**June Kan-Mitchell, Ph.D.**, professor of biological sciences, was awarded a four-year grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to study human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The money will help her work toward creating an effective vaccine for HIV. Kan-Mitchell's ultimate goal is to trigger the human body to make a protective immune response against HIV if it is detected.



**Craig Tweedie, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of biological sciences, and co-principal investigators from the National Snow and Ice Data Center, received a grant from the National Science Foundation to continue maintenance, development and innovation of the Barrow Area Information Database (BAID), a suite of online interactive maps and services that support Arctic science with a special focus on the research hubs of Barrow, Atkasuk and Ivotuk on the north slope of Alaska.

**Kyung-An Han, Ph.D.**, associate professor of biological sciences and director of neuroscience and metabolic disorders, received a grant from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to study the fruit fly drosophila to understand the mechanism underlying behaviors associated with drinking alcohol, such as aggression, addiction, and impulsivity. Dopamine, a key brain molecule for pleasure and addiction, is linked to alcohol-induced disinhibition. Funding will help uncover how dopamine regulates impulse control and how alcohol affects this brain process.

**Eli Greenbaum, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of biological sciences, received a National Science Foundation grant to study poorly known animal groups in the lowland forests of central Africa. This inventory research could significantly elevate the global importance of the Congo basin's biodiversity and support ongoing efforts to expand national parks.

**Ming-Ying Leung, Ph.D.**, professor of mathematical sciences and director of the Bioinformatics program, and co-principal investigator and associate professor of biological sciences Kyle Johnson, Ph.D., received a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support six undergraduates, three master's

students and one doctoral student and train them to analyze available data to help combat agricultural livestock pests and create novel pesticides.

**Jorge Gardea-Torresdey, Ph.D.**, chair of the chemistry department, was awarded a grant from the Academy of Applied Science to support area high school students and offer hands-on experience in research and development for those interested in science and engineering fields. Students will participate in a summer apprenticeship and work directly with a University mentor in the REAP program.

**Lawrence "Larry" Lesser, Ph.D.**, professor of mathematical sciences, and co-principal investigator Reynaldo Reyes, Ph.D., associate professor of teacher education, received part of a grant from the National Science Foundation for Project UPLIFT (Universal Portability of Learning Increased by Fun Teaching), which uses "fun" sources – songs, poems, jokes, cartoons, and the like – to cover the main topics of introductory statistics for undergraduate pre-service teachers. The other collaborating institutions are Ohio State University and Georgia Perimeter College.

#### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**Ana H. Macias, Ph.D.**, professor of teacher education, received a grant from the Texas Education Agency for Project West GREAT (Getting Results Educating Adults in Texas). The grant provides professional development for instructors in Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs and supports instructors who are seeking their Texas (teaching) Credential in ABE. Project West GREAT, which stretches from Amarillo to Presidio, is the largest of eight such centers in Texas. ☒

# 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.

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GIVE TO THE SCHOOL  
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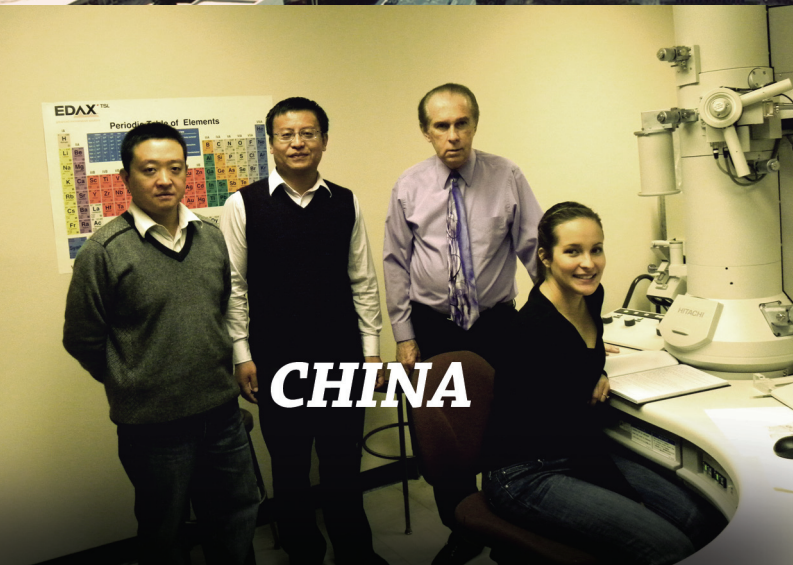
GLOBAL



**MIAMI &  
HOUSTON**



**THE ARCTIC**



**CHINA**



**COSTA RICA**



**AUSTRALIA**



**SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA**



# REACH



From Russia to Costa Rica, and the Congo to Switzerland, UTEP's influence extends beyond the boundaries of its campus and even El Paso. The University's faculty and students have conducted research on every single continent, with topics ranging from the rediscovery of lost frog species to the production of energy from volcanoes. Their studies impact not only the communities where they work, but also provide important insights that benefit El Paso and our border region.



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HERE IS A SAMPLING OF CURRENT GLOBAL RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY UTEP FACULTY AND STUDENTS:

### **Miami and Houston**

Tim Collins, Ph.D., and Sara Grineski, Ph.D., associate professors of sociology and anthropology, and students Jose Castaneda and Maricarmen Hernandez are studying the influences that cause Hispanic immigrants to live in high-risk flood and pollution zones in Miami and Houston. Through in-depth interviews with foreign-born Hispanic residents, they are looking at the challenges faced by households in mitigating these risks, their access to protective resources, and their attraction to work opportunities within vulnerable ethnic enclaves. The ultimate goal is to create environmental justice policy that addresses the needs of migrants.

### **The Arctic**

Associate professors of biological sciences Craig Tweedie, Ph.D., and Vanessa Loughheed, Ph.D., are working on climate change research at several locations in the Arctic. Their teams have ongoing work in northern Alaska near the villages of Barrow and Atkasuk and the site Ivotuk; in Russia in Eastern Chukotka and Wrangel Island; and in Canada near Barnes Ice Cap on Baffin Island. They are studying environmental change in the Arctic that has important implications for predicting the future state of the Earth's climate system. Their primary objective is to determine how key structural and functional characteristics of high latitude arctic terrestrial ecosystems have changed over the past 25 years or more and evaluate whether the changes are likely to continue into the future.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo**

Eli Greenbaum, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences, has been working in the Democratic Republic of Congo for several years studying poorly known amphibian and reptile groups. In 2011, he received recognition when he helped rediscover the *Cardioglossa cyaneospila*, a frog last seen by scientists in 1949 and feared to be extinct. His latest research will take him on a major expedition to Salonga National Park, a remote area with no roads. Due to increasingly threatening deforestation, global climate change, and chytrid fungus infections in multiple genera of frogs, the urgency and importance of an inventory of the area is paramount. It is anticipated that the project will significantly elevate the global importance of the Congo basin's biodiversity and support ongoing efforts to expand national parks.

### **Barcelona, Spain and Lausanne, Switzerland**

Ernesto Castaneda, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology and anthropology, was recently in Barcelona, Spain, and Lausanne, Switzerland, studying how Latin American and Moroccan immigrants have been affected by the economic crisis and either returned home or moved to northern European countries such as Switzerland, where employment opportunities are better and the currency is stronger. While in Spain, he documented a protest by Mexicans against the violence in Mexico due to the war on drugs. He also studied the Indignados movement, a precursor to Occupy Wall Street.

### **Borneo, Indonesia**

Principal Investigator Stacey Sowards, Ph.D., an associate professor of communication, is leading a three-year conservation collaboration between faculty and students from UTEP and the Universitas Mulawarman on the island of Borneo in Indonesia. Home to the world's third-largest rainforest, Indonesia provides unique opportunities for conservation efforts. UTEP brings internationally recognized research and teaching methods, particularly in environmental communication and conservation biology, to the partnership. The goal is to create behavior change in communities in Indonesia through research, teaching of conservation, and public campaigns.

### **Kenya**

Aaron Velasco, Ph.D., professor of geological sciences; Steven Harder, Ph.D., research professor of geological sciences; Galen Kaip, special research associate of geological sciences; and doctoral students Ezer Patlan and Lennox Thompson are working with the Geothermal Development Co. in Kenya to help monitor earthquakes around the volcanoes in the Great Rift Valley. The work includes setting off explosions near the volcanoes to create miniature earthquakes and measuring the waves created using seismic stations to help estimate the locations of subsurface magma chambers. The ultimate goal is to help the company locate sources of geothermal energy, an abundant, reliable and environmentally friendly way to produce electricity.



# THE WORLD

## **Costa Rica**

Leslie Landin, a senior sociology and anthropology major, is working in Costa Rica on sustainable development and environmental preservation. She is focusing on how the region has strong potential for flooding and sea level changes, making it vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. With this in mind, she is working to inform people about the environmental impact of daily activities, and how the availability of food and resources is affected by climate change. She has volunteered in a project involving the restoration of communal parks by eliminating weeds, planting trees and organizing rallies promoting the use of clean transportation such as bicycles.

## **San Jose, Costa Rica**

The Center for Inter-American and Border Studies and the College of Health Sciences are collaborating with the University of Costa Rica in San Jose. Together, they have created the Virtual Center for the Study of Borders in the Americas (VCSBA) and are working to address border issues. The VCSBA at UTEP aims to be the lead organization for research collaboration and academic programming among scholars and students throughout the Americas. The organization uses distance technology, with a goal of participation from at least one university in each country of the Americas by 2015. University faculty and students collaborate via videoconference. College of Health Sciences Assistant Dean Leticia Paez, and Moira Murphy-Aguilar, Ph.D., are the center directors.

## **Mexico and Costa Rica**

Kathryn Schmidt, Ph.D., assistant professor of social work; Brenda Risch, Ph.D., assistant professor of women's studies; Leticia Paez, assistant dean of the College of Health Sciences; Moira Murphy-Aguilar, Ph.D., professor of inter-American and border studies; and Oralia Loza, Ph.D., assistant professor of health sciences, are collaborating with the Universidad Claustro de Chihuahua in Chihuahua, Mexico; El Colegio de la Frontera Norte in Tijuana, Mexico; and the University of Costa Rica. Their research is focused on how migration and sexual violence affect college retention in the Americas. The team would like to see if the issues for college students are radically different across different universities and cultures, or if there are some generalities that explain why and when students stay or leave college. This is the first transnational study of its kind.

## **Australia**

Katherine Giles, Ph.D., professor of geological sciences, is working with a research team in the Flinders Ranges – a large mountain range in South Australia – studying exposed sedimentary rocks and salt diapirs ranging from one billion to 500 million years old. The exposed rocks provide analogies for other basins around the world, in particular, the Gulf of Mexico. Oil companies are actively searching for salt diapirs because they act as a zone where oil and gas may sometimes collect. Giles' work will aid in the prediction of salt diapir locations.

## **China**

Lawrence Murr, Ph.D., professor and chair of metallurgical and materials engineering, has several ongoing research collaborations in China with the Chinese Academy of Engineering Physics, Shenyang National Laboratory for Materials Science, and the Dalian University of Technology. Murr is working on the fabrication of specialized implants made from metal foam into which bone cells will be able to grow and merge. These porous implants will be more efficient and compatible for orthopedic use. He is also working to develop new concepts for turbine blade efficiency for uses including jet engines, where the efficiency of the turbine depends on the temperature it can withstand. 🏠

*The University's annual research-spending portfolio of more than \$76 million dollars is growing each year in line with UTEP's goal to become the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic.*



# NEW

PARTNERSHIP,  
HOME,  
OPPORTUNITIES

## FOR PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

By Nadia Macias



Roger Gonzalez, Ph.D., sits with amputees Peter and Victor in Kenya. Photo courtesy of LIMBS International.

The University of Texas at El Paso has joined forces with LIMBS International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing ultra low-cost prosthetics for the “poorest of the poor” around the world.

The University’s College of Engineering signed an official agreement with LIMBS that will allow collaboration between the two. The organization’s research and development will operate on campus using the facilities within the new Biomedical Engineering and Bioinformatics Building. Meanwhile, the nonprofit’s headquarters have been relocated from Longview, Texas, to downtown El Paso.

“Our research relationship with LIMBS has tremendous benefits for both organizations, but especially for our students and faculty,” said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. “We will engage in research projects that will help provide sustainable solutions for amputees and address other needs in developing countries. There will be numerous opportunities for students and faculty to make significant advancements in a variety of fields.”

New opportunities for students include research, internships, fellowships and study abroad programs with the nonprofit.

“We are proud to be working in

collaboration with UTEP to make significant strides in addressing the problems for amputees in the developing world,” said Roger Gonzalez, Ph.D., LIMBS president and founder. “LIMBS has the proven distribution network to facilitate

**New opportunities for students include research, internships, fellowships and study abroad programs with the nonprofit.**

the research and education benefits this partnership provides.”

According to the organization, there are more than 10 million amputees in the developing world in need of a prosthetic limb that they cannot afford or maintain once they have – which is where LIMBS comes in.

While a typical above-the-knee prosthetic knee for an amputee can cost in the range of \$1,000 to \$10,000 or more, a “LIMBS” knee costs under \$100.

The knee is the flagship product of the nonprofit group and is the only modular prosthetic knee in the world that meets all international standards and can be maintained and repaired locally in the developing world.

“The big thing was, and is, to design and develop prosthetic components that they can maintain and repair,” said Gonzalez, who is also a UTEP professor and director of the Bachelor of Science program in Leadership Engineering. “What happens a lot of times is people give prosthetics components away to these parts of the world and they wear out or break and can’t be repaired or maintained locally. That’s not a long-term or sustainable solution.”

Since its inception in 2003, LIMBS has impacted countries including Bolivia, Kenya, Senegal, Bangladesh and Haiti.

However, the organization does more than simply create prosthetics.

After designing, creating and testing artificial limbs, teams of engineers, prosthetists, clinicians and students travel to third-world countries to educate

## FACULTYPROFILE: ROGER V. GONZALEZ, PH.D.



### POSITION:

Professor of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering, Director of the Bachelor of Science program in Leadership Engineering, and CEO and founder of LIMBS International

### HOBBIES:

Playing tennis and fixing things around the house.

### EDUCATION:

Ph.D., mechanical engineering, The University of Texas at Austin, 1994; M.S., biomedical engineering, The University of Texas at Austin, 1990; B.S., mechanical engineering, The University of Texas at El Paso, 1986

### I CHOSE MY CAREER BECAUSE...

I have always been intrigued with how the human body works and wanted to discover its secrets from an engineering perspective.

### MY GREATEST INSPIRATION IS...

I am inspired by the creation of the human body and how such a complex system can function so flawlessly most of the time!

### THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

Working with students, staff, and fellow faculty in a dynamic learning and discovery environment that seeks to improve the human condition. Nothing compares to the variety of working alongside bright and motivated individuals in a scholarly environment.





Photo by Laura Trejo

Roger Gonzalez, Ph.D., founder and president of LIMBS International, demonstrates the LIMBS knee. It can be made in third-world countries with simple tools and locally obtainable materials for less than \$100.

and train local prosthetists on how to manufacture, fit and repair the devices during week-long certification seminars.

Andrea Almonte, a senior in metallurgical and materials engineering, is one of the many students looking forward to working with LIMBS at UTEP.

"I really like what the program is trying to accomplish and the motivation behind their work," she said. "I think they'll benefit me in that I'm working for an organization that is working toward positively impacting the

lives of others."

Almonte will aid the nonprofit in the research and testing of products.

Gonzalez said, "This gives current and future UTEP students, as well as the faculty, the chance to see real-world applications of the work they and others are doing."

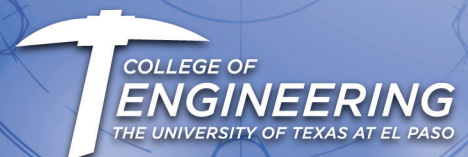
With the help of UTEP, LIMBS hopes to soon develop a prosthetic foot and arm. ➤



Since its inception in 2003, LIMBS has impacted countries throughout the world, including Bolivia, Kenya, Senegal, Bangladesh and Haiti.

Use your smartphone to scan this code to view a video about LIMBS International.

You can also view the video at [utepnews.com](http://utepnews.com).



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Assistant Professor Kathleen O'Connor, Ph.D.

## ANTHROPOLOGIST EXAMINES EFFECTS OF TRAUMA NORTH OF THE BORDER

By Laura L. Acosta • Photo by Laura Trejo

Since opening its doors as the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy on Sept. 23, 1914, The University of Texas at El Paso has attracted students from Mexico who consider a degree from a U.S. university a sound investment for their future.

Today more than 1,200 students from Mexico are enrolled at UTEP and hundreds commute from Juárez to attend class every day.

They include Maricarmen Vizcaino, who

is undeterred by the violent drug war that has consumed her country for the past four years.

"I feel I am the only support my parents have and the only support they will have when they grow older," said Vizcaino, a UTEP graduate and Ph.D. student in the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences program. Vizcaino lives in El Paso during the week but returns to Juárez to visit family on weekends. "For me, it was a motivation to

be better at what I do, to graduate with my master's (in kinesiology in 2011), and to never give up, no matter the obstacles."

Vizcaino, a research assistant, is helping with the data and statistical analysis of a study headed by Kathleen O'Connor, Ph.D., an assistant professor in UTEP's School of Nursing, that examines the mental health impact of border violence on University students.

For more than a year, O'Connor, a

### FACULTY PROFILE: KATHLEEN O'CONNOR, PH.D.



#### POSITION:

Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing

#### HOBBIES:

Music, animals, swimming and water sports, travel, painting

#### EDUCATION:

Ph.D., 2005, Harvard University; currently enrolled in UTEP's Master of Public Health program

#### I CHOSE MY CAREER BECAUSE...

after an early career as a professional musician, I wanted to be in a profession where I could work with the poor, studying structural inequalities that present challenges for resource-poor individuals and communities, and helping to resolve these challenges. I found a satisfying way to do that in anthropology, especially medical anthropology.

#### MY GREATEST INSPIRATION IS...

the Dalai Lama. My thesis advisors Arthur Kleinman, James Matory and Byron Good have also all been my rocks even now. In research, Paul Farmer's work has been most inspiring. But I have met many people along the way, especially in Brazil, who have helped me in a thousand ways; inspiration is like a collage.

#### THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

talking with the students and the wonderful patient people who participate in my research. Developing research ideas. Growing into the job. Getting cured of leukemia by the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, which is part of the amazing karma of my job here at UTEP.



medical anthropologist, has looked at the levels of trauma, depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder among UTEP students in response to violence along the Texas-Mexico border in Juárez.

"It is not necessary to be personally injured by violent events to suffer traumatic mental health consequences, which can put sufferers at risk for potentially serious physical health problems," O'Connor said. "We need to understand the effects of violence among our youth and discover the level of awareness among students about resources that are available to them to assist with any mental health issues resulting from the ongoing armed conflict in the area."

With support from a \$17,500 grant from the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, O'Connor interviewed more than 200 Hispanic students from May 2011 to June 2012. They included 40 students who commute from Juárez; students with relatives in Mexico who visit, phone or Skype regularly; and students without close family ties to Mexico.

"Dr. O'Connor's study is timely. Her findings have the potential to influence policy and mental health services along the entire U.S.-Mexico border," said Octavio N. Martinez, Jr., M.D., executive director of the Hogg Foundation.

Students answered questions from the Harvard Trauma Questionnaire, which is used to examine trauma among refugees and individuals who have been displaced by war or genocide. It asks about painful experiences and includes a narrative that allows participants to speak openly. Participants were asked about the worst thing that ever happened in their life and the worst thing that happened to them recently. O'Connor also used the Hopkins Symptom Checklist to measure anxiety and depression.

She said there were six traumatic events that came up frequently and were significant predictors of mental health issues, but the most common was being confined to their homes.

"It seemed to create a whole lot of anxiety and depression, just feeling like you had to stay home because it was too dangerous to go outside," O'Connor said.

While most English-speaking students were aware of UTEP's mental health resources, such as the University Counseling Center, commuters who primarily spoke Spanish were not. Regardless, most of the students told O'Connor they would not seek services.

"They don't talk about it," O'Connor said. "That's a very common coping mechanism: clinically, it is called 'avoidance.' People block negative things out or talk about something happy. They get dressed up and go out with friends, they keep it together with their studies, but they just don't talk about the violence."

Instead, continuing their education at UTEP is what probably keeps them going, O'Connor said.

**For UTEP students who want to seek professional help, the University Counseling Center offers free and confidential mental health services, crisis interventions and career decision-making services.**

Adriana Lopez's parents insisted their daughter move to El Paso while she attended UTEP to avoid the danger in Juárez. Lopez, who earned her bachelor's degree in business in 2011, returned home in 2010 but she said her morning commute to get to class by 7:30 a.m. made her nervous. She would check her car every day to make sure that no one stashed illegal drugs in her trunk. But she was determined to finish school.

"I coped with it on my own and my family was supportive, but it's not like I spoke about my problems," said Lopez, who did not participate in O'Connor's study. "It was school and work that made me keep my mind off of that. I was really more stressed about exams than the violence."

O'Connor was surprised that students opened up to her instead of a counselor and believes that sharing a narrative as part of the mixed methods questionnaire made a difference.

"There's a proven therapeutic value to providing a narrative," O'Connor said. "In Spanish they call it 'testimonio.' If you can get someone to talk about it in a safe space, then it really unburdens them. This allows the processing of traumatic events, and the healing, to begin."

For UTEP students who want to seek professional help, the University Counseling Center offers free and confidential mental health services, crisis interventions and career decision-making services.

Sherri I. Terrell, Ed.D., the counseling center's director and a psychologist, said that students with post-traumatic stress disorder can be treated successfully.

"Inevitably, all of my students who have post-traumatic stress disorder will ask me, 'When will I stop thinking about this? When will it go away?'" Terrell said. "And I tell them, 'You'll always remember the incident, but when you're healed, you won't re-experience it anymore.'" 📌



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*Washington Monthly ranks UTEP #1 in the country for recruiting and graduating low-income students.*

## RECOGNITION OF UTEP Has a Long and Hidden History

By Keith A. Erekson • Photo by Laura Trejo

Which Texas university meets all of the following criteria? Ranked among the top 15 universities in the nation. Lowest net price of all national universities. First institution in the state to desegregate its undergraduate student body. Accomplished alumni include an Academy Award-winning actor, a co-founder of Microsoft, and the nation's first female Hispanic governor.

When I joined the history faculty in 2008, I would not have answered “UTEP” to any of these criteria — and I would have been wrong for two reasons. First, the past five years have brought UTEP a flowering of state and national recognition. In 2009, the University was recognized as an “emerging research university” by the state legislature. In 2012, *Hispanic Business* magazine ranked the College of Business Administration #1 for the third year in a row and the College of Engineering placed in the top five for the eighth straight year. Late that year, *Washington Monthly* ranked UTEP 12th overall among all national universities and #1 in social mobility. Second, though it seems as if the accolades are suddenly pouring in, they are in fact the result of long processes that go back half a century and more but that have been largely hidden from public view. How did UTEP arrive at the point of being ranked 12th in the nation? What does that mean for the University's future?

Like everything else we try to compare in life — from cell phone plans to restaurants — university rankings reflect the values of those who make the

**Successful social mobility is tied to UTEP's efforts to serve the region.**

comparison. The rankings performed annually by *U.S. News and World Report*, for example, emphasize prestige factors such as financial resources and the selectivity of applicant acceptance. Accordingly, Harvard, Princeton and Yale come out on top with annual costs around \$40,000 and student populations of only 5,000 to 6,000. *Washington Monthly*, on the other hand, has chosen to measure the improvement of individual lives, the net cost of an education, research expenditures, and service to the community — values shared and developed by UTEP over the past century.

Let's begin with net price. When the school opened its doors in 1914, tuition was free and students paid \$30 in fees. The price has remained low over the century, prompting several interesting incidents. During the Great Depression, El Paso High School loaned us biology equipment, chairs, desks, and blackboards. On at least two occasions local citizens put up money to pay faculty salaries so that classes could resume in the fall. In the current century, UTEP holds the nation's lowest ratio of administrators per capita.

Pinched revenues contributed to the University's growing emphasis on research over the past quarter-century. Two years after the mining school opened its doors, the student science club began publishing a tiny journal that excerpted current scholarship on mining in the Southwestern United States and northern Mexico. The establishment of the Schellenger Research Labs in 1953 marked the college's entrance into research contracting, with projects funded by government and private industry. But it was the economic hard times of the 1970s that reduced public funding and prompted UTEP to look for money in new places, particularly in the form of new and larger research grants. Researchers won \$2.8 million in grant funding in 1980 and the number grew to \$19.7 million in 1989. Recent construction of facilities dedicated to research have helped UTEP researchers secure greater funding each year, including more than \$76 million in fiscal year 2012.

A commitment to social mobility has also evolved over time. When the school opened in 1914, it admitted only 27 students. They came from across the country, focused exclusively on mining engineering, and were all male — a model of higher education that reflected the traditional model for an elite population. Women joined the student body in 1916 and in 1955 the school



dropped the statewide ban on black admission, a decade before the Civil Rights Act of 1965 and 11 years before the 1966 championship UTEP basketball team started five black players. During the 1960s, the administration successfully pushed to increase enrollment from 5,000 in 1962 to 15,000 by 1977. These new students came from the Paso del Norte region and gradually transformed the school into a commuter campus with a growing Hispanic population. While never formally banned as black students had been, Hispanic students were prohibited from membership in many fraternities and sororities and experienced various expressions of informal discrimination. By 1985 Hispanic students constituted 50 percent of the student body, a figure that has risen to roughly 75 percent today. The shift toward reflecting the region's demographic composition also meant that nearly one third of UTEP students come from families with incomes under \$20,000 and that more than half are first generation college students. Thus, today's students are very unlike the "traditional" students who entered in 1914, and it is precisely because of this shift that UTEP is now recognized as the best university in the country at extending the American dream of higher education across all demographic categories and ZIP codes.

Successful social mobility is tied to UTEP's efforts to serve the region. The tiny mining school was founded with a conscientious awareness of the opportunities for mineral extraction in the region made possible by El Paso's railroad line and the world's second largest smelter (later known as ASARCO). The awareness of place expanded over time to include teacher exchanges with Mexico in the 1950s, inter-American science and biomedical programs in the 1970s, and a variety of border-focused centers and institutes throughout the 1990s. Various collaborative partnerships and initiatives help students give back to the community.

As UTEP completes its first century and looks toward the second, it increasingly receives recognition of strengths that have been cultivated over many decades. Long-term commitments to student success, research, and service to the region now find enhanced synergy in the 21st century. Hopefully UTEP's Centennial Celebration will draw increased attention to the University's past successes as well as its future promise. 📌

Keith A. Erikson is an assistant professor of history and executive director of UTEP's Centennial celebration. He is the author of *Layers of History at The University of Texas at El Paso* (2012).

## UTEP RANKED #12 Overall Among Universities Nationally

The *Washington Monthly* survey sponsors explain the process in this way: "The *Washington Monthly* rankings are based on three factors. The first is social mobility, which gives colleges credit for enrolling many low-income students and helping them earn degrees. The second recognizes research production, particularly at schools whose undergraduates go on to earn Ph.D.s. Third, we value a commitment to service." Additionally, "because the cost of higher education has become so crucial, we have added a new factor to our college rankings this year. The social mobility measure that rewards colleges with better-than-expected graduation rates has been improved to account for college prices. **Colleges that are both effective and inexpensive get the highest marks.**"



### NATIONAL UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

OVERALL	INSTITUTION	NET PRICE	SOCIAL MOBILITY	RESEARCH EXPENDITURES	SERVICE
1	University of California-San Diego	\$12,209	64	6	10
2	Texas A&M University	\$11,808	23	19	53
3	Stanford University	\$20,358	168	8	78
4	Univ. of North Carolina-Chapel Hill	\$9,013	13	14	8
5	University of California-Berkeley	\$15,825	139	18	125
6	University of California-Los Angeles	\$13,796	80	7	11
7	Case Western Reserve University	\$25,560	246	40	139
8	University of Washington-Seattle	\$8,921	6	4	150
9	University of California-Riverside	\$11,455	68	107	1
10	Georgia Institute of Technology-Main	\$8,167	21	24	51
11	Harvard University	\$16,459	106	29	150
<b>12</b>	<b>The University of Texas at El Paso</b>	<b>\$2,466</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>150</b>
13	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	\$14,355	66	2	43
14	University of California-Santa Barbara	\$13,310	60	78	20
15	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	\$18,644	192	22	150

### OVERALL RANKINGS FOR TEXAS' TIER ONE AND EMERGING RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

OVERALL	NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES	NET PRICE	CATEGORY
2	Texas A&M University	\$11,808	Tier 1
<b>12</b>	<b>The University of Texas at El Paso</b>	<b>\$2,466</b>	<b>Emerging</b>
23	University of Texas at Austin	\$13,435	Tier 1
38	Rice University	\$17,823	Tier 1
126	University of Texas-Arlington	\$8,786	Emerging
137	University of North Texas	\$10,364	Emerging
154	University of Texas-Dallas	\$7,939	Emerging
178	University of Houston	\$10,806	Emerging
192	University of Texas-San Antonio	\$9,801	Emerging
225	Texas Tech University	\$10,775	Emerging
n/a	Texas State San Marcos		Emerging

Source: [http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/college\\_guide/rankings\\_2012/national\\_university\\_rank.php](http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/college_guide/rankings_2012/national_university_rank.php)





Opera Bhutan supporter  
Duncan Pickup from Sydney,  
Australia, stands in the window  
of Wangduephodrang Dzong in  
January 2012 overlooking the  
steep river valley below.





# OPERA Bhutan

By Preston Scott • Photos courtesy of Opera Bhutan directors



◀ Preston Scott, who has served as an adviser to the Royal Government of Bhutan on a range of cultural projects for more than a decade, takes us inside the planning that goes into the production and performance of an opera for the very first time in Bhutan. In bringing Handel's *Acis and Galatea* to the stage, Scott describes the logistics of getting the performers to Bhutan and the delicate coordination required among the various international collaborators. He addresses the expectations and awareness among the people of Bhutan about "opera" in this behind-the-scenes look at what the audience will experience when the artists step forward in Bhutan in the fall of 2013 and the music comes to life.



# FOR

nearly a century, UTEP's campus and student life have been enriched by a most unlikely moment of synchronicity in 1914 when Kathleen Worrell (wife of UTEP's first dean) suggested that UTEP distinguish its special architectural identity with inspiration from the remote Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan, as seen in the pages of *National Geographic*.

UTEP's initial connections with Bhutan, rooted in a beautiful and timeless architectural style, have expanded over the years to make the University one of Bhutan's most important institutional partners in the United States (with many Bhutanese students distinguishing themselves in several academic programs at UTEP). This special relationship also has generated unique opportunities for UTEP students, faculty and other friends to discover a corner of the world that is increasingly the subject of scholarly and other culturally focused interests.

For centuries, Bhutan has remained an essentially unknown, mysterious land nestled between China and India in the high eastern Himalayas. Since Bhutan has never been colonized or otherwise suffered the detrimental effects of occupation by any foreign powers since the coming of Buddhism in the eighth century, Bhutan's cultural expressions remain authentic, vibrant and intact in ways that are remarkably rare in the modern world. At the same time, as Bhutan has been increasingly opening its doors to the rest of the world, new opportunities are presented for experiencing Bhutanese life and culture.

While still very much grounded in deeply rooted traditions, Bhutan also is a dynamic society where curiosity and hospitable openness to the world is the norm. In other words, while still very "traditional," Bhutanese life and culture is certainly not static.

As UTEP prepares to celebrate its Centennial in 2014, the UTEP community is presented with a unique opportunity to partner with some of Bhutan's most important cultural institutions

to create a new and original artistic production that will reflect universal values deeply rooted in Bhutanese as well as ancient Western cultural expression. Specifically, UTEP and its project partners are working to stage live opera for the first time in the remote Himalayan kingdom: a full-scale, original production of G.F. Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, set in the context of Bhutan's mythological landscape.

Because only a few thousand foreigners are able to visit Bhutan annually, the project offers the UTEP community a rare opportunity to experience behind the scenes what it takes to create an important new work involving artists from such very different parts of the world.

Of all musical genres, opera – by combining music, voice, movement and symbolism to convey deeply felt human experience – may share the most with Bhutanese musical expression. Handel's *Acis and Galatea* was selected for the project because its universal theme of the redemptive power of love speaks poignantly to contemporary audiences everywhere. Moreover, the opera is sung in English, which is widely spoken in Bhutan.

Rather than simply restaging a timeless classic, this original production of *Acis and Galatea* will reflect an entirely contemporary experience and understanding of important shared human values, born from some of the most expressive and accessible of the West's operatic performance arts, as well as Bhutan's own unique rich and vibrant culture. Staging the world premiere in Bhutan – nestled within the mystical and dramatic landscape of the eastern

## OPERA BHUTAN PROJECT TIMELINE

### 2004

**Performer and conductor Aaron Carpenè** of Rome contacted Preston Scott, adviser to the Royal Government of Bhutan on a range of cultural projects, to find out if an opera had ever been staged in Bhutan. The answer was "no." Preston embraced the project but the timing was not right for the Royal Government of Bhutan to pursue it.

### SUMMER 2008:

**The Smithsonian Folklife Festival** on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., hosted the largest presentation of Bhutanese life and culture outside the kingdom. Aaron Carpenè first experienced Bhutan's culture at the event, which was curated by Preston Scott. Both met UTEP officials and learned about Bhutan's connection with the University.

### MID-2009:

**Preston Scott spoke** with senior officials in the Bhutanese government to determine if there was official interest in Bhutan in pursuing a collaborative opera project. He arranged for Aaron Carpenè to visit Bhutan. Mr. Carpenè was invited to present a recital of music from *Acis and Galatea* for Bhutan's Prime Minister and guests.

### SEPTEMBER 2009:

**Preston Scott met** with Aaron Carpenè and stage director Stefano Vizioli in Rome to plan the project.



El Paso Opera General and Artistic Director David Grabarkewitz joined the Opera Bhutan team (and a curious yak) for the artistic meetings with the project's Bhutanese counterparts in January 2012.



Himalayas – will reinforce the project's unprecedented creative cross-cultural roots.

Such a complex project requires the support and participation of a big team. The idea of producing an opera in cooperation with the Bhutanese was first conceived by Aaron Carpenè, an accomplished performer, conductor and interpreter of early music projects based in Rome. Like Mrs. Worrell nearly a century earlier, Mr. Carpenè's initial exposure to Bhutanese cultural expression was experienced serendipitously: he visited the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C. in 2008, which hosted the largest presentation of Bhutanese life and culture ever staged outside the kingdom.

UTEP also took a special interest in the 2008 Folklife Festival because its centerpiece was the construction of an authentic Bhutanese *lhakhang* on the National Mall in Washington. The *lhakhang*, a Bhutanese cultural artifact, was later given to UTEP by the Royal Government of Bhutan as a symbol of its friendship with the people of the United States. The building is being reconstructed at UTEP and will be a part of the campus transformation to be completed for the Centennial celebration in 2014.

I was the curator of the 2008 Bhutan program at the Smithsonian, and Mr. Carpenè asked me whether an opera had

*what*  
**who**

## IN OPERA BHUTAN CAST

**THE TALENTED SINGERS AND MUSICIANS FROM UTEP WHO WERE SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME PROJECT INCLUDE YOUNG STUDENTS AND SEASONED PROS.**

*Singing in the chorus are sopranos Jessica Barney, Michelle Vance, and Emperatris Cabrera with alternate Diana Ortiz. Altos are Allen Thompson, Mariana Sandoval, Leslie Yapor, and alternate Suad Guerra. Tenors are Joshua Lintz, Caesar Sanchez, Alvaro Larios, Assistant Professor of Voice Eric Hanson, and alternate John Guevara. Bass voices are Sal Perez, Guillermo Flores, Adrian Salas, and alternate Raul Valdez-Perea. Elisa Fraser Wilson, D.M.A., associate professor of voice, serves as chorusmaster for Opera Bhutan.*

*Orchestra members are Raul Chavira and Gabriel Gutierrez on flute with Cynthia Gutierrez and Juan Rodriguez serving as alternates; Angie Montalvo and Ali Sanders on oboe; and Nathan Black on cello with James Carney as his alternate. The violin section will be Christina Hernandez, Felicia Henderson, Juan Barragan, and Aaron Piedra, with alternates Rubi Castillo and Sandra Herrera.*

*Guest artist Laura Brueggen will also perform with Opera Bhutan. Her career as a violinist has included work in Italy with the Montis Regalis Academy Baroque Orchestra, first violin/second concertmaster with Dutch orchestra Il Concerto Barocco, and concertmaster and member of La Capilla Real d'Opera da Camera in Barcelona.*

*Student performers will join professional artists from Bhutan and around the world for this international collaborative project.*



*Staging the world premiere in Bhutan nestled within the mystical and dramatic landscape of the eastern Himalayas will reinforce the project's unprecedented creative cross-cultural roots.*

ever been produced or staged in Bhutan. The answer was “no.” In fact, despite the fact that Bhutan is a very musical country, opera, as it has evolved in the West, is virtually unknown in Bhutan.

Since there are no Western-styled theaters or opera houses in Bhutan, I offered to assist Mr. Carpenè to determine whether there might be official interest in Bhutan in pursuing the possible production of a collaborative opera project. In mid-2009 I discussed the idea with several senior officials in the Royal Government and arranged for Mr. Carpenè to visit Bhutan.

Mr. Carpenè was invited to perform a recital of music from *Acis and Galatea* for Bhutan's prime minister and invited guests, which allowed him to lead the audience step-by-step through the music and story while noting the many opportunities for artistic collaboration that Handel himself encouraged in his lifetime. Many in the audience remarked about similarities between the story of *Acis and Galatea* and Bhutanese mythological motifs. The prime minister also noted the important educational opportunities that the project could make possible for the people of Bhutan, most who have never experienced a live operatic production with orchestra.

Mr. Carpenè returned to Bhutan later in 2009 with stage director Stefano Vizioli (also from Rome) to follow up on the expressions of interest in the project and attend a sacred masked dance festival (*tsechu*) in central Bhutan – another important step in the early research of the project. Since virtually all Bhutanese cultural expressions remain deeply meaningful through complex

symbolism, it was, and remains, an ongoing task to discern how best to incorporate Bhutanese artistic elements into the opera in ways that are appropriate and consistent with authentic meaning.

UTEP also expressed interest in the project because of the important educational opportunities offered to students to work together with the Bhutanese and others to create an original new production of Handel's *Acis and Galatea* that would incorporate elements of Bhutanese cultural expression while remaining true to Handel's music – a historic musical first.

At this point, the project faced a choice about how to put it all together. One option was to pursue an entirely professional production (much in the way operas are produced everywhere). Alternatively, the extraordinary educational and cross-cultural opportunities offered by the project suggested another path which could give UTEP students and others a once-in-a-lifetime learning experience working with artists and professionals from around the world on a musically historic original operatic production for first-time performance in Bhutan.

The production will require the talents of four principal professional opera singers supplemented with a chorus of approximately 14 voices and a baroque orchestra composed of approximately 17 instruments. In addition, the production will involve Bhutanese masked dancers and several Bhutanese musicians performing on traditional instruments.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio, together with Music Department

## OPERA BHUTAN PROJECT TIMELINE

### LATE 2009:

Aaron Carpenè returned to Bhutan later in 2009 with Stefano Vizioli to attend a sacred masked dance festival as part of the early research into the project.

### JULY 2010:

Preston Scott contacted UTEP President Diana Natalicio to inquire about possible UTEP interest and participation in the project. They worked through 2010 and 2011 in collaboration with El Paso Opera to develop a plan.

### JANUARY 2012:

The production team traveled to Bhutan to meet with artists from the Royal Academy of Performing Arts, the Music of Bhutan Research Centre and other senior Bhutanese officials.

### APRIL 2012:

UTEP hosted a one-week workshop for chorus members from the UTEP Music Department that introduced them to the opera project. The week culminated in a recital by the students for the UTEP community of some of the musical highlights from *Acis and Galatea*.





The Opera Bhutan production team from the United States, Australia, Italy and Bhutan gathered for a group photo near the Tower of Trongsa in central Bhutan in January 2012.

Chair Lowell Graham, Ph.D., and Professor Elisa Wilson, D.M.A., moved forward to identify specific ways to use the project so that it could enrich the educational experience of UTEP students and the greater El Paso community, particularly through its evolving partnership with El Paso Opera and its director, David Grabarkewitz.

In January 2012, the production team traveled to Bhutan to meet with artists from the Royal Academy of Performing Arts, the Music of Bhutan Research Centre and others to begin the process of identifying and bringing together the live creative elements necessary for the production. Behind the scenes, the Bhutanese patiently explained the symbolism expressed through various complex masked-dance steps and costumes, while Mr. Vizioli shared video of a different production of *Acis and Galatea* that he and Mr. Carpenè had produced at the Macau International Music Festival in China in October 2011.

It is difficult to express how much all participants have to learn from each other. While all Bhutanese grow up steeped in the rich culture and vibrant artistic ritual expressions presented annually at the communal *tsechus*, most have never heard a violin, cello, or harpsichord or attended a staged musical performance in a Western-styled theater with curtains and lights. Likewise, the non-Bhutanese participants are confronted with the dazzling costumes, sounds, and movements expressed by Bhutanese masked dancers, and have much to learn about what they are actually seeing, given the subtle complexities of Himalayan ritual arts.

Rarely does a project offer so much to so many in terms of opportunities for real discovery and collaborative creative work!

In April 2012, UTEP hosted a one-week workshop for chorus members from the Music Department that introduced them to the project. Working directly with Dr. Wilson from UTEP and Mr. Vizioli and Mr. Carpenè from Rome, the students were awakened to the difficult challenges of the project and the unique opportunities it offers for those desiring and dedicated to participate. The week culminated in an inspired recital by the students for the UTEP community of some of the musical highlights from *Acis and Galatea*.

The opera is scheduled to premiere in Bhutan on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2013, on the eve of the second anniversary of the Royal Wedding. In the meantime, much work remains to be done. In August 2013, UTEP will host a three-week opera production workshop involving all the artists from UTEP, Bhutan, Europe and elsewhere. During this period, the critical artistic and other creative elements will be brought together by Mr. Vizioli with input from all to ensure appropriate incorporation of authentic Bhutanese cultural expressions.



Photos by Laura Trejo

UTEP students performed selections from *Acis and Galatea* during an April 2012 opera workshop at the Fox Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. The full performance will premiere at an outside courtyard in Bhutan's capital, Thimphu.

*the story*

## ACIS AND GALATEA

The story of *Acis and Galatea* comes from *Metamorphoses*, written by the poet Ovid in AD 8. George Frideric Handel first adapted it as a musical work in the early 1700s.

The nymph Galatea relates the touching account of her doomed love with Acis as she confides in her best friend, Scylla.

Galatea loves the shepherd Acis and he loves her. After a separation, they find each other and anticipate everlasting bliss. A giant cyclops, Polyphemus, has his own ambitions for union with Galatea, despite her evident repulsion of him, and eventually kills Acis with an enormous rock.

The final section of the story involves Galatea mourning the loss of Acis, but then realizing that she can use her divine powers to turn Acis into an everlasting fountain. This is the metamorphosis that restores order and contentment to the seemingly timeless paradise in which the story began.





## IN OPERA BHUTAN DIRECTORS



### AARON CARPENÈ

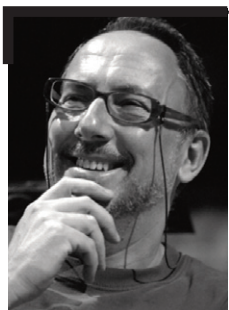
Aaron Carpenè is a professor of music studies at John Cabot University in Rome and project creator, leader and musical director of the Opera Bhutan project.

He has held artist-in-residence positions at the Conservatory of Music in Damascus and the Academy of Performing Arts in Hong Kong.

As a conductor, soloist and ensemble member, he performs extensively in Europe.

To his credit is the world premiere recording of the keyboard works by Paolo Quagliati for Tactus Records.

A native of Perth, Australia, Carpenè studied at the University of Western Australia and the Conservatory of Music of Venice.



### STEFANO VIZIOLI

Stefano Vizioli is an internationally recognized director of opera whose work has been staged in leading opera houses throughout Europe, Asia, and North and South America.

He also has produced radio and television programs dealing with the world of opera in Europe and the U.S.

Currently residing in Rome, he has been a visiting director of music at Cincinnati University, the Indiana University School of Music in Bloomington and UTEP, as well as an instructor at the Opera Theatre and Music Festival of Lucca in Tuscany.

Vizioli holds a degree in piano from the Conservatorio San Pietro a Majella in Naples, Italy.



### ELISA FRASER WILSON

Elisa Fraser Wilson, D.M.A., is an associate professor of opera and voice at UTEP and director of the El Paso Opera Young Artists Program.

Wilson has appeared with El Paso Opera as Annina in *La Traviata*, with the UTEP Dinner Theatre as Eva Peron in *Evita* and Victoria Grant in *Victor/Victoria*, and with the Music Theatre Company as Mama Euralie in *Once On This Island* and Camille Penza in *Romeo and Bernadette*.

She holds degrees in music education and performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Wichita State University in Kansas, and a doctoral degree in choral conducting and literature from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



### PRESTON SCOTT

Preston Scott developed and curated the Bhutan program at the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C., the largest and most comprehensive celebration of Bhutanese life and culture ever hosted outside the Himalayan kingdom.

Since 1998, he has served as an adviser to the Royal Government of Bhutan on environmental and cultural conservation projects.

He holds degrees in law and in history, government and political theory from the University of Virginia, is a member of the bars of the District of Columbia and Virginia, and has worked in more than 30 countries on five continents.



### DAVID GRABARKEWITZ

David Grabarkewitz is the artistic and general director of El Paso Opera and resident stage director for the New York City Opera at Lincoln Center.

He has taught and directed master classes at the Hartt School of Music, the Boston Conservatory of Music, the New England Conservatory of Music, Georgia State University, Louisiana State University and the Juilliard School of Music.

The 1999 Mark Lamos production of *Madama Butterfly* for New York City Opera, with stage direction by David Grabarkewitz in 2008, won the 2008 Prime Time Emmy Award for Best Live Classical Music or Dance. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from the Hartt School of Music in West Hartford, Conn.

The three-week workshop will offer special opportunities for the UTEP community to see behind the scenes what it takes to pull together such an ambitious cross-cultural international project. It is anticipated that selected rehearsals will be open to the public with opportunities to meet the visiting artists as well as the participating UTEP students.

Approximately one month after the August 2013 workshop in El Paso, the project team will travel to Bhutan for on-site rehearsals in preparation for the Oct. 12 premiere.

UTEP is planning to offer special travel opportunities to Bhutan in conjunction with the opera premiere, accompanied by UTEP President Natalicio. These packages will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis with travel dates from Oct. 5-15 (routing through Bangkok). Pricing will be offered on both an "economy" and "luxury" basis with an opportunity for an optional additional five-day excursion toward central Bhutan. Persons traveling to Bhutan for the opera premiere with UTEP also will enjoy special behind-the-scenes visits with the artists, dignitaries and officials from the Royal Government of Bhutan. There will be opportunities to visit some of Bhutan's most historic and picturesque sites.

UTEP also is planning its own U.S. premiere of the opera in El Paso in late September 2014 in conjunction with UTEP's official Centennial celebrations. As the UTEP community reflects back to the unlikely chain of events that first prompted Mrs. Worrell to suggest incorporating Bhutanese design into UTEP's architectural style nearly 100 years ago, it can also take pride in the many doors it has opened to the world since for its students and others. The UTEP/Bhutan experience is symbolized beautifully by the equally unlikely international collaboration to produce an original new production of Handel's *Acis and Galatea* in the remote Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan for the very first time. 📌





Bhutanese dancers perform in an outdoor courtyard similar to where the *Acis and Galatea* production will premiere.

## OPERA BHUTAN PROJECT TIMELINE

### FEBRUARY 2013:

The production team will travel to Bhutan to inspect the performance venue for the premiere and conduct auditions for the Bhutanese participants.

### AUGUST 2013:

UTEP will host a three-week opera production workshop involving all the artists from UTEP, Bhutan, Europe and elsewhere.

### SEPTEMBER 2013:

The project team will travel to Bhutan for on-site rehearsals in preparation for the Oct. 12 premiere.

### OCTOBER 12, 2013:

The opera is scheduled to premiere in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan, on the eve of the second anniversary of the Royal Wedding of Their Majesties the King and Queen.

### SEPTEMBER 2014:

The U.S. premiere of the opera will be staged in El Paso at UTEP in conjunction with the University's Centennial celebration.



# TRAVELING

## TO THE LAND OF THE THUNDER DRAGON

It takes approximately two days, four flights and stops in four or five countries to get to Bhutan from El Paso, not to mention the jet lag associated with moving your internal clock ahead by 13 hours. But with a little preparation and the points mentioned here, the long trip can be the start of a once-in-a-lifetime adventure to one of the most beautiful and culturally rich places on Earth, visited by only a few thousand lucky foreign tourists annually.

The easiest way to travel to Bhutan from El Paso is through Bangkok, Thailand. Multiple airlines provide daily service to Bangkok with convenient connections through Tokyo, Japan; Seoul, South Korea or Hong Kong, depending on the specific airline and schedule selected. Travel from Bangkok to Bhutan is provided daily by Royal Bhutan Airlines, also known as Druk Air. Before booking a ticket on Druk Air, however, it is necessary to obtain a visa from the Bhutanese Government (all arranged in advance when traveling with a UTEP-organized tour).

**BEFORE YOU LEAVE:** To travel to Bhutan, you'll need a valid passport and tourist visa issued by the Bhutanese Government. Each tourist is charged a daily tariff of approximately \$250 per night during the high season of March through May and September through November, which covers tourist-class lodging (double-occupancy), meals, a licensed guide and driver for local transportation, plus all taxes and fees. Customized luxury travel options in Bhutan also are available.

While UTEP-arranged trips to Bhutan include round-trip tickets on Druk Air from Bangkok to Bhutan, travelers are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to Bangkok. ☒

Flight path continues on page 47.



We hope you can join us in Bhutan for the world premiere, support the project through sponsorship opportunities or join us for the 2014 Centennial celebrations. For more information about travel packages or sponsorships, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 915-747-8533, toll free at 888-229-8837 or visit our event website at [bhutan.utep.edu](http://bhutan.utep.edu).

*how  
to get  
there*  
(pictured on map\*)

### STEP 1:

Board a plane at El Paso International Airport and fly to Dallas.

### STEP 2:

Fly on to Tokyo (overnight flight crossing the International Date Line) for your connecting flight to Bangkok.

### STEP 3:

Then, fly on to Bangkok.

\*The route shown is one of several possible routes from El Paso to Bhutan, depending on the airline and schedule selected.





Flight path  
continued  
from page 46.

### TOTAL TRAVEL TIME FROM EL PASO TO PARO:

About 25 hours (plus  
layovers and time changes)  
covering about 10,200 miles  
(depending on the specific  
route selected).

#### STEP 4:

Spend the night in Bangkok at the conveniently located hotel adjacent to the airport terminal. Spend the following day and night at leisure resting up in Bangkok.

#### STEP 5:

Wake up early for the Druk Air flight to Bhutan with a mid-morning arrival. The flight may be direct or include a short stop en route, depending on the day and season.

#### STEP 6:

Upon arrival in Bhutan, you will be greeted at the airport in Paro by your personal guide and driver to commence your visit in the legendary Land of the Thunder Dragon!



Use your smartphone to scan this code to view a video of Bhutanese images. You can also view the video at [utepnews.com](http://utepnews.com).



## DINNER THEATRE

# CELEBRATES THE BIG 3-0

By Lisa Y. Garibay • Photo by Laura Trejo

The University of Texas at El Paso Dinner Theatre began 30 years ago on a shoestring and is now the only year-round dinner theater located on a university campus in the United States.

So how did it all begin? Let's go back to 1983. Greg Taylor, now the Dinner Theatre director, was an undergraduate UTEP theater arts major who loved musicals. After a casual discussion about staging one on campus, he and fellow student Jimmy Legarreta approached Dean of Students Joe Avila and Student Union Director Sonny Castro with their idea. The Special Programs and Activities Committee of the Student Programs Office gave the duo \$1,000 to put on *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* with dinner prepared by Union Food Services. Of that \$1,000 check, \$750 went to pay for royalty fees required to stage the show.

Taylor's mother sewed the key dreamcoat costume piece. The musical ran for three sold-out performances in the Union Ballroom, a rarely used space Taylor had stumbled upon while picking up his financial aid check. *Jesus Christ Superstar* followed the next summer and sold out the house once again. Castro offered Taylor a 15-hour-per-week work-study position to manage the Dinner Theatre. A full season was programmed and the Dinner Theatre never looked back.

The UTEP Dinner Theatre is now a part of the UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance and produces four musicals a year. In the spring of 1987, the ballroom was completely remodeled with the addition of tiered seating, a semi-permanent stage and fixtures for theatrical lighting.

The Dinner Theatre has received numerous accolades over the years. *Chess* was a national winner of the American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) in 1989, when it was performed at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. In 2000, the company was given the respondent's choice award and award for excellence in music direction for *Victor/Victoria*. *Leader of the Pack* received awards for excellence in direction, musical direction, and festival housing from the ACTF in 1998. The ACTF recognized *Falsettos* in 1997 with the

critics' choice award for best show along with awards for excellence in producing and directing, costumes, musical direction, and choreography. The list goes on, with awards stretching back to 1985 when the company was just two years old.

### Setting the Stage for Success

These days, the Dinner Theatre has a staff of seven and a budget of \$380,000. The numbers it has racked up are impressive: 127 productions, three world premieres, and more than \$5.5 million in ticket sales.

The Dinner Theatre continues to produce successful shows, recently performing the musical comedy *Spamalot*, the Tony Award-winning spinoff of the cult film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Another fan favorite, *Grease*, will open in February.

"We had a really big hit with *Spamalot*," Taylor said about the held-over show. "We're excited about *Grease* because we haven't done it in 30 years. We did it our first season and no one in El Paso has done it since then."

*Evita*, scheduled for April, is the theater company's official 30th-anniversary production, done in homage to longtime Dinner Theatre advocate Sir Tim Rice, the famed lyricist who won Tony Awards for *Evita* and *Beauty and the Beast* and Academy Awards for *The Lion King* and *Aladdin*. Taylor and Rice met when Taylor was working as a rehearsal assistant on the Broadway production of the Rice musical *Chess*. In a letter posted on the Dinner Theatre's website, Rice says about Taylor: "He and his cohorts at the UTEP Dinner Theatre have presented several of my shows at the university and in fact premiered *Blondel*, *Tycoon* and *Chess* ... I have seen the work of Greg and his staff personally in El Paso and have always been impressed by the standard of the performances."

In July, the 2012-13 season will wrap up with *In the Heights*, which comes to the Dinner Theatre after a huge award-winning run on Broadway and national tours. It will be a gamble given that it is such a new production, especially when Taylor stresses that the Dinner Theatre is one of the few organizations on campus that funds most of its operating budget via ticket sales. It's a tough balancing act given that the company wants to stage productions that are new and different to give the actors and production crew challenging opportunities.







## Curtain Opens on a Tough Economy

Even in times of economic downturn, Taylor believes there is great value in the performing arts.

"What's the point of living life without the fun stuff?" he said, also acknowledging that squeezing in a Dinner Theatre performance can be a tough decision for people on a budget. "Up until about three years ago, we had a five-year run where we sold out every seat for every show and held over every show. But for the last three years, it hasn't been like that at all and it's been rare that we've held over a show. Obviously, part of that is due to the economy." Dinner Theatre organizers are aware of the tough economy but they stress that their entertainment remains an excellent value: a \$45 ticket will not only get you a memorable live show, but dinner as well.

In a way, students who contribute their time and talent to Dinner Theatre productions get a real-world understanding of theater production by witnessing the effects of an economic downturn. On the flip side, they learn from the positive experience of sold-out shows and having to commit to hold-overs.

Everyone who works on a show is paid \$100. Taylor is reluctant to call it fair pay, given that everyone rehearses for six weeks, performs for five weeks, and gives hundreds of hours to each production. It's more a token of appreciation and reflects the dedication that each show's cast and crew has to the theater, not just as a cultural and commercial venture, but as a way of life.

The Dinner Theatre is supported by student fees as well as ticket sales. Taylor is emphatic about every one of those dollars showing up on the stage.

"We have a great set designer and costume designer. We have full sets and full costumes – we don't scrimp," he said.

## Something for Everybody

Taylor has been encouraged by increasing audience diversity over the years, from elderly couples to Baby Boomers to theater fans from younger generations. He attributes this to El Paso's changing population as well as the ever-evolving variety of productions being presented by the company.

"There are some shows we couldn't have done 30 years ago that we can do now as far as language and other elements," he said.

Still, he sees that young people are not exposed to theater as an alternative source of entertainment, and loves the opportunity he has to introduce musical theater to students and their families. He is still encouraged every time he hears students in his classes express enthusiasm for musicals after never having seen one and believing that it wouldn't connect with them.

For Taylor, it's just one of the benefits that anyone at UTEP can take advantage of as part of a well-rounded university education. "You'll never know until you try it," he said. ➤

Greg Taylor, director of the UTEP Dinner Theatre and associate professor in the UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance, stands outside the dinner theater he helped establish as a student 30 years ago.





# PRESIDENT REFLECTS ON 2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

UTEP PRESIDENT DIANA NATALICIO ADDRESSED FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS DURING HER FALL CONVOCATION REMARKS ON SEPT. 27, 2012. HER SPEECH, WHICH HAS BEEN EDITED FOR SPACE, IS REPRINTED BELOW.

**WE**

will soon commemorate UTEP's Centennial, the 100th anniversary of our establishment in 1914 as the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy. Excitement is building and plans are being developed to celebrate this major milestone in the history of our impact on this region and, especially, on the more than 105,000 graduates whose lives have been shaped by their experience on this campus. I'll have more to say later about our Centennial plans, but I want to begin by sharing with you the commemoration of another event that in many ways has helped shape this institution, its mission and its vision for the future.

In late June, more than 100 of my fellow public university presidents and I donned our academic regalia and gathered at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. to commemorate the 150th anniversary of passage of the Morrill Act in 1862. This legislation, sponsored by Senator Justin Morrill of Vermont and signed by President Abraham Lincoln, was the first major step toward democratizing higher education in the United States. It created a network of land-grant universities that would offer higher education access to young people not being served by the few existing private universities whose mission was to educate wealthy young men.

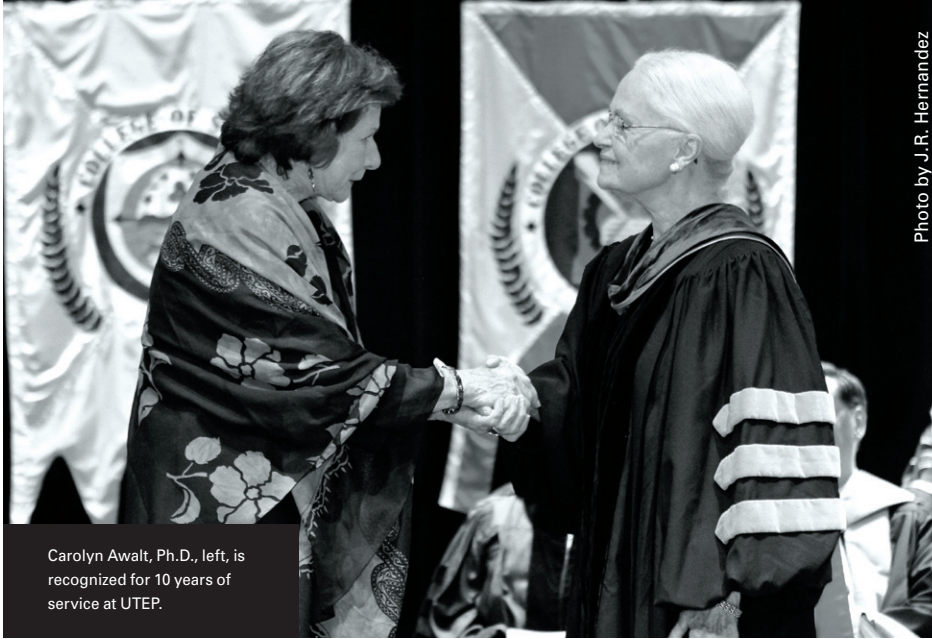






UTEP President Diana Natalicio prepares to address faculty, staff and students during Fall Convocation.





Carolyn Awalt, Ph.D., left, is recognized for 10 years of service at UTEP.

The 150-year legacy of the Morrill Act has helped open the doors of U.S. higher education to growing numbers of talented people in our society, whatever their socioeconomic circumstances. It has been re-affirmed with the establishment of such programs as the G.I. Bill after the Second World War and, later, federal financial aid, a.k.a. Pell Grants. It prepared this country for the industrial revolution in the late 19th century and, more recently, for our growing global economic competitiveness and quality of life.

In the 21st century, the spirit of democratization of higher education is alive and well on many public university campuses across the country, especially those in large urban areas where institutions like UTEP are taking the Morrill Act legacy to the next level. We are educating low-income and minority students, segments of the population most seriously underrepresented today in U.S. colleges and universities.

Sadly, however, this investment in building the human resource foundation upon which this country's prosperity has solidly rested has begun to erode, as public – especially state – support for higher education has declined, and cost burdens have been shifted to students.

The consequences are sobering. In 2012, only 11 percent of students in the bottom quartile of the U.S. family income scale earned bachelor's degrees, compared to 79 percent in the top income quartile. Although education has clearly been the most powerful driver of our success as a nation, we now

## UTEP HAS ALSO SOUGHT TO OFFER EXPANDED HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES TO SPECIFIC POPULATIONS IN THIS REGION.

appear to be questioning its value and wavering in our willingness to invest in it.

At UTEP, we are doing all that we can to counter these trends. We take very seriously our responsibility to ensure that we are good stewards of the Morrill Act legacy, by offering all residents of this historically underserved U.S.-Mexico border region access to excellent higher education opportunities. Grounded in our strong conviction that talent is found in all ZIP codes, validated by our students' stellar achievements, and driven by our commitment to provide the educational excellence that all students have every right to expect, UTEP's access and excellence mission has become a national model.

As a result, UTEP is achieving the national recognition that we've earned through our successful quest to become the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic. We are particularly proud that we have been able to implement strategies that contain costs, hold tuition increases to a minimum and thereby ensure continued affordability and access for our students.

Recently, national media reported results of an annual survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Education on the average "net price" of all U.S. colleges and universities. (Net price is defined as the total cost of attendance – tuition, fees, books and other expenses – minus financial aid and scholarship awards.) At \$2,543 per year, UTEP ranked first, offering the lowest net price among all research universities in the U.S. And this wasn't a close race to the top; the second-ranked university in the survey has a net price that is more than twice as high as UTEP's. Clearly, UTEP knows how to invest wisely and do more with less, while remaining firmly committed to quality.

Another recent national ranking of colleges and universities, this one by *Washington Monthly* magazine, placed a very bright spotlight on UTEP's success in fulfilling its public university mission. Unlike *U.S. News and World Report*, whose rankings are heavily weighted toward such prestige criteria as endowment size and alumni giving, and are thus more attuned to small, elite private universities, the *Washington Monthly* rankings seek to capture an institution's impact on the students it serves, on the region in which it is located and on this nation as a whole. They focus on three broad categories of public good: how well the school serves as an engine of social mobility; how successful it is in producing cutting-edge research and Ph.D. degrees; and how effectively students are encouraged to give something back to their region and to the nation. To these three they added this year a new student-cost metric. The 2012 results, released earlier [in September], ranked UTEP 12th among all U.S. universities, comfortably nestled between #11 Harvard and #13 Michigan. This is an extraordinary accomplishment indeed, and one in which we should all take great pride.

As if this overall #12 ranking weren't enough, we should take a moment to reflect on the fact that in the Social Mobility category of the *Washington Monthly* rankings, UTEP was ranked first among all U.S. colleges and universities. This is a huge validation of our commitment to both access and excellence: to provide all talented young people in this region access to enhanced educational opportunities equivalent



# 2012 YEAR IN REVIEW

## JANUARY

- Schuster Parking Garage opened
- World premiere of *Lute!* at the UTEP Dinner Theatre
- Solar photovoltaic arrays unveiled at Student Recreation Center and Facilities Services parking lot

## FEBRUARY

- Armando Aguirre, Ed.D., appointed to oversee El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence
- Regional Cyber and Energy Security Center created

## MARCH

- Chemistry and Computer Science Building opened
- Women's Basketball won Conference USA championship
- Mike Loya Academic Services Building named in honor of alumnus and donor

## APRIL

- Top faculty, staff and students recognized at Honors Convocation

## MAY

- Local leaders and more than 8,000 area children attended UTEP Opportunity Days
- More than 2,500 students earned degrees at Spring Commencement

## JUNE

- UTEP has lowest net price of all emerging research universities in the country, according to Department of Education data
- 100th anniversary of the passage of the Morrill Act in 1862 that created public land-grant universities to offer higher education to all
- UTEP hosted the highly anticipated Chavez vs. Lee boxing match

to those offered to their peers in more affluent settings. We welcome the 22,749 students who have brought their dreams and aspirations to the UTEP campus this fall, and assure them that we know full well that they have every right to expect nothing less from us.

Consistent with UTEP's public university mission of serving the higher education needs of this historically underserved Paso del Norte region, 90 percent of UTEP's students come from this area, including 83 percent from El Paso County. The demographic profile of these students mirrors that of this community: 77 percent are Mexican-American, 10 percent Anglo, and 3 percent African-American.

More than 80 percent of UTEP's entering students, both freshmen and transfers from El Paso Community College, are graduates of high schools in El Paso County, and a majority of teachers in K-12 schools are graduates of UTEP.

We are very pleased that UTEP has once again enrolled a substantial number of this region's most accomplished high school graduates. Of the El Paso area's Top 10 Percent high school graduates who attend a public university in Texas, more than 60 percent enroll at UTEP. Merit-based scholarships play a major role in enabling UTEP to compete for El Paso's best and brightest talent, and thanks to generous donors, we were proud to be able to offer members of the fall 2012 entering class 428 new scholarship awards with a total value of \$5.6 million.

UTEP has also sought to offer expanded higher education opportunities to specific populations in this region. With the growth of Ft. Bliss, UTEP has made a strong commitment to provide more comprehensive and effective services to active-duty military and veterans and their families, whose enrollment increased 34 percent last year. We are proud of our designation as a "Military Friendly School;" of a laudatory audit of our performance by the Veterans Administration; and a grant from the Kresge Foundation to support a UTEP/EPCC-led effort to form a national network of colleges and universities located near major military facilities with a goal of developing smoother and more effective educational pathways for a highly mobile military population.

UTEP's nearly 23,000 students are full of talent and motivation, but often short on financial resources. More than a third of them report a family income of \$20,000 per year or less and 75 percent receive some form of financial aid, including \$14 million in merit-based scholarships, \$78 million in need-based grants, and \$95 million in loans. Most students must also be employed while attending UTEP, and we work hard to expand the number of student employment opportunities on the campus. More than 2,500 such on-campus jobs have been provided during the past year, earning students more than \$2 million in wages.

We are especially pleased that as a result of our partnership with area school districts and the El Paso Community College, as well as our own focused efforts to enhance pathways toward degree completion on this campus, the number of undergraduate degrees awarded by UTEP annually has grown by 85 percent over the past 10 years. We are also pleased to note that the average time to degree for all UTEP undergraduates is now 5.9 years, and we expect this figure to decline even further as we build our capacity to manage enrollment more effectively, by increasing students' access to timely information about progress toward their degrees, and departments' and colleges' access to data that enable them to design degree programs and schedule courses and sections more efficiently, on- and off-campus and online.

An early indicator of our students' success is their initial step after graduation, whether toward professional employment, military service, or graduate or professional school. For example, our students' competitiveness for highly prized graduate and professional school admissions strongly confirms the high quality of our undergraduate programs. Since 1998, when we established the first of its kind pre-law preparation program, more than 300 UTEP graduates have been accepted into law schools across the U.S., 60 percent of them into schools ranked as first tier, and 30 percent into a top-15 law school.

UTEP has also been aggressive in developing new graduate-level programs to enable our own graduates and those



from institutions across the world, to pursue high-quality advanced educational opportunities on this campus. Many of these relate in special ways to our U.S.-Mexico border and Chihuahuan Desert region. In the College of Science, for example, the new doctoral program in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, which is the only such program in the world to focus on the Chihuahuan Desert, celebrated its first graduate this year. Several other new graduate programs have responded to the growing regional and national need for health researchers and practitioners, including two new master's programs in the College of Health Sciences – Social Work and Rehabilitation Counseling – which graduated their first cohorts this past year; and, in nursing, the Doctor of Nursing Practice program which admitted its second, and 90 percent larger, cohort of doctoral students. In Engineering, new master's and doctoral programs in Biomedical Engineering were recently approved by the UT System Board of Regents and are now headed to the THECB for review and final approval.

Preparing students to graduate from UTEP with the personal and professional competencies to compete on a world stage requires not only holding them to high academic standards in classrooms and laboratories but also challenging them to participate in a broad range of co-curricular experiences which build both their skills and self-confidence. Participation in undergraduate research experiences, for example, has been demonstrated to be especially motivating to first-generation students to pursue graduate study upon completing their bachelor's degrees. UTEP's undergraduate research program, so ably directed by Dr. Lourdes Echegoyen, has done a remarkable job of identifying resources to expand undergraduate research experiences and encourage students to participate in them. More than 200 undergraduate students were engaged in faculty-led research projects and activities over the past year, nearly half of whom were supported by research grant funds.

International experiences are an especially important dimension of UTEP's efforts to develop enhanced undergraduate educational opportunities for our students. Unlike their more affluent peers, most first-

generation and low-income students have had few opportunities to travel the world, and creating programs to ensure that they have access to affordable and meaningful international experiences is a high priority for many UTEP faculty and staff. There's been a 50 percent increase in the number of UTEP students learning in settings across the globe including Indonesia, Italy, Qatar, Spain, the Czech Republic, Brazil, and Taiwan.

Technology is also playing a far more significant role in the delivery of UTEP's educational programs. The number of online and blended courses and programs has increased significantly, and many more are in the works. UTEP currently offers eight degrees and three certificate programs online to students in El Paso and across the world, and there's been a 389 percent growth in online course enrollment over the past five years. Like most colleges and universities, UTEP is preparing for significant growth in online courses and programs over the next several years, driven by: demand from students, especially adult learners whose family and employment constraints often conflict with attending regularly scheduled classes on campus; enhanced technology applications that improve access to online learning; and anticipated investments by the U.T. System's new Institute for Transformational Learning.

I mentioned earlier UTEP's overall national ranking in *Washington Monthly*, and I'm equally proud of the recognition that specific UTEP programs have received from other publications. This past year, and for the third year in succession, *Hispanic Business* magazine ranked graduate programs in the College of Business Administration #1 among all MBA programs, and programs in the College of Engineering #3 among all graduate engineering programs for Hispanics, the 8th year in succession that UTEP's engineering programs have been ranked among the top five nationally.

The growth in new research funding to UTEP each year through the successful proposals written by UTEP's highly competitive faculty and staff has a major economic impact. The rapid rise in UTEP's annual research expenditures — to more than \$76 million last year — has been



## JULY

- Campus transformation began with the groundbreaking of the *Ihakhang*
- First Alumni PICK-NIC held in cities around the world

## AUGUST

- UTEP ranked #12 by *Washington Monthly* magazine, and #1 for social mobility
- 10 faculty members recognized with UT System Board of Regents' Outstanding Teaching Awards

## SEPTEMBER

- Enrollment reached an all-time high of 22,749
- *Hispanic Business* magazine ranked business (#1) and engineering (#3) graduate programs as top for Hispanics

## OCTOBER

- Dennis Poon and Ignacio Urrabazo recognized as Distinguished Alumni during Homecoming
- UTEP M.B.A. program honored as the nation's 2012 Example of *Excelencia* at the graduate level for increasing Latino success in higher education
- Campbell Building reopened after \$2.3 million in renovations

## NOVEMBER

- UTEP received a grant in partnership with EPCC to devise a simpler path to a college degree for military students and their families

## DECEMBER

- Former Miner Sean Kugler hired as head football coach
- More than 2,380 students graduated during the Winter Commencement ceremonies

Scan this QR code to view a 2012 year-in-review video.

You can also view the video at [utepnews.com](http://utepnews.com).





a major factor in the steady increase in UTEP's annual budget, from less than \$100 million 20 years ago to more than \$400 million in the current fiscal year, and has resulted in the creation of a large number of high paying jobs on campus, the attraction of talented professionals to El Paso from across the world, growth in on-campus employment for students, and a large increase in the purchase of goods and services in this region.

...  
A major development of the past year was the grand opening of three majestic new buildings: Health Sciences and Nursing, Chemistry and Computer Science and the Student Recreation Center. These striking new facilities have not only added much needed state-of-the-art teaching, research and student support space to the UTEP campus, but also raised our signature Bhutanese architectural aesthetic to glorious new heights and contributed to the transformation of our campus climate.

...  
As most of you have undoubtedly heard, we are embarking on yet another transformation, this one of our campus landscape and the enhanced campus climate that we believe it will foster. We will soon begin to close the center of campus to routine vehicular traffic and focus attention on knitting together our beautiful Bhutanese buildings with pedestrian walkways and attractive and shady outdoor gathering spaces that will enable us all to enjoy El Paso's beautiful weather and each other's company.

...  
Serving as the symbolic centerpiece of this project will be Centennial Plaza, a greatly expanded open area that, together with many other transformed spaces, will serve as a legacy of UTEP's Centennial commemoration in 2014.

...  
UTEP's Centennial celebration is meant for everyone. Over the past century, each of us – students, faculty, and staff – have brought our dreams to this University and we have worked hard together to achieve them. Now we want you to share with us your experiences, your memories, and your dreams. Discover the history of your own campus unit or organization. Make a gift toward our Centennial Campaign. Join us in El Paso and across the world at the various events and activities we are planning. Our celebration will not be



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

## TECHNOLOGY IS ALSO PLAYING A FAR MORE SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE DELIVERY OF UTEP'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

complete without the participation of each and every one of you.

The next several years are going to be among the most exciting ever on this highly energized UTEP campus. We're striding steadily and confidently toward Tier One, we're building capacity across the campus to achieve even more ambitious goals, we're helping shape public policy, and securing validation from such national publications as *Washington Monthly*. UTEP's access and excellence model is gaining the respect that it has worked very hard to earn through the commitment, creativity and courage of all of you, members of the UTEP family, who have believed in our students and their dreams, in UTEP and our aspirations, and in the critical role that public higher education must play in the future prosperity and quality of life of this nation. UTEP has become one of

the most relevant and exciting universities in the United States today, thanks to all of you and the talented students we serve. Our Centennial couldn't have occurred at a better time in UTEP's story, for as we approach our 100th anniversary in 2014, we'll not only be celebrating our history, but also making history, setting the pace and creating a new face for U.S. public higher education in the 21st century. 📱

## GO MINERS!



To read the full transcript of President Natalicio's Convocation remarks, scan this QR code with your smartphone.

You can also view the transcript at [utepnews.com](http://utepnews.com).







Online course enrollment at UTEP has increased 389 percent in the last five years.

# Online Learning

By Sandy Hicks

TAKES OFF

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO is known for being at the forefront of new and emerging ideas that benefit the Miner student body and the faculty who teach them. As an early adopter of online learning in 2004, the University spearheaded a push to find alternative delivery methods for educating a unique student demographic: the nontraditional, or working student.

However, University leaders also found that traditional students jumped at the opportunity to take online courses as a way of adding to their course load without the time commitment of the physical classroom. A fall 2011 survey of online students indicated most of the enrolled students chose the online format for flexibility in time and location.

The popularity of online learning is exploding across the nation, and it's no different at UTEP.



The popularity of online learning is exploding across the nation, and it's no different at UTEP, where online course enrollment has increased 389 percent in the last five years. UTEP offers seven full master's degree plans, one bachelor's degree and five certificate programs that are totally online, plus numerous individual courses and hybrid courses.

The Strategic Conversions and Expansions for Distance Education Efforts (SCEDEE) is a program implemented by the Provost's Office to encourage Requests for Proposals (RFPs) from faculty to expand the course offerings to all students – a viable pursuit given that 30 percent of the most recent graduating class has taken at least one online course as part of their curriculum.

The expansion of online courses falls in line with UTEP's mission of "access and excellence" and promises to enhance the current 480 online classes and 160 hybrid (50 percent on campus/50 percent online) classes being offered this academic year.

The Provost's Office is requesting proposals for two purposes that will result in a higher diversity of educational quality for UTEP students. The two-fold goal is the conversion of programs and clusters of courses leading to online program and certification offerings, and the expansion of existing online courses and labs by integrating academic coaches. Through the SCEDEE, the Provost is inviting proposals focused on the development of full undergraduate/graduate degrees, degree completion, degree minors and certificates.

"Our main interest is in enhancing student success, and we believe that using technology – whether for delivery of online/blended courses or for enhancing learning in the classroom – can make significant inroads into reducing time to degree and retention," said UTEP Provost Junius Gonzales. "In addition, we are currently working on ways to more deeply assess how technology can lead to enhanced learning outcomes."

In an online article from the Education page of *U.S. News and World Report*, author Ryan Lytle discussed the concerns of university faculty with the growing trend of online learning and the expanding

technology that supports it. Lytle interviewed Dan Johnson, a senior lecturer at Wake Forest University.

"It's the idea of being able to do with technology what has been done with people in the past," Johnson said. "There is a very real fear that this will be cutting into the education system and actually not just supplementing instructors but replacing them." But not everyone is wary of online learning.

UTEP Associate Provost William H. Robertson, Ph.D., sees a brighter lining in the technology-driven learning horizon.

"We live in a digital world, and we're not going back," Robertson said. "It's important to teach in a way that is facilitative, pedagogically sound and content rich."

Robertson believes there are multiple benefits for faculty when they submit an RFP and jump aboard the online learning locomotive.

"Converting their academic units into online learning programs broadens their reach to students within our region and outside of El Paso as well, and increases the enrollment of their departments," he said. "We must remember who we are teaching (students of the digital age) and become more relevant to students."

Miners are catching the online fever. Currently 8 percent of the total semester credit hour production comes from online courses.

In response to qualified proposals, the Provost's Office will help fund the online conversion of a single "bottleneck" course – an online course that provides space for students who could not enroll in a traditional course because it was full – or a full master's program, and everything in between. Robertson does not believe the money will fully fund a conversion from a traditional or hybrid program to one that is fully online, but it is a good start.

Although anyone across the nation – or the world, for that matter – who gains University admission can become an online Miner student, the goal is to strategically and intentionally seek regional students to take advantage of the convenience of online learning.

"This is a way to serve and grow our programs better in the region we serve," Robertson said. 📱



"We must remember who we are teaching (students of the digital age) and become more relevant to students."

William H. Robertson, Ph.D.,  
UTEP associate provost



# CAPITOL PROCLAMATION TO KICK OFF

By Daniel Perez • Photo by Laura Trejo

A delegation of UTEP alumni from throughout Texas will participate in a ceremony April 16 at the state Capitol in Austin to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the signing of Senate Bill 183. The bill established the institution that would become The University of Texas at El Paso.

The morning's legislative proclamation will be followed by a luncheon and visits by alumni to the offices of their state representatives during an unofficial "UTEP Day" at the Capitol. University President Diana Natalicio, the college deans and other senior administrators are expected to lead the UTEP contingent.

The April 16 festivities will kick off the events tied to the University's Centennial Celebration that will continue through 2014.

"This will reaffirm the impact of UTEP and the power of our

alumni across the state," said Richard Daniel, Ph.D., associate vice president for University Advancement and Special Projects. "It is an opportunity for alumni to talk about the success they have achieved through UTEP and how it has brought value to the rest of the state. They can express why it is important to support UTEP."

The activities will end with a special reception in the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center. Refreshments will include the official UTEP Centennial salsa and dip and the formal presentation of Centennial wines produced by the Miner Family Winery in California's Napa Valley.

Organizers see these events as a chance to "prime the pump" as they celebrate the future and honor the not so distant past when turn-of-the-century El Pasoans pressed for an institution of





## EVENTS IN 2013

UTEP students, staff and faculty celebrate the University's upcoming Centennial by forming a 100 on the field at Sun Bowl Stadium.

higher education in their community.

The Texas Senate's approval of the College of Mines and Metallurgy in April 1913 followed that of the House of Representatives, which agreed to the new school March 26 of that year.

The state approved the school with the stipulation that the community would buy the land and construct the buildings. The city's Chamber of Commerce announced on April 13, 1914 that it had collected \$50,000 and bought the El Paso Military Institute located in Northeast El Paso on what today is Fort Bliss. The school opened Sept. 23, 1914, but because of several issues, including a fire in the main building, the school relocated to its current site in 1917.

Of note in the original bill approved by Gov. O.B. Colquitt was

the creation of "a State School of Miners," a misspelling that was later changed to "Mines."

"I guess we were Miners from the beginning," said Keith Erikson, Ph.D., executive director of the University's Centennial Celebration.

Additional activities, such as the commemoration of the first day of school on Sept. 23, 2013, will start the fall countdown to the Centennial Celebration in 2014.

Those who want to learn more about UTEP's history or the latest about the Centennial Celebration can visit [www.utep100years.com](http://www.utep100years.com), a website launched in October for the anniversary. It has videos, photos, publications, Centennial stories, a calendar of events and access to the official 2014 ringtone. 📻



# LEGEND OF THE ALLIGATOR CAPER LIVES ON IN UTEP LORE

By Daniel Perez

To some longtime Miners, one of the best pranks pulled in the almost 100-year history of The University of Texas at El Paso can be summed up with one word: alligator.

During the chilly overnight hours of Dec. 10-11, 1952, under a waning crescent moon, a small cadre of underclassmen stole a slumbering alligator named Oscar from Downtown El Paso's San Jacinto Plaza. They delivered it to the second-floor office of Howard E. Quinn, Ph.D., professor of geology, in what is now Quinn Hall.

Reports vary as to Quinn's initial reaction, but Eleanor Duke, Ph.D., professor emeritus of biology, recalled 60 years later that Quinn was spitting bullets. He wanted Texas Western College (now UTEP) officials to find the perpetrators and punish them.

"Quinn wanted to know who done it and fail them, kick them out (of TWC) and make sure they didn't live to do it again, and used other choice language," said Duke, a 1939 alumna of the College of Mines (now UTEP) who served on the faculty for 48 years. "He didn't think it was funny. He had no sense of humor, but everyone on campus was laughing. Even his wife thought it was hilarious."

Duke, whose memory is still sharp at age 94, recalled being distracted by police and city parks vehicles that had parked next to the Geology Building (now Quinn Hall) as she taught a freshman biology course on the third floor of what today is the Psychology Building. She said she heard that Quinn tossed a notebook at Oscar to make sure the 6-foot, 400-pound animal was alive. The alligator, who was thought to be about 60 years old, responded by opening his mouth and sharing a few grunts.

Student Jerry Collison, left, and faculty member Johnnie Balentine keep their distance from Oscar the Alligator as he toured the office of Howard E. Quinn, Ph.D., professor of geology, the morning of Dec. 11, 1952. Photo originally printed in March 1973 *Nova* magazine.





Nancy Hamilton, left, and Ashley Swarthout, stand outside the scene of the “climb” where a Texas Western College student climbed into Dr. Quinn’s second-floor office as part of the legendary gator caper. Hamilton, a TWC graduate student at the time, called the incident a harmless prank. Swarthout, a graduate student who researched the prank, called the story like “a great piece of fiction.”

The story of guile and luck is shared in the March 1973 issue of *Nova*, the predecessor to *UTEP Magazine*. It was written by Samuel E. Vandiver, who at the time was reportedly the last surviving participant. The former Marine earned his bachelor’s in English in 1953 from Texas Western College. He worked as a journalist in El Paso and taught English at colleges in Texas, Arkansas and Colorado. He died Jan. 5, 1997.

Vandiver wove a detailed narrative of a plan hatched at a campus snack bar, but developed months later at the nearby Kern Place Tavern. There were starts and stops and serendipity as the events played out like a Hollywood screwball comedy where the getaway car doesn’t start and the plaza security guard doesn’t notice he’s chatting with a guy whose pants are soaking wet up to his knees in 30-degree weather.

After the alligator was secured in the back of the Studebaker, the students drove to the college and decided where to put Oscar. “I cannot tell you why Dr. Quinn was singled out; certainly there were other, more appropriate recipients for a live, thrashing, biting, cantankerous ‘gator,” Vandiver wrote.

The students entered the building through an unlocked first-floor window, but Quinn’s office was locked. Not to be deterred, the pranksters decided to try the office’s second floor window. This took the strength of one student and the agility of another to reach the wide Bhutanese windowsill. As luck would have it, the window was unsecured so the rest of the plan went smoothly.

Quinn showed up to his office to prepare for his 9 a.m. class and found the gator more awake than when he was dropped off. Vandiver’s story stated that Quinn called to his wife, Mary Kelly Quinn, who was a professor of sociology, in a

“quavering” voice. A story in the Dec. 12, 1952, *El Paso Times* stated Quinn had a look of surprise but was otherwise “unruffled.”

Nancy Hamilton, an author and former journalist who worked in several University departments including media relations, called it a harmless prank done by young men who enjoyed being part of the college. She earned a bachelor’s in journalism in 1949 and a master’s in English five years later from Texas Western College.

She recalled sitting next to Vandiver during an early morning English class on Dec. 11, 1952. The room was on the north corner of the college library, which today is the Geological Sciences Building. She said Vandiver told her what Quinn was about to find in his office. As they left the building, she noted a big city parks department truck and enough men to arrest the alligator.

“The night before it had only taken a few intoxicated (students),” Hamilton said.

In a story to mark the University’s 90th anniversary, Hamilton added a different perspective about the gator caper. “It was, in a way, a symbol of some lighter times here and in the nation. There was more of a sense of fun after all those years of depression and war.”

Ashley Swarthout, a graduate student assistant with the Centennial celebration office, researched the alligator story for a UTEP Centennial blog. What amazed her most was that relatively few alumni, including faculty and staff, were familiar with one of the University’s greatest legends.

“I think it’s interesting that no one knows this story, but it’s fun to see their reaction to it,” said Swarthout, who praised Vandiver’s 1973 *Nova* article. “It read like a great piece of fiction.”



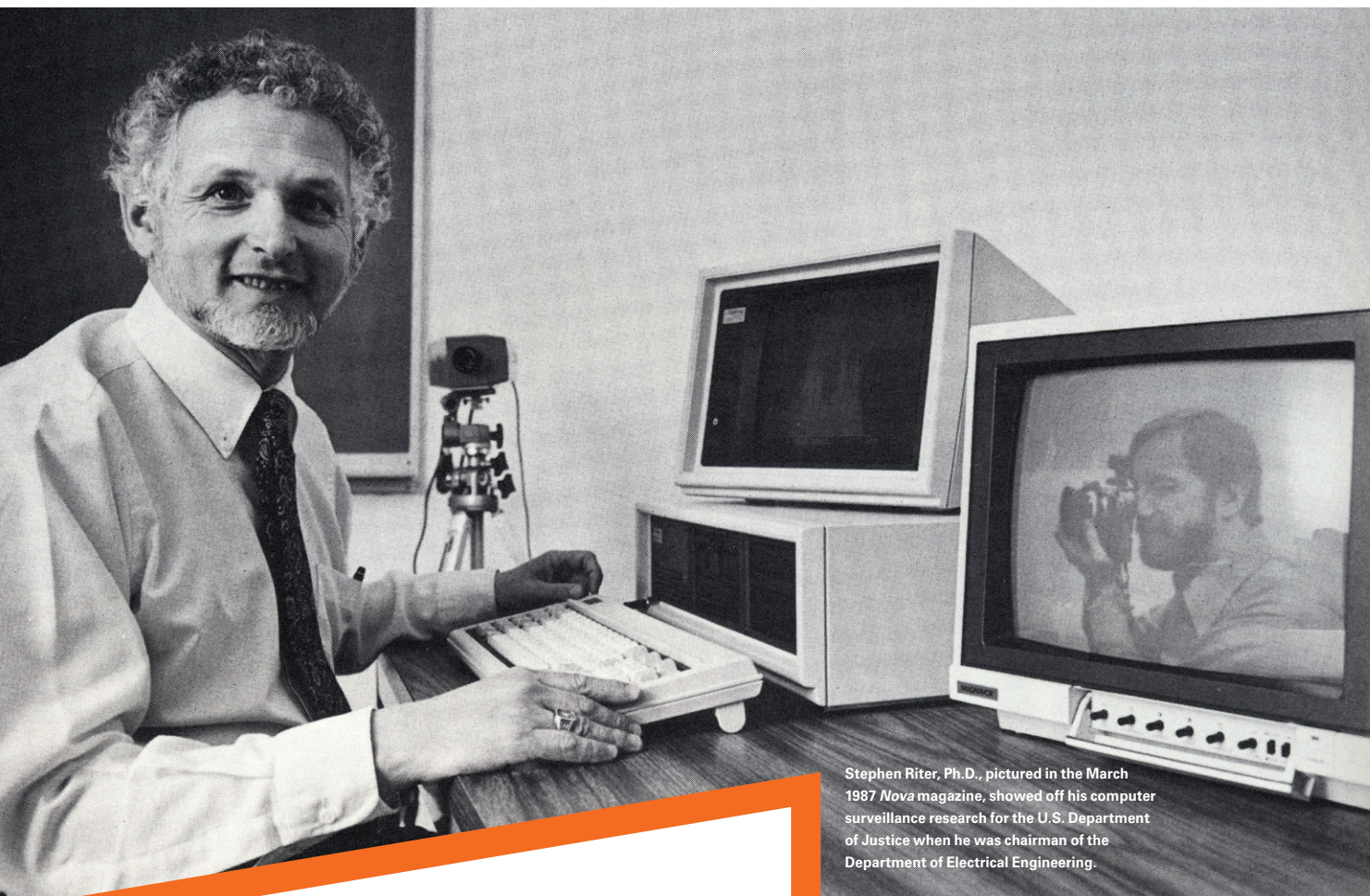
Eleanor Duke, Ph.D.

Use your smartphone to scan this code to view Vandiver’s original story on the alligator caper.





## THOUGHTS ON THE ROAD TO BECOMING A PUBLIC RESEARCH UNIVERSITY



Stephen Riter, Ph.D., pictured in the March 1987 *Nova* magazine, showed off his computer surveillance research for the U.S. Department of Justice when he was chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering.

# Longtime Administrator Recalls Cultural Change of 1980s and '90s

By Stephen Riter, as told to Jenn Crawford

I came to UTEP in 1980 as the chair of electrical engineering, intending to stay a few years and then move on. I was a 40-year-old professor from Texas A&M, where I held an endowed chair and led a large energy research program. But I believed at the time that in the near future the action in higher education was going to shift to urban institutions. I was a city guy at a rural campus, and then the job opened up at UTEP, giving me an opportunity to be where I thought big things were sure to happen.

At the time, engineering at UTEP had a well-regarded, quality undergraduate program, but only modest research and graduate activities. I initially focused much of my attention on trying to develop those research activities by first developing my own

research and then bringing along other people and getting them involved.

I remember my first large grant of \$250,000 in 1985. It was so unusual in terms of size that it was featured in the *El Paso Times*. In the intervening years large grants at UTEP have become so common that awards 20 times that amount are lucky to get any coverage at all. In 1995, I was awarded a \$12.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation called Model Institutions of Excellence and there were perhaps two lines on the back of the Business page. It was funny because it just showed how things had changed. El Paso now expects UTEP people to attract huge amounts of money, and when they do they don't think it is unusual.

The \$250,000 grant was from the U.S. Department of Justice, and it was to study border security and to use technology and computers to help secure the U.S.-Mexico border. We worked on the development of computer surveillance systems to look at and monitor the number of people coming across the border – when and where. We participated in putting in cameras along the border, which was considered new and unique. I remember we worked with other agencies and with private contractors as part of a



large team. Some of our students actually monitored some of the cameras, and we were all just dumbstruck by the numbers we saw coming across. We thought, as did everyone else, that we'd count a person every so often, but there were dozens and dozens.

In 1986, the UTEP Hispanic population went over 50 percent. This opened up opportunities as well as challenges. It was recognized that Hispanics were underrepresented in higher education, and they were certainly underrepresented in science and engineering. There were a number of federal programs designed to rectify this, which the demographic milestone qualified us for. We used our location to make the case that we were an ideal place to experiment with programs to increase student success. Because we were cut off geographically, we argued that we were a closed system where students came out of local schools into UTEP, and then those who became teachers went back into the same schools, so we could experiment with what would work and what would not in terms of both student support programs and teacher preparation programs. The colleges of Engineering, Science and Education through the '80s and '90s, working together, used these arguments to secure significant external support to raise the general level of education in the community and raise the level of participation of Hispanics in higher education.

Historically, we lost lots of good students in engineering and science because of poor preparation in the schools, and because we did little to help them succeed. We always knew we were doing this, but never felt that this was our problem. Somehow one of the things that happened in the '80s and the '90s was the recognition that this attitude was a recipe for failure. To think, as many then did, that the purpose of college was to separate those who can from those who can't – and, by the way, that engineering was a men's occupation – we realized was also a waste of human capital. This was not entirely altruistic because at some point we came to see that if we didn't find a way to attract and hold the students we had, we were out of business and were not going to have any engineering and science students. Fixing this required changes in attitude and culture on the campus – something, I think, that may have been one of the most important things that happened at

UTEP in the '80s and '90s. Indeed the thing I'm proudest of is my contribution to that change in the culture at UTEP from one of the faculty being a gatekeeper to one where the faculty are committed to doing everything they can to help students succeed.

As our efforts to increase research achieved success, we came to recognize that we also needed doctoral programs. The University had at the time one Ph.D. program. At some level in Texas, policymakers had decided that UTEP was an undergraduate school whose only mission was to prepare undergraduate students from the region, and that's what our future ought always to be. This was a consequence of the political climate at the time, which didn't see a vast expansion of higher education as being important to the growth of Texas, coupled with the feeling that the state had enough good doctoral programs and didn't really need any more.

In some sense, recruiting me – because I had a research record at Texas A&M – and others like me, was an attempt to try to change that policy. I was the beginning of a concerted effort to change the institution from this primarily undergraduate teaching school to a more broad-based institution with both quality undergraduate programs and quality research and graduate programs.

In 1989 I led the effort to establish our second doctoral program (which came 15 years after the first doctoral program in geological sciences was established in 1974) in computer engineering. We sold it by claiming it was locally focused, and that there was a need for it to support electronics development at Fort Bliss and White Sands, and that this was consistent with the idea of UTEP being part of the city and supporting its growth. The other argument to support this, which the UT System Chancellor himself made at the highest levels, was that if you look at California, they have seven or eight high-visibility research universities, and that our competition in the future was going to be states like California, not regional states such as Arkansas or Oklahoma. Texas was going to need an increased number of doctoral research universities if it was going to play an important role in the 21st century. We were an opportunity to help make that argument.

I think UTEP's reputation in terms of student success, doctoral programs and research has expanded an order

of magnitude above what it was 30 years ago. We surely are nationally and internationally recognized in ways that we weren't recognized before. We're also playing a major leadership role in the UT System in terms of building research capability in a number of areas, such as high performance computing, which is one of my current interests. We're regularly asked to participate in things that nobody would have thought to approach us about 20 or 30 years ago. And, most importantly, we are recognized as leaders in urban education across the country, and across the world.

I was a pretty ambitious guy when I came here in 1980. I didn't know I was going to stay for 30-some-odd years, but what I saw was a whole bunch of opportunities that kept me here, kept me engaged and made me feel that my time at UTEP has made a difference. I am fortunate to have made the decision to come. 📍



*Stephen Riter is originally from Providence, R.I. He earned bachelor's degrees in 1961 and 1962 from Rice University. He earned a master's in electrical engineering in 1967 and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering in 1968 from the University of Houston. In 1968, he joined the faculty of Texas A&M University as an assistant professor of electrical engineering. He left in 1980 as the Halliburton Professor of Engineering and joined The University of Texas at El Paso faculty as professor and chair of electrical engineering. In 1985 he was also appointed chair of computer science. He became dean of the College of Engineering in 1989. That same year, he helped establish and was named the first director of UTEP's Center for Environmental Resource Management. He served as UTEP's first provost and vice president for academic affairs from 1996 until 2005. In 2005, he was appointed to his current position as UTEP's first vice president for information resources and planning.*



# Centennial Ringtones Celebrate UTEP's 100th

By Lisa Y. Garibay

Share your love for UTEP with anyone who hears your phone ringing! It's all part of the ongoing Centennial celebration, headquartered online at [www.utep100years.com](http://www.utep100years.com).

Currently, two different ringtones are available for download on the website. By using a smartphone's QR code reader app, anyone can download the ringtones on their phone.

Stephen Haddad, the commercial music division coordinator in UTEP's Department of Music, was charged with bringing the ringtone concept to fruition when Liz Thurmond, director of events for the Office of Institutional Advancement, approached him with the idea.

"Liz thought it would be a great 'high tech' way to gain some excitement and visibility for the Centennial celebration," Haddad said.

Rather than going to an off-campus company to produce the ringtones, Haddad proved that the commercial music area of the Department of Music had everything necessary to get the ringtones composed, recorded, and digitized for distribution. Plus, an intimate knowledge of the University's culture and history helped the department produce the most "UTEP-sounding" tones.

Haddad felt that most people's connection to UTEP occurred at athletic events, most notably football and basketball.

"Thus, the music the general public would hear at those events would be music most evocative of the University," he explained.



To get that true UTEP sound, he and other members of his department recorded and produced a CD of Miner fight songs, including "The Eyes of Texas," (UTEP's official alma mater) and several pieces performed by the Marching Miner Regiment at football games. Haddad then used the high-quality recordings as the basis for the ringtones, producing digital versions that anyone can enjoy.

Haddad said eight more ringtones will be released between now and the Centennial in 2014. 📧

Use your smartphone to scan these codes to download UTEP's first two Centennial ringtones.

You can also download the ringtones at [utep100years.com](http://utep100years.com).



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OFFICIAL NEWS FEED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



# Hanging Up His Whistle:

## UTEP SAYS FAREWELL TO MIKE PRICE

By Chris Lechuga • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Former Head Football Coach  
Mike Price leads the Miners into  
the Sun Bowl during his last  
season as coach.



With the blow of a whistle during a cool November evening in Sun Bowl Stadium, the 2012 football season at The University of Texas at El Paso came to a close. In addition to the seniors to whom the players, coaches and fans said farewell, there was another UTEP figure bidding adieu.

Head Coach Mike Price, joined by his wife, Joyce, had announced his retirement from football before UTEP's season finale versus Rice. He thanked the El Paso community for supporting him and his family for eight years as the Miners' leader.

"I'm just so happy with the relationships I have built here in El Paso," Price said during his announcement. "We want UTEP to be successful, and I intend to support this program and help this city as much as I can in the future."

As a former NCAA Coach of the Year, Price came to UTEP in 2004

with much hope that he would rebuild the University's football program. It did not take long as the enthusiastic coach led the Miners to two consecutive 8-win seasons, both culminating in bowl game appearances. He ended his tenure at UTEP with a record of 48-61 and three bowl games, as well as a cumulative coaching record of 177-183.

"Mike has brought a level of national attention and respect to UTEP that only an elite coach could bring," said Athletic Director Bob Stull. "He has certainly raised the bar of expectations for our football program. While Mike's coaching accolades are extensive, his greatest value has come in the warmth and love that he has shown for the people of El Paso."

When asked where he and his wife will go from here, Price responded clearly.

"This is mine and Joyce's home now," he said. "We're El Pasoans." 📍

# Sean Kugler Selected as UTEP Football Coach

## NEW FOOTBALL COACH

Former UTEP player and coach Sean Kugler was named the 25th head football coach for the Miners on Dec. 10. Kugler, 46, returns to the Sun City following three seasons as the offensive line coach for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"This is my first head coaching opportunity. It's something that I've always wanted to do," Kugler said. "I've been UTEP's biggest fan from afar from the time I've left until now and I hope to just build upon what Coach Price has done here."

"We're so pleased to get Sean back at UTEP," UTEP Director of Athletics Bob Stull said. "He brings a lot of enthusiasm and experience and, most importantly, has a great love for UTEP and the city of El Paso."

Kugler was a four-year letterman at UTEP (1985-88), playing under head coach Stull for three seasons. In 1988, Kugler led the Miners to the only 10-win season in school history and a berth in the Independence Bowl. He signed with the Steelers as an undrafted free agent in 1989, then began his coaching career at two high schools in Tampa Bay, Fla. before making his way back to El Paso.

During eight seasons with the Miners, Kugler coached four All-Western Athletic Conference offensive linemen. In his final season, UTEP finished 8-4, won the second conference title in school history and faced Boise State in the Humanitarian Bowl. Kugler then spent five seasons with the Detroit Lions before returning to college coaching at Boise State in 2006. He rejoined the NFL at Buffalo in 2007, moving on to the Steelers in 2010 and helping to lead them to the 2011 Super Bowl. 📍

Photo by Laura Trejo



Sean Kugler was introduced as the new head football coach at a press conference in December. He will join the Miners after three seasons as the offensive line coach for the Pittsburgh Steelers.



# Finishing with Style:

## UTEP FALL SPORTS REVIEW

By Chris Lechuga

AS THE LEAVES ON THE TREES IN EL PASO STARTED SHOWING THEIR MINER ORANGE, THE FALL SPORTS SEASON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO ALSO BEGAN TO WRAP UP. OVERALL, UTEP STUDENT-ATHLETES FARED WELL ON THE PLAYING FIELD AND IN THE CLASSROOM, EARNING MUCH RECOGNITION.

### FOOTBALL

Facing the most demanding schedule in school history, the UTEP football team concluded the 2012 season with a 3-9 record, including a 2-6 mark in Conference USA play.

The Miners opened the campaign with three of four games versus BCS Conference schools, and more than held their own in losses to Oklahoma (24-7), Ole Miss (28-10) and Wisconsin (37-26). But they weren't able to recover from an 0-3 start in league action.

The season did produce its share of individual accomplishments, as Autrey Golden compiled 822 kickoff return yards – the fourth-best total in school history and the most ever by a freshman. Nathan Jeffery rushed for a team-high 897 yards, and the Miners had a pair of 800-yard receivers in Michael Edwards and Jordan Leslie, who was named to the Conference USA All-Academic Team. The defense produced its first 100-tackle player in three years in linebacker Josh Fely (112 stops).

With a total of 26 starters returning in 2013 – 16 on offense and 10 on defense – the cupboard is anything but bare for UTEP's next head coach.

Sophomore wide receiver Jordan Leslie, left reaches for the ball in a game versus Oklahoma Sooners.



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

### VOLLEYBALL

2012 proved to be a good season for the Miners as the volleyball squad concluded the season with a record of 16-13, including 10-6 in Conference USA action.

UTEP's volleyball head coach Ken Murphy was named the 2012 C-USA Coach of the Year after the squad went 7-1 at home in C-USA matches. Murphy became the third coach in program history to be recognized with this honor.

Under Murphy, individuals continue to thrive as three Miners earned spots in the All-C-USA team. Junior standouts Xitlali

Herrera and Jeane Horton were tabbed to the first team while Malia Patterson was named to the second team.

Earlier in the season, UTEP defeated I-10 rival New Mexico State for the first time since 2001 in Memorial Gym. UTEP concluded the season at home on a high note as they proved to be victorious against C-USA champions Tulsa, securing a spot in the C-USA Tournament. The Miners were one of two C-USA squads that defeated the Golden Hurricanes this season.

UTEP concluded the season at home on a high note as they proved to be victorious against C-USA champions Tulsa.



## CROSS COUNTRY

Photo courtesy of Athletics Department



Risper Kimaiyo, no. 745, became the first woman in program history to receive four cross country All-American honors.

Anthony Rotich and Risper Kimaiyo led the men's and women's cross country teams this season.

Rotich dominated the course, posting six top-three finishes this season. Rotich was the first freshman to cross the finish line at the NCAA Championships (29:13.5), taking fourth place overall, and became the first Miner on the men's side to finish in the top four since 1983. The All-American also took first at the C-USA Championships, where he led the team to a second place finish.

The men's team ended the season with

four top-five finishes, including two first place finishes at the Lori Fitzgerald and Kachina Classic meets where they defeated I-10 rivals New Mexico State.

Kimaiyo earned C-USA Athlete of the Year honors after capping off a stellar season in the Orange and Blue. The senior finished fifth at the NCAA Championships (19:41.0) and became the first woman in program history to receive four cross country All-American honors. Kimaiyo concluded the season with six top-three performances, including a first place finish at the C-USA Championships.



Junior Jeane Horton prepares to spike the ball.

Photo by J.R. Hernandez



Photo by Joshua Garcia

Freshman Alexis Alaniz moves the ball around an opponent.

## SOCCER

It was a roller-coaster season for the UTEP soccer team in 2012. The Miners battled through the loss of five key players to injury and some tough breaks on the road to notch their 11th consecutive season with 10 or more victories. UTEP, which finished the campaign at 10-10-0, achieved the feat just once prior to Kevin Cross being tabbed as the program's head coach in 2001.

After a 1-1 start, the Miners won six of their next seven to conclude nonconference action at 7-2-0. UTEP defeated three defending league champions in the sequence while also staying perfect in the Battle of I-10 by winning at New Mexico State. After being saddled with an 0-4 start in the league, the Miners regrouped by winning three in a row at home to get back into the thick of the C-USA standings. The season concluded with a 2-0 loss at the hands of C-USA co-regular season champion Colorado College on Oct. 26.

The future looks bright for Cross' program. Four of the top five goals scorers and assist leaders are set to return in 2013, in addition to netminder Sarah Dilling. Overall the Miners are slated to bring back letterwinners, including nine starters. 📺



## MINER MANIA

They are talented. They are dedicated. They work hard in the classroom and on the field. They are Miner athletes.

Photos by J.R. Hernandez

### Risper Kimaiyo

**Class:** Senior • **Sport:** Track and field • **Major:** Nursing • **Hometown:** Iten, Kenya

Risper Kimaiyo is a six-time All-American and is in her final season with the Miners. The senior has already set the bar high this season, posting a personal best of 19:41.0 in the 6K run at the NCAA Championships, where she finished fifth overall. During her 2012 campaign, Kimaiyo claimed a gold and a bronze medal at the Conference USA Indoor Championships in the 5000m and 3000m run, respectively. Not only did she clock in a school record in the 5000m, but she also ranked 19th in the nation with a time of 16:04.88 recorded at the 2012 UW Husky Classic. The Kenyan native also has racked up awards for her accomplishments in the classroom, including four USTFCCA All-Academic awards and three C-USA All-Academic honors.



### Martin Simonsen

**Class:** Sophomore • **Sport:** Golf  
**Major:** International Business **Hometown:** Gistrup, Denmark

Martin Simonsen tried his hand at a variety of sports growing up - badminton, handball, soccer and swimming, to name a few. But as a teenager, golf took his entire focus. "It was what I was best at," he said. Plus, his father, Arthur Simonsen, played the game and his stepfather, Lars Michael Jacobsen, was his coach. Simonsen honed his skills and earned a scholarship at UTEP. He was named the Conference USA Freshman of the Year in 2011-12, advancing to NCAA Regionals. He fashioned a stellar 71.6 scoring average during the 2012 fall season, showing no signs of a sophomore slump.





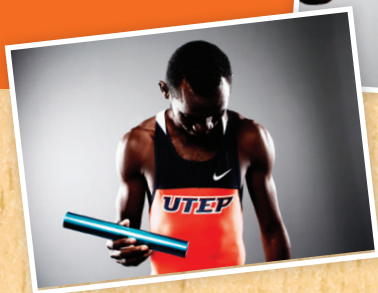


# Abiola Onakoya

**Class:** Junior • **Sport:** Track and field • **Major:** Multidisciplinary Studies  
**Hometown:** Ijebu Ode, Nigeria



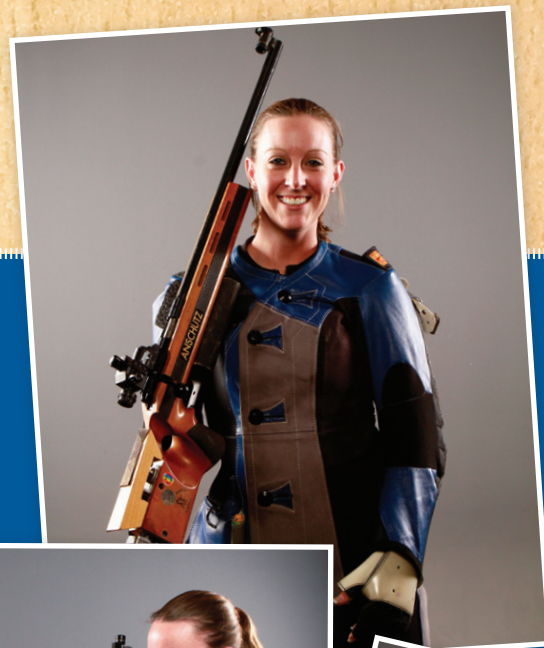
During Abiola Onakoya's first season with the Miners, he helped UTEP set a meet record at the 2012 Conference USA Indoor Championships as a member of the 4x400m relay team. The squad took gold at the championships, posting a time of 3:11.64. The junior went on to claim three silver medals in the 4x100m relay, 4x400m relay and 400m at the 2012 C-USA Outdoor Championships. The native of Nigeria ranked 29th in the nation in the 400m with a time of 46.08 at the conference meet. He competed at the NCAA West Preliminary finals and led the 4x100m and 4x400m relay teams to finish 14th overall.



# Hannah Muegge

**Class:** Senior • **Sport:** Rifle • **Major:** Accounting • **Hometown:** Boling, Texas

Hannah Muegge is a senior leader for the UTEP rifle team. A three-year competitor, Muegge has been the epitome of consistency during her career. She is an all-around individual, as she also thrives in the classroom and in the community. Muegge is a two-time member of the Conference USA Academic Honor Roll and was the recipient of the 2011 Conference USA Spirit of Service award. 🏆





22

NCAA Division I National  
Championship Teams

138

Conference USA Commissioners  
Honor Roll Recipients

600

Nearly 600 All-Americans

3,500

More Than 3,500 Community  
Service Hours This Past Year

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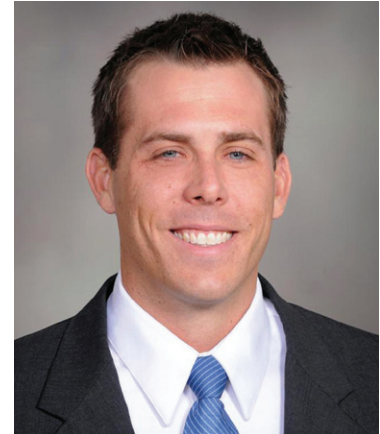
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## TWO JOIN ATHLETICS STAFF



Julie Levesque



Chris Park

Julie Levesque and Chris Park joined the UTEP athletics staff in August 2012. Levesque serves as senior associate athletic director and senior woman administrator, and Park is associate athletic director for development and external operations.

"We're pleased to bring Julie and Chris into the UTEP family," said Athletic Director Bob Stull. "Both bring a wide array of experience and skills that we believe will enhance our athletic department."

Levesque came to El Paso from the California Institute of Technology, where she worked from 1997-2012. She was assistant director of athletics and senior woman administrator, and spent one year as interim director of Athletics (2010-11). Levesque was also the head coach of the Beaver men's soccer (1997-2000) and men's and women's track and field teams (1997-2012). She served as administrator for 17 sports, assisting the director of athletics in long-range planning for the department and acting as the department's NCAA Compliance Coordinator.

She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology from California Polytechnic State University in 1994, and added a Master of Science in human movement and sport from Cal Poly in 1997. She was an All-American heptathlete at Cal Poly and a member of back-to-back (1990-91) Division II national championship teams.

Park made his way to the Sun City after five years at Texas State University, where he was assistant athletic director for development. A member of the Bobcats' senior staff, he was responsible for fundraising and corporate trade contracts, including the courtesy car program. Park previously spent two-and-a-half years at Sam Houston State University, working as athletic development and marketing coordinator (2004-05) and external operations coordinator (2005-06). He also worked in the marketing and media relations departments at his alma mater, Texas A&M University, after starting his career as a marketing intern at Texas Christian University.

A Fort Worth native, Park graduated from Texas A&M's Lowry Mays School of Business in 2002. He earned a master's degree in education and human development from Texas A&M in 2004. 📍

**"WE'RE PLEASED TO BRING JULIE AND CHRIS INTO THE  
UTEP FAMILY. BOTH BRING A WIDE ARRAY OF EXPERIENCE  
AND SKILLS THAT WE BELIEVE WILL ENHANCE OUR  
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT."**

Bob Stull,  
UTEP athletic director



**DURING GRADUATION, HE WAS ONE OF THE HANDPICKED FEW INCLUDED IN PRESIDENT DIANA NATALICIO'S COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS BECAUSE OF HIS EXEMPLARY WORK AT THE UNIVERSITY.**



Peter Omenda, Ph.D., general manager of the Geothermal Development Co. in Kenya, graduated from UTEP in 1997 with a doctoral degree in geological sciences. Here Omenda tours a geothermal field in Iceland.

## ALUMNI WORK TO POWER KENYA WITH VOLCANOES

By Nadia Macias • Photo courtesy of Peter Omenda

Alumni from The University of Texas at El Paso are working to help power Kenya with volcanic energy.

For the past several decades, the country has relied heavily on hydropower, a source that has proved undependable due to frequent droughts causing power shortages, brownouts and blackouts.

“Hydropower is going down drastically,” said Peter Omenda, Ph.D., general manager of the Geothermal Development Co. (GDC), which was established to speed up the development of geothermal resources to help generate electricity in Kenya. “One reason is climate change – rivers don’t have as much water as before. Also, all of our big rivers have already been tapped. We need more power from other sources.”

Originally from Kenya, Omenda is a UTEP alumnus who graduated in 1997 with 4.0 GPA and a doctoral degree in geological sciences. His dissertation was deemed the best in the College of Science.

During graduation, he was one of the handpicked few included in President Diana Natalicio’s Commencement address because of his exemplary work at the University.

“My best moment was during my graduation ceremony when I was acknowledged as the best Ph.D. student in the Department of Geological Sciences,”

Omenda said. “The President talked about my travel from Africa to America to seek higher education while leaving my wife and children back in Kenya. I was truly humbled!”

Omenda went on to join the GDC in 2009 with fellow UTEP alumnus Silas Simiyu, Ph.D., the company’s CEO.

Elizabeth Anthony, Ph.D., UTEP professor of geological sciences, was Omenda’s supervisor while he studied at UTEP. She is impressed by what Omenda and Simiyu have accomplished.

“He was always very committed to returning to Kenya, and he knew that geothermal energy had huge potential there,” she said.

Today, the GDC has its eye on 14 sites within the Great Rift Valley that have a potential to produce more than 15,000 megawatts – enough to power 15 million homesteads – and are using UTEP seismology specialists to help them in their endeavor.

With the help of UTEP faculty, the GDC is mapping the subsurface around volcanoes in the valley to locate magma chambers and generate steam power.

The team is conducting two separate experiments to locate the chambers, including one that sets off explosions to

create miniature earthquakes around the volcanoes. Using multiple seismometers, devices that measure ground movement, the team is able to gauge where waves travel faster and slower in the ground, and thus find the chambers.

After interpreting the data to locate the magma chambers, the GDC will drill down about 2 to 3 kilometers to reach the chambers and collect the steam through pipelines for power generation.

“By 2030, we want to produce 5,000 megawatts of power,” Omenda said. “It’s a long way away, but if everything goes well, that will be able to power about five million homesteads.”

He added, “For Kenya, geothermal energy is the best option. It is good for the environment and it’s also the cheapest option.”

In 2010 the country had a population of more than 40 million – 77 percent of whom did not have access to electricity.

Omenda recently organized the fourth African Rift Geothermal Conference at the United Nations office in Nairobi. It attracted hundreds of people from around the world presenting on the importance of developing geothermal energy in Africa. 📍





**THAT ARDENT DRIVE TO HELP OTHERS LED LINDAU TO INVEST IN UTEP'S CAPACITY TO TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF STUDENTS WHO STRUGGLE TO PAY FOR A HIGHER EDUCATION.**

David Lindau and his wife, Guille, have supported UTEP through endowed scholarships in nursing, engineering and for other students who need financial assistance.

## Financial Adviser Supports Students **THROUGH ENDOWMENTS**

By Isela Ocegueda • Photo by Laura Trejo

David H. Lindau's commitment to The University of Texas at El Paso reflects his belief that "education can really change somebody's life." He says, "It changed my life."

Looking back, he acknowledges that the opportunity to earn an outstanding education in his hometown was an immense factor in his future success.

Lindau earned his B.B.A. in accounting from Texas Western College (now UTEP) in 1961. In 1963, he earned his master's degree in professional accounting from The University of Texas at Austin.

A year later, Lindau was hired by the Lauterbach Financial Group in El Paso, where he worked primarily with closely held businesses, applying his knowledge and experience in auditing, accounting, and tax and business consulting. In 1999, Lauterbach Financial Advisors was founded, and Lindau served as president of the company for more than 10 years. Today, Lauterbach Financial Advisors manages more than \$160 million in assets in the Paso del Norte region. Lindau

currently works for Lauterbach as a financial adviser, continuing what he says has "always been a service business. A big reward has been being able to help people with their problems."

That ardent drive to help others led Lindau to invest in UTEP's capacity to transform the lives of students who struggle to pay for a higher education. As chair of the Gift Planning Committee on UTEP's Development Board, Lindau has led by example, recently arranging his own planned gift in support of UTEP. That gift will supplement one of three permanent endowments Lindau has established since 2005 in tribute to loved ones, all with the aim of encouraging UTEP students to achieve their academic goals.

The Guille M. Lindau Endowed Scholarship in Nursing was established in 2011 in honor of his wife. It provides UTEP nursing students with opportunities to develop outstanding practical and research skills that will enhance their professional qualifications. Lindau

explains that his wife, too, "understands the benefit of education and how it can change people's lives."

In 2009, Lindau established The Fred G. Lindau Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Engineering in honor of his older brother, who, Lindau said, "turned out to be an engineer of sorts even though he didn't have any formal training." This permanent endowment provides scholarships to engineering students in need of financial assistance.

The David and Guille Lindau Endowed Scholarship, established in 2006, awards scholarships to UTEP students, regardless of major, who need financial assistance to attend UTEP on a full-time basis, helping them to earn their degrees in a timely manner.

By creating these endowments at UTEP, Lindau has simultaneously supported talented students and honored cherished family members. "You can do both," he said. "Giving to a charitable remainder trust is a tremendous vehicle to achieve many goals." ☞





Edgar Jimenez, left, enjoyed lunch with UTEP metallurgical engineering graduate Oscar Martinez. Martinez was a recipient of Jimenez's scholarship in 2012.

## ENGINEER LEFT ENDURING LEGACY AT UTEP

By Isela Ocegueda

Edgar Jimenez Jr., a 1957 graduate of Texas Western College (now UTEP), passed away in August but left behind an enduring legacy. Demonstrating a strong affinity for his alma mater, a generous spirit and an unwavering dedication to education, he established an endowment to support generations of students who will follow in his footsteps.

Jimenez served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War before earning his bachelor's degree in metallurgical and materials engineering from TWC. He went on to work as an engineer at aerospace, automotive and engineering companies, ultimately retiring from Honeywell as a staff engineer specialist after 35 years in the field.

Jimenez recognized the importance of his UTEP education to his professional success, and he honored that by giving back. In 1999, he created a scholarship to support students majoring in metallurgical

engineering at UTEP, and every year afterward made additional gifts to expand the scholarship's reach.

Jimenez was dedicated to the idea of paying it forward, saying at the time the endowment was established, "I set up this scholarship to demonstrate my appreciation for the education and impetus UTEP provided me and ... my career. I want someone else to be able to have the help I had through my college education and hopefully enjoy the career success I did. I wish to repay my good fortune by helping another student reach his/her goal of graduating."

Jimenez was proud to be a Texas Western College graduate and never missed a UTEP Homecoming. His absence during the 2012 Homecoming was palpable, and fellow alumni at the Engineering Homecoming Breakfast observed a moment of silence in his honor. ☒

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60s

**Robert W. "Bill" Gilmer** (B.A. '68) retired in August as head of the El Paso branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. Gilmer gave a farewell lecture at UTEP on a study he recently authored that shows a 10-year upswing in El Paso's median household income.

**Leila Safi Hobson** (B.S. '69; M.Ed. '74), partner at Hobson, Stribling & Carson law firm in El Paso, was listed in the latest edition of *The Best Lawyers in America in Trusts and Estates*. Hobson also was named in the October issue of *Texas Monthly* magazine as a Texas "Super Lawyer" in estate planning and probate.

**Dell T. "Tom" Holmsley** (B.A. '62), chairman of the El Paso County Republican Party, represented El Paso as a delegate at the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla. in August.

70s

**Francisco V. Baltier** (B.S.E.E. '70), engineer at URS, an engineering corporation in Great Britain, was named resident project manager in May for an electrification project for the southern part of Nigeria.

**John S. Birkelbach** (B.B.A. '71), attorney at the law firm of Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson & Galatzan in El Paso, was named a "Super Lawyer" by *Texas Monthly* magazine for 2012 in October.

**J. Morgan Broadbuss, III** (B.B.A. '75), shareholder at the Gordon, Davis, Johnson & Shane law firm in El Paso, was selected in September for inclusion in *Super Lawyers - Business Edition* 2012.

**Nicasio F. "Nick" Cobos** (M.Ed. '78), of El Paso, was named interim principal at Bowie High School in July.

**Harrel L. Davis, III** (B.A. '74), shareholder at the Gordon, Davis, Johnson & Shane law firm in El Paso, was selected in September for inclusion in *Super Lawyers - Business Edition* 2012.

**Ramon Dominguez** (B.S. Ed. '71; M.Ed. '74) was named New Mexico State University's Stan Fulton Chair for the Improvement of Border and Rural Schools in September. The Stan Fulton Chair was established to enhance communication among NMSU faculty, staff and students and

pre-kindergarten through 12th grade constituents to improve border and rural schools.

**James R. "Jim" Forbes** (B.S. Ed. '79), teacher and basketball coach at Andress High School in El Paso, was reunited with 11 of his former 1972 Olympic basketball teammates in August as part of a panel discussion at Georgetown College in Kentucky concerning the team's historic refusal to accept the silver medal.

**David Gabaldon** (B.S. '78) retired as a probation officer for the Federal Judiciary in El Paso in October.

**Roxanne Gabaldon** (B.S. Ed. '79; M.Ed. '08), of El Paso, retired from the Socorro Independent School District, and teaching, in May. Gabaldon was a teacher for 33 years.

**Jose M. "Joe" Gomez** (B.A. '70), an El Paso historian, was inducted into The El Paso County Historical Society's Hall of Fame in November. Gomez was friends with members of the 1966 NCAA Basketball championship team. He began to collect memorabilia from that historic event and still does today. Gomez worked with the costume crew for the movie *Glory Road*, worked on the production of four documentaries on the 1966 team, and has been active in preserving El Paso history.

**Alex Gonzalez** (B.S. '79), an El Paso doctor of dental surgery (DDS) and Fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry, was the recipient of the Texas Academy of General Dentistry's 2012 Fellowship Award in July. The award is presented to dentists who seek to provide the highest quality care by remaining current in their profession by completing 500 hours of continuing education, passing a comprehensive exam and fulfilling three years of continuous membership in the Academy of General Dentistry.

**Carl H. Green** (B.A. '73), partner of the law firm, Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson & Galatzan in El Paso, was named a "Super Lawyer" by *Texas Monthly* magazine for 2012 in October. In July, Green presented to the Texas Association of Defense Counsel in Santa Fe regarding the investigation of catastrophic transportation accidents.

**Gary R. Hedrick** (B.B.A. '77; M.B.A. '82), an adjunct professor of corporate enterprise

in the College of Business Administration, was re-elected immediate past chair of the United Way of El Paso County's board in April.

**Debra C. "Debby" Hester** (B.B.A. '77), an El Paso 2009 ERA Sellers, Buyers and Associates Platinum Circle of Excellence Award recipient, was appointed to the Educational Foundation Council for the College of Education at the University of Texas at Austin in March.

**Frederick J. "Fred" Hill** (B.A. '72; M.B.A. '80), contracts administrator at El Paso Electric Co., was honored with the El Paso Electric MegaWatt Award for his contribution to the community through volunteerism at the Annual Volunteers in Action Breakfast in October. El Paso Electric's MegaWatt Award is presented to employees who have demonstrated excellence in community service.

**Harriet B. May** (B.S. '71), retired president and chief executive officer of GECU and current chair of the Credit Union National Association board of directors, was inducted into the Texas Credit Union Hall of Fame by the Texas Credit Union League in August for her contributions to the credit union movement and to the larger El Paso community.

**Col. Peter H. Poessiger** (B.A. '73), of El Paso, retired as Fort Bliss museum director in September after 34 years of active service and 13 years of military museum work.

**George R. Saenz, Jr.** (B.A. '74), owner of Cielo Vista Insurance Inc. in El Paso, obtained a designation as a contractor risk insurance specialist. The designation teaches agents how to advise contractors and subcontractors on their insurance needs.

80s

**Yvonne M. Acosta** (B.S.N. '83; M.S.N. '88), a UTEP executive nursing officer in the School of Nursing, was named Hospice El Paso's board secretary in March.

**Rafael "Ralph" Adame, Jr.** (B.B.A. '80), president and CEO of communications company Mexus, was named vice president of the Hospice El Paso executive board in March.

**Robert B. "Bob" Anderson** (B.S. Ed. '89), of El Paso, was named head coach of the Coronado High School football team in August.

**Annette R. Brigham** (B.S. '87), of El Paso, was named associate superintendent and chief of staff of the Canutillo Independent School District in July. Brigham will oversee the district's day-to-day operations and assist Damon Murphy, the district's superintendent.

**Troy C. Brown** (B.S. '89), an El Paso attorney, represented El Paso as an alternate at the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla. in August.

**Jose L. Campos** (B.B.A. '83) was named deputy district director of the U.S. Small Business Administration for El Paso's district office in October.

**Thomas J. Carrillo** (B.S. Ed. '82), Montwood High School baseball coach, was named the *El Paso Times'* All-City Baseball Coach of the Year in June. Carrillo also celebrated his 400th career victory in April and was inducted into the El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame in August. He has been Montwood's only baseball coach, and has put together a 409-221-3 record over 21 years.

**George A. Cervantes** (B.S. '82), a private investigator in Austin, and past president of the Texas Association of Licensed Investigators, was selected to serve on the Professional Development Institute advisory committee of the University of North Texas at Denton for its professional certification program in private investigations. He also was recently honored as a Legacy Member by the National Association of Legal Investigators.

**Catherine E. "Cathy" Dickason** (B.S. Ed. '81; M.Ed. '05), of El Paso, was named coach of the Montwood High School girls soccer team in July.

**Andres S. Enriquez** (B.S. '89), a physician at Franklin Medical Center in El Paso, was named the 2012 Catholic Doctor of the Year by Mission Doctors Association in October. Mission Doctors Association trains and supports Catholic doctors who treat people of all faiths in underserved areas of the world.

**Irma M. Estrada** (B.S.N. '89; M.S.N. '98), a nursing instructor at UTEP, was honored by McDonald's and Castro Enterprises at the 13th annual Hispanos Triunfadores Luncheon in September for her work in the community.

**Allen L. Gilmer** (M.S. '87), co-founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Drilling Info Inc. in Austin, was listed in *Texas Monthly* magazine in July as one of the state's top geophysicists.

**Roger V. Gonzalez** (B.S.M.E. '86), founder of LIMBS International, a nonprofit organization that aids leg amputees in Third World countries, joined UTEP's College of Engineering as a professor of mechanical and biomedical engineering in August. Together with UTEP, Gonzalez and LIMBS International will collaborate to develop low-cost prosthetics.

90s

**Sandra Sanchez Almanzan** (M.P.A. '97), an El Paso Fannie Mae National Service Organization director of foreclosure prevention and outreach, was named 2012-13 board chairwoman for the Paso Del Norte Health Foundation in June.

**Troy T. Byrne** (B.S. Ed. '91; M.Ed. '05), principal of El Dorado Ninth Grade Academy in El Paso, was selected in June to participate in a cultural and educational research expedition to the Chinese cities of Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai. The trip was sponsored by Education First Tours, a global education agency that provides all-inclusive tours to foreign countries for students, educators and school administrators in the United States.

**Maria I. Espinoza** (B.B.A. '96), a due diligence coordinator at real estate investment, development and construction company Investment Builders Inc. in El Paso, was named a member of the Texas Affiliation of Affordable Housing Providers (TAAHP) in October. TAAHP is a nonprofit trade association serving affordable housing industry providers.

**Ruben Estrada** (B.S.M.E. '95), a director of global supply management with Delphi North America, was named Corporate Business Advocate of the Year at the 2012 Texas Association of Mexican-American Chambers of Commerce convention in August.



**Martha E. Gomez** (B.B.A. '97; M.B.A. '11), a due diligence coordinator at real estate investment, development and construction company Investment Builders Inc. in El Paso, was named a member of the Texas Affiliation of Affordable Housing Providers (TAAHP) in October. TAAHP is a nonprofit trade association serving affordable housing industry providers.

**Marvin H. Gomez** (B.S.C.E. '95), corporate associate at engineering firm Moreno Cardenas Inc. in El Paso, completed and passed the Principles and Practice of New Urbanism Examination in July, obtaining professional accreditation by the Congress for the New Urbanism organization.

**Monica Gutierrez** (B.M. '94), choir teacher at Riverside High School in El Paso, was named an Atkins All-Star in the "women over 40" category at the Atkins 2012 All-Star Competition in August.

**Christina Klaes** (B.I.S. '99), mathematics teacher at REL Washington Elementary School in El Paso, was named one of 16 recipients of the Texas American Water Works Association (TAWWA) 2012 scholarships. TAWWA is dedicated to the promotion of a safe and sufficient supply of drinking water for all people.

**Luis M. "Sito" Negron, III** (B.A. '90) joined the El Paso office of state senator Jose Rodriguez as a communications director in August.

**Oscar J. Ornelas** (B.B.A. '96) of Peoria, Ill., joined Caterpillar Inc.'s Law and Public Policy Division in July as a tax attorney.

**Robert M. "Rob" Sesich** (B.S.Ed. '91), a financial planner at Lincoln Financial Advisors in El Paso, was honored as the Financial Planner of the Month in August.

**Angela Silvaggio** (M.Ed. '90) of El Paso was named Canutillo High School principal in July.

**Diana M. Valdez** (B.A. '99), attorney at the law firm of ScottHulse in El Paso, and trustee for the Texas Tech Law School Foundation board of directors, spoke in August at Trust Screening's Lunch and Learn Series on the Equal Opportunity Commission's recent guidance on Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

**Lawrence P. Welsh** (M.F.A. '97), an El Paso Community College English instructor whose eighth book, *Begging for Vultures*, was named a Notable Book by Southwest Books of the Year, was named a Finalist for the 2012 New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards in October. Welsh read from *Begging for Vultures* at UTEP's Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for Visual Arts in November.

**Mary Aguilar Yanez** (B.B.A. '93), director of senior adult programs at El Paso Community College, was honored by McDonald's and Castro Enterprises at the 13th annual Hispanos Triunfadores Luncheon in September for her work in the community.

**Sonia Zubiarte** (B.A. '96), founder and director of The Protocol Academy in El Paso, was the guest speaker at the HireTimes Career & Coaching Group's networking event in November.

**00s Armando Armendariz, II** (B.B.A. '05; M.B.A. '07) of El Paso joined Capital Bank as vice president of commercial lending in September.

**Gina "Marley" Beverly** (B.A. '05; B.S.N. '09) of El Paso joined the Del Sol Medical Center staff in October as a wound care nurse.

**Arlene Castanon-Ortiz** (B.S.N. '01) was promoted to administrative director for El Paso's Emergency Services, Intensive Care Unit and Sierra Providence Emergency Room in July.

**Roberto A. Coronado** (B.B.A. '00; M.S. '02) was named assistant vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas's El Paso branch in September. Coronado, an economist, will continue as the branch's chief economic contact while acting in his new capacities.

**Alejandro Dominguez** (B.A. '06), a journalist with Chicago's *Daily Herald*, was honored with the 2012 C.B. Blethen Award for his article "The Daring, Death-Defying (and quite profitable) Stunts of Al Faussett" in September. The article, which received 2nd place in the feature writing category for newspapers under 50,000 in circulation, chronicles the life of a logger-turned-daredevil.

**Ricardo Fernandez** (B.B.A. '05), an El Paso entrepreneur, announced his new venture of urban offices, The Station, in July.

**Lisbeth Francis** (B.A. '08) was named event marketing manager for the El Paso Convention and Performing Arts Center in July.

**Raul A. Galindo** (B.B.A. '00) opened up El Paso's first dedicated boba tea shop, Habitat, in July.

**Octavio Gomez** (B.B.A. '03) owner of the El Paso restaurant The Garden, and co-owner of Crave Kitchen and Bar, opened the Shelby Shack, a 37-seat diner, in July. The diner is located within the Casa Ford service station in Central El Paso.

**Marisa C. Guerrero** (B.M.S. '07), wedding and events coordinator at the El Paso floral shop Debbie's Bloomers, participated in the American Institute of Floral Design's Professional Floral Designer Evaluation session and became a Certified Floral Designer in July.

**Mickael C. Hanany** (B.S. '07; M.B.A. '09), of France, finished ninth in the men's high jump at the Herculis meet in Monaco in July. He also competed in the 2012 London Olympic Games.

**Linda M. Hernandez** (B.B.A. '06), of El Paso, was promoted to first vice president of teller operations for WestStar Bank in August.

**Tina-Marie L. Hew Len** (B.S. '05), of El Paso, joined the Visiting Nurse Association in June as vice president.

**Adrian X. Juarez** (M.S.N. '08), an adjunct clinical professor at New York University, earned his Doctor of Philosophy from New York University in August.

**Brian J. Klaes** (B.S.C.E. '00), corporate associate and project manager at engineering firm Moreno Cardenas Inc. in El Paso, completed and passed the Principles and Practice of New Urbanism Examination in July, obtaining professional accreditation by the Congress for the New Urbanism organization.

**Joel Martinez** (B.F.A. '04) opened the graphic design company EME Design Studio in El Paso in October.

**Iris Morales** (B.F.A. '06) opened the graphic design company EME Design Studio in El Paso in October.

**Barry C. Peterson** (B.A. '09), of El Paso, was a contestant on the national television game show,

Jeopardy, in August.

**Andres M. "Andy" Quintana** (B.B.A. '07) joined Lone Star Title in El Paso as chief financial officer in October.

**Irene Salom** (B.A. '07), a special education teacher at San Elizario Elementary School, was named Texas Elementary School Teacher of the Year at a ceremony held in Austin in October.

**Gustavo G. Sosa** (B.S.C.E. '07; M.S.C.E. '10), civil engineer at engineering firm Moreno Cardenas Inc. in El Paso, completed and passed the Principles and Practice of New Urbanism Examination in July, obtaining professional accreditation by the Congress for the New Urbanism organization.

**Nancy Ulrickson "Charlie" Swopes** (B.S.N. '09) was promoted in June to breast health navigator at Sierra Providence Health Network in El Paso.

**Patricia T. Tiscareno** (B.A. '04), executive director of the Rio Grande Cancer Foundation in El Paso, was honored in July for completing Paso del Norte Health Foundation's 15-month leadership experience, "Realize."

**10s Armando Delgado, Jr.** (B.S.M.E. '10), of El Paso, was awarded a Texas Space Grant Graduate Fellowship. Delgado also received a travel scholarship to present his paper, "Combustion of Lunar Regolith/Magnesium Mixtures," at the Space Resource Roundtable and Terrestrial Mining Sciences Symposium in Golden, Colo.

**Baiba Eglite** (B.A. '12), a former UTEP women's basketball standout, was signed to play professional basketball with BK Lokomotiva Karlovy Vary Club in the Czech Republic.

**Daniel R. Fierro** (B.S.W. '11), a UTEP graduate student, was named a recipient of a \$5,000 scholarship for the 2012-13 academic year by The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health for demonstrating a strong commitment to providing mental health services in Texas after graduation.

**Jorge A. Frias** (B.S.M.E. '10) was awarded a Texas Space Grant Graduate Fellowship. He also received a travel scholarship to present his paper at the Space Resource Roundtable and Terrestrial Mining Sciences Symposium in Golden, Colo.

He presented "Extraction of Volatiles from Lunar Regolith Using Solar Power," co-written by Michael VanWoerkom, president of ExoTerra Resources, and Evgeny Shafirovich, Ph.D., UTEP assistant professor of mechanical engineering.

**Cynthia Ann Gabaldón** (B.S. '11, B.S. '12) was awarded first place for Best Oral Presentation at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Paul L. Foster School of Medicine's 6th Annual Research Colloquium for Outstanding Professional Achievement in Research.

**Gerardo Garcia** (B.S.C.E. '11) joined the El Paso engineering firm Joe Cardenas, P.E. in October.

**Abraham Y. "Abie" Han** (B.A. '11), El Paso middleweight fighter, brought his undefeated winning streak to 18-0 in a victory against Arsenio Terrazas at the El Paso County Coliseum in October.

**Steven Lee** (B.M.S. '10), of Tornillo, was named head coach of the Tornillo High School football team in August.

**Sergio R. Mendez** (B.S.C.E. '10; M.S. '11) joined El Paso engineering firm Joe Cardenas, P.E. in October.

**Marketa Vavrova** (M.S. '12), a UTEP doctoral student, received the European Friedrich List Award for her master's thesis in transportation and logical systems, "Development of an Electronic Vehicle Miles Traveled Toll Model," which presents an alternative fuel tax.

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**Francis F. Greetham, Jr.** (B.S. '51) Cicero, N.Y.; Jan. 1, 2012.  
**Margaret C. "Mellie" Shacklett** (B.S.Ed. '78) El Paso; March 5, 2012.  
**Patsy Davis Roberts** (B.A. '56) Lawton, Okla.; March 10, 2012.  
**Joaquin Ramirez, Jr.** (B.S. '98) El Paso; May 4, 2012.  
**Edward R. Babenco** (B.S.C.E. '58) El Paso; May 24, 2012.  
**Waley W. Liang** El Paso; June 9, 2012.  
**Robert E. Roe** (B.S.C.E. '53) Dallas; June 9, 2012.  
**Lucie L. Black** (B.A. '40) El Paso; June 13, 2012.  
**John A. "Buddy" Boylan** (B.A. '50) McKinney, Texas; June 13, 2012.  
**Martha F. Kolb** (B.B.A. '42) Hagerstown, Ind.; June 16, 2012.  
**Ronald E. Pena** (B.B.A. '77) El Paso; June 17, 2012.  
**Mary Frances Hewett Roblin Gitzen** (M.A. '93) West Lafayette, Ind.; June 22, 2012.  
**Rosemary R. Jennings** (B.S.Ed. '61) El Paso; June 24, 2012.  
**Eugene P. "Gene" Odell, Jr.** (B.A. '54; M.A. '58) Amarillo, Texas; June 24, 2012.  
**Jesus E. "Eddie" Loya** (B.S.M.E. '95) El Paso; June 28, 2012.  
**Pearse E. Nolan** (B.A. '72; M.A. '73) Arlington, Texas; July 2, 2012.  
**Alberto Rosalez** (B.B.A. '83) El Paso; July 4, 2012.  
**Juan Armendariz** (B.S.Ed. '66; M.Ed. '68) San Antonio, Texas; July 7, 2012.  
**Matthew H. Mutnick** (B.A. '70) El Paso; July 7, 2012.  
**Joe S. Cunningham** (M.Ed. '90) Tyler, Texas; July 8, 2012.

**Margaret E. "Betty" Clifford** (B.A. '36) Round Rock, Texas; July 10, 2012.  
**Kenneth R. Heineman** (B.A. '40) Rogers, Ark.; July 10, 2012.  
**Juan I. Guillen, Jr.** (B.B.A. '81) El Paso; July 15, 2012.  
**Maria Lourdes Rosenberg** (B.S.W. '89) El Paso; July 19, 2012.  
**Aaron Wechter** (B.B.A. '49) El Paso; July 19, 2012.  
**John G. Buttner** (B.S. '74) El Paso; July 21, 2012.  
**Patricia P. Bentley** (B.A. '54) El Paso; July 22, 2012.  
**Robert K. "Rob" Goodnow** (B.A. '54) Victoria, Texas; July 22, 2012.  
**Martha C. Boyle** (B.S.N. '97) El Paso; July 23, 2012.  
**Terry H. McCaskill** (B.B.A. '50) El Paso; July 23, 2012.  
**JoAnn Black** (B.A. '49; M.A. '68) El Paso; July 25, 2012.  
**Ventura "Ben" Molina, Jr.** (B.S.Ed. '69; M.Ed. '77) El Paso; July 25, 2012.  
**Rodolfo "Rudy" Alvarez** (B.S.Ed. '75) El Paso; July 26, 2012.  
**James S. Slater** (B.S.C.E. '70) Fort Worth, Texas; July 29, 2012.  
**Candace D. "Candy" Barnes** (B.B.A. '96) El Paso; July 30, 2012.  
**Denny G. Kennedy** (B.A. '67) El Paso; Aug. 2, 2012.  
**Joseph "Joe" Petrovich** (B.A. '74) Salinas, Calif.; Aug. 2, 2012.  
**George E. Riley** (B.S. '76) El Paso; Aug. 2, 2012.  
**Alexander M. "Alex" Doty** (B.A. '76) Bloomington, Ind.; Aug. 5, 2012.  
**Alejandro Duran, Jr.** (B.A. '48) El Paso; Aug. 5, 2012.

**Hector R. Garcia** (B.A. '65) El Paso; Aug. 5, 2012.  
**Martha A. Page Ralph** (B.B.A. '57) Houston; Aug. 5, 2012.  
**Juan Garcia, Jr.** (B.B.A. '97) El Paso; Aug. 9, 2012.  
**Margaret DuBose Hammond Marshall** (B.A. '45) Rochester Mills, Pa.; Aug. 9, 2012.  
**Guadalupe I. Trejo** (B.A. '57; M.Ed. '70) El Paso; Aug. 15, 2012.  
**Thomas J. "Tom" Rosser** (B.S. '83) Lindale, Texas; Aug. 16, 2012.  
**Jesus E. Estrada** (B.A. '74) El Paso; Aug. 18, 2012.  
**Juan V. A. Lucero** (B.B.A. '76) El Paso; Aug. 18, 2012.  
**Victor Garcia, Jr.** El Paso; Aug. 19, 2012.  
**James E. Santoscoy** (M.B.A. '10) El Paso; Aug. 20, 2012.  
**Benjamin F. "Ben" Gomersall** (B.A. '68; M.Ed. '68) El Paso; Aug. 22, 2012.  
**Tom W. Bryant** (B.S.Ed. '68; M.Ed. '73) El Paso; Aug. 23, 2012.  
**Manuel "Manny" Calderon, Jr.** (B.A. '06) El Paso; Aug. 28, 2012.  
**Joseph E. Britt** (B.B.A. '79) El Paso; Aug. 28, 2012.  
**Anna M. Santoscoy** (B.S.Ed. '70) El Paso; Aug. 29, 2012.  
**Weldon H. Sutton** (B.B.A. '95) El Paso; Aug. 29, 2012.  
**Barbara E. Haupt Johnson** (B.M. '67) El Paso; Aug. 30, 2012.  
**Jean C. Nance** (B.A. '68) El Paso; Aug. 30, 2012.  
**Victor M. Cobos** (B.S.M.I. '42) El Paso; Sept. 1, 2012.  
**John E. Hardy, Jr.** (B.S.Ed. '60) El Paso; Sept. 2, 2012.

**Patrick M. Elliston** (B.S. '62) Bisbee, Ariz.; Sept. 3, 2012.  
**Charles M. "Charlie" Gaddy** (B.B.A. '51) El Paso; Sept. 5, 2012.  
**Joseph L. Tessandori** (B.S.M.E.T. '69) Owensboro, Ky.; Sept. 6, 2012.  
**William O. Wright** (B.A. '69) El Paso; Sept. 6, 2012.  
**Mary E. Thayer** (B.A. '51; M.Ed. '69) El Paso; Sept. 7, 2012.  
**Elizabeth Anne Fitch** (B.A. '52) Carlsbad, N.M.; Sept. 9, 2012.  
**Albert Franco** (B.A. '71) El Paso; Sept. 9, 2012.  
**Lucy Jones** (B.S.Ed. '71) El Paso; Sept. 10, 2012.  
**Wesley Cyril "Wes" Measday** (B.B.A. '58) Yuma, Ariz.; Sept. 13, 2012.  
**Elfego Piñon, Jr.** (B.S. '64) El Paso; Sept. 15, 2012.  
**William "Ward" Lynde** (B.A. '71) El Paso; Sept. 19, 2012.  
**Julia A. Carson** (B.S.Ed. '77; M.A. '98) El Paso; Sept. 20, 2012.  
**Dolores R. Sweezey** (B.A. '87) El Paso; Sept. 21, 2012.  
**Hilda Flores Kern** (B.B.A. '54) El Paso; Sept. 22, 2012.  
**Lizinka M. "Zinkie" Benton** (B.A. '62) Houston; Sept. 25, 2012.  
**Emmit R. Johnson** (M.S. '66) Clint, Texas; Sept. 25, 2012.  
**Roland J. "Pop" Daigle** (M.S. '72) San Marcos, Texas; Sept. 26, 2012.  
**Beatriz "Bea" Monteros** (B.S. '92) El Paso; Oct. 3, 2012.

• Indicates the individual was a current UTEP student at the time of death

## Sharron Hoffmans

By Daniel Perez

Sharron Hoffmans, Ph.D., a tenured assistant professor of accounting at UTEP who started in 1974, was remembered as a "demanding" and "fantastic" instructor who pushed students toward greater excellence. She died of lung cancer June 22, 2012, at her home in Henderson, Nev. She was 74.

The Kansas-born certified public accountant earned an M.B.A. from UTEP in 1975 and left briefly to earn her doctorate in accounting from Oklahoma State University, in part to enhance the UTEP College of Business Administration faculty's qualifications for accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. She retired in 1999.

Former colleagues noted the high standards she set for her students and her efforts to help them succeed.

"(Sharron) had a well-earned reputation for the rigor of her favorite course, Advanced Accounting, which was required for all accounting majors and was a continuing source of apprehension among these students," said Gary Mann, Ph.D., professor emeritus of accounting.

Hoffmans helped establish and nurture the UTEP chapter of the international business honor society Beta Gamma Sigma and was on the committee that helped design the College of Business Administration Building that opened in 1983.

Her husband, C.B. "Connie" Hoffmans, said his wife appreciated the hard work put forth by her students such as Rene Peña, managing partner of El Paso CPA firm Peña, Briones, McDaniel & Co. Peña earned his bachelor's in accounting in 1978.

Peña said Dr. Hoffmans offered the right combination of compassion and support to help him and others achieve beyond the classroom.

Survivors include her husband, two sons, their wives, four grandchildren and other family and friends. ☞





# 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) Lannie L. Mendez Patton**, a junior corporate and organizational communication major, and his uncle are among the few proudly wearing orange in the sea of red during the UTEP football game against the University of Wisconsin in Madison.



**2) Ithzel Solis**, a junior nursing student, is all smiles during her visit to Saint-Malo, France, this summer.



**3) Enrique Guizar**, a junior civil engineering major, and some UTEP friends hold their "Picks Up" during a rafting adventure in Aspen, Colo., this summer.



**4) Adrian E. Gutierrez**, a current geophysics master's student and geology (B.S., 2010) graduate, smiles with great Miner pride at the entrance of Machu Picchu in Peru.



**5) Shauna P. Ziegler** (B.A. in public relations and B.A. in electronic media, 2002), along with her brother, Joseph Madrid, and mother, Isabel Gamez, show off their Miner pride with Mickey at Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif.



**6) Carlos Sifuentes** (B.S. in kinesiology, 2006), proudly wears his UTEP Miner gear at the City of Arts and Sciences in Valencia, Spain. He says it is one of the most impressive and modern architectural complexes he has ever visited!

To submit a Miners Around the World photo for possible inclusion in *UTEP Magazine*, send the photo and caption information to [univcomm@utep.edu](mailto:univcomm@utep.edu).





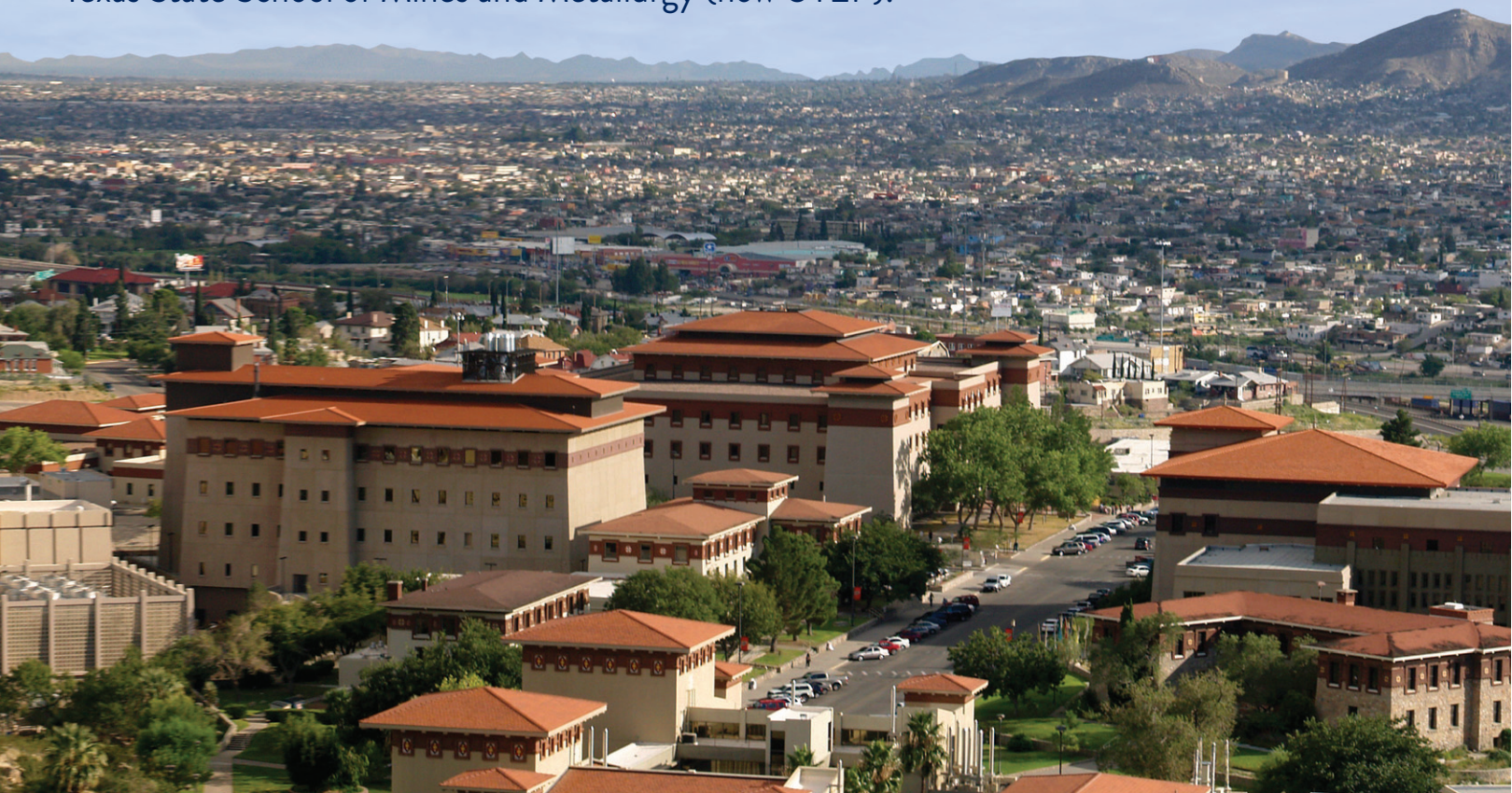
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For information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 915-747-8600, toll free at 1-866-GO-MINERS or [alumni@utep.edu](mailto:alumni@utep.edu).

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