

# UTEP

MAGAZINE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO ALUMNI MAGAZINE

WINTER 2016

## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

RELIVE THE HISTORIC  
**MOMENT**  
THROUGH THE WORDS  
OF THOSE  
WHO WERE THERE  
50 YEARS AGO.



NATIONAL  
COLLEGIATE  
BASKETBALL  
CHAMPIONSHIP



CHAMPION

1966  
TEXAS WESTERN COLLEGE

## SPACE MINERS

The Pass of the North becomes a passage to the stars. P. 34

## ALL IN THE UTEP FAMILY

First-generation college grads paved the way for second-generation Miners. P. 28





## Territory of the Imagination

From inside the old mine tunnel near Sun Bowl Stadium, UTEP's signature architecture is visible. Astrovandalistas, an artist collective based in Mexico City, transformed the practice mine into a gallery for futuristic works as part of the Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts' "Territory of the Imagination" exhibition, which kicked off the gallery's 10th anniversary. Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

# Dear UTEP Alumni and Friends:

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**T**

he commemoration of UTEP's Centennial in grand style over the past couple of years successfully demonstrated that UTEP Miners are very adept at celebrating our distinguished past.

And, now, we are about to show that we are also very skilled at planning for an even brighter UTEP future, filled with confidence, enthusiasm and high aspirations.



Wherever our planning takes us, we know that it will be most successful when we stay true to our core values and guiding principles. UTEP's authenticity has not only enabled us to successfully serve our region, but also to achieve national prominence as a leader in 21st century public higher education.

UTEP has a special responsibility to foster access, ensuring that talented young people from all backgrounds are encouraged to dream big, and are provided genuine opportunities to achieve their big dreams. To be successful, we have learned to innovate – not imitate, and to play to our special strengths, rather than adopt one-size-fits-all models.

We've also learned to challenge others' characterizations of UTEP. We are best at defining our student population, our public university responsibility, and our access and excellence mission. Resisting externally imposed constraints has enabled us to achieve our vision of becoming the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic, and to increase opportunities for both our students and

residents of the surrounding region.

All of us at UTEP – students, faculty and staff members – are here by choice. We have come together on this campus because we want to learn, teach, engage in research and scholarly and artistic production, and enjoy the many benefits of being part of a vibrant university environment. Although that environment includes our physical space – and most would agree that UTEP's is exceptionally beautiful – it's mostly about people ... all of us. Unifying our purpose here are nearly 23,500 talented and motivated students whose futures are entrusted to us. Their trust both validates our work and carries with it an obligation to respect and honor their dreams and aspirations by doing our best to create conditions for their fulfillment.

This clear understanding of who we are, and whom we are here to serve, positions us extremely well to plan for UTEP's second century. As we begin that planning, we too must dare to dream and think big, boldly expressing high aspirations, confidently working to achieve them, and never permitting

others to reduce our expectations or diminish our enthusiasm.

As we join together to envision and plan UTEP's next century, we know that students are, and must always remain, at the heart of all we do. Everyone on this campus has a contribution to make in creating a bright future for them, and we know that to contribute effectively, we must be highly creative and intentional, and set the highest expectations for ourselves as well.

We invite all of you to join in helping us plan and execute UTEP's next critically important steps in shaping our students' and this region's future. I look forward to engaging in this planning process as many members of the UTEP family as possible – students, faculty and staff on the campus, and alumni, friends and supporters across the world. We are eager to hear your perspectives on UTEP's future and to work with all of you to weave them together into a vibrant and energizing strategic plan.

Go Miners!

**Diana Natalicio**  
President



Watch a video at  
[utep.edu/magazine](http://utep.edu/magazine)

## Features

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### 1966 Basketball Championship

During the basketball game in 1966 that changed history and inspired a movie, the only color the Miners cared about was orange and the only score they wanted to settle was the final one at the University of Maryland's Cole Field House.

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### 2nd Generation Miners

Second-generation Miners not only inherited a love for UTEP, but their parents served as role models who encouraged them to dream big and pursue higher education and career goals.

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### Space Miners

The Paso del Norte region has witnessed millions on their way to a new life. In the 21st century, and for UTEP's next century, this place is set to become the heart of exploration of frontiers well beyond Earth.

## Departments

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**12** Research

**16** Arts

**18** Athletics

**40** Alumni Lounge



**14**  
**Chagas Disease**

If you see these little critters around, don't let them kiss you.



### Rubin Center Anniversary

Artist Tomás Saraceno launched a lighter-than-air balloon sculpture at White Sands Missile Range as part of the Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts' 10th anniversary. Photo by Laura Trejo

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### On the Cover

1966 National Collegiate Basketball Championship trophy, awarded to Texas Western College (now UTEP) on March 19, 1966. Photo by J.R. Hernandez

# WELCOME TO THE NEW UTEP MAGAZINE!

As you flip through the following pages, you are sure to notice some changes. The start of The University of Texas at El Paso's second century was a perfect opportunity to remind ourselves of the magazine's goals – to inform, entertain and inspire our readers – and to re-evaluate how best to accomplish them in light of new priorities, shortening attention spans and an increased preference for digital content.



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Thank you to those who responded to the survey in the spring/summer 2015 issue and shared with us what you like about the magazine and what changes you would like to see. We carefully analyzed all of your responses to help inform our decisions about the magazine you are reading today.

You will notice a hefty campus news section at the front of the magazine called "UTEP Today" with updates on the campus, research, the arts and athletics, told through photos, illustrations and infographics, as well as words.

Our feature stories are fewer but go more in depth. Look for stories in this issue on the 50th anniversary of the 1966 men's basketball championship, told through the words of those who were there (page 20); a story about families with at least two generations of UTEP Miners (page 28); and a look at UTEP's place in the future of space exploration (page 34).

We took your advice and expanded the alumni section to include more stories and photos of alumni and what they are doing now. This new section, called "Alumni Lounge," begins on page 40 and includes alumni notes, obituaries, Miners Around the World photos, profiles of inspiring and accomplished alumni, and a new photo section for alumni weddings and births. We look forward to receiving your submissions for each of these sections at [univcomm@utep.edu](mailto:univcomm@utep.edu).

Although we plan to continue publishing a printed magazine, we are also enhancing the multimedia content associated with UTEP Magazine. Several of the stories in this issue have additional content on [utep.edu/magazine](http://utep.edu/magazine), such as videos, photo galleries or additional stories. The stories with added digital features are marked with a triangular play button symbol.

We hope you enjoy the revamped UTEP Magazine and look forward to your feedback.

**Jenn Crawford**  
Editor-in-Chief

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# happening on campus

CAMPUS, RESEARCH, ARTS, ATHLETICS AND OTHER UNIVERSITY UPDATES

## Campus

### Winter Commencement

UTEP Celebrates 2,300 Graduates

More than 2,300 UTEP students were eligible to receive their degrees during three Commencement ceremonies on Dec. 12, 2015 in the Don Haskins Center.



To see photos from Commencement, go to [utep.edu/magazine](http://utep.edu/magazine).

During the ceremony, UTEP President Diana Natalicio personally congratulated the graduates as they crossed the stage to receive their degrees.

"I want you to know how genuinely proud I am of each of you and your accomplishments," President Natalicio said. "I am moved and inspired by the fact that this University has played a major role in unlocking your potential and transforming your future. This is a great moment for you and for all of us who have been a part of your higher education journey."

### A Moment in Time

Time Capsules Capture Centennial Spirit

When a future generation of Miners opens the two orange time capsules planted outside Old Main, they will get a glimpse of what The University of Texas at El Paso was like during its Centennial year of 2014.

The time capsules were placed on Sept. 29, 2015 and are to be opened in 2039.

They contain fact sheets, brochures, degree plans, an item created by a campus 3-D printer, team jerseys signed by the different athletic teams, and a porcelain lamp held by nursing graduates as they recited their professional oath.

Two separate campus groups collected the items: the faculty and staff who made up UTEP AWARE Class 22 (2012-13) and members of the Students of the Centennial organization. Their intention was for a future generation of Miners to open the sealed PVC pipes in 25 years and relive the pride and excitement of campus research, academics, athletics and student life.



UTEP President Diana Natalicio and Student Government Association President Robert Dominguez celebrate UTEP's Top 10 ranking with Paydirt Pete and the UTEP Cheerleaders.

## Top Ten

UTEP Ranked Among Top 10 for Third Year

**F**or the fourth consecutive year, UTEP remained ranked #1 by Washington Monthly magazine in its category of social mobility – a critical measurement of people improving their life circumstances regardless of where they start out.

UTEP also was ranked among the magazine's Top 10 national universities in 2015 for the third year in a row. Validating the University's continued success in higher education through its dedication to access, excellence, affordability and quality, the listing placed UTEP alongside Harvard; Stanford; the University of California, Berkeley; the University of California, Los Angeles; and the University of Washington, among others.

The #1 ranking in the social mobility category spotlights how UTEP holds open the doors of higher education for those who would most benefit from college. The category seeks to measure universities' success in outperforming predictions for the graduation of first-generation and low-income students.

"UTEP has had great success at providing accessible and excellent opportunities in higher education to the El Paso region," said UTEP President Diana

Natalicio. "It comes from the commitment of our faculty, staff, alumni and supporters who work hard to make sure our students not only have the opportunity to earn an affordable college degree, but also that they are prepared to compete with their peers across the globe."

UTEP boasts the lowest net price among all research universities in the U.S. and holds its own among institutions that historically have been placed at the top of traditional college rankings.

For its overall rankings, Washington Monthly magazine rates schools based on their contribution to the public in three broad categories: social mobility, research (producing cutting-edge scholarship and doctoral graduates) and service (encouraging students to give something back to their region and nation).

With offerings tailored to the very unique population it serves, UTEP not only redefines public higher education regionally and throughout Texas, it confidently lives its mission of access and excellence, and the impact of that commitment is strongly validated with rankings like Washington Monthly's.

- Lisa Y. Garibay

A fully accredited UTEP School of Pharmacy is a dream come true for the University.

## Psychology Accreditation

TTUHSC El Paso Internship Program Receives Accreditation from American Psychological Association

The El Paso Psychology Internship Consortium (EPPIC), a partnership between The University of Texas at El Paso University Counseling Center and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) El Paso Department of Psychiatry, received accreditation by the American Psychological Association.

Created in 2012, EPPIC is a one-year, full-time training program providing doctoral student interns the opportunity to accrue 2,000 hours of practical experience. UTEP's University Counseling Center offers three internship positions, while TTUHSC El Paso's Department of Psychiatry offers one.

The internship now has greater potential to attract hundreds of applicants from around the country and to bring home El Pasoans who departed to do doctoral work elsewhere.

## Miner Memory:

The First UTEP.edu

By today's standards, The University of Texas at El Paso's original www.utep.edu website was simple when it launched 20 years ago during the spring 1996 semester. UTEP graduate Al Martinez '93 and a team of undergraduates created more than 100 web pages for the site from their Multimedia Teaching and Learning Center workspace in the basement of Union Building West.

Martinez, who today is webmaster for UTEP's College of Engineering, said that many campus leaders were initially reluctant to supply content because they thought the Web was just a fad. Martinez researched other websites of the day such as Yahoo and tried to imitate what he considered best practices.

"At the time, I thought it was pretty cool," he said of the straightforward utep.edu design that incorporated Bhutanese architecture.

The content ranged from academics to athletics to student life. Decorative mandalas were entry points to campus news and events that Martinez read about in The Prospector student newspaper or Nova, now UTEP Magazine, and adapted for the web.

"Looking back, I would say it was a horse and buggy concept compared to today's website, which would be akin to a sports car."

# New Pharmacy School

## UTEP Pharmacy School to Start in 2017

**A soon-to-be-established** School of Pharmacy at The University of Texas at El Paso will help fill the void of pharmacists who are culturally competent and sensitive to the needs of diverse patient populations in the Paso del Norte region.

"There is an urgent need for pharmacists, especially those who are bilingual and bicultural because of the increasing number of Hispanics living across the state of Texas," said José O. Rivera, Pharm.D., the school's founding dean.

A fully accredited UTEP School of Pharmacy is a dream come true for the University. Seven million dollars in state funding allocated to UTEP during the 2015 Texas legislative session made it possible.

UTEP has been part of the six-year UTEP Cooperative Pharmacy Program with the UT Austin College of Pharmacy since 1999. A stand-alone pharmacy

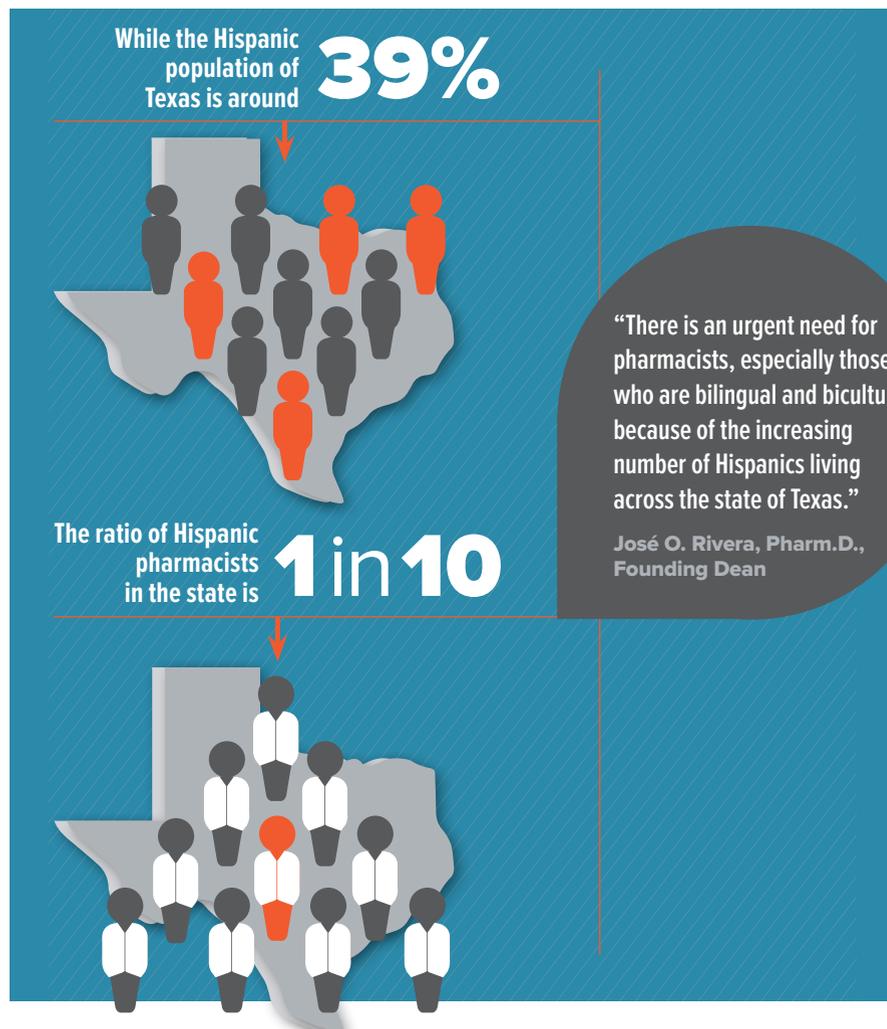
school will allow UTEP to increase the size of its pharmacy cohorts to 50 from 12. The first class is expected to start in fall 2017.

While the Hispanic population of Texas is around 39 percent, less than 10 percent of the state's pharmacists are Hispanic. Rivera said adding more UTEP pharmacy graduates will narrow that gap.

"For the University, this will become a thriving, financially viable program," said Rivera, professor of clinical pharmacy and director of the UTEP-UT Austin Cooperative Pharmacy Program. He also has served as assistant dean of the UT Austin College of Pharmacy since 2001.

"For the students of El Paso, it will be an opportunity to have a pharmacy school with a curriculum that's more in line with what's needed culturally as we go forward."

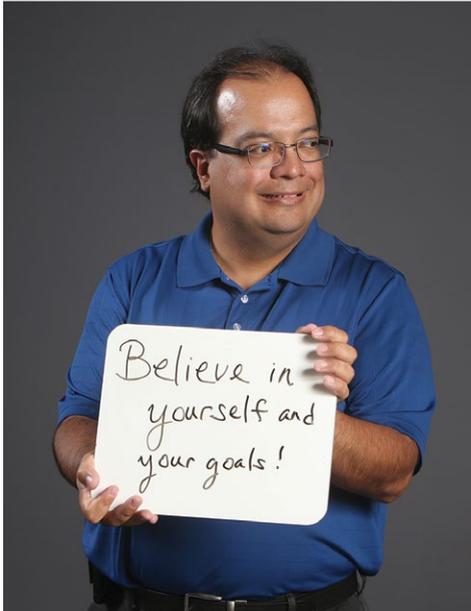
— Laura L. Acosta and Daniel Perez



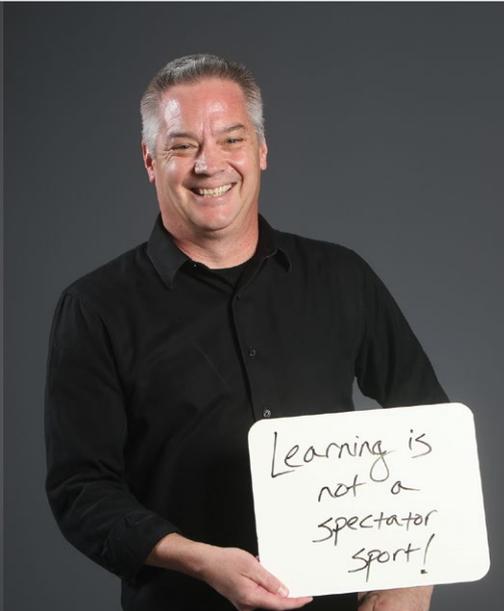
# 10 Earn Teaching Awards

UTEP Educators Earn Regents' Outstanding Teaching Awards

+ The regents' outstanding teachers offer students their best advice...



**David Carrejo,**  
Ph.D., associate professor  
of mathematics education



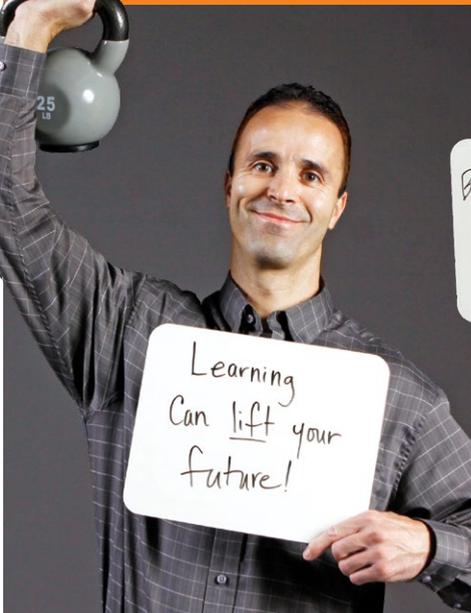
**Bradley Cartwright,**  
Ph.D., associate professor  
of history



**Sandor Dorgo,**  
Ph.D., associate professor  
of kinesiology



**Pei-Ling Hsu,**  
Ph.D., assistant professor of  
science education



**Nominees for** The University of Texas System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Awards go through a rigorous selection process. They are evaluated on classroom expertise, curricula quality, innovative course development and student learning outcomes.

Ten undergraduate educators from UTEP successfully passed the test, bringing the total number of UTEP professors to achieve the recognition to 58 since the first awards were issued in 2009.

The teachers each received \$25,000 in recognition of their extraordinary classroom performance and innovation in instruction.

The UTEP recipients were David Carrejo, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematics education; Bradley Cartwright, Ph.D., associate professor of history; Sandor Dorgo, Ph.D., associate professor of kinesiology; Pei-Ling Hsu, Ph.D., assistant professor of science education; Helmut Knaust, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematical sciences; Oscar Macchioni, DMA, associate professor of piano; Homer Nazeran, Ph.D., professor of electrical and computer engineering; Sasha Pimentel, assistant professor of creative writing; Raymond Rumpf, Ph.D., associate professor of electrical and computer engineering; and Elizabeth Walsh, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences.

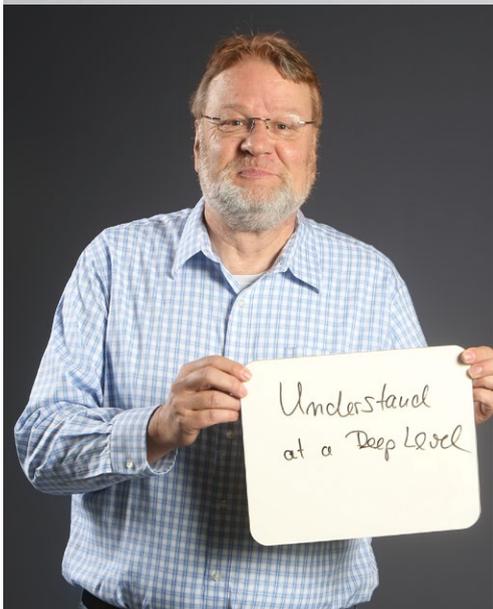
UTEP President Diana Natalicio applauded the Outstanding Teaching Award recipients and thanked them for their commitment to UTEP's mission.

"All of us at UTEP are extremely proud of the 10 UTEP educators recognized by the UT System Board of Regents," President Natalicio said. "The excellence of their work as teachers, mentors and scholars has contributed significantly to creating superb educational opportunities for our talented and hardworking students."

- Daniel Perez

*"The excellence of their work as teachers, mentors and scholars has contributed significantly to creating superb educational opportunities for our talented and hardworking students."*

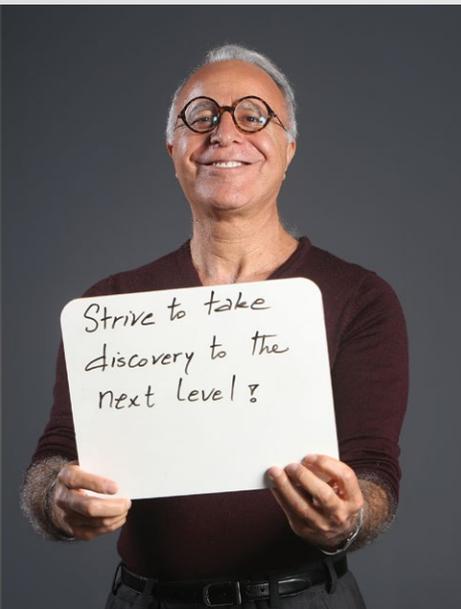
PRESIDENT DIANA NATALICIO



**Helmut Knaust,**  
Ph.D., associate professor  
of mathematical sciences



**Oscar Macchioni,**  
DMA, associate  
professor of piano



**Homer Nazeran,**  
Ph.D., professor of  
electrical and computer  
engineering



**Sasha Pimentel,**  
assistant professor  
of creative writing

**Raymond Rumpf,**  
Ph.D., associate professor of  
electrical & computer engineering

**Elizabeth Walsh,**  
Ph.D., professor of  
biological sciences





# STEM Award

*Computer Scientist Wins Great Minds in STEM Award*

**Professor and Chair** of Computer Science Ann Gates, Ph.D., is the recipient of the 2015 Great Minds in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Education Award. Gates was selected for the honor from about 200 nationwide nominations.

Great Minds in STEM, formerly known as the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Corporation, created the Education Award to honor individuals involved in higher education across the United States. Nominees are typically educators, administrators or coordinators who demonstrate a strong commitment to promoting STEM education.

"The selection committee felt strongly that the work that Dr. Gates has committed her attention to, her exceptional contributions to educational programs

and her leadership, made her a deserving recipient of the Education Award," said Monica Villafana, director of professional programs at Great Minds in STEM.

Villafana emphasized that Gates' leadership and involvement in initiatives like Latinas in Computing and the Computing Alliance of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (CAHSI) demonstrate her eagerness to share computing education with underrepresented communities.

Great Minds in STEM is known for honoring the nation's best and brightest Hispanic engineers, scientists and technology experts. A core mission of the organization is to highlight and showcase these outstanding role models to inspire young people to pursue careers in technology and to motivate professionals to continue to connect with the Hispanic community. - **Nadia M. Whitehead**



## Higher Education Visionary

*Carnegie Corporation of New York Honors UTEP President*

**UTEP President** Diana Natalicio is among four leaders recognized by the Carnegie Corporation of New York for demonstrating vision and outstanding commitment to excellence and equity in undergraduate education.

The Carnegie Corporation noted President Natalicio's work to make the University better reflect the region's demographics and create graduate programs that capitalize on UTEP's geographic location; her leadership in creating the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence with local school districts, El Paso Community College and community leaders; and the implementation of a program to collect and analyze student data as a way to track progress and develop appropriate interventions to improve student performance and retention.

The other recipients of the prestigious 2015 Academic Leadership Award are Ronald J. Daniels, president of Johns Hopkins University; Patricia A. McGuire, president of Trinity Washington University; and C.L. Max Nikias, president of the University of Southern California. Each honoree's institution will receive a grant of \$500,000 to be used toward furthering the winner's notable academic initiatives.

"I am deeply honored to receive the Carnegie Corporation of New York's 2015 Academic Leadership Award recognizing The University of Texas at El Paso's accomplishments over the past quarter-century," said President Natalicio, who is the longest-serving president of a public university in the nation. "This recognition serves as strong validation of the success of highly dedicated UTEP faculty and staff who have worked to provide both access and excellence to all young people who entrust us with their talents and aspirations." - **Jenn Crawford**

# BUILDINGS

# GONE

**For thousands of students,** faculty and staff, Burges and Barry halls were a home away from home at The University of Texas at El Paso. Burges and Barry, which opened in 1963 and 1971, respectively, initially served as student dormitories. Burges was the first campus dorm to offer refrigerated air. It housed students until 1993 when the four-story, 35,791-square-foot building was remodeled into office space and specialized research centers. Barry was a high-rise residential dormitory until the mid-1990s. It was closed in 1997 due to low occupancy. University officials determined it would be too expensive to repurpose the 10-floor, 96,502-square-foot building. Both structures were demolished during the fall 2015 semester to make way for a planned 150,000-square-foot Interdisciplinary Research Building expected to open in fall 2020. While physically gone, the memories created at these buildings will live on through those who lived and worked there. - **Daniel Perez**



**Gary Edens**

Vice President for Student Affairs  
Barry Hall resident 1986

“Barry Hall was a lot of fun! I remember late-night study sessions in the Mine Shaft, which was a snack bar in the basement of the Commons. Students would get together and talk about football and basketball. Basketball was big back then and Miner spirit was really high.”

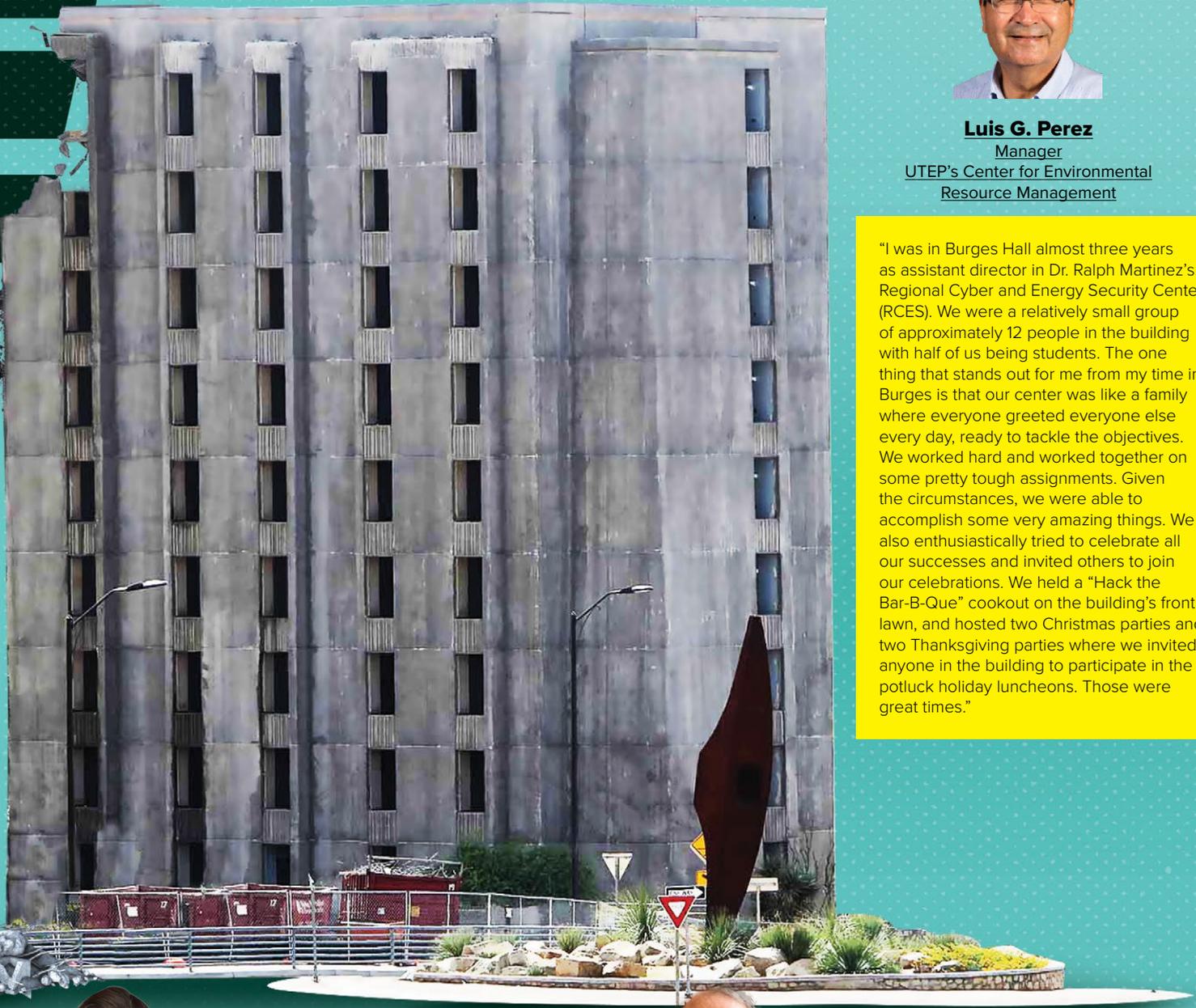


**Anais Acosta**

Technology Master, Institute of Oral History

“I spent most of my professional life on the fourth floor of Burges Hall. It was like my second home for almost 17 years. I split my time between the Institute of Oral History and a couple of academic departments. I started as an intern and eventually got hired full time by Oral History in 2001. I believe it was just a coincidence that all departments I worked for had offices in Burges Hall’s fourth floor. I started in 413, then moved to 411, 414, 415b and 416. My favorite room was 415b because from there you could see the border, the “Mining Minds” sculpture and the sunsets. Seeing the building vanish sure brought back lots of memories from my early years at UTEP.”

# MEMORIES LIVE ON



**Luis G. Perez**  
Manager

UTEP's Center for Environmental  
Resource Management

"I was in Burges Hall almost three years as assistant director in Dr. Ralph Martinez's Regional Cyber and Energy Security Center (RCES). We were a relatively small group of approximately 12 people in the building with half of us being students. The one thing that stands out for me from my time in Burges is that our center was like a family where everyone greeted everyone else every day, ready to tackle the objectives. We worked hard and worked together on some pretty tough assignments. Given the circumstances, we were able to accomplish some very amazing things. We also enthusiastically tried to celebrate all our successes and invited others to join our celebrations. We held a "Hack the Bar-B-Que" cookout on the building's front lawn, and hosted two Christmas parties and two Thanksgiving parties where we invited anyone in the building to participate in the potluck holiday luncheons. Those were great times."



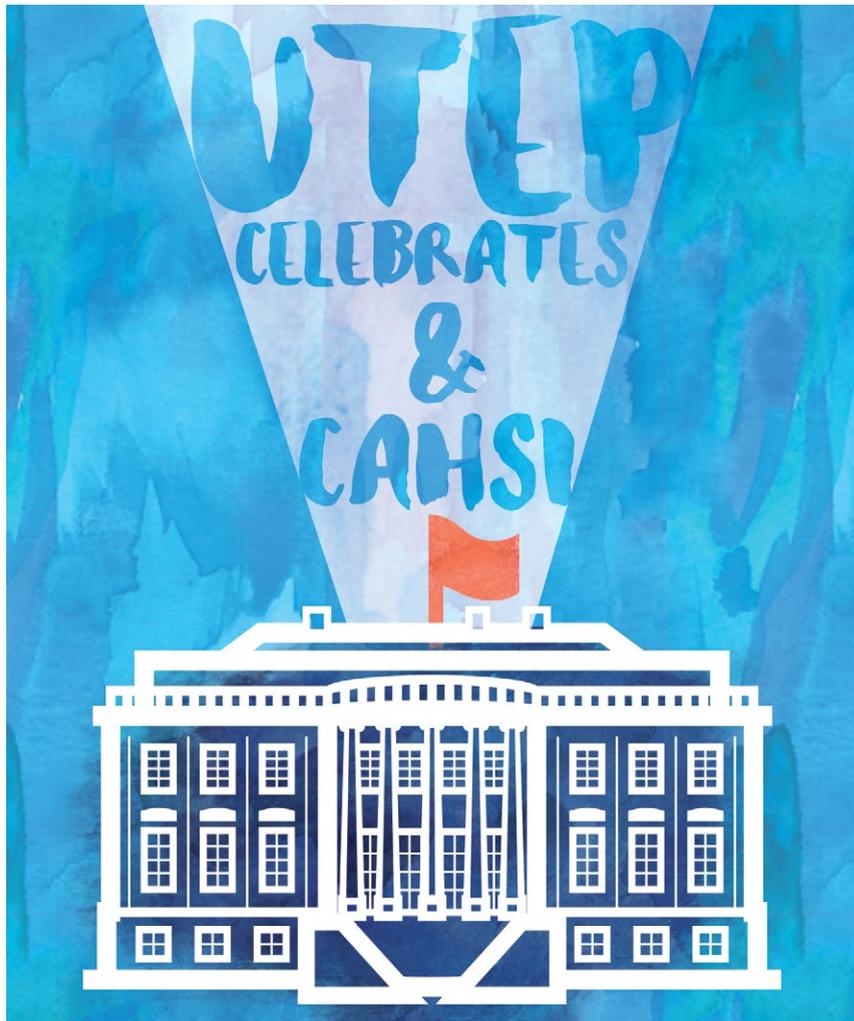
**Michelle Del Rio**  
Health Impact Assessment Program Manager  
Center for Environmental Resource Management

"I really enjoyed the view from my (Burges Hall) window. It looked toward the University Avenue roundabout and the ("Mining Minds") pick. I'd see trees, students and traffic passing by. You could tell that the building was older because of the carpeting and furniture, and there was a unique smell. The thing I remember most is that the building was scary to walk through late in the evening when I would stay to do school work. I would hear unfamiliar noises. I guess my mind would play tricks since I knew the building had quite a history."



**Mike Shaw**  
Project Management Consultant  
Burges Hall dorm monitor in spring 1966

"I lived on the bottom floor of Burges Hall, a few rooms away from the commons area. My window looked out onto College (University) Avenue. I shared a two-bed unit with one of the star football players. There were a lot of after-hours parties organized by the athletes, who were in charge even to the point of dictating what shows would be seen on the television in the commons room. I kind of enjoyed the experience. I saw it as part of growing up. If nothing else, it better prepared me for the military. I went on active duty in the Naval Reserve in 1967."



## White House Initiative Recognizes UTEP Programs

**The White House Initiative** on Educational Excellence for Hispanics recognized two UTEP initiatives in 2015: "UTEP Celebrates" and the Computing Alliance of Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

Both programs were included in the White House initiative's Bright Spots in Hispanic Education, highlighting programs that address and invest in key education priorities for Hispanics.

At the 2014 UTEP Celebrates event, an innovative outreach effort that promoted college education to more than 180,000 pre-K-12 students in the El Paso region, approximately 80 percent of the students who learned about college were Hispanic.

"What an honor to be recognized by the White House for an event that meant so much to UTEP and El Paso," said Gary Edens, Ed.D., vice president for student affairs. "UTEP Celebrates

was truly a community effort. Our goal was to share the college-going message with all the young people in our region. It's great that the message was also heard all the way in Washington, D.C."

The UTEP-based Computing Alliance of Hispanic-Serving Institutions, or CAHSI, was established by seven Hispanic-Serving Institutions and is dedicated to increasing the number of Hispanic students who pursue and complete baccalaureate and advanced degrees in computing.

"There has been notable progress in Hispanic educational achievement, and it is due to the efforts of these Bright Spots in Hispanic Education," said Alejandra Ceja, director of the White House initiative. Ceja added that programs like these help Hispanic students reach their full potential. - David Chavez

## Enrollment

UTEP Sees Record Enrollment for 17th Straight Year

For the 17th consecutive year, a record number of students registered for the fall semester at The University of Texas at El Paso.

The University registered a total of 23,397 students, compared to 23,079 last year, a 1.4 percent overall increase.

The growth demonstrates UTEP's continuing success in providing an accessible and excellent education to the Paso del Norte region.

"With a record-breaking enrollment and steady growth in first-time undergraduate, transfer and graduate students, UTEP continues to attract talented individuals who will study at an institution well on its way to being the top-tier research university of the 21st century," said Vice President for Student Affairs Gary Edens, Ed.D.

## Research

### Nepal Aftershocks

Geologists Journey to Nepal

More than 8,800 people died and nearly 23,000 were injured in the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal in April 2015.

Scientists estimate that an even bigger earthquake — up to magnitude 8.8 — is on its way. That one would cause more devastation, killing as many as a million people. But to help the country prepare for future earthquakes, researchers first need to understand exactly how this last one occurred.

UTEP's seismological research in the region could help get answers.



After the earthquake, University geologists journeyed to Nepal to place 45 seismometers, devices that measure ground movements, throughout the region. The devices will record aftershocks to better understand the geometry of the Main

Himalayan thrust, the fault line where the April rupture occurred.

"It could also give us an estimation of whether there's a high risk in the next 30 years of a similar event occurring," said Assistant Professor of Geological Sciences Marianne Karplus, Ph.D., who's leading the study.

Depending on what the team discovers, infrastructure in Nepal could be fortified in preparation for larger, future quakes.



**After decades of research** toward protecting the environment, UTEP Department of Chemistry Chair Jorge Gardea-Torresdey, Ph.D., has achieved a dream come true.

The professor is part of a team awarded a fiercely competitive Engineering Research Center (ERC) grant from the National Science Foundation. The five-year, renewable \$18.5 million grant will expand scientific advances addressing the world's urgent demand for clean water through low-cost, energy-efficient and environmentally friendly methods.

These methods have the potential to benefit 43 million Americans who rely on private wells for water with little or no treatment and the 780 million people worldwide who have no access to clean water.

"I became a chemical engineer and environmental chemist because I wanted to do research related to the protection of the environment," Gardea-Torresdey said. "Having been awarded this grant to produce drinking water using nanotechnology makes me incredibly honored and happy."

This ERC grant is the first for UTEP and only the third awarded in Texas in nearly 30 years. The funding establishes a Houston-based Nanotechnology-Enabled Water Treatment Systems Center (NEWT).

As UTEP project leader for NEWT, Gardea-Torresdey will direct a local team alongside other leading experts

from Rice University, Arizona State University and Yale University. The UTEP group includes Assistant Professor of Social Work Eva Moya, Ph.D.; Associate Professor of Chemistry Juan Noveron, Ph.D.; Assistant Professor of Chemistry Dino Villagran, Ph.D.; and Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering Shane Walker, Ph.D.

NEWT's technology converts water from any source – including pond water, seawater and floodwater – for residential or industrial use. Its systems use fewer chemicals, produce little to no waste, create fewer to no harmful disinfection byproducts, and require less energy to operate than typical water treatment systems.

The technology may benefit sites where there is no electrical grid for current energy-intensive purification systems, including local *colonias* – neighborhoods in the Texas-Mexico border region without potable water infrastructures. Other applications include desalinating water for coastal disaster relief and preparing well water for oil and gas production with less environmental impact.

As the first national center to develop affordable, mobile, modular, high-performance water treatment systems that are enabled by nanotechnology, NEWT will work with more than 30 industry and government partners to speed the transition of this technology to the marketplace. - Lisa Y. Garibay

### The five-year, renewable \$18.5 million grant

will expand scientific advances addressing the world's urgent demand for clean water through low-cost, energy-efficient and environmentally friendly methods.

## THE UTEP TEAM

From left: **Juan Noveron**, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry; **Dino Villagran**, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry; **Eva Moya**, Ph.D., assistant professor of social work; **Jorge Gardea-Torresdey**, Ph.D., UTEP Department of Chemistry chair; and **Shane Walker**, Ph.D., assistant professor of civil engineering.



*Recognize the fella at the right?  
Well, you may want to be careful  
if you find the bug in your yard.*

# Chagas Disease

*Texas Bugs  
are Carrying  
Life-Threatening  
Parasite*

**UTEP biologists have learned** that triatomines – nicknamed kissing bugs – in West Texas often carry a deadly parasite.

Kissing bugs are notorious for transmitting *Trypanosoma cruzi* (*T. cruzi*), the parasite that causes Chagas disease. The insects come out at night to feed on blood, but unlike mosquitoes, they don't transmit the parasite through the bite. As the kissing bugs fill up with blood, they drop feces on the subject. The feces, which are contaminated with *T. cruzi*, often land in the bite wound. From there, the parasite penetrates the bloodstream and affects the heart and gastrointestinal system.

Curious to know the prevalence of *T. cruzi* in West Texas insects, UTEP researchers set traps to collect the bugs in Hudspeth County, Texas.

In all, the biologists trapped 39 kissing bugs. Tests revealed that 24 bugs— or 61 percent — were infected with *T. cruzi*. Their findings were published in the journal *Acta Tropica* in July 2015.

"It surprised me that so many of them were carrying the parasite," said Rosa A. Maldonado, D.Sc., an associate professor of biological sciences at UTEP who led the study. "I was expecting to have some, but this is quite high."

Thirty percent of people infected with the parasite develop life-threatening symptoms like heart rhythm abnormalities and difficulty eating or passing stool. The disease also can lead to an enlarged esophagus, colon and heart, and even heart failure.

Maldonado hopes her work brings more awareness to the often overlooked disease, which she calls an emerging infectious disease in the U.S. - **Nadia M. Whitehead**



# 30%

of people infected with the parasite develop life-threatening symptoms like heart rhythm abnormalities and difficulty eating or passing stool. The disease also can lead to an enlarged esophagus, colon and heart, and even heart failure.

Out of all the  
bugs tested

# 61%

were infected.



# Low-Cost Printer Helps HIV Patients

*Thomas Boland, Ph.D., created a less expensive, battery-powered health monitoring tool for use in third world countries.*



Thomas Boland, Ph.D.

**UTEP researchers** have patented a low-cost device that can easily monitor the health of HIV patients living in low-resource settings.

Patients with HIV are encouraged to participate in regular checkups to keep track of their health. These health assessments are made with blood tests that take several days to complete. Devices known as flow cytometers complete the tests by analyzing the blood. Flow cytometers, however, are bulky machines that run on electricity — a luxury that's not available to everyone. The machines also cost upwards of \$50,000.

"Flow cytometers are not practical for areas with limited resources like Africa or Mexico," said Thomas Boland, Ph.D., a professor of metallurgical, materials and biomedical engineering at UTEP who created a less expensive, battery-powered health monitoring tool for use in third world countries. Doctoral biomedical engineering student Julio Rincon and former master's student Silvia Natividad also contributed to the device's creation.

The portable device works by helping clinicians count the number of CD4 cells — cells that are attacked by HIV — in the body. HIV is known to decrease the number of CD4 cells an individual has. When CD4 counts are very low, that indicates the patient's HIV is progressing toward AIDS and a ramp-up of medication is necessary.

Here's how the device works: after drawing a patient's blood, clinicians mix in magnetic microscale beads that latch on to CD4 cells in the blood. The mixture is then placed in an inkjet printer that's been modified to print out cells instead of ink. Rather than printing vertically onto a sheet of paper, the cells are shot out horizontally onto a magnetized microscopic slide. CD4 cells in the blood automatically attach to the slide, while other cells that do not need to be counted dribble down into an excess container.

Doctors can then look at the slide through a microscope to count the number of CD4 cells on it. That number is inserted into an equation that calculates the total number of CD4 cells in the individual's body. The procedure takes as little as 20 minutes, resulting in ultra-quick results.

Boland hopes his new printer will help doctors and patients in low-resource settings who don't have access to flow cytometers.

"There's just not enough infrastructure in some places to get these important lab tests done," he explained. "Our device can bridge that gap cheaply and quickly. HIV patients can be in and out of the doctor's office in no time for a diagnosis or check-up."

The next step is to license the technology to a company that's willing to help get it on the market. Several doctors in Mexico have already expressed interest in the device, Boland said.

- Nadia M. Whitehead



**Amy Reed-Sandoval** also runs a separate program in Oaxaca, Mexico called the Oaxaca Philosophy for Children Initiative. She hopes to find a way to connect these two programs in the future.

**Arts**

# Philosophy for Children

*Program Inspires Young Philosophers*

**S**tudents typically don't take philosophy classes until college, but The University of Texas at El Paso's Department of Philosophy is introducing the subject to children and youth in El Paso.

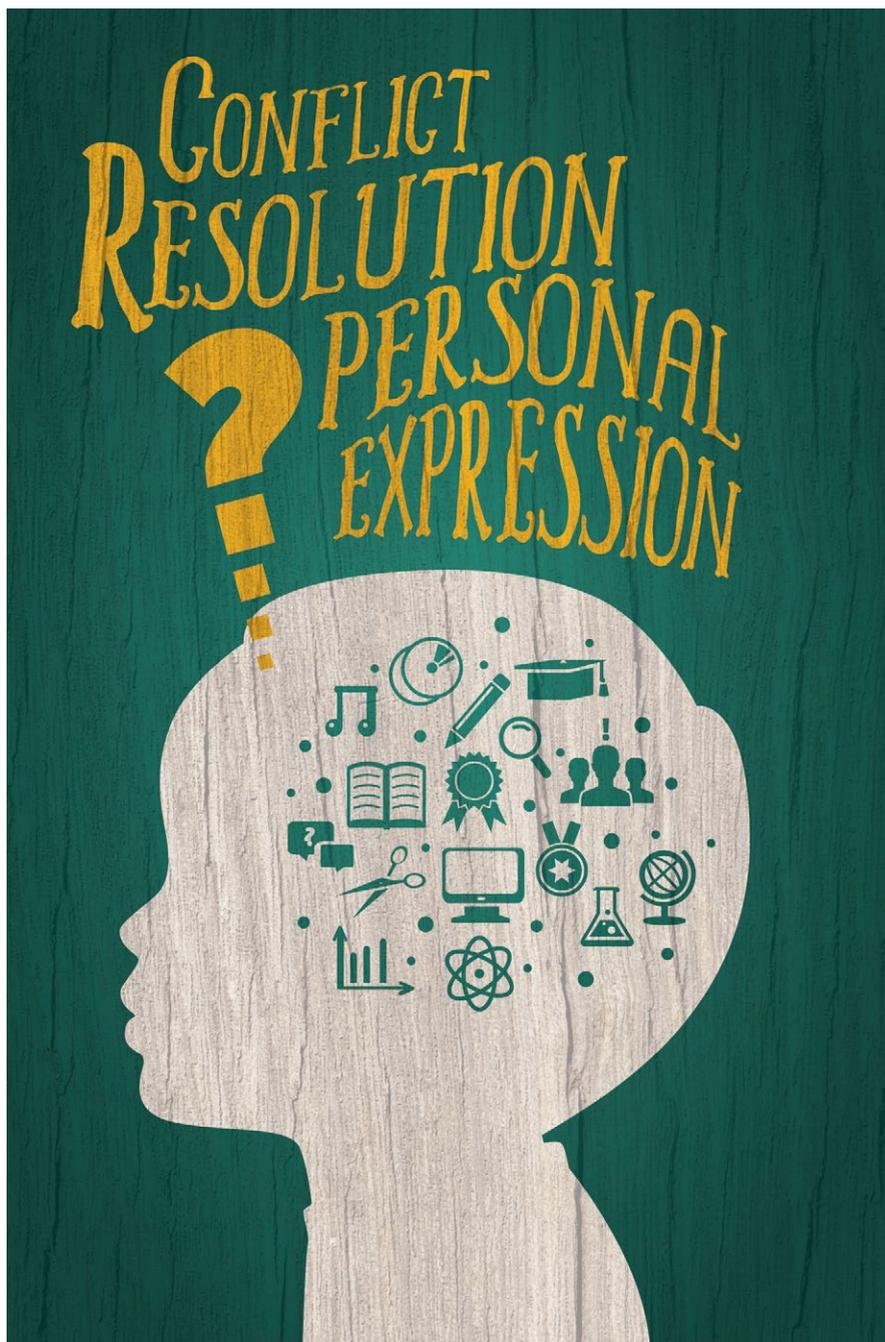
Philosophy for Children in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands is an initiative dedicated to promoting philosophical dialogue for children and youth in the El Paso area.

The bilingual program started at UTEP in the fall of 2014 when Amy Reed-Sandoval, Ph.D., assistant professor of philosophy, launched the nonprofit initiative. It provides free summer philosophy courses to children in kindergarten through 12th grade in the El Paso area. Reed-Sandoval also runs a separate program in Oaxaca, Mexico called the Oaxaca Philosophy for Children Initiative. She hopes to find a way to connect these two programs in the future.

Classes begin with the understanding that every child is a philosopher by nature. Through engaging in philosophical dialogue, children and youth learn to question their world and their unique place in it.

"Philosophy for Children starts with the belief that kids have a right to explore the philosophical questions that are most meaningful to them from a very early age," Reed-Sandoval said. "Our approach to doing philosophy with kids is bottom up rather than top down. Our classes are bilingual, and we strive to make our content and conversations relevant to the unique sociopolitical and cultural context of this region."

Philosophy for Children works closely with community partners including Aliviane Inc., La Mujer Obrera/Rayito de Sol Daycare and Learning Center, YWCA and Austin High School. UTEP students are placed in these partner classrooms and work with children to help them view the world from a philosophical standpoint.



Philosophy for Children classes begin with the understanding that every child is a philosopher by nature.

The UTEP students show children how philosophy can be applied to everyday interactions, such as conflict resolution, personal expression and openness to different opinions. Children in this program are encouraged to participate in educational activities and games that challenge them to ask philosophical questions that look at their personal identities. - **Esmeralda Treviño**

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## “Music Unwound” Grant

UTEP Department of  
Music to Participate

The University of Texas at El Paso’s Department of Music is participating in a \$700,000 “Music Unwound” grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities that will introduce high school and college students to specific composers and how they influenced American music.

Lorenzo Candelaria, Ph.D., professor of music history and literature, leads UTEP’s participation in the program. He will collaborate with New York producer Joseph Horowitz and the El Paso Symphony Orchestra on a series of performances focused on Antonin Dvořák in February 2016 and on Aaron Copland and Silvestre Revueltas in spring 2017.

“Participating in Music Unwound helps students to examine, experience and discuss important issues from various perspectives,” Candelaria said. “It teaches them the value of interdisciplinary collaboration and it highlights the meaningful role that the performing arts can take in driving the important issues of the day and, more importantly, in building bridges across disciplines and diverse cultural and socio-economic communities.”

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## Media in Bhutan

Professor Helps Empower  
Media in Bhutan

In 2015, UTEP served as a core partner in strengthening media leadership in Bhutan, continuing the University’s long tradition of collaboration with the Himalayan kingdom.

Professor of Communication Arvind Singhal, Ph.D., served as co-lead facilitator of a training program for the Bhutan Media Foundation, which is headed by UTEP alumnus and Bhutanese native Dawa Penjor. Participants included producers from the Bhutan Broadcasting Service and representatives from institutions including the Ministry of Agriculture, Sherubtse College of the Royal University of Bhutan, and the United Nations.

The training was rooted in two of Singhal’s specialties: Entertainment-Education and Positive Deviance.

It encouraged the media to address important social issues facing Bhutanese society today through the Entertainment-Education communication strategy, which is based on embedding social change issues in storytelling formats to involve vulnerable populations that

are otherwise difficult to reach. Positive Deviance guides groups to discover hidden solutions to complex social problems through unusual collaborative interaction.

The program resulted in nine Education-Entertainment media plans addressing pressing social issues in Bhutan: domestic violence, drugs and alcohol addiction, teenage pregnancy, corruption, child labor, female leadership and waste management.

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## Rubin Center Anniversary

UTEP Rubin Center Celebrates 10th  
Anniversary through Art and Space  
Interaction

The Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts celebrated its 10th anniversary in November 2015 with a week of exhibitions, performances and conversations that

explored art and space at the border.

The Rubin Center has long brought thought-provoking international contemporary art to the El Paso border community. In 10 years it has grown to be a nationally and internationally recognized center for contemporary art.

Anniversary events centered on the theme “Territory of the Imagination,” and included a conference exploring art and space, the 10th anniversary gala and the launching of artist Tomás Saraceno’s lighter-than-air sculpture.



Visit [utep.edu/magazine](http://utep.edu/magazine) for a video of the Rubin Center anniversary celebration.

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# Race, Authority and Violence

*Lecture Series Looks at Today’s Societal Issues*



In 2015, police shootings of unarmed African-Americans in Ferguson, Missouri; Cleveland, Ohio; and Baltimore, Maryland made headlines and stirred debates across the country about race and policing.

They also motivated UTEP President Diana Natalicio to call on the late Maceo Dailey, Ph.D., African-American Studies director and a Baltimore native, to convene a high-profile social justice committee of faculty and students for a discussion of these issues by the UTEP community.

To this end, the committee invited speakers and panelists to campus for a series of presentations and discussions under the theme of “Race, Authority and Violence in 21st Century America.”

The series, made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, launched in September 2015 and continued through December. The speakers and panelists focused on issues of race, gender, policing, immigration and violence throughout history.

“As a whole, the series addresses institutionalized racism and the social processes that cause the disfranchisement of racialized communities, as well as our perspective of them,” said Selfa Chew-Smithart, Ph.D., interim director of the African-American Studies program. “I am sure attendees will reconsider their views on racism as isolated events and ponder structural inequalities and systemic prejudice as the root of violence in our society. I am hopeful the series will enable us to construct and sustain a civil dialogue to build a better society.”

- Esmeralda Treviño

**Athletics**

# Cheer Leaders

— **She takes a deep breath** on the sideline of Sun Bowl Stadium. After a few quick steps, she jumps into the air. Her feet are off the ground as she twists and tumbles midair before gracefully landing with her hands held high and a smile on her face.

Each week Bailey Sarver defies gravity and stuns the crowd as a University of Texas at El Paso cheerleader.

"I love everything about cheering," said Sarver with a huge smile on her face. "It's my passion."

Cheering has always been a part of Sarver's life. The junior kinesiology major was first introduced to cheerleading when she joined her mother's youth cheerleading team at the age of six. Although she participated in other athletic events, cheering remained her favorite. In high school, she started focusing on it.

Sarver is in her third year as a member of the UTEP cheer squad and her first year as captain. Her responsibilities on the team have grown but her leadership and enthusiasm for cheering continues to help her shine.

"Despite her enormous talent, she works with everybody on the team," said Bianca Marquez, head cheer coach at UTEP. "She has that natural personality to lead. I see that in her. People tend to follow what she is doing. It's something you don't see often."

Sarver's love for cheering is matched by her love to help others. She has helped coach her mother's youth cheerleading team since high school. She also began attending the UTEP Cheer Camp at the age of six, and now helps coach the young El Paso cheerleaders.

Equipped with unshakable determination, a beaming smile and the vital experience she has gained thus far, Sarver plans to pursue a career as a health teacher and cheer coach.

"I love to teach and coach, and I know I can make a difference doing so," she said.

## Bailey Sarver

**Class:**

Junior

**Hometown:**

El Paso

**Major:**

Kinesiology



# Sergio Gonzalez

**Class:**  
Senior

**Hometown:**  
El Paso

**Major:**  
Criminal  
Justice



Each week, Sergio Gonzalez puts on his team uniform, proudly representing The University of Texas at El Paso. His athleticism and strength is astounding, as he skillfully lifts weight into the air. However, Gonzalez's athletic prowess is not demonstrated by playing football or basketball. With the UTEP fan base roaring from the stands, Gonzalez amazes and inspires from the sidelines as a member of the UTEP cheer squad.

"Cheering at the games is awesome," Gonzalez said. "The environment is amazing. It really helps us perform better."

Gonzalez's curiosity led him to begin cheering in high school, when a friend invited him to join the team. As he learned more, he began to recruit other classmates, especially men, to join the team. The team went from having one male cheerleader to seven during Gonzalez's high school days.

Today, cheering continues to be a big part of life for Gonzalez. The criminal justice major is in his third year as a UTEP cheerleader, and his first as a team captain.

"I've seen him grow as a leader and saw him step up to the plate," said Bianca Marquez, head cheer coach at UTEP. "We have a young team and he has taken the rookies and continues to help them learn."

Gonzalez credits his expanding leadership skills to his time in the UTEP Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). He is in his third year in the ROTC program, and is also part of the United States Army Reserve.

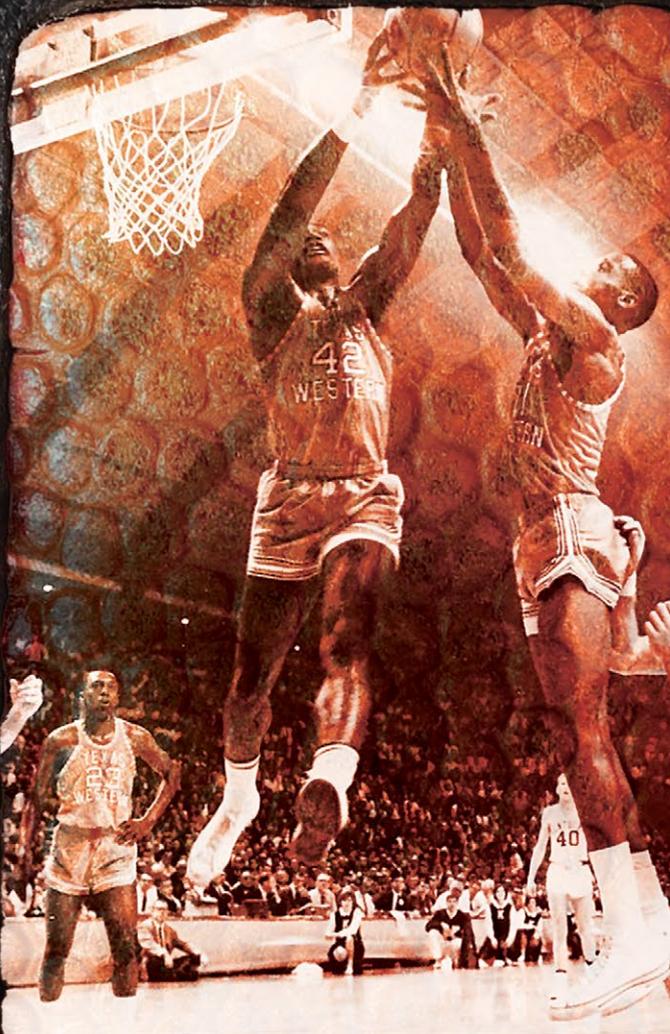
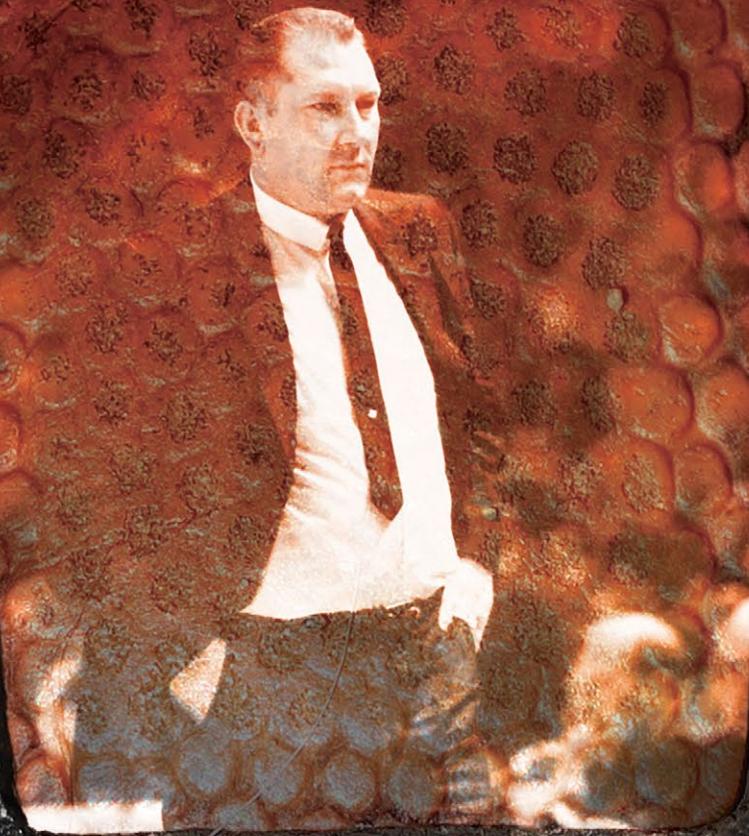
"The ROTC program's goal is to develop you as a leader," Gonzalez said. "That, with the critical thinking and problem solving skills you learn, help us become leaders in the military and as civilians."

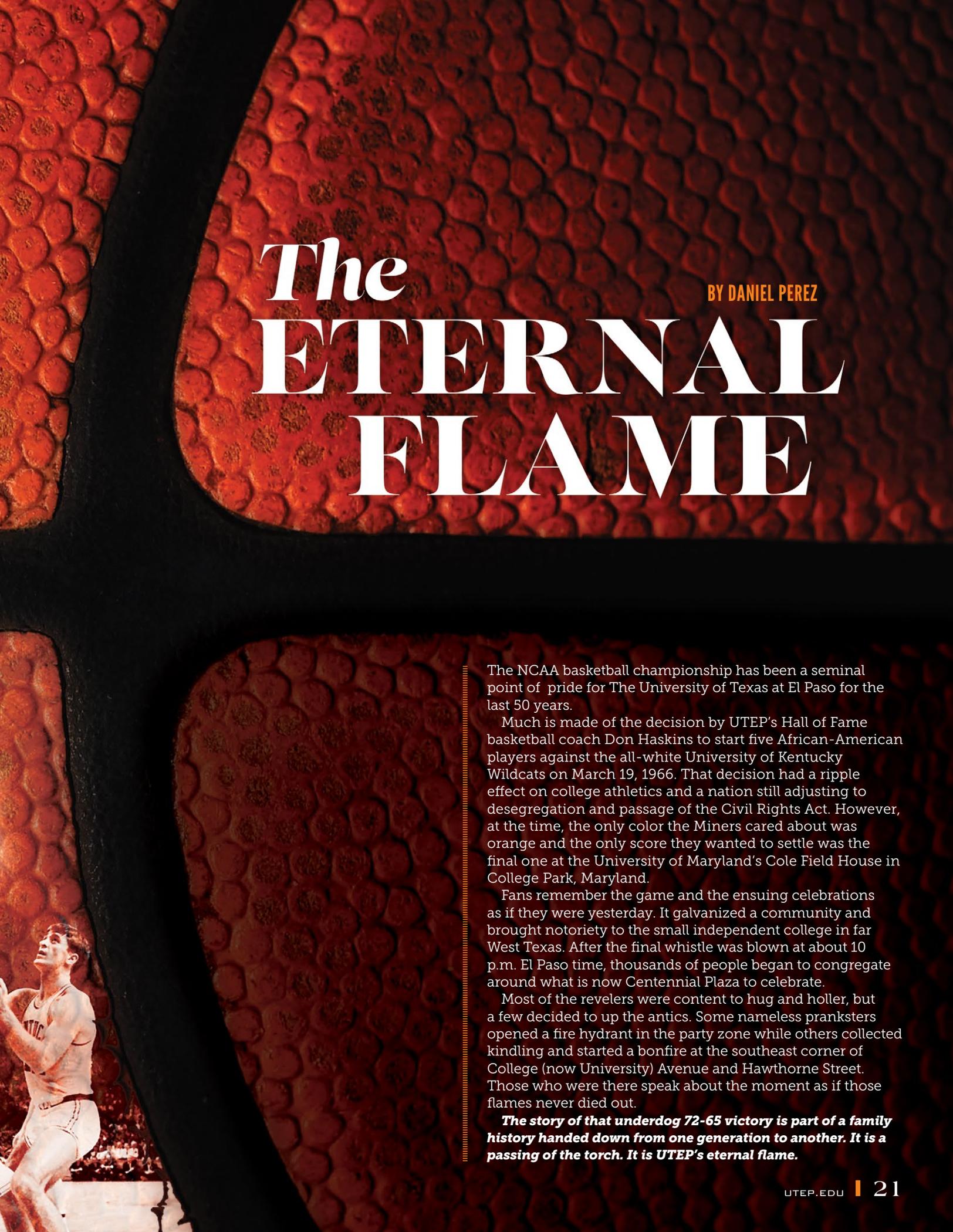
In the future, Gonzalez hopes to pursue a career within the military or as a civilian in law enforcement.

For now, he is excited to continue to cheer and break down the negative stigma against male cheerleaders.

"I love when I see boys look at us and say, 'Wow,'" Gonzalez said.

"It makes me happy that I can help them realize that cheering is amazing and for anyone." - David Chavez





# *The* ETERNAL FLAME

BY DANIEL PEREZ

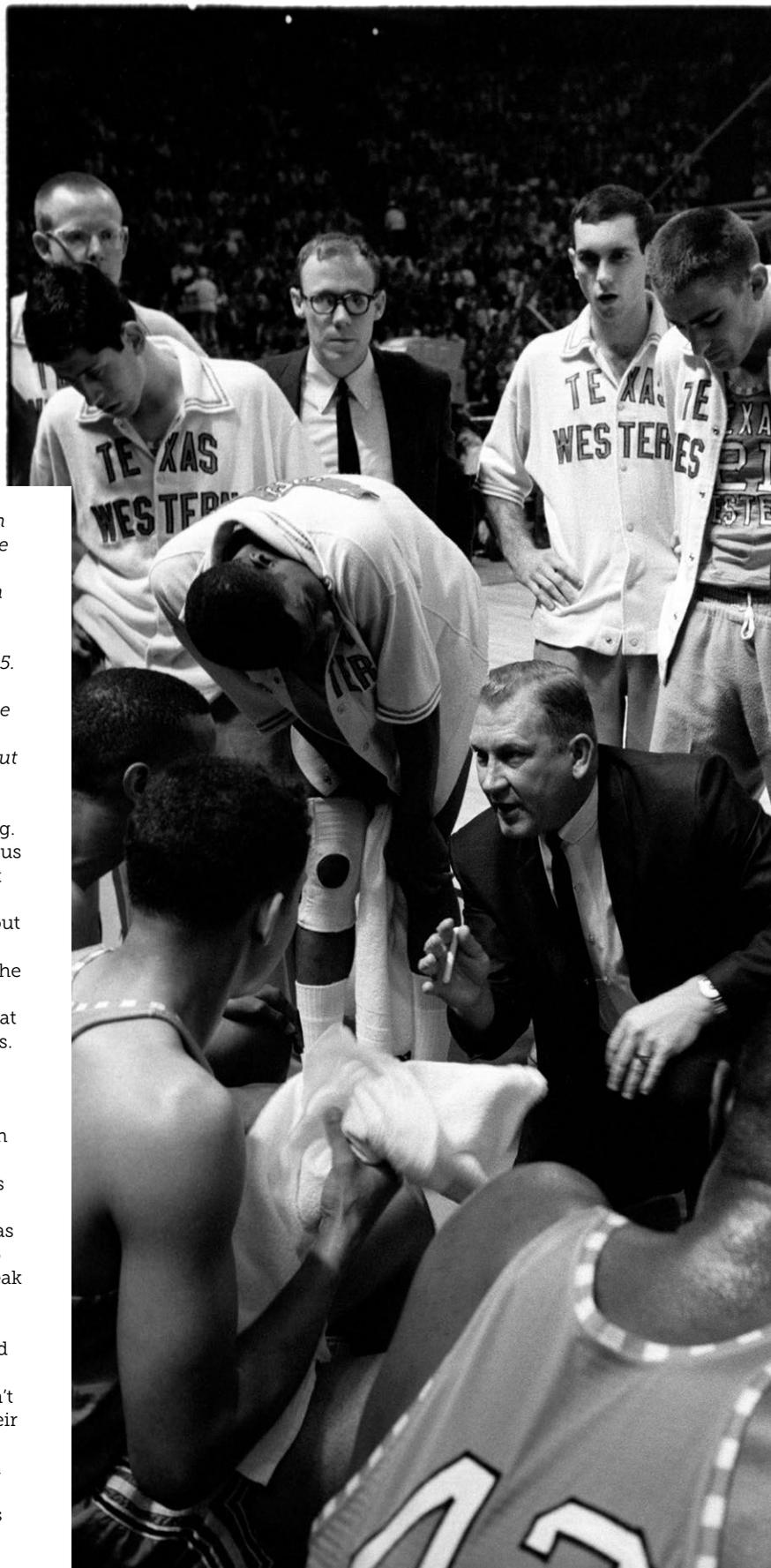
The NCAA basketball championship has been a seminal point of pride for The University of Texas at El Paso for the last 50 years.

Much is made of the decision by UTEP's Hall of Fame basketball coach Don Haskins to start five African-American players against the all-white University of Kentucky Wildcats on March 19, 1966. That decision had a ripple effect on college athletics and a nation still adjusting to desegregation and passage of the Civil Rights Act. However, at the time, the only color the Miners cared about was orange and the only score they wanted to settle was the final one at the University of Maryland's Cole Field House in College Park, Maryland.

Fans remember the game and the ensuing celebrations as if they were yesterday. It galvanized a community and brought notoriety to the small independent college in far West Texas. After the final whistle was blown at about 10 p.m. El Paso time, thousands of people began to congregate around what is now Centennial Plaza to celebrate.

Most of the revelers were content to hug and holler, but a few decided to up the antics. Some nameless pranksters opened a fire hydrant in the party zone while others collected kindling and started a bonfire at the southeast corner of College (now University) Avenue and Hawthorne Street. Those who were there speak about the moment as if those flames never died out.

***The story of that underdog 72-65 victory is part of a family history handed down from one generation to another. It is a passing of the torch. It is UTEP's eternal flame.***



Haskins, who died in 2008, argued long and hard that his decision to start five African-Americans in the championship game, a move that had never been done before, had more to do with wanting to win a game than to make a social statement. So be it, but the team may not have had those African-American players if UTEP, then Texas Western College, had not been the state's first institution of higher education to desegregate at the undergraduate level in 1955.

El Paso, a community of more than 300,000 at the time, was made up mostly of Caucasians, Hispanics, Mexicans and everyone Fort Bliss brought in from other states and other countries. The college enrollment was more than 7,400 and the campus had about 28 buildings, not counting Greek houses and playing fields.

**Willie Worsley, sophomore guard in 1966:** It was eye opening. I was used to tall buildings. El Paso had tall mountains. The campus was small but growing, and that's what I liked. I didn't want to get lost in the sauce.

**Jerry Armstrong, senior forward:** I made my recruiting trip out there and fell in love with the campus and El Paso and decided to sign there. I came from a small farm and had hardly been out of the state. I remember the weather was nice, not like the cold weather in Missouri. It was a great transition for me to go to a large city that was predominantly Hispanic. I got to see a lot of different cultures. The people seemed nice and were supportive of the athletic program.

**Fred Schwake, junior student assistant trainer:** It was a typical small commuter college. You could shoot a howitzer down the middle of College Avenue after 3 p.m. on a Friday and not hit anybody. There weren't that many people. I guess that brought us closer together.

**David Lattin, sophomore center:** I liked the atmosphere. It was very liberal. Everyone was friendly. (Jim) "Bad News" Barnes, who was there at the time (1964), challenged me to come back and break all his records.

**Joe Gomez, freshman history major:** I didn't expect to see so many students from out of town. I met people from New York and the Carolinas. It was a great atmosphere. There were clubs and fraternities and sororities. The dorms were full, and students didn't miss any games. The professors seemed to know everyone by their first name.

**Dick Myers, junior forward:** I flew in from Kansas and fell in love with El Paso from day one. The desert was different and I loved the mountains. The first thing I noticed about the campus was the architecture. It was a good-sized campus for me and everyone was friendly.

## Team formation

Haskins, with the help of his assistant coach Moe Iba, recruited and molded a team that could be explosive offensively, but was drilled and skilled at defense. The team was supported by head trainer Ross Moore.

The head coach, who would end his 38-year career in 1999 with a 719-353 record, was a tough, focused disciplinarian who got the most out of his players. They respected him and, in a few cases, feared him. He was known for his dominating personality and great basketball mind on the court and his sense of humor and laid-back style off of it.

The 1965-66 Miners were a combination of players from around the city and around the country. They were hard-nosed and hard working in general, but each brought their specific skills to the court. They were leapers and leaders, ball handlers and shooters, defenders and rebounders, inspirational and encouraging. They were versatile and confident to the point of cockiness. From starters to bench players, all were important cogs in Haskins' machine.

**Moe Iba, assistant coach:** Bobby Joe (Hill) was a different type of cat. Don tried to change him, but he realized it was best to just let him go. He was one of the quickest guards I ever saw. He had amazing ability. I think (David) Lattin was the key to winning the championship. He was so strong. He could rebound and shoot from inside and outside.

**Dick Myers:** Bobby Joe was the heart and soul of the team. He had a way about him. He wasn't a great shooter, but when you needed one, it went down. It was great fun watching him play. It was fun watching everyone, but him in particular.



## Home court advantage

The players encouraged their classmates to attend the games at Memorial Gym, a relatively small venue designed to seat 4,000 on the northwest side of campus. It opened in 1961, and as the basketball team's level of success improved, so did its fan base. By the 1965-66 season, the college had added 16 sets of retractable wooden bleachers that expanded capacity to around 5,200 and turned the gym into an intimidating, ear splitting box of thunder.

**Willie Cager, sophomore forward:** [Memorial Gym] was a ferocious place to play. There was a lot of yelling and screaming. It was something. It was always packed. There were people under the bleachers trying to watch the games. It was like no other venue.

**Linda Sue (Perkins) Spitzer, sophomore cheerleader:** That place was packed with an energy you could feel. I recall one of the players remarking that the team could feel the floor and the walls vibrate while they waited in the locker room.

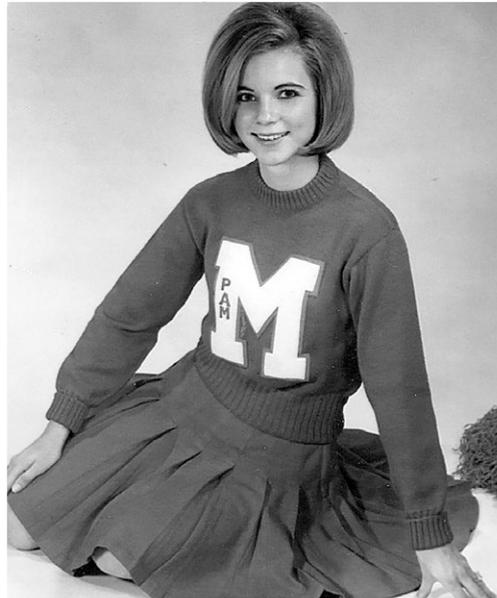
**David Lattin:** It was compact and very cozy. Our opponents hated it. They knew there was an excellent chance they wouldn't win.

**Louis "Flip" Baudoin, junior forward:** I don't remember ever playing a game in Memorial that wasn't a sellout. I didn't envy the visiting teams. It must have been miserable. I attribute my current hearing aids to that time in my life.

**Pam (Seitz) Phippen, sophomore cheerleader:** It was a hard ticket to get. The gym was always crowded. It was often standing-room only. It was easy to get fans involved. Everyone knew the chants: 'Two bits, four bits, six bits, a dollar. All for the Miners, stand up and holler.'

■ Page 21, top left, Texas Western's Don Haskins took his team to a 28-1 record for the season and defeated Kentucky 72-65 in College Park, Maryland to win the 1966 NCAA National Basketball championship March 19, 1966. Rich Clarkson/NCAA Photos

Page 21, bottom right, David Lattin (42) and a Texas Western teammate compete for control of a rebound as Kentucky's Tommy Kron, left, and Pat Riley, right, look on during the 1966 NCAA Championship. Rich Clarkson/NCAA Photos



'Two bits,

FOUR BITS, SIX BITS,  
A DOLLAR. ALL FOR THE  
MINERS, STAND UP  
AND HOLLER.'

PAM (SEITZ) PIPPEN

■ Top, Pam (Seitz) Phippen initially was intimidated by the huge arena and large crowd that was pro-Kentucky. The championship game was the first away game the cheerleaders attended. "I was from a military family. We made no distinction about color," she said.

Left, UTEP coach Don Haskins talks to his team during a timeout at the NCAA Men's National Basketball Final Four championship game against Kentucky, held in College Park, Maryland, at the Cole Field House. Photo by Rich Clarkson/NCAA Photos

# The Championship Game

Although ranked as high as third in the polls, Texas Western College was still an unknown commodity around much of the country. On the other hand, the University of Kentucky and its legendary coach Adolph Rupp already had won four championships and were favored to win in 1966. The crowd at Cole Field House was pro-Kentucky and several Confederate battle flags were being waved in the stands. Haskins said the reason he started sophomore guard Willie Worsley was to counter Kentucky's fast break. It turned out to be a brilliant strategic move. The game's big momentum switch happened after Bobby Joe Hill's back-to-back steals in the first half that led to layups and a Miners lead that was never relinquished.

**Mary Haskins, wife of Don Haskins:** We had a good crowd from El Paso, but the majority of the people were for Kentucky. It was not hostile, but it was not the warm feeling you'd like to have.

**Pam Pippen:** I noticed the rebel flags in the arena, but my only reaction was a shrug. I heard people saying that Kentucky was going to win and that the television cameras were already in the Kentucky dressing room. I went to the restroom and someone asked me if we would hug our players if we win. They had more of a sense of the racial discrimination. I stayed focused and tuned out the crowd.

**Jerry Armstrong:** I saw some (Confederate) flags flying, but it didn't affect us. It wasn't a black or white issue to us. It might have been that way for Kentucky fans, but that was their problem. Starting five blacks is something we had done all year. Kentucky was just another team we had to beat. They had been there before. They were supposed to win. No one had heard of us. We didn't get the (press coverage) from the media out east, but that worked in our favor. That motivated us. The pressure was all on them, but we wanted it worse than they did.

**Moe Iba:** We had no doubts we could beat Kentucky. We thought we had played better teams in the tournament. Cincinnati and Kansas were better. You could see in the faces of the Kentucky players that they had never played against guards as quick as ours or a player as strong as Lattin.

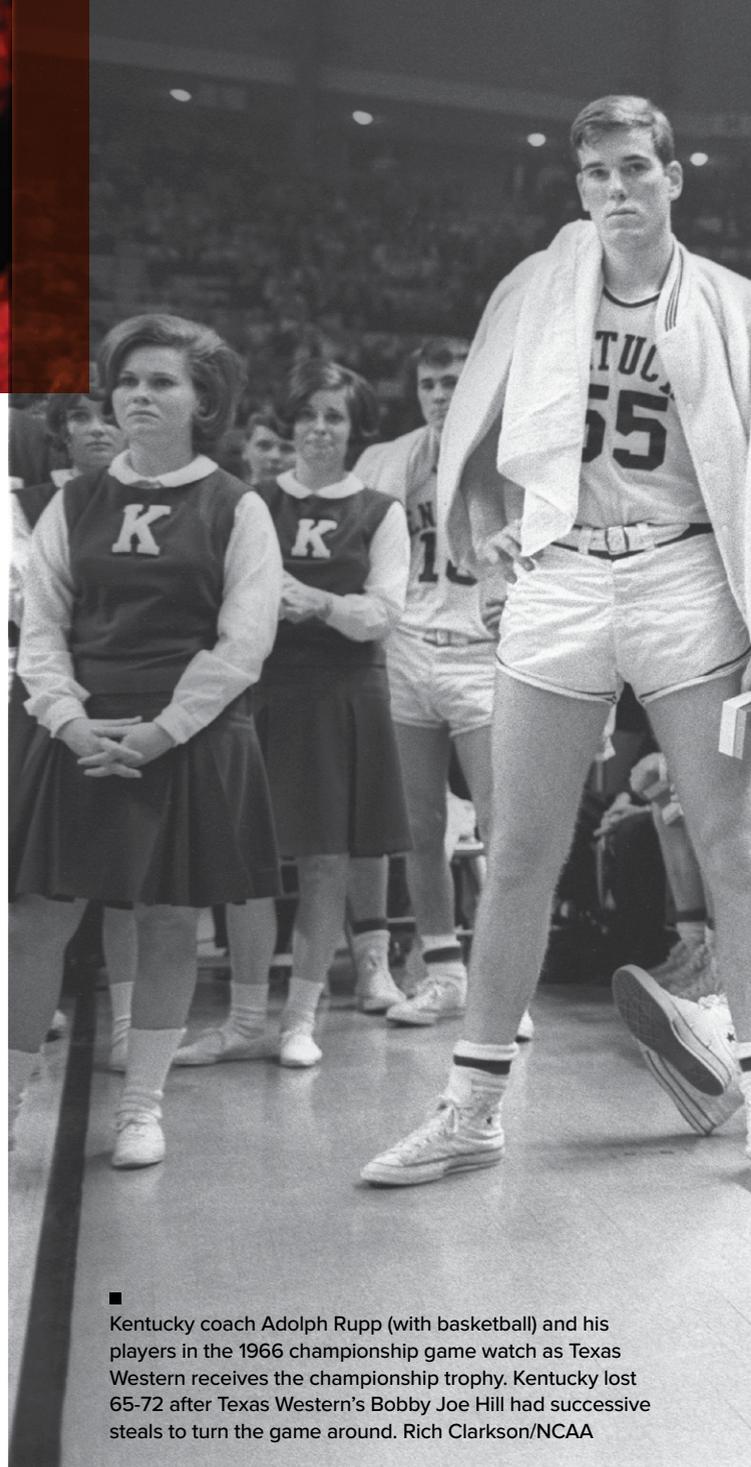
**Joe Gomez:** There were about 20 of us watching the game on a 19-inch black-and-white TV with aluminum foil antennas at the Tau Kappa Epsilon frat house. That first dunk (by Lattin) set the tone. The message was that we were going to be aggressive.

**David Lattin:** Coaches from prior games had complained that we were a rough bunch so the referees were especially looking out for me to make sure I did not take advantage of anybody. My main concern was how I was going to stay in the game.

**Willie Worsley:** We felt disrespected. We were ranked No. 3 in the country and everyone thought the champion would be Duke or Kentucky. When coach gave us the starting lineup he said the four and then he said, 'Willie,' so I turned to (Willie) Cager and said 'Go get 'em.' Then coach said, 'No, it's you little one.' I was happy and ready. I'm from New York, I was ready to play ball.

**Willie Cager:** I came in and guarded (Pat) Riley and got the team to settle down. I played defense. Defense wins ballgames. All we wanted to do was win the game. From the beginning of the game, we knew we were going to win.

**David Lattin:** Coach Haskins was a defensive coach so we didn't have to change anything. He just told us to 'Go out there and continue doing what you've been doing and you should be successful.' We always felt that we were going to win. You never



■ Kentucky coach Adolph Rupp (with basketball) and his players in the 1966 championship game watch as Texas Western receives the championship trophy. Kentucky lost 65-72 after Texas Western's Bobby Joe Hill had successive steals to turn the game around. Rich Clarkson/NCAA

## “Coaches from prior games

HAD COMPLAINED THAT WE WERE A ROUGH BUNCH SO THE REFEREES WERE ESPECIALLY LOOKING OUT FOR ME TO MAKE SURE I DID NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANYBODY...”

DAVID LATTIN



really know, but we had supreme confidence that we would win the game. Our game was mostly about defense, so we forced other teams to play at our tempo. We took Kentucky out of their game plan.

**Louis Baudoin:** As the two teams squared off it quickly became apparent just how different we were. The Miners played full-court defense and were patient on offense. Kentucky was in a hurry and we were not. Watching it play out from the bench was very interesting. Our team felt as though the game was being played at our pace. There was a level of frustration from Kentucky and we fed off it. When it was finished our players were physically exhausted, but if we'd have had the chance, they could have reset the clock and we'd have been happy to go another 40 minutes.

**Barnard Polk, Miners fan, Class of 1977:** I was a big fan of the team and attended every home game that season. Unfortunately, the night of the championship game I was committed to attend Austin in Action at the El Paso County Coliseum. It was one of the high school's biggest events of the year. I was there physically, but my heart and mind were in Maryland with the Miners. Everyone

felt the same way. I couldn't stop thinking about the team.

One of the other members of the court, Bob Geyer, brought his transistor radio and its earpiece, so he would whisper updates to us as the pageant introductions were being made. We'd pass the information along the stage. It was pretty exciting. I found out the final score from my dad, who was one of the chaperones. He was watching the game on a small TV under the coliseum stands. Frankly I don't know how much my parents saw of the pageant. Oh, what a night. I wish I had seen it or heard it, but they won. That's what counted. Soon everyone at the dance knew the score. It took the atmosphere way up.

**Sue (Moore) Manning, sophomore cheerleader:** After we won the championship, a newsman with a microphone stepped between me and the jubilant players and asked me what we were going to do now and I answered that we were going to have a victory party at the motel. He said, "No, are you going to hug and kiss those black boys?" I was stunned. That's when it hit me that they were also upset by our team's racial makeup.

Thousands of fans gathered at campus to celebrate the Miners' victory. The party-like atmosphere lasted well into the night. Some students started a bonfire at the corner of what is now University Avenue and Hawthorne Street while others opened a nearby fire hydrant.



## The Party

**Riley Bench Hall, *The Prospector* sports editor:** Judy (his wife) and I were watching on a black-and-white Zenith in our two-bedroom student apartment across from Memorial Gym. It was a close ballgame. When the game was over, the families started to flood out screaming, hooting and hollering, and heading to campus where people began to congregate and celebrate. One kid climbed the flagpole. It wasn't a drunken crowd, but it was exuberant. Someone started the bonfire with old lumber and the fire department could not get to it because of all the cars. The worst part about the fire was that it melted some of the asphalt. Some students got a wrench and opened a fire hydrant and the water was shooting out with tremendous force. A Cadillac drove by and someone opened the car's door and it was filled with water. Everyone was having a good time. It was the experience of a lifetime.

**Joe Gomez:** The first thing we did was come to campus. People were all over the place. It was a wild, wild scene. Someone had opened a fire hydrant and others had started a bonfire using scraps from a construction project. The fire department parked around Oregon and University. I give credit to the authorities and the students. There were no arrests and no cars were burned or overturned. From there we went to San Jacinto Plaza Downtown where there was more healthy celebrating. We were honking

our horn. I saw people embracing. It was an incredible celebration. The next morning, several thousand people went to the airport to welcome the team back. We stood 10-12 deep. I remember seeing the trophy. I went home after that. It had been a long overnight celebration, but the excitement lasted through the end of the semester. People couldn't get enough.

**Pam Pippen:** After the game we went to a formal event and were bored to tears. We went to the hotel and called our friends in El Paso and heard about the bonfires. We felt like we were missing out on the celebration.

**Willie Cager:** I celebrated with family and friends after the game. It was nonstop. There were probably around 10,000 people waiting for us at the airport. I thought to myself, 'God almighty, this is a big crowd.' I told the crowd at the airport, 'From all of us to all of you, No. 1 is the best we could do.'

**David Lattin:** Every person who could breathe was out on the street, at the campus or at the airport. It was a great time.



Mariachis were among the thousands who greeted the magnificent Miners the next morning at the El Paso International Airport. After speaking on a makeshift stage, the team members got into convertible automobiles for a victory parade back to campus.

# Headlines Tell the Story

## TEXAS WESTERN WINS

Surprising Miners Whip Kentucky, 72-65, in Championship Game  
N. C. A. A. Basketball With Bobby Joe Hill the Star of the Texans' Alert Performance

## Miners Spring Their 'Trap' on Ky.

Nobody at Maryland Thought They Could Win... Wildcat Zone Tough--  
DEFENSE SAYS H...  
By BOB INGRAM  
Nobody but Adolph Rupp calls the defense Kentucky used against Texas Western in the championship game of the NCAA tournament at College Park, Md., the conference zone. It consists of one man out to front, three men strung out in a line near the key and one man in back.  
lead other intrusions. The Miners cashed in on the Wildcat foul and David Lattin, from the wing, jumped for five field goals and had a total of 14.  
Harry Flournoy, who relinquished a knee the night before against Utah, played only six minutes of the finale. He was teamed with pain Navel Ehad, Cager and L...  
The Miners beat Kentucky with a 72-65 final score. The Wildcats got their consolation game with a 72-65 final score.

## GO-GO WITH BOBBY JOE

## Upstart Miners Shock Cats, 72-65, In Final Of NCAA Tourney

COLLEGE PARK, Md., March 19 -- (AP) -- Inspired driving by little Bobby Joe Hill eased his championship  
Texas Western, led by the gymnastic efforts of little Bobby Joe Hill, topped top-ranked Kentucky, 72-65, Saturday night and captured the national collegiate basketball championship.  
In the end, it was Texas Western that had the edge.

## 'The Pressure Got To Us' - Claims Rupp

MEMPHIS, Monday Morning, March 21, 1966  
By BOB GREEN  
COLLEGE PARK, Md., March 20 -- (AP) -- Some 15 years ago Henry Iba was delivering a lecture on the virtues of defense, of course--when he named a dozing sophomore substitute, the Oklahoma State basketball coach promptly ascended periodically with boards and Artis...  
The Yellow Rose of Texas... Miners beat Kentucky 72-65, only to be on the march again. They led by as many as 11 points in the second half, and staved off a Kentucky frantic effort at a 72-65 final score.

## Haskins, TW Dig Success

By TOM WILKINS  
It had been many hours since the Western team had won...

## The NCAA's Champions: New York's Finest

## TWC Miners Capture NCAA Crown

## Miners Soar as 'Big Daddy' Dunks

## Miners--National Champions

## 'Young Punk' Whips the 'Old Master'

## Texas Western 'Mines' Kentucky, 72-65

## Miners Dig Up NCAA Title

COLLEGE PARK, Md., (AP) -- Inspired Texas Western, led by Bobby Joe Hill, topped top-ranked Kentucky tonight and captured the NCAA basketball championship that Coach Adolph Rupp wanted to see collected of four others.  
COLLEGE PARK, Md., March 19 (AP) -- Texas Western, led by the gymnastic effort of Bobby Joe Hill, topped top-ranked Kentucky tonight and captured the NCAA basketball championship that Coach Adolph Rupp wanted to see collected of four others.

# And then what...

People returned to work and their studies by Monday morning. Hall and a few others had to quickly turn around the final sports pages of the '66 yearbook, *The Flowsheet*, which the publisher delayed to allow the college to record the game outcome and celebrations. The team members were big dogs on campus, but the spring semester ended and people and the players moved on to the next thing. Iba went on to be a head coach at several Division One programs. The players went on to successful careers in education, athletics, business and law enforcement. Many of the educators also coached basketball. Most are retired, but remain active in their communities around the country. Hill retired as an executive with El Paso Natural Gas and died of a heart attack in 2002. Haskins was elected into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1997. The team was inducted 10 years later. In February 2006, the team was recognized at a White House dinner hosted by President and Mrs. George W. Bush. It was accompanied by a screening of the Disney film "Glory Road," based on the Miners' 1965-66 season. The team remains the only institution from Texas to win the men's NCAA basketball championship.

**Jerry Armstrong:** I had a lot of people ask me why I didn't play in that game. I was happy that we won, but it bothered me a little. I never asked Coach Haskins about it, but about 10 years ago he told me, 'Jerry, I should have played you.' I respected that because it wasn't his style to apologize. It all worked out. We made a little history.

**Willie Worsley:** It is an honor that people still call me after 50 years and want to talk about that experience.

**Dick Myers:** When we won the championship, I thought those were my 15 minutes of fame. Then the movie came and the Hollywood premiere, dinner at the White House, and the Hall of Fame. I think I'm at about two hours (of fame) at this point and we love it. I love seeing the guys. It's kind of like family. We don't see one another for a while, but then we get together and tell the same stories and we're ready to go. Other than my wife and family, that team was the best thing that ever happened to me.



OUT IN THE WEST TEXAS TOWN OF EL PASO  
HOME OF THE RIVER THEY CALL RIO GRANDE  
DOWN ON THE BORDER, THE TOWN OF EL PASO  
MINERS THE BEST IN THE LAND.

ALL IN THE

# UTEP FAMILY

**PARENTS' EDUCATIONAL  
ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUE  
TO HAVE A HUGE INFLUENCE  
ON THEIR CHILDREN'S PLANS,  
EVEN AFTER COLLEGE.**

BY LAURA L. ACOSTA



Miner football is a family tradition for (from left) Teresa Heimer, Abel Alexander Jaquez, Rose Mary Ortega and Veronica Macias.  
Photo by Laura Trejo

**A**ngela Ortega got up in the middle of the night to catch a ride from her home in El Paso's *segundo barrio* to the cannery in Sunland Park, New Mexico. There she worked long hours on the assembly line, packaging food and dreaming of a different life for her five children.

Ortega often told her children, "The only way out of poverty or ignorance is education. Make sure when you grow up, you get an education."

Unfortunately, Ortega didn't live long enough to see if her children followed her advice. She died suddenly from a fall when her youngest daughters Teresa Heimer and Rose Mary Ortega were 13 and 10 years old, respectively.

"One day we had a mom," recalled Heimer, an assistant principal at Constance Hulbert Elementary School, "then one day we didn't."

Yet Angela Ortega's prophetic words resonated with her daughters with each hardship that followed – Heimer was a teenage mother and a single parent until she married UTEP alumnus Brett Heimer. Rose Mary Ortega dropped out of school in the eighth grade. She earned her GED at age 34.

In 2003, Heimer uprooted their family tree as the first of Angela Ortega's children to graduate from The University of Texas at El Paso with a bachelor's in education, followed by a master's in education in 2006. Rose Mary

Ortega received a bachelor's degree in education in 2009.

"Education was not on my list of priorities," Rose Mary Ortega said about living paycheck to paycheck as a single parent. "I just wanted to work and survive. So after my sister graduated from UTEP, she pushed me to get my degree. But once I finished, it was like a dream come true."

With their UTEP degrees, Heimer and Rose Mary Ortega started a new family tradition. They became members of a celebrated generation of first-in-their-family college graduates. Now the children of these first-generation graduates are earning their own degrees at UTEP.

As UTEP begins its second century, a measure of the University's success is the increase in second-generation college students whose parents paved the way for them to earn a university

education. According to a College Board/National Journal Next America education poll, the choices young people make about higher education after high school are shaped by the attitudes and experiences of their parents.

Second-generation Miners like Abel Alexander Jaquez and Veronica Macias not only inherited a love for UTEP, but their parents served as role models who encouraged them to dream big and pursue higher education and career goals.

"I remember sitting in the student section at the Sun Bowl at football games because [Rose Mary Ortega] would get her free ticket," said Jaquez, a UTEP freshman physics major and Rose Mary Ortega's only child. "It was awesome. Growing

**“EDUCATION WAS NOT ON MY LIST OF PRIORITIES. I JUST WANTED TO WORK AND SURVIVE. SO AFTER MY SISTER GRADUATED FROM UTEP, SHE PUSHED ME TO GET MY DEGREE. BUT ONCE I FINISHED, IT WAS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE.”**

– Rose Mary Ortega

up around that was great because I was able to see my hometown University in a different light and support it. I've been brought up to love the Miners. And now that I'm a student, it's even better."

When Heimer's daughter Veronica Macias was in the third grade, Heimer would point toward UTEP's skyline from their home in Sunset Heights and tell her daughter, "You're going to college. It's right there."

"I tell [my son Bryan] the same thing," said Macias, who earned a bachelor's degree in education in 2004, as she watched her two-year-old son fold his tiny fingers into the "UTEP Pick" sign. "He's definitely going to college. I don't know where, but I'll always push UTEP. It's just in the family."

Sylvia Martinez, center, inspired her husband, Tony Martinez, left, and her son Christopher Martinez to become UTEP nurses. Photo by Laura Trejo



**C**hristopher Martinez and his younger brother Mark always knew college was in their future. It was different for their parents, Sylvia and Tony Martinez, who were expected to join the workforce after high school, and not continue their education.

"My dad would tell me, "You could go into biology, you're smarter than me," recalled Christopher Martinez, who got a bachelor's degree in biology from UTEP in 2007. He started the undergraduate nursing program at the School of Nursing in the fall of 2015 and plans to become a nurse practitioner.

"He told me, 'You have the opportunity that I didn't. My dad didn't help me with school. If you don't want to work you don't have

to. You could just focus on school,'" said Christopher Martinez, owner of Altomar Medical Equipment Company. "He really influenced me."

Tony Martinez, who has bachelor's degrees in biology and nursing from UTEP, experienced déjà vu watching his son follow the same path he did.

**"GOING TO SCHOOL AND GETTING A COLLEGE DEGREE WASN'T SOMETHING THAT CROSSED HER MIND. BUT I WANTED TO HAVE MORE OPPORTUNITIES THAN MY PARENTS DID."**

— Sylvia Martinez

But it was Sylvia Martinez who started the family on the road to a higher education and success.

"I would see her study when she was going to nursing school and she would encourage me," Tony Martinez said of his wife of more than 30 years. "She would say, 'You could do the same thing.'"

Thirty-five years after Sylvia Martinez graduated from UTEP with a bachelor's in nursing, she



# FIFTY-FIVE PERCENT OF CHILDREN FROM FAMILIES WITH TWO COLLEGE-EDUCATED PARENTS EARNED A COLLEGE OR POSTGRADUATE DEGREE, ACCORDING TO A COLLEGE BOARD/NATIONAL JOURNAL SURVEY.

still remembers standing outside her parents' kitchen and hearing her mother slam a rolling pin against the kitchen table after Martinez asked for permission to attend college.

Sylvia Martinez had graduated from Ysleta High School a year early. She earned a scholarship to UTEP, but her mother insisted her daughter get a job to help the family instead.

"Look, she's not supposed to graduate for another year," her father, Reyes Hernandez, reasoned with her mother, Eliza Hernandez. "So give her this year and if it doesn't work out, so what?"

One year stretched into four. With her sister Margie Hernandez, an adviser in the UTEP admission's office, cheering her on, Sylvia Martinez graduated from UTEP in 1980. In 2000, she and her husband, Tony, and his brother Alex opened Altomar, a home health care agency.

"Going to UTEP was something that I wanted to do, but mom's thinking was I needed to stay home and take care of the kids," said Sylvia Martinez, the UTEP School of Nursing's Gold Nugget Award recipient in 2015. "Going to school and getting a college degree wasn't something that crossed her mind. But I wanted to have more opportunities than my parents did."

In Sylvia Martinez' office hangs a picture from her UTEP graduation. She is in the traditional graduation pose, wearing her cap and gown, flanked by her proud parents.

"My mom has a scrapbook," Martinez said with a laugh. "She saves everything – newspaper clippings. It gives her bragging rights with my aunts and uncles."

# At

his 2012 UTEP graduation, Patrick Tinajero leaned over on stage to take a selfie with the former dean of the College of Education – his mom, Josefina V. "Josie" Tinajero, Ed.D.

As he walked away with his bachelor's degree in education, Patrick Tinajero felt a huge sense of pride mixed with a little bit of relief. He was done writing papers and studying for exams, or so he thought.

A year later, Patrick Tinajero was back at UTEP seeking a graduate degree in education.

"I never thought that I would go further than the bachelor's," Patrick Tinajero said. He earned a master's in education in May 2015 and planned to start his doctoral degree in teaching, learning and culture in the spring of 2016. "But I wanted to continue my education because I saw my mom, my brother, my sisters – that's what they did."

UTEP has been part of the Tinajero family since Josie Tinajero graduated with a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1973 and a master's degree in supervision and administration in 1976. She earned a doctoral degree in curriculum and instruction/ bilingual education specialization

from Texas A&M University in 1980.

Her four children – Ana Tinajero, Gloria Tinajero Tovar, Robert Tinajero and Patrick Tinajero – graduated from UTEP and are all educators.

"UTEP for me has been an outstanding opportunity to be able to gain the skills to make a difference in the lives of lots of kids, including my own kids," said Josie Tinajero, a UTEP professor. "UTEP has provided me with great opportunities to reach out to the community, and by doing that it benefited my kids as well. It instilled in them that sense of responsibility for giving back."

For Tinajero's children, the UTEP campus was their playground. While she taught class, her children were in the pre-kindergarten center in the College of Education. They participated in summer

camp, attended functions at Magoffin Auditorium and cheered the UTEP football team at the Sun Bowl. They also helped Tinajero with community outreach initiatives, including the Mother-Daughter Program she created.

When the time came for her children to attend college, UTEP was the logical choice.

Gloria Tinajero Tovar earned a bachelor's in business management in 1996. As a

**"I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I WOULD GO FURTHER THAN THE BACHELOR'S. BUT I WANTED TO CONTINUE MY EDUCATION BECAUSE I SAW MY MOM, MY BROTHER, MY SISTERS – THAT'S WHAT THEY DID."**

– Patrick Tinajero



UTEP is part of the Tinajero family legacy: from left, Robert Tinajero, Ana Tinajero, Josie Tinajero, Gloria Tinajero Tovar and Patrick Tinajero. Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

UTEP Golddigger, Tovar developed a passion for dance. She received her alternative teacher certification from UTEP and became a dance teacher at Del Valle High School. Robert Tinajero, the director of writing studies and associate professor of English at Paul Quinn College in Dallas, holds a Ph.D. in rhetoric and composition from UTEP's College of Liberal Arts.

Ana Tinajero graduated with a bachelor's in education in 1995. While in graduate school for her master's in education, her mother also became her teacher.

"A lot of the students knew the kind of person my mom was," Ana Tinajero said. "They respected her. They knew she wasn't going to let me get away with anything, not that I even tried. It was just natural going into the classroom and treating her like a professor and not like my mom."

The third generation of Miners in the Tinajero family includes Gloria Tinajero Tovar's daughter, Mikaela, a music major. Ana Tinajero is already prepping her six-year-old son to become a Miner.

"Just bringing him here and saying, 'Look, one day you, too, can come to UTEP,' is a natural way to talk to him about how important education is," Ana Tinajero said.

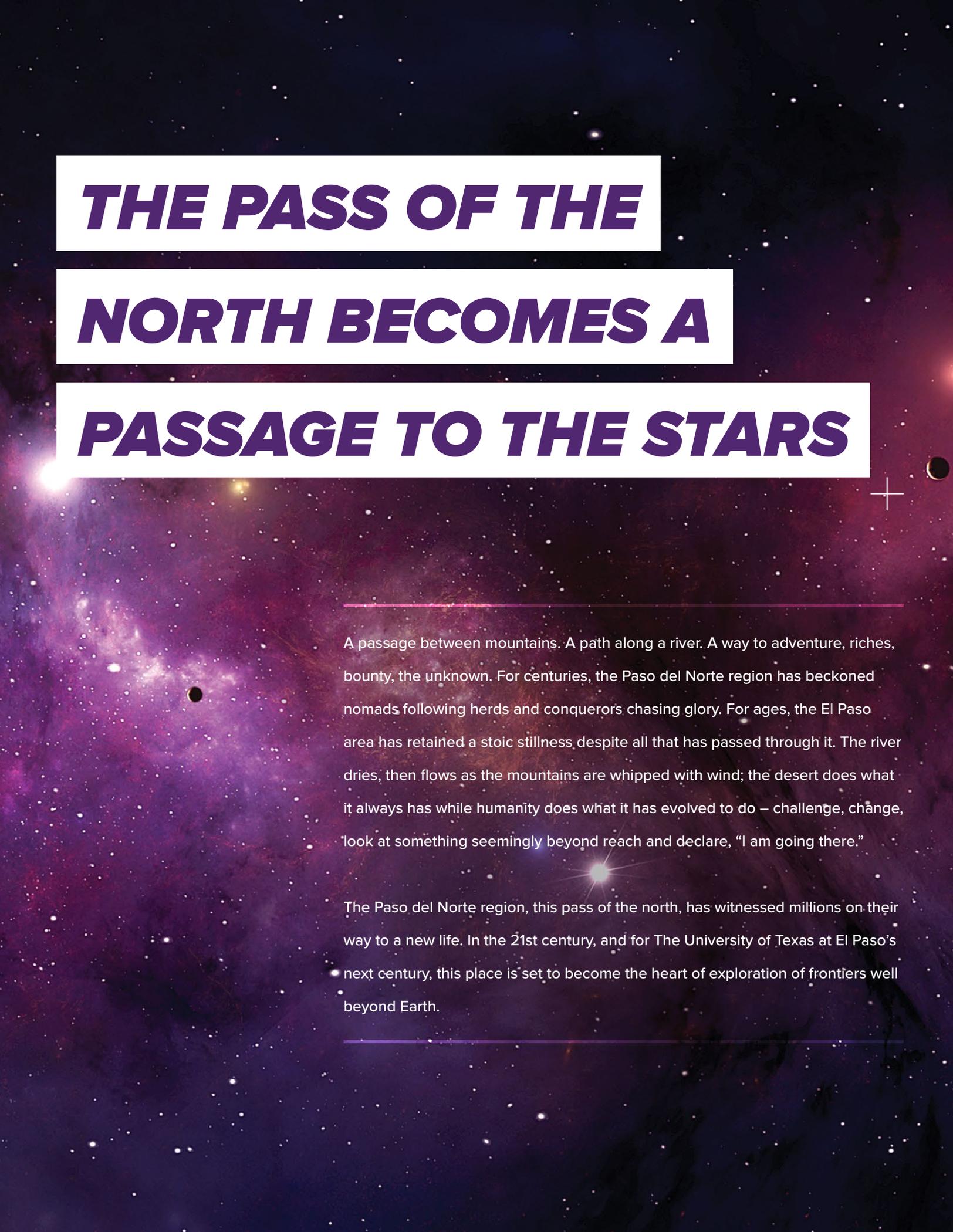
**OUT OF THE 1,271  
RESPONDENTS TO  
THE COLLEGE BOARD/  
NATIONAL JOURNAL  
SURVEY, 80 PERCENT OF  
THOSE WHO WERE RAISED  
BY TWO GRADUATES  
SAID THEIR PARENTS  
ENCOURAGED THEM TO  
ATTEND A FOUR-YEAR  
SCHOOL.**





# SPACE MINERS

*BY LISA Y. GARIBAY*



***THE PASS OF THE***

***NORTH BECOMES A***

***PASSAGE TO THE STARS***

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A passage between mountains. A path along a river. A way to adventure, riches, bounty, the unknown. For centuries, the Paso del Norte region has beckoned nomads following herds and conquerors chasing glory. For ages, the El Paso area has retained a stoic stillness despite all that has passed through it. The river dries, then flows as the mountains are whipped with wind; the desert does what it always has while humanity does what it has evolved to do – challenge, change, look at something seemingly beyond reach and declare, “I am going there.”

The Paso del Norte region, this pass of the north, has witnessed millions on their way to a new life. In the 21st century, and for The University of Texas at El Paso’s next century, this place is set to become the heart of exploration of frontiers well beyond Earth.

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## ◀ JOHN "DANNY" OLIVAS

*Former astronaut, UTEP alumnus and director of its Center for the Advancement of Space Safety and Mission Assurance Research (CASSMAR) — during a spacewalk in 2009.*

*Photo courtesy of NASA/Christer Fuglesang*

Ahsan Choudhuri and John "Danny" Olivas are a big part of UTEP's long-term strategy to bring this region to the forefront of space exploration. The plan includes growing the University's NASA MIRO Center for Space Exploration and Technology Research (cSETR) and its Center for the Advancement of Space Safety and Mission Assurance Research (CASSMAR). Choudhuri and Olivas have joined in a University effort to develop even more research facilities, and – most fundamental to the University's mission – create additional graduate degree and certificate programs for students to become leaders in this field.

Choudhuri, Ph.D., is chair of UTEP's mechanical engineering department and director of cSETR, which he established upon arriving at UTEP in 2001.

"I was told UTEP was all about opportunity, so I decided to come here to teach and build the aerospace program for its students to have a shot in this career," he said.

Doctoral student Martin de la Torre is one who has been impacted by the opportunities at UTEP. While many jobs at space-related organizations require U.S. citizenship or residency, cSETR helped the Mexican national gain cooperative education placement as a thermal fluid science engineer with engine technology giant Cummins Inc., where he was recognized as Analysis and Testing Technology employee of the month. He hopes to rejoin that team after completing his Ph.D.

"cSETR has been a great stepping stone in my career and that of my peers by providing me with a wide variety of equipment and technology utilized in the engineering industry," de la Torre said.

cSETR received its first \$5 million grant

“  
**As I like to say, the space industry – even though it's rocket science – is not just rocket science.**  
”

Danny Olivas

in 2009 and its second in 2015 to develop rocket engines using liquid methane as a new "green" propellant. Choudhuri proudly describes the research program as one of the largest in the country and one that has put UTEP on the map as an aerospace powerhouse. Despite this, the educator believes one shortcoming must be resolved.

"All the students are highly talented, but none of them are in El Paso," he said. "We trained them, they now have very good careers, and it has made a big impact on their lives. But technically, it did not make an impact on our community's life because we weren't able to retain them."

For Choudhuri, the last 15 years were dedicated to creating a research ecosystem at the University, building extraordinary capabilities that allow students to get solid training so they can be players in federal agencies like NASA or in private endeavors

like space tourism outfit Blue Origin. Now, he and his partners are focusing on bringing jobs to the area to raise the quality of life for all of El Paso.

Olivas, Ph.D. – an El Paso native and UTEP graduate – is one of the lucky few who have left Earth's orbit as an astronaut. In 2013, he landed back at UTEP to lead CASSMAR.

"Part of what we're trying to do is teach the researchers – and by that I mean the students – that when you approach a problem, you can't just look at it from your narrow focus of expertise," Olivas said. "As I like to say, the space industry, even though it's rocket science, is not just rocket science."

In tandem with CASSMAR's opening, UTEP was one of just a handful of universities granted remnants from Space Shuttle Columbia by NASA's Columbia Research and Preservation Office at the Kennedy Space Center. Perhaps as a testament to the agency's faith in the UTEP center's capabilities, it was given the largest pieces.

Study of these pieces is central to CASSMAR's day-to-day activities. Columbia disintegrated upon reentering Earth's atmosphere in 2003. All seven crew members died.

Olivas' team, which includes doctoral research assistant Jessica Buckner, is working to ensure that does not happen again.

The opportunities afforded to students like Buckner include internships at NASA facilities like Glenn Research Center, Johnson Space Center, Marshall Space Flight Center and White Sands Test Facility, as well as private corporations that contract with the federal agency. This connectivity plus her own dedication earned Buckner a Department of Defense fellowship that will

guarantee her a job at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico upon graduation.

But she will be away from El Paso, and therein lies the rub.

Engineers and scientists who graduate from UTEP are so desirable for their skill sets and career preparation that they are snapped up immediately, at times given offers even before their degrees are in hand, by those trailblazing space exploration and its related industries.

Up to now this has mostly been NASA and its contractors, but fierce private competitors like SpaceX and Virgin Galactic are quickly expanding the industry. All are scrambling for the most capable personnel, the most successful research, the most impressive missions. And all are headquartered elsewhere.

But with UTEP's ongoing work and planned expansion, these entities may hurry to get here as soon as possible.



This part of the world may seem unlikely for the heights involved in space exploration. But on a basic logistical level, it suits explorers. For those early-era trailblazers, there was a life-giving river, the Rio Grande; for 21st century technological wizards, there are vast swaths of empty land.

"The West Texas region provides a valuable environment for developing and testing new aircraft and rockets with comparatively low cost," said Mason Peck, Ph.D., former chief technologist for NASA. "The wide-open spaces and sparse population ensures that this kind of research and development can proceed safely and efficiently."

El Paso's hat trick combines the physical environment with Mexico's history of low-cost, solid quality aerospace component manufacturing and the high-power scientific capacity of UTEP, White Sands and Department of Energy labs to the north. Peck calls it "a corridor of regional high-tech

capability" that will attract many others like it has Blue Origin, which set up shop in nearby Van Horn, Texas.

An additional capability is UTEP's strength in another kind of science: economics.

"There's a lot of research, design and industrial activity in the region surrounding us and UTEP sits in the center of that," said Patrick Schaefer, executive director of UTEP's Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness. "[The University is] in this strategic position to develop trade links, manufacturing facilities, and research and design to support those outlying activities throughout the Southwest and Mexico."

Schaefer and his team of economists, which includes students receiving real-world experience in this integral sector, have been working on a web-based aerospace

map cataloging all industrial, research and development, design, launch, and academic activity being undertaken in New Mexico; Chihuahua, Mexico; and West Texas. It aims to be a very persuasive argument substantiating why businesses should invest locally.

Echoing this assessment of local value is Robert Queen, director of the El Paso, Texas and New Mexico U.S. Export Assistance Center, which is managed by the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration.

"This region is one of the most competitive manufacturing centers in North America," Queen said. "Companies have the ability to produce quality products either in Mexico or the U.S.A., and both production sites can be only a few steps apart."



## JESSICA BUCKNER

*Is a Ph.D. candidate in materials science with a focus in aerospace studies, and a research assistant at CASSMAR. Buckner entered UTEP's accelerated doctoral program after receiving her bachelor's and master's degrees in metallurgical and materials engineering from UTEP.*

Photo by J.R. Hernandez



UTEP began as an institution geared toward the mining industry, preparing its graduates to delve deep into the ground to excavate the raw materials that would satiate the ravenous appetite of an industrializing nation. While the University has expanded well beyond its original purpose, it has perpetuated the tradition of equipping graduates with all they need to succeed, both in mindset and skill set.

Whether dealing with exploration miles below or above Earth, it all comes down to people. Making students its greatest investment means that UTEP alumni are leading the way to space.

"UTEP's students have access to extraordinary, cutting-edge equipment that puts them at the forefront of experiential learning," Peck said. "Engineering students at UTEP are exposed to 3-D printing and other contemporary paradigms from their very first semester. That experience makes them highly sought after in the youthful, vibrant environment of space startups, which embrace new approaches to technology."

Global aeronautics leader Lockheed Martin was an early partner with UTEP's education efforts in the field, from concentrated recruitment of graduates to a \$600,000 on-campus facility for engineering students to put theory into practice. While aeronautics focuses on aircraft that stay within the

Earth's atmosphere, its technology factors heavily in space travel. At UTEP, Lockheed has invested in aeronautics research while firing up a future workforce.

David Rapisand, director of overhead control and financial management for Lockheed Martin, explained that the success of the three-year initiative aimed at student training and hiring of graduates led to Lockheed's sponsorship of the University's Mechanical Engineering Lab in 2011.

Furthermore, Lockheed's leaders were so impressed with how its presence at UTEP functioned as a hands-on teaching lab that it extended its agreement with the University for another five years in July 2015. Other companies have noticed the Lockheed Martin presence at UTEP and have inquired about how they might achieve success in working with the University and in recruiting top graduates.

"These companies, like Lockheed Martin, are working on building a workforce that meets 21st century demographics," Rapisand said. "If companies are going to be competitive both financially and technically, establishing relationships similar to Lockheed Martin's at UTEP will prove valuable in meeting those challenges."

Blue Origin is among a handful of companies breaking ground in space tourism, hoping to offer everyday people a chance to buy a ticket and touch the stars. But even with a consumer-oriented business model, the need for top personnel and technology is still there.

Chris Navarro, a project manager for Blue Origin who received his bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from UTEP, is emphatic that he wouldn't be where he is now without the experience the University gave him.

"I was able to start my master's right when NASA started funding cSETR and we were effectively building it from the ground up," Navarro recalled. "Dr. Choudhuri gave us free reign; he'd give us a project scope and let us do it."

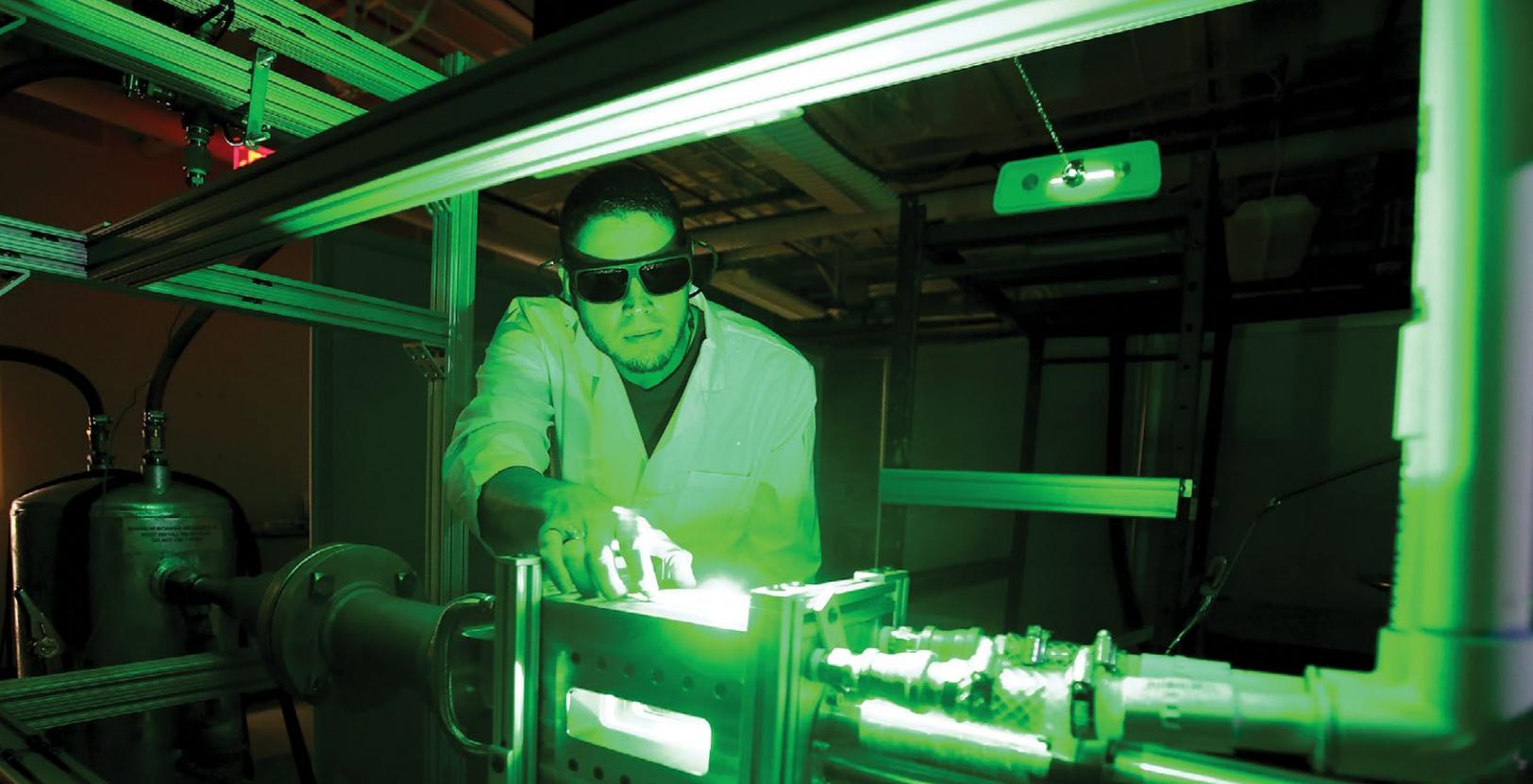


## MARTIN DE LA TORRE



*Is a doctoral student in energy engineering and a research assistant at cSETR. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from UTEP.*

*Photo by J.R. Hernandez*



*Martin de la Torre, a doctoral student in engineering and a research assistant at cSETR, uses a high-powered laser to study combustion in propulsion systems, an area intrinsic to aerospace.*

*Photo by J.R. Hernandez*

That hands-on hardware design and testing meant he was able to easily segue into professional responsibilities. It's a big difference from what some of Navarro's fellow alumni have seen when they go out into the working world and meet peers who are steeped in theory versus practicality.

"There are a lot of engineers out here who have not seen hardware or even worked with it," said Chance Garcia, Ph.D., a liquid propulsion combustion device design engineer at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama. Garcia received all three of his degrees at UTEP. "In terms of coming to the job with hardware experience, I think that's where UTEP really excelled for me and helped me get into the motion of things here at work a lot quicker than most people," he said.

Navarro is eagerly serving as a bridge between his employer and potential future employees to show what his alma mater can do. He coordinated a visit by UTEP students to Blue Origin's headquarters – a first for the notoriously secret company – just weeks before it made history with the flight and landing of its reusable New Shepard space vehicle. In fact, it was Navarro's team that facilitated developmental and acceptance testing of the engine that powered the vehicle.

"Before, NASA, my company and others would go after other university's graduates. But now, they're seeing what we're doing at UTEP and saying, 'Hey, these guys are pretty solid. They're graduating very knowledgeable students who can go right into the workforce.'"

Space industry decision makers know it is the students of today who will be living tomorrow's dreams of space travel. UTEP is connecting the industry and students, empowering both to move forward quickly and confidently into a productive future.

For Garcia and his wife, Zenia, who is also a UTEP alumna working as a vehicle structures design engineer at Marshall Space Flight Center, that future may include moving back home to start their own company. It's a direction they've often discussed with fellow alumni who have established solid career paths within the space industry but want to return to El Paso.

And while Buckner's postdoctoral job will be taking her hundreds of miles away, she remains her hometown's fiercest defender and her university's biggest cheerleader.

"When you think of engineering, you don't necessarily think of El Paso," she said. "[But] we don't have to live in Dallas or Houston or Albuquerque to do cool, space-based stuff."

Buckner has heard industry professionals say that one of the best traits of UTEP's students is their humility and ability to adapt to different situations. That resourcefulness – that ability to keep going no matter what and with everything you've got – may be at the core of what UTEP and its surroundings have to offer the space industry. It's a quality that this place and its people have been perfecting for ages.



# The Alumni Lounge

ALUMNI NEWS, PROFILES, OBITUARIES AND PHOTOS

## 1950s

**Rosa E. Guerrero (B.A. '57, M.Ed. '77)** received the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Bravo Award from the League of Women Voters of El Paso for her longtime service as a cultural icon in El Paso.

## 1960s

**David H. Lindau (B.A. '61)**, senior advisor at Lauterbach Financial Advisors in El Paso, was recognized as a lifetime member of the Texas Society of CPAs for 40 consecutive years of membership in the association.

**Walkira Maldonado (B.A. '66)** joined Hospice of El Paso as a community relations representative. Maldonado most recently served as a physician's liaison at the Dental Ark in El Paso.

**Nestor A. Valencia (B.A. '63, M.A. '69)** was inducted into the El Paso Historical Society's Hall of Honor. Valencia worked in urban and regional development.

## 1970s

**Maj. Gen. Juan G. Ayala (BBA '79)**, a two-star Marine Corps general, retired after 36 years.

**Joe F. Cardenas (B.S. '74)** received the Distinguished Engineer of the Foundation Award from the Texas Society of Professional Engineers and the Texas Engineering Foundation. The award recognizes distinguished service and technical achievement in the engineering profession in Texas.

**Mary Kathy Daniels (B.A. '79)** was named Law Office Administrative Manager for the Office of the Legal Defender in Maricopa County, Arizona.

**Carl H. Green (B.A. '73)**, an attorney with the firm Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson & Galatzan, was included in the Best Lawyers 2016 list for El Paso in the personal injury litigation-defendants category.

**Sylvia D. Hopp (B.S.'75, M.Ed. '82)** was named Region 19 Superintendent of the Year. Hopp has 40 years of experience in education and was appointed superintendent of the San Elizario Independent School District in San Elizario, Texas in January 2012.

**Frank John "Pancho" Mangan (BBA '78, MPA '10)** was named executive director of business development for The Hub of Human Innovation, an El Paso-based technology incubating company that nurtures the development of small businesses.

**Gilberto Moreno (B.S. '74)** was named a member of the Ysleta Education Foundation's 2015-16 board of directors in El Paso.

**Sandra L. Swift (B.S. '74)** joined the residential team at Rio Bravo Title in El Paso as an escrow officer.

**Oscar E. Venegas (B.S. '73)** received a *Hispanos Triunfadores* Award in the category of business from McDonalds. The awards are given to individuals for achievements in their fields, contributions to the community, and for serving as role models to El Paso-area youth.

**Robert V. Wingo (BBA '73)**, chair of El Paso-based SandersWingo advertising agency, has been elected to the Ad Council board. The council is the largest U.S. producer of national public service campaigns.

## 1980s

**Yvonne M. Acosta (BSN '83, MSN '88)** was named a 2015 board member for Hospice El Paso, the city's only nonprofit hospice providing specialized care, comfort and support to patients and their families.

**Dana R. CassoLopez (BBA '88)** was named Vice President of Marketing for Teachers Federal Credit Union in El Paso.

**Manuel Castruita (B.S. '88, M.Ed '92)** was selected to participate in the nine-month Paso Del Norte Health Foundation REALIZE Leadership Program in El Paso. The program is designed to transform good leaders into transformational leaders for the benefit of the region's health.

**Dawn E. Davis (B.S. '85)** was appointed principal at Frank Macias Elementary School in the Clint Independent School District in far east El Paso County.

**Yolanda Estrada (BBA '80)** was named a member of the Ysleta Education Foundation's 2015-16 board of directors in El Paso.

**John R. Falvey (BBA '81)** was named a 2015 board member for Hospice El Paso, the city's only nonprofit hospice providing specialized care, comfort and support to patients and their families.

**Yusuf E. Farran (B.S. '86, M.S. '94)** was appointed to the Texas Credit Union Commission by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. The commission is responsible for ensuring that Texas credit unions function as a system.

**Maria G. Gonzalez (B.S. '84)** was named one of 10 finalists for the Lumen Christi Award – the highest national award by the Catholic

Extension, a national fundraising organization that supports poor mission dioceses across the United States.

**Felix Hinojosa (B.S. '87, M.S. '88)** received a *Hispanos Triunfadores* Award in the category of education from McDonalds. The awards are given to individuals for achievements in their fields, contributions to the community, and for serving as role models to El Paso-area youth.

**Marcela Y. Navarrete (BBA '89)** was recognized as the 2015 Outstanding Ex for Austin High School in El Paso. Navarrete is vice president of strategic, financial and management services at El Paso Water Utilities.

**Irene D. Ramirez (B.S. '82)**, the first woman to hold the job of City Engineer for El Paso, retired after 33 years with the city.

**Michael T. Shahan (BBA '85)** was named a 2015 board member for Hospice El Paso, the city's only nonprofit hospice providing specialized care, comfort and support to patients and their families.

**Alfonso Soto (BBA '86, M.A. '89)** was named a member of the Ysleta Education Foundation's 2015-16 board of directors in El Paso.

**John A. Wenke (B.A. '89)** was recognized as a "Texas Super Lawyer" in the area of plaintiff's employment litigation by Texas Monthly magazine. Wenke also was named one of the Top 50 Attorneys in Central and West Texas, which includes all lawyers in Austin, San Antonio and El Paso.

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# Knock-Out

Jennifer Han '07

**Jennifer Han has been knocking out** her competition since she was in kindergarten.

Han learned Tae Kwon Do in her father's studio – Han's Oriental Martial Arts – when she was 5 years old. She was kickboxing competitively at age 12, and by age 16 the El Paso native was on her way to a decorated boxing career.

On Sept. 19, 2015, Han – whose small, wiry frame conceals a stinging left jab – stepped into the ring at the Don Haskins Center against Nigerian boxer Helen Joseph. She emerged as El Paso's first world champion after 10 rounds.

At age 32, Han had secured the International Boxing Federation World Featherweight Championship title in the same arena where she graduated from The University of Texas at El Paso in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology.

"I've fought all over the world," said Han, a six-time national amateur champion. "But fighting at the Don Haskins Center for my world title fight was truly a blessing. I am extremely proud of how far I've come in El Paso and to actually do it in front of my hometown – nothing beats that."

Han's family has always been in her corner. The world class fighter and her younger siblings – Abraham, a professional boxer, twins Stephanie and Heather, and Israel – trained under their father, Master Bae Hyun Han, since they were children.

Strong punches and sharp footwork were not the only things the siblings learned from their father. Bae Han also stressed discipline and respect, and he encouraged his children to continue their education. Abraham Han and Stephanie Han are also UTEP graduates.

"To get a university education was very important for my family because my dad, he wants us to be the best, not just physically but mentally," Jennifer Han said.

Her background in kinesiology has helped Han hone her skills as a coach. In 2012, she was named assistant head coach to the USA Junior Olympic Team contingent at the Junior Olympic Championships in Russia.

Han is itching to defend her world title in March 2016. Until then, she will dedicate her afternoons to teaching martial arts to 5-year-olds in her family's gym.

"They're learning from the best," said Shareen Leverette, whose three children take lessons from Jennifer Han. "I feel intimidated by her, but I feel like, 'Okay, they're in good hands.'" - Laura Acosta



At age

32

Han has secured the International Boxing Federation World Featherweight Championship title.

## 1990s

**Antonio Acuna (BIS '93, M.Ed. '00)**, former principal at Rio Bravo Middle School, was appointed principal at Del Valle High School in El Paso.

**Ruben Cadena (B.S. '92, M.Ed. '98)**, former principal at Mission Valley Elementary School, was appointed principal at Alicia R. Chacon International School in El Paso.

**Sally A. Hurt Deitch (BSN '90, MSN '94)**, CEO of Sierra Providence Health Network in El Paso, was appointed to the Paso del Norte Health Information Exchange board.

**Andrea C. Gates-Ingle (BIS '99)** was selected to participate in the nine-month Paso Del Norte Health Foundation REALIZE Leadership Program in El Paso. The program is designed to transform good leaders into transformational leaders for the benefit of the region's health.

**Lorraine R. Martinez (BIS '94, M.Ed. '09)**, former assistant principal at Dolphin Terrace Elementary School in El Paso, was promoted to principal.

**Liliana I. Miranda (BBA '98)**, first senior vice president and chief risk officer at WestStar Bank in El Paso, was appointed Risk Management/Internal Audit Council Chair of the board of directors for Financial Managers Society and named a 2015 board member for Hospice El Paso, the city's only nonprofit hospice providing specialized care, comfort and support to patients and their families.

**Gail Prince (M.Ed. '91)** was elected the 2015-16 president of the Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators.

**Cristina Devereaux Ramirez (B.A. '93, M.A. '04, Ph.D. '09)** published a book called "Occupying Our Space: The Mestizo Rhetorics of Mexican Women Journalists and Activists, 1875-1942" that illuminates the significant, but often overlooked, contributions that Mexican women writers made in transforming social

and political life before and after the decade-long Mexican Revolution that started in 1910.

**Jenny Romero (BBA '98)** was recognized as a teacher of the year by Region 19 Education Service Center for her educational service at O'Donnell Elementary School in Fabens, Texas.

**Matthew J. Rothblatt (B.S. '95)** co-created a comic book character named Spiralmind that appeared in the cable television movie "Lavalantula" on the Syfy channel in July 2015.

**Homero Silva (M.Ed. '96)**, former principal at Eastwood Knolls International School, was appointed principal at Ysleta Middle School in El Paso.

**Diana M. Valdez (B.A. '99)** was recognized as a 2015 Texas Super Lawyer. Each year, 5 percent of

lawyers in the state are selected to receive the honor.

**Omar Veliz (B.S. '98, MBA '03)**, owner of Veliz Construction in El Paso, was named Businessman of the Year by the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce.

**Teresa Zamarripa (BIS '92, M.Ed. '07)**, former principal of Zavala Elementary School, has been named the principal of Guillen Middle School in El Paso.

## 2000s

**Christina A. Anchondo (B.S. '03)**, a test director at NASA Johnson Space Center, was featured on Univision news show Primer Impacto giving a tour of a spaceship.

**Cynthia Chavez Canales (BBA '00)** was named co-chair of La Vie

en Rose, the 10th Annual Friends of FEMAP International Gala.

**Lidia E. Castillo (BIS '07)** was recognized as a teacher of the year by Region 19 Education Service Center for her educational service at Tornillo Elementary School in Tornillo, Texas.

**Gabriela Corral (B.A. '06)** was named Manager of Office and Systems for El Paso ad agency Mithoff Burton Partners.

**Jose Luis Del Rio (B.M. '09)** was recognized as a teacher of the year by Region 19 Education Service Center for his educational service at Fabens Middle School in Fabens, Texas.

**Guillermo F. Diaz (BBA '04)** was promoted to audit partner with Schmid, Broaddus, Nugent & Gano in El Paso.

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## On the Right Course

**In August 2015**, teams and individuals stepped onto the greens of El Paso's Butterfield Trail Golf Course and helped the UTEP Alumni Association raise a record \$52,000 for the UTEP Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The association's popular golf tournament has been an annual fixture for more than 15 years. Seven years ago, organizers moved the event from fall to summer to attract more participants.

"The tournament used to be held during Homecoming week, which is such a busy time," said Richard Daniel, Ph.D., associate vice president for university advancement and special projects and executive director for alumni relations. "So we decided to have the tournament during the summer, and we've been extremely pleased with the growth each year."

Over the past seven years, the tournament has generated \$240,000 for the scholarship fund. The feat has not lessened the UTEP Alumni Association's determination to continue to raise scholarship money for UTEP students.

"We still have tremendous goals ahead of us," Daniel said. "We hope to break this year's record by raising \$60,000 in 2016." -David Chavez

Pictured above: Golf tournament committee members present a check to UTEP President Diana Natalicio, center, for the UTEP Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund. Committee members are, from left, Richard O. Martinez; Bobby Gonzales (co-chair); Richard Daniel; John Aranda; Whit Leverett; Sally Hurt Deitch, representing tournament sponsor The Hospitals of Providence; Joe Villanueva; and Bernardino Olague (co-chair). Photo by J.R. Hernandez.



# Creating IT Futures

David Caldwell '81

## Teacher Recognized for IT Preparation Program

**David Caldwell shakes his head** and laughs about his life's journey. From an academically challenged high school student, he has become a nationally recognized teacher who successfully prepares students for information technology jobs.

Caldwell, a 1981 graduate of UTEP's College of Business Administration, is a computer maintenance instructor at El Paso's El Dorado High School. During the past nine years, his students have earned more than 1,000 IT certifications that have led to summer internships and academic scholarships.

IT Futures Labs, an initiative of Chicago, Illinois-based Creating IT Futures Foundation, picked up on Caldwell's efforts. The Chicago foundation considers the El Paso native a role model whose innovative curriculum should be replicated because of how it prepares students for 21st century jobs, including students who are ethnic minorities or economically disadvantaged.

"El Dorado High School is a great example of how to build a winning high school IT

training program," said Eric Larson, director of IT Futures Labs. "The work that the teachers and administrators have done at El Dorado is truly inspiring."

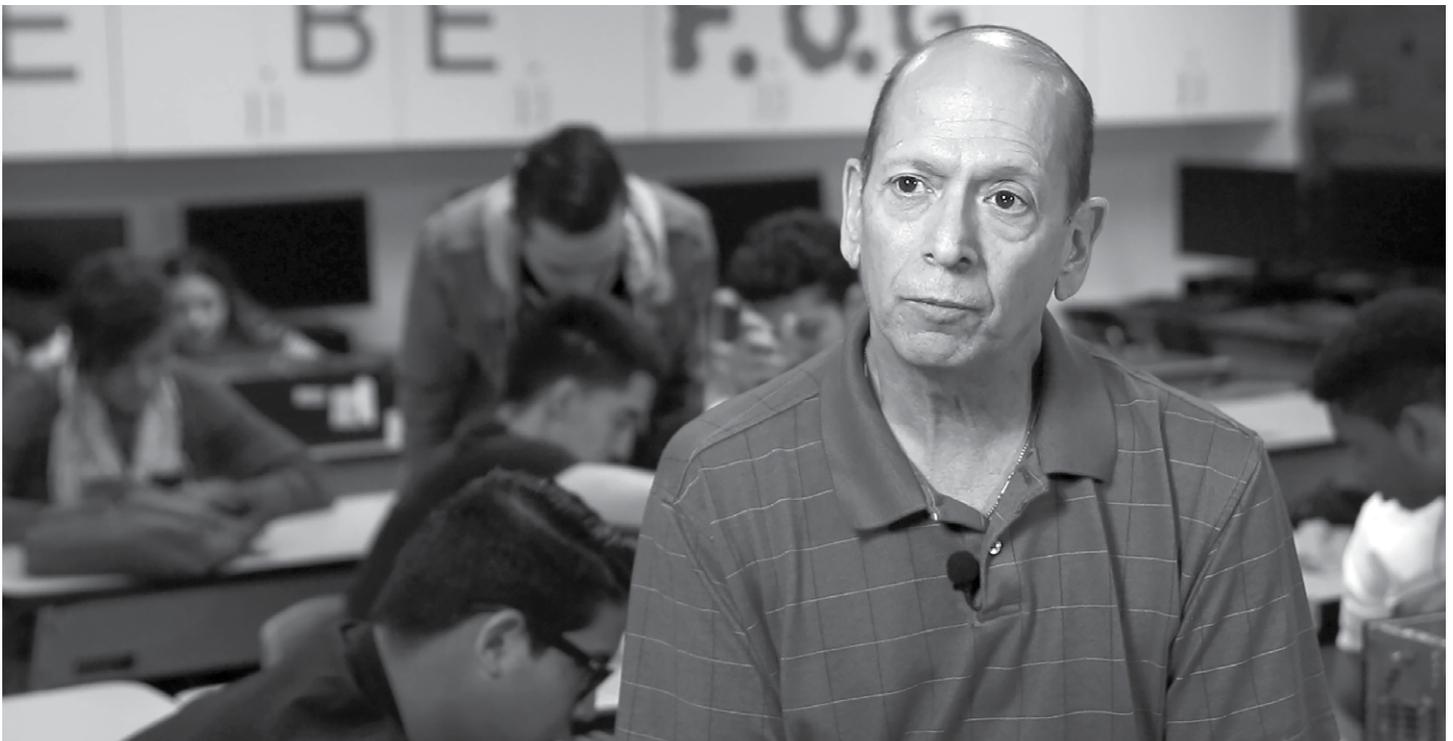
Caldwell, a first-generation college graduate, said he still uses the marketing and management strategies he learned at UTEP to engage his students. He does it because he knows the world can be a tough place if you are unprepared.

Caldwell initially left UTEP after realizing he was not prepared for college. He enlisted in the Air Force and returned to El Paso after his military service to assist with his family's wholesale floral business. He worked during the day and took night classes at UTEP. He began to teach some Microsoft courses at El Paso Community College and eventually earned his alternate teacher certification at UTEP.

"Teaching has taken 15 years off my life," he said. "You have to believe in what you do and that what you teach will make (students) successful. I know it sounds awkward, but part of the passion comes from knowing that you can make a difference." - Daniel Perez



You have to believe in what you do and that what you teach will make (students) successful.



## ALUMNI LOUNGE

**Tyler C. Grossman (MBA '05)** was elected Executive Director of the El Paso Firemen and Policemen's Pension Fund.

**Juan P. Guzman (BIS '00, M.Ed. '10)**, former assistant principal at Glen Cove Elementary School, was appointed principal at Tierra Del Sol Elementary School in El Paso.

**Obed S. Hernandez (B.A. '08)** was recognized as a teacher of the year by Region 19 Education Service Center for his educational service at San Elizario High School in San Elizario, Texas.

**Julie L. Hershenberg (B.A. '00, M.A. '04)** was promoted to Professor of Political Science at Collin College in Plano, Texas.

**Vanessa A. Landeros (BIS '08)** was recognized as a teacher of the year by Region 19 Education Service Center for her educational service at Red Sands Elementary in El Paso.

**Joel Martinez (BFA '04)**, a founder of EME Design Studio, won silver in the 2015 National American Advertising Awards in the self-

promotion category for his graphic design for Hillside Coffee and Donut Co. in El Paso.

**Iris Morales (BFA '06)**, a founder of EME Design Studio, won silver in the 2015 National American Advertising Awards in the self-promotion category for her graphic design for Hillside Coffee and Donut Co. in El Paso.

**Martin M. Mota (B.A. '09)** was recognized as a teacher of the year by Region 19 Education Service Center for his educational service at Mountain View High School in El Paso.

**Marcus R. Neal (M.S. '08)** was named the 2015 Outstanding Ex for Canutillo High School in Canutillo, Texas. Neal is the owner and director of MLee Therapy in Austin, Texas.

**Benito F. Perez (B.S. '06, M.S. '11)** co-created a comic book character named Spiralmind that appeared in the cable television movie "Lavalantula" on the Syfy channel in July 2015.

**Monica L. Perez (B.A. '09)**, labor and employment lawyer with

Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson & Galatzan, was elected secretary of the El Paso Young Lawyers Association for 2015-16.

**Armando I. Rodriguez (BBA '08)**, a board member of the Canutillo Independent School District in Canutillo, Texas, was elected to the board of the Texas Association of School Boards for Region 19.

**George Rodriguez (BFA '06)** was featured on the cover of American Craft magazine's August/September 2015 issue. Rodriguez is an artist living in Seattle, Washington.

**Summer I. Steele (BIS '08, M.Ed. '15)** was recognized as a teacher of the year by Region 19 Education Service Center for her educational service at Edgar Park Elementary School in El Paso.

**Lisa M. Tomaka (MPA '07)** was selected to participate in the nine-month Paso Del Norte Health Foundation REALIZE Leadership Program in El Paso. The program is designed to transform good leaders into transformational leaders for the benefit of the region's health.

**Melissa Rodriguez Williams (M.Ed. '08)**, former assistant principal at Clint Junior High School, was appointed principal at W.D. Surratt Elementary School in the Clint Independent School District in far east El Paso County.

## 2010s

**Karla Ivonne Gandarilla (BIS '11)** was recognized as a teacher of the year by Region 19 Education Service Center for her educational service at Eastwood Heights Elementary School in El Paso.

**Fernando Ortega (MBA '10)** was named a 2015 board member for Hospice El Paso, the city's only nonprofit hospice providing specialized care, comfort and support to patients and their families.

**Casey Austin Rangel (B.S. '11, M.Ed. '13)** was recognized as a teacher of the year by Region 19 Education Service Center for his educational service at Anthony High School in Anthony, Texas.

# Births & Marriages



◀ Parker Elijah Paxton, born Oct. 6, 2015 to **Jason Paxton** (MBA '12) and **Liz Paxton** (B.A. '13) in San Antonio, Texas.



◀ Rodrigo Kal Hernandez Sanchez, born Oct. 29, 2015 to **Julianna Sanchez** (B.A. '12) and Brandon Hernandez in El Paso.

▶ **Ariadne Willis** (B.A. '13) and Erick Valverde were married April 24, 2015 in El Paso.

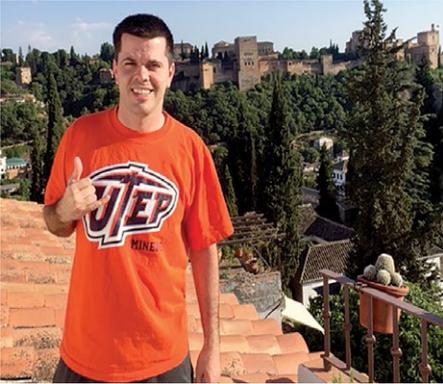


▶ **Virginia "Genie" Bustos** (BIS '09, M.Ed. '10) and **Floyd Anderson** (BBA, '10) were married Dec. 13, 2014 in Key West, Florida.



# Miners Around the World

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).



**Clint Kelly** (BBA Finance, 2005) shows his Miner pick while visiting Granada, Spain. The Alhambra can be seen in the background.



**Bryan Cleavenger** (BBA Human Resource Management, 2009) displays his UTEP flag while vacationing with family near the beautiful Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau, Alaska.



While conducting research in the United Kingdom, **Andrew Fleck**, a new faculty member in the Department of English at UTEP, donned his UTEP cap and T-shirt as he attended a production of William Shakespeare's "King John," performed at the Globe Theatre in London on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta.



**Joselyn Cardenas** (B.S. Mechanical Engineering, 2015) shows her Miner pride while visiting the Colosseum in Rome, Italy.



**Laura Rodriguez Ponce** (B.A. English Literature, 1992) wears her Miner colors while visiting with children during a mission trip in Honduras.



**Aldo Vidania**, who graduated in December 2015 with a B.S. in metallurgical and materials engineering, showed off his Miner pride during his internship at the prestigious CEA-Leti laboratory in Grenoble, France.

# In Memoriam

## 1930s

**Anna Johnell Crimen (B.A. '38)**  
El Paso, Texas; July 18, 2015

## 1940s

**Patty Grace Crumbliss Hudgens (B.A. '49, M.Ed. '81)**  
El Paso, Texas; October 7, 2015

**Rosa Maria Negrete (B.S. '44)**  
El Paso, Texas; September 29, 2015

**Edward Wallace Russey (B.S. '49)**  
Houston, Texas; July 5, 2015

**Bervette Williams (B.A. '43)**  
Denver, Colorado; July 13, 2015

## 1950s

**Harriet Bennie McDonald Allen-Winters (B.A. '54)**  
El Paso, Texas; February 10, 2015

**Joe L. Atkins (B.A. '59)**  
Dallas, Texas; July 7, 2015

**Eleanor Love Cotton (B.A. '50, M.A. '52)**  
El Paso, Texas; August 2, 2015

**Dorothy Daniel (BBA '51)**  
Vancouver, Washington; September 14, 2015

**Dick Isaacks (B.A. '53)**  
El Paso, Texas; August 7, 2015

**Donald Keith McCarty (B.S. '58)**  
Eugene, Oregon; August 10, 2015

**James Sande Morrison (B.A. '56, M.Ed. '64)**  
Central Point, Oregon;  
August 13, 2015

**Donald Joseph Mulhern (BBA '51, M.A. '54)**  
El Paso, Texas; October 18, 2015

**Mary B. Rayon (B.A. '50)**  
El Paso, Texas; July 30, 2015

**Pedro Vargas (B.A. '59)**  
El Paso, Texas; October 24, 2015

## 1960s

**Wayne Lindsey Bowen (BBA '69)**  
Phoenix, Arizona; September 5, 2015

**Doris B. Bullock (B.S. '67)**  
San Angelo, Texas; September 3, 2015

**Elizabeth "Liz" Hughey Gillett (B.A. '63)**  
El Paso, Texas; June 30, 2015

**William Paul "Bill" Hannon Jr. (BBA '60)**  
Atlanta, Texas; July 10, 2015

**Jesus M. Hernandez (BBA '65)**  
El Paso, Texas; September 17, 2015

**Mary Isabell Lunney Lafontaine (B.A. '66)**  
Dallas, Texas; June 29, 2015

**Shelby John Martin (B.A. '62, M.Ed. '69)**  
El Paso, Texas; June 28, 2015

**Elizabeth McCulloch (B.A. '66)**  
Houston, Texas; August 23, 2015

**Bianca Talavera Varela (B.S. '68)**  
El Paso, Texas; September 21, 2015

## 1970s

**David C. Ackerman (BBA '78)**  
Santa Teresa, New Mexico;  
September 10, 2015

**Carol Sue Davenport (B.A. '71)**  
Dallas, Texas; June 26, 2015

**David Albert Doyle Jr. (BBA '76)**  
Charlotte, North Carolina;  
July 19, 2015



## Maceo Crenshaw Dailey, Ph.D.

UTEP's first director of African-American Studies, Maceo C. Dailey, Ph.D., died in his hometown of Baltimore, Maryland on Oct. 11, 2015. He was 72 years old.

"Maceo Dailey was a highly esteemed member of both the UTEP family and the El Paso community," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "So intellectually engaged, knowledgeable and wise, he made every conversation memorable. So unassuming, kind and generous, he was admired and loved by a broad range of students and colleagues across our campus and people across this community."

Dailey received his Ph.D. from Howard University and went on to teach there as well as at Smith College, Brown University, Boston College, Morgan State University, Spelman College, Colby College, New York University and Morehouse College.

Shortly after arriving at UTEP in 1996, Dailey founded the University's African-American Studies Program and acted as its first chair in addition to serving as an associate professor of history.

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Patricia D. Witherspoon, Ph.D., characterized her colleague as an extraordinary mentor, teacher and role model who set an example for students with his civility, compassion and eloquence.

"He had the gift of bringing diverse people together to talk about important issues of the day and to do so in a civil manner," she said.

Dailey was not only widely respected throughout the UTEP and El Paso communities, he was also recognized nationally for his scholarship and asked to speak at events and institutions around the country. He published numerous chapters, essays and articles throughout his rich career, served as assistant editor for the *Journal of Negro History*; co-wrote "African Americans in El Paso;" and co-edited the books "Wheresoever My People Chance To Dwell: Oral Interviews With African American Women of El Paso" and "Tuneful Tales" by Bernice Love Wiggins.

Dailey and his wife, Sondra, established Sweet Earth Flying Press to publish books by women and people of color, including "Boy of the Border," a forgotten manuscript by Harlem Renaissance legends Langston Hughes and Arna Bontemps.

"He worked very hard every day to make UTEP the best place for each of his students," said Selfa A. Chew, Ph.D., interim director of African-American Studies. "He helped us dream we had a place in academia and labored with us to achieve it." - Lisa Y. Garibay

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# Virtual Reunion

Bob Segalman, Ph.D., '65



Although he had not been on campus since 1975, nothing was going to stop Bob Segalman, Ph.D., from attending his 50th class reunion during UTEP's Homecoming week. A group of speech-language pathology graduate students and a Skype connection made it possible for the Texas Western College graduate with cerebral palsy to participate from his home in Sacramento, California.

"UTEP stands out as an important crossroads in my life," said Segalman, who also has a speech challenge that makes it difficult for him to be heard or understood if he's not in a quiet room. When he was told that people with disabilities didn't belong in college, Segalman wanted to prove them wrong.

"There were faculty on campus who supported me and gave me the encouragement to keep working, and I wanted to symbolically say 'thank you' to their spirits," he said.

The online reunion was memorable for Segalman, but also made a lasting impression on the three students who carried a laptop around to give him a virtual front seat during the week's activities.

"It was an experience I will not soon forget, and a very beautiful reminder that technology can mean so much more than what it is typically used for," said Callie Ortega, one of the students who assisted with Segalman's virtual visit.

Segalman, who earned a B.A. in psychology and a minor in sociology from UTEP in 1965, developed and founded the assistive telephone service called Speech-to-Speech (STS) that helps people with speech disabilities make phone calls.

"Bob is an example of success and strength," said speech-language pathology graduate student Gabriela Rodriguez. "He is an example that nothing is impossible. We want all UTEP students to feel empowered by stories like this."

- Lauren Macias-Cervantes



Top: Golden Grads wave to fellow alumnus Bob Segalman, who is visible on the laptop, during a campus tour. Jackie Reed, left, from Alumni Relations and Miner Ambassador Taylor Gamboa stand up front. Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Bottom: UTEP President Diana Natalicio, left, and graduate student Mar Bonilla pose with Segalman and his certificate awarded during the Golden Grads luncheon. Photo by Laura Trejo



There were faculty on campus who supported me and gave me the encouragement to keep working, and I wanted to symbolically say 'thank you' to their spirits."

**Joseph B. Fries (B.A. '76, M.A. '77, MPA '84)**

El Paso, Texas; September 11, 2015

**George M. Frisbie (B.A. '77)**

Des Moines, Iowa;  
September 28, 2015

**William A. Gilcrease (BBA '70)**

El Paso, Texas; July 20, 2015

**Barbara Berkman Given (BBA '74)**

El Paso, Texas; August 22, 2015

**James Michael Kilgore (B.S. '78)**

Las Cruces, New Mexico;  
August 11, 2015

**Raul R. Mondragon (BBA '79)**

El Paso, Texas; August 24, 2015

**Alejandro "Alex" Moreno (B.S. '76)**

El Paso, Texas; May 7, 2015

**Magdalena Nanez (B.S. '71)**

El Paso, Texas; September 16, 2015

**Raymond L. Niemira (BBA '73)**

El Paso, Texas; June 29, 2015

**Cheryl Ann Long Peevey (B.S. '74)**

El Paso, Texas; July 7, 2015

**Barbara Peregrino (B.A. '70)**

El Paso, Texas; September 10, 2015

**James E. Richardson (M.Ed. '70)**

El Paso, Texas; August 10, 2015

**Louise "Lou" Gallagher Rivera (M.Ed. '77)**

El Paso, Texas; August 12, 2015

**Janice L. Robertstad (M.A. '75)**

Flagstaff, Arizona;  
September 16, 2015

**Kenneth Shortsleeve (BBA '77)**

Humble, Texas; September 20, 2015

**Johnny Watson (M.Ed. '74)**

Salado, Texas; July 24, 2015

**Jo Ruth Roberts Benner Wozika (M.Ed. '79)**

El Paso, Texas; September 20, 2015

## 1980s

**Delia Laird (B.S. '84)**

Fabens, Texas; June 30, 2015

**Kathleen Annette Norwood (B.S. '89)**

Kingwood, Texas; August 14, 2015

**Wayne Oppenheim (BBA '82)**

El Paso, Texas; July 7, 2015

**Carlos A. Villarreal (B.S. '83)**

Corpus Christi, Texas;  
August 26, 2015

**Jack E. Woodall (B.S. '82)**

El Paso, Texas; July 27, 2015

## 1990s

**Anita Blanco (BIS '96)**

El Paso, Texas; August 1, 2015

**William C. Figueroa (BSW '93)**

El Paso, Texas; October 26, 2015

**Julie Sue Hart (B.M. '88)**

Elephant Butte, New Mexico;  
September 20, 2015

**Maria Luisa Lopez (B.S. '85)**

El Paso, Texas; October 24, 2015

**Marie Sparacino (B.S. '94)**

Beaverton, Oregon; August 25, 2015

**Nancy J. Verdick (B.S. '90)**

Geneseo, Illinois; August 4, 2015

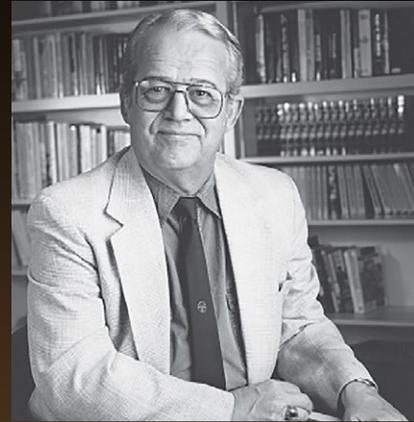
## 2000s

**Eric Michael Aofia (BBA '08)**

El Paso, Texas; August 30, 2015

**Ronald Frederick "Toby" Stuart Jr. (BBA '05)**

El Paso, Texas; September 29, 2015



## Dale L. Walker

Dale Walker – author, editor and longtime director of what is now UTEP's University Communications office – died in El Paso Dec. 8, 2015. He was 80.

Born in Decatur, Illinois in 1935, Walker came to Texas Western College after four years in the U.S. Navy. He graduated in 1962 with a B.A. in journalism.

Walker was hired as the director of News and Publications, now called University Communications, in 1966 after several years working as a journalist. He edited Nova, now called UTEP Magazine, for 23 years – from its fourth issue in 1966 to its 100th issue in 1989. He retired in 1992 after a UTEP career serving six University presidents that included a stint as director of Texas Western Press.

One of the most important events of Walker's tenure at UTEP was his correspondence with the queen of Bhutan. In 1968, Walker was the first from UTEP to write to the Bhutanese royal family and make them aware that the University's unique architecture emulated their own. Walker and Her Majesty Queen Ashi Kesang Wangchuck struck up a correspondence that eventually led to UTEP's first student from Bhutan enrolling at the university.

"Dale's outreach to the royal family of Bhutan in the 1960s helped forge the valuable friendship that UTEP and the Bhutanese people maintain to this day, and his work helped create UTEP's image in the public's mind," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "In his nearly three decades of service, the University was extremely fortunate to have had such a talented chronicler and his distinct writing voice."

Walker is the author of 23 books and hundreds of magazine articles, and was a world-renowned expert on writer Jack London. In June 2015, he was inducted into the Western Writers of America Hall of Fame alongside Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), John Steinbeck, London and other iconic American writers.

Wynn Anderson, former assistant to the UTEP President who shared an office with Walker in 1966, described him as "one of the greatest writers in El Paso."

Walker is survived by his wife, Alice; five children, Eric Walker and wife Debra of Virginia, Chris Walker and wife Alexa of Virginia, Michael Walker and wife Lydia of El Paso, John Walker and wife LaDawn of Dallas, and Dianne Walker of Iowa; 12 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. **-Jenn Crawford**

## Keep us in the loop!

We like to know what's going on with our alumni. Send your important life updates to [univcomm@utep.edu](mailto:univcomm@utep.edu) to get your note or photo in our next issue!

# Homecoming 2015

September 27 - October 3

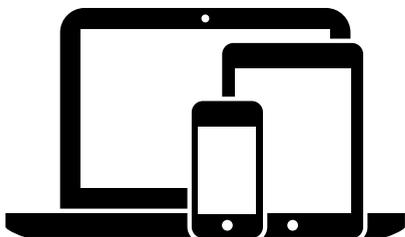
UTEP welcomed alumni from around the country for the 2015 Homecoming festivities, beginning with the Miner Dash and Family Fitness Fiesta on Sept. 27 and culminating in the parade, pep rally and rainy football game versus The University of Texas at San Antonio on Oct. 3.





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