

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO • SPRING 2011

UTEP

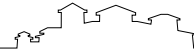
MAGAZINE



THOUSAND

EVERY DEGREE HAS A STORY.

PLUS: SPECIAL CAMPUS FOLDOUT MAP INSIDE



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This issue of *UTEP Magazine* concentrates on the remarkable growth UTEP is experiencing and will continue to experience through our Centennial celebration in 2014 and beyond.

We will confer our 100,000th degree in May, a milestone that fills us with immeasurable pride and satisfaction. In the 97 years since our founding, we have instilled within our students the notion that dreaming big is the first step toward big achievements. Big dreams motivated UTEP alumnus Danny Olivas, who as a NASA astronaut flew on two Space Shuttle missions; Robert O'Rear, who led the development of Microsoft's legendary MS-DOS personal computer operating system; and Pat Mora, poet, author and founder of *Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros* who was recognized in *Poets & Writers* magazine as one of the "Fifty Most Inspiring Authors in the World."

We are proud of these and our many other alumni who have come to UTEP determined to make their dreams come true. Their accomplishments illustrate what happens when dedication and hard work meet opportunity.

Because we have remained true to our mission to provide all residents of our Paso del Norte region with access to an outstanding education, UTEP's students reflect the demographics of El Paso County from which we draw 83 percent of our students: 76 percent of them are Hispanic. It is this student profile, together with the high-quality education and research we engage in on this campus, that is propelling UTEP toward becoming the first research university in the U.S. with a 21st century student demographic.

UTEP is today the school of choice for more than 22,000 students, the largest enrollment in our history. And just as our enrollment has grown, so has the campus itself. Cranes and cement mixers have become symbols of our progress. And once these new buildings and renovated facilities are completed, they will create a platform for further expansion of our academic programs and research capabilities.

The Health Sciences and Nursing Building is expected to be completed by June. The \$60 million, 130,000-square-foot facility includes classrooms and laboratories, and features a 16,000-square-foot simulation center where students will receive state-of-the-art clinical practice experience.

Another new facility that will expand our research capacity is the Nanotechnology Fabrication Center, scheduled to be completed this summer. The center will provide the particle-free environment critical to the integrity of research leading to the development of electronic materials and devices for the telecommunications, energy and biomedical industries.

These facilities, and others currently under construction or undergoing renovation, represent the progress that will accelerate UTEP's journey toward becoming a national research or Tier One university.

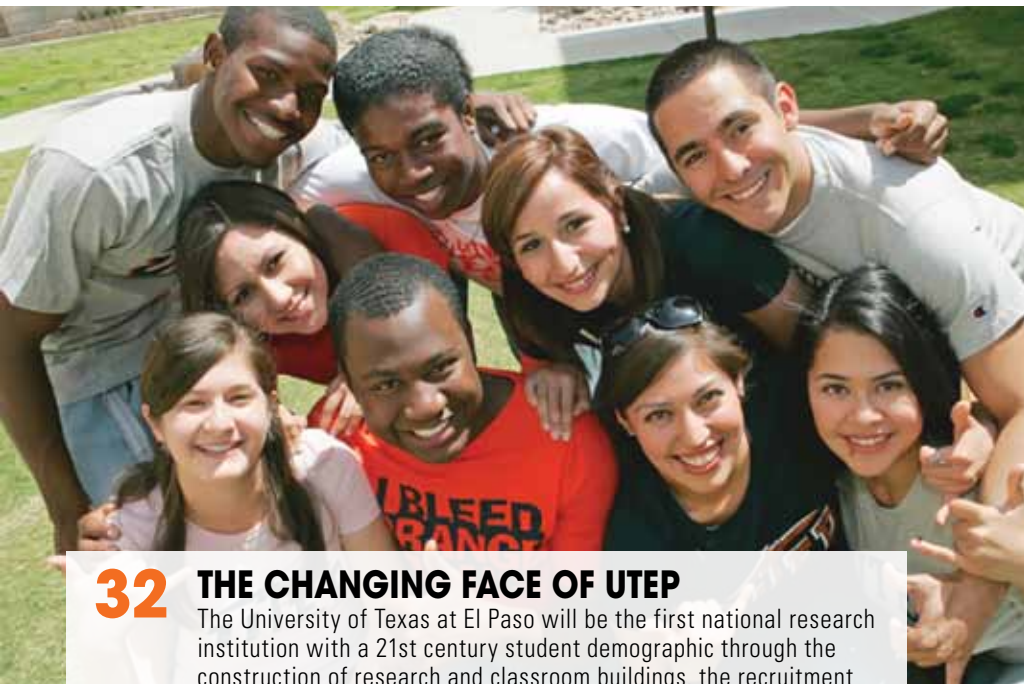
As this issue of *UTEP Magazine* clearly conveys, the expanding UTEP campus ensures a bright future for our fast-growing student population. And, just as we look on our past with pride and satisfaction, we will step confidently into the future, knowing that our greatest triumphs lie ahead.

Go Miners!

DIANA NATALICIO
UTEP PRESIDENT



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Keitha Adams' team showed grit throughout a topsy-turvy season, but a strong bunch of underclassmen create the hope of a bright future.

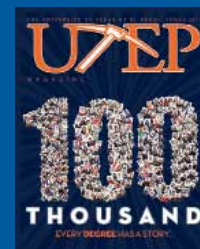
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Football head coach Mike Price announced this year's recruits who will help the Miners try to earn a second straight post-season bowl bid.

56 MARCH MADNESS MINER STYLE

UTEP and the City of El Paso rolled out the orange carpet and hosted successful Conference USA men's and women's basketball tournaments.

NEW THIS ISSUE



ON THE COVER

The University of Texas at El Paso celebrates its 100,000th degree awarded to the May 2011 graduating class.



Elias Provencio-Vasquez, Ph.D., dean of the School of Nursing, said a proposed Doctor of Nursing Practice degree will prepare well-qualified bilingual healthcare providers to be provided throughout Texas.

UTEP'S DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE TO SERVE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

Degree Opens New Avenues to Further Education

The University of Texas at El Paso's School of Nursing is one step closer to offering a Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree that will significantly help increase the number of advanced practice nurses in the underserved El Paso community.

The proposed program, which has received approval from The University of Texas System Board of Regents, still must be approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board at its meeting in late April.

"The D.N.P. degree program will build upon specialty certification of advanced practice nurses and will prepare bilingual healthcare providers who are well qualified to serve the needs of Hispanic populations in the border region and throughout Texas," said School of Nursing Dean Elias Provencio-Vasquez, Ph.D.

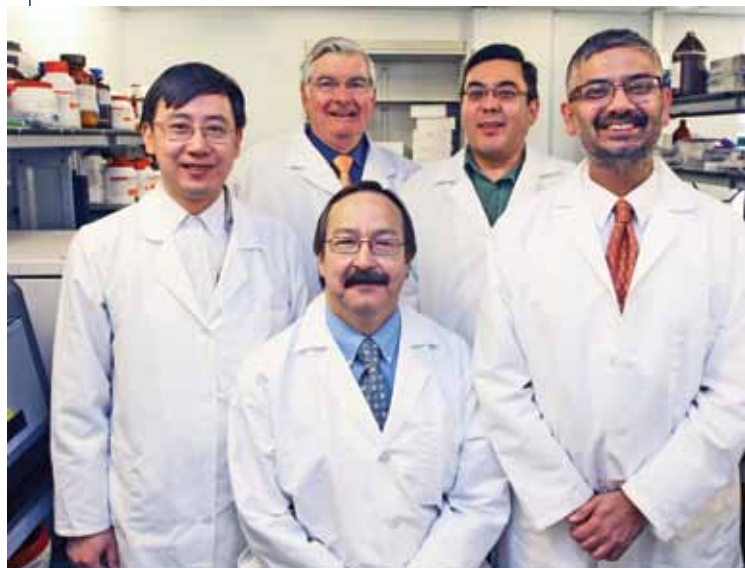
Currently, advanced practice nurses, such as nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, certified nurse midwives and clinical nurse specialists only are required to have a Master of Science in nursing (M.S.N.) degree. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) has adopted a position that the educational preparation for advanced practice nurses be transitioned from the M.S.N. degree to the D.N.P. degree by 2015.

"The D.N.P. will enhance nursing care in our city and it will allow our nurse practitioners another avenue to further their education without leaving El Paso or commuting long distances," said Leslie K. Robbins, Ph.D., associate professor and director of the D.N.P. program.

Once the D.N.P. is approved, the first cohort of eight students is expected to start in the fall. The program will require a minimum of 45 credit hours and will focus on education relevant to providing evidence-based advanced nursing practice that deals with chronic diseases and border health issues. Students will work with local healthcare providers in the El Paso border region to complete the program's 540 practicum/clinical hours.

According to Provencio-Vasquez, the number of doctorally prepared Hispanic nurses nationwide is less than 5 percent. The graduate enrollment at the SoN has a minority representation of more than 80 percent and is primarily Hispanic in the nurse practitioner concentrations. 📧

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE OFFERS NEW BIOCHEMISTRY DEGREE



From left, River Xiao, Jorge Gardea-Torresday, seated, Jim Becvar, Ricardo Bernal, Mayesh Nayaram.

In spring 2011, The University of Texas at El Paso began offering an undergraduate degree in biochemistry.

"This degree program is another step in completing the complement of offerings the chemistry department provides, given the new faculty that we have recently hired, who are specialists in biochemistry and biophysics," said Anny Morrobel-Sosa, dean of UTEP's College of Science. "A new building, a new degree program in 2011: that's a good year."

Students who earn the new biochemistry degree will be prepared to go to medical school or a graduate program on their way to careers as doctors or with pharmaceutical companies discovering new treatments for disease.

The new program is one more sign of the growing chemistry and biochemistry presence at the University. Jorge Gardea-Torresday, Ph.D., said that since

he became chair of the chemistry department in 2001, it has grown from 46 undergraduates to more than 200 undergraduates and 100 graduate students.

In spring 2012, a new 140,000-square-foot Chemistry and Computer Science Building is scheduled to open on campus, including new biochemistry labs and several new faculty members. In addition, the chemistry department recently received several multimillion-dollar grants from the National Science Foundation to purchase a new cryo-microscope and a new mass spectrometer to analyze compounds to treat disease.

"When I took over the department, I had four goals: to grow the department, to have a new building, to have a Ph.D. in chemistry and a B.S. in biochemistry," Gardea-Torresday said. By mid-2011, all four goals will have been accomplished.

It's incredible, he said. "And we're really happy." 📧



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Synergy and Impact:

UTEP IS A STRONG ECONOMIC ENGINE, REPORT STATES



David Schauer, Ph.D., associate professor of economics and finance, center, Mario Caire, left, and Elizabeth Gibson, were part of the team from UTEP's Institute for Policy and Economic Development that wrote the recent report.

The University of Texas at El Paso is in business to turn students with promise into successful members of the nation's workforce. A recently released report showed that UTEP graduates and the state get a good return on their investment.

The 2010 Economic Impact of The University of Texas at El Paso, whose primary author is David Schauer, Ph.D., associate professor of economics and finance at UTEP, shows that UTEP generates \$369 million in business volume. It contributes to 7,050 local jobs and \$452 million in household income, and its graduates can expect to earn between \$423,000 and \$540,000 more during their working lives than people without a bachelor's degree.

"Our priority is to teach, but it's nice to know that we also are a powerful economic engine in the region," said Schauer, who has worked on economic impact studies for 30 years. "What this study says about education in general and education at UTEP in particular is that it is a means to income, and that is significant to the region's economic activity."

The report, produced by the University's Institute for Policy and Economic Development, used its Regional Impact Model to assess UTEP's influence on El Paso County's economy.

The results were based on the direct effect of University expenses and employment, as well as indirect and induced, or multiplier, effects. The report did not include factors such as the impact of campus construction; visitors to UTEP because of athletic, business

or entertainment events; or University retirees in the region.

University President Diana Natalicio said UTEP's decision to forge its own pathway to success has been paying rich dividends. The opportunity to work in state-of-the-art research and academic facilities with talented students has brought competitive faculty to the UTEP campus. In turn, the faculty members have been successful in attracting additional research dollars, international prestige and the attention of a new generation of undergraduate and graduate students, many of whom are bilingual, bicultural and the first in their families to attend college.

"UTEP's efforts to serve as a catalyst for economic development will not only enhance the future prosperity and quality of life of this Paso del Norte region, but also increase opportunities for more talented UTEP graduates to remain here to pursue their professional careers," Natalicio said.

Her work during the past 20 years has made the University one of the most critical and far-reaching components in the region's economy, said Richard Dayoub, president and CEO of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce.

"The University is part of a synergy that has brought in numerous businesses that came to El Paso for the opportunity to hire UTEP graduates," Dayoub said. "They're the ones who buy the homes and the cars. They're the ones who shop at our supermarkets and malls. They have an enormous impact." >



Welcome to UTEP...

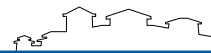
During the past several months, numerous distinguished speakers made special appearances at The University of Texas at El Paso to share their knowledge, experiences and insights with the University community.

* Janet Napolitano

U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano made a special visit to UTEP on Jan. 31, 2011, to discuss the security and economic climate of the U.S.-Mexico border region. As part of a plan presented by President Obama that brought “focus and intensity” to southwest border cities such as El Paso, Napolitano continues to oversee its operations.

“It was just about this time last year when I was on this campus that we announced the Southwest Border Initiative,” Napolitano said to a capacity audience of 1,200 in Magoffin Auditorium. She talked about the tools and resources her department has applied during the initiative in acting to reinforce the “safe” status of the El Paso region and other border areas.

“Our communities along the southwest border are among the safest in the entire United States.” Napolitano said.



* Sam Tanenhaus

The editor of the New York Times Book Review gave a lecture and presented his new book, *The Death of Conservatism*, in October 2010. In the discussion, he drew upon his extensive background in contemporary American politics and the history of conservatism in the United States.



* Jake Silverstein

The acclaimed editor of Texas Monthly visited UTEP in October 2010 to promote his new book, *Nothing Happened and Then It Did*. He shared excerpts before an audience of faculty, staff and students in the Blumberg Auditorium.



* Douglas Osheroff

The 1996 co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics gave a special public lecture in November 2010 and discussed how discoveries in science occur and what strategies researchers can use to increase the chances of making a breakthrough.



* Cliff Adelman

The former senior research analyst at the U.S. Department of Education and current senior associate at the Institute for Higher Education Policy discussed educational accountability in his November 2010 presentation – part of the Millennium Lecture Series.



* David Longanecker

The president of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education gave his perspective on President Obama's educational plans during his Millennium Lecture speech, *Obama's Goal - Best in the World by 2020 - Nice Idea, But Can We Get There From Here?* He visited in December 2010.



* Jamie Merisotis

The president and chief executive officer of the Lumina Foundation for Education discussed the foundation's Goal 2025, which is based on student preparation, success and productivity. His presentation during the Millennium Lecture Series in February 2011 was titled, *Tapping into the Power of the 21st Century Student*.



* Danny Olivas

The former NASA astronaut and UTEP alumnus returned to his alma mater as the opening speaker for the 2011 Shape Your Life, Shape Your Future student leadership conference in February. Olivas told the students that mankind should think more about what it has in common, and look for ways to make life better.



* Hilary Pennington

The director of education, postsecondary success and special initiatives for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation told a March 2011 Millennium Lecture audience that institutions of higher education must increase educational opportunities for all students. Pennington called UTEP a national model for higher education in the 21st century.

Conversations, Forums Examine Border Difficulties



U.S. CONSUL GENERAL ADDRESSES UTEP LEADERS

Dean Haas, principal officer and consul general at the U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, spoke about the violence in El Paso's neighboring city at an administrative forum in November 2010.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio said the University has established a good working relationship with U.S. Consulate officials in Ciudad Juárez, and that she expects to continue working closely with the agency. ☞

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION COMMISSIONER



Alan Bersin, commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, met with faculty and administrators at The University of Texas at El Paso in January 2011.

About a dozen deans, program directors and professors in business, political science, education and social work met with Bersin for a roundtable discussion about Mexico and border issues. Topics ranged from the safety of living in El Paso and how the city is affected by the perception of violence in Juárez, to congestion at the border bridges and Bersin's hope to increase awareness of Customs and Border Patrol programs.

Bersin also discussed the work of the Bilateral Executive Steering Committee on 21st Century Border Management created by President Barack Obama and Mexican President Felipe Calderon in 2010. The steering committee, made up of representatives from the U.S. and Mexican governments, is charged with developing a plan to create a safer and more efficient shared border for the lawful movement of goods and people. ☞



Above: Chris Lopez, editor of the El Paso Times, Alfredo Quijano Hernandez, editor-in-chief of El Norte de Ciudad Juárez, and Armando Velez, editor-in-chief of El Diario de El Paso, participate in a panel discussion moderated by Wendy Benjamison, Texas news editor for the Associated Press.

Journalists Host Summit to Protect Press Freedom

While reporting in Mexico, journalists from both sides of the border have felt threatened by that country's increasing violence. That's why The University of Texas at El Paso, along with the American Society of News Editors (ASNE) and the Inter American Press Association, sponsored the Border Newspaper Editors Summit at UTEP in December 2010 to find ways to protect reporters.

"Our location on the U.S.-Mexico border and the talent and expertise that we have on this campus provide a very rich context for the conversations we're going to have," UTEP President Diana Natalicio said at the summit.

During the two-day bilingual conference, editors and reporters from regional, national and international publications heard panel discussions and contributed ideas on how reporters can do their jobs safely.

"It was important to bring editors to the border and be as close to the story as we

can get them," said Chris Lopez, editor of the El Paso Times, the region's largest newspaper.

"UTEP can play a critical role in helping us as journalists and media organizations to understand how we can work together," he said.

The summit came to campus thanks to Benjamin Saenz, chair of UTEP's Department of Creative Writing, and UTEP alumnus Alfredo Carbajal, managing editor of *Al Día*. As co-chair of the international committee for ASNE, Carbajal – who earned his bachelor's degree in print media communication in 2000 – said he feels it is important to expose editors to what is happening on the border.

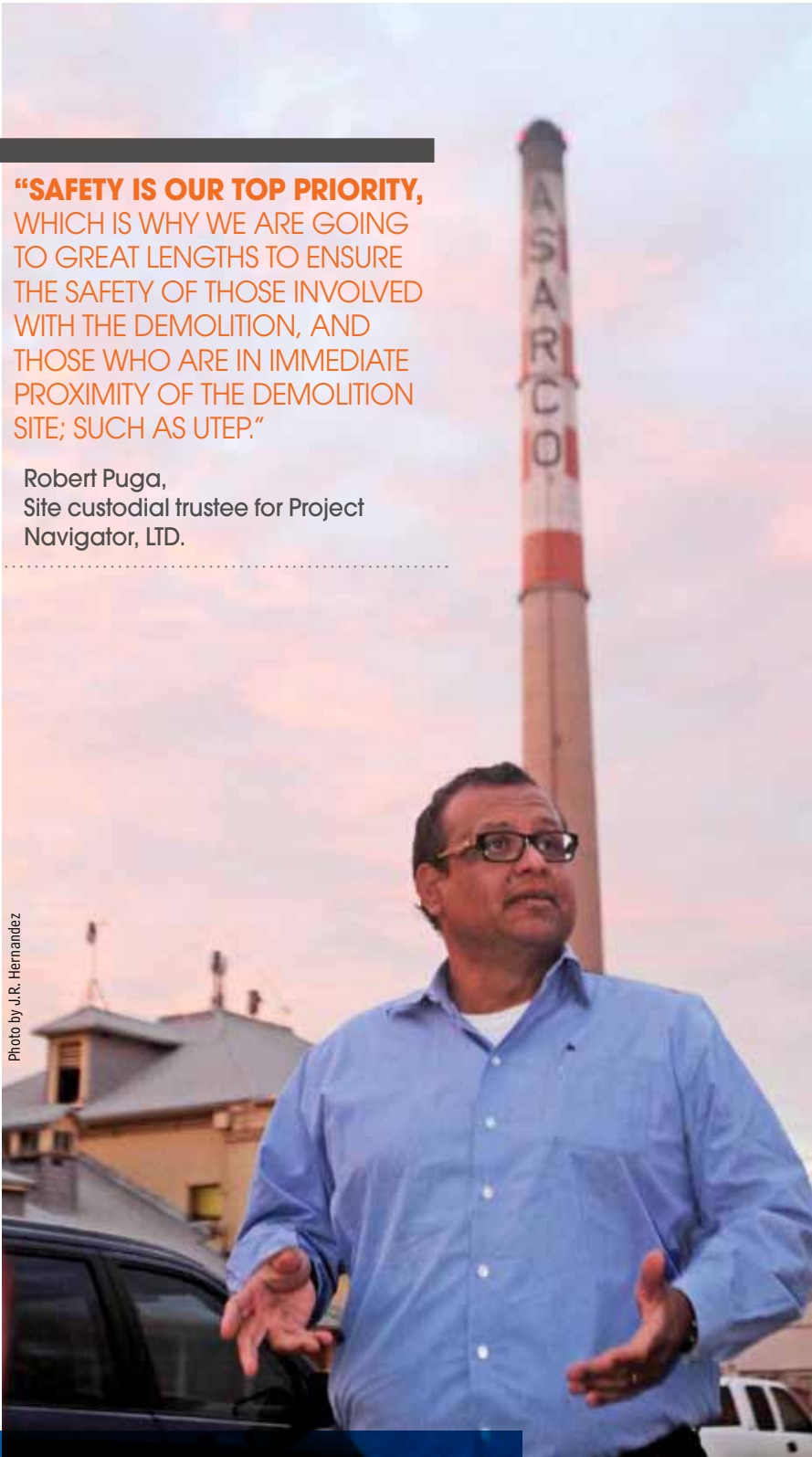
"One of the core principles of ASNE is freedom of the press," Carbajal said. "Considering UTEP's strategic location and the University's commitment to social issues, this is definitely one of the issues we want to put a spotlight on." ☞

University Horizon to Lose Distinctive Smelting Tower

“SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY, WHICH IS WHY WE ARE GOING TO GREAT LENGTHS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THOSE INVOLVED WITH THE DEMOLITION, AND THOSE WHO ARE IN IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY OF THE DEMOLITION SITE; SUCH AS UTEP.”

Robert Puga,
Site custodial trustee for Project
Navigator, LTD.

Photo by J.R. Hernandez



Robert Puga, site custodial trustee of the ASARCO site, said the dismantling of the former smelter is on schedule.

The demolition of all things ASARCO, in reference to UTEP's long-time corporate neighbor, culminates in February 2012 with the implosion of ASARCO's iconic 80-story smokestack that has defined the area's skyline for half a century.

Contractors began last year to liquidate resources, dismantle machinery and raze structures at the American Smelting and Refining Co. site, which opened under a different name in 1887.

“The process of demolition is a long one, though things are moving along on schedule,” said Robert Puga, site custodial trustee for Project Navigator, LTD.

The cleanup effort should accomplish its goals within its \$52 million budget, he added.

The University of Texas at El Paso owns land north of the plant, which is located northwest of the campus on the other side of Interstate 10. UTEP officials have said the University is interested in the acquisition of some ASARCO land, but has no immediate plans to build on the land in part because of its difficult, mountainous terrain.

In an April 6, 2010, article in *El Paso Inc.*, Cynthia Vizcaino Villa – UTEP vice president for business affairs – told the magazine that the University had its eye on about 240 acres of the property.

“If we went back and looked at the master plan we created 10 years ago, part of the plan lays out potential acquisition areas. That is one of them,” she said. “We’d rather own it and have the control over its use versus another owner.”

Some scientists have expressed concerns about the ASARCO demolition projects because of possible chemical fallout from materials such as lead, arsenic and selenium that have built up on the site through the years.

Puga and his team are taking many precautionary measures to maintain the safety of those around the demolition site.

“Safety is our top priority, which is why we are going to great lengths to ensure the safety of those involved with the demolition, as well as those such as UTEP who are in immediate proximity of the demolition site,” Puga said.

Senior civil engineering major and student intern Osvaldo Brosicke is a member of the large team of demolitionists surveying the site.

Brosicke, who is on UTEP's Engineering Leadership Student Council, will be among those monitoring the dust as it travels from project sites. He said he appreciates the opportunity to work on real-world projects related to his degree.

“I'm excited to be involved with such a huge project, and I would urge every student who is interested to get involved and intern,” Brosicke said. ☑

NEW PROVOST

Leads UTEP Academics



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Dr. Junius Gonzales, former professor and dean of the College of Behavioral & Community Sciences at the University of South Florida (USF), entered into his position as provost and vice president for academic affairs at The University of Texas at El Paso on Feb. 1.

As UTEP's chief academic officer, Gonzales is responsible for developing more nationally recognized academic programs and research excellence while providing higher education access and opportunities to residents of the Paso del Norte region as UTEP advances toward national research university (Tier One) status.

"We are delighted to welcome Dr. Gonzales, whose breadth of personal and professional experience is extremely well aligned with UTEP's commitment to expand and enhance our academic and research programs across the campus while continuing to foster student access and success," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "UTEP is recognized as a national leader in creating synergies between excellence and access, and we look very much forward to working with him over the next several years to accelerate our progress toward becoming the first national research university with a 21st Century Demographic."

At USF, Gonzales was the founding dean

of the College of Behavioral & Community Sciences, which comprises eight departments and schools and includes several top 50 nationally ranked graduate programs. He also served as the executive director of the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, the largest of its kind in the United States.

"WITH ALL THE TERRIFIC MINDS AND PEOPLE AT UTEP ... MORE GREAT THINGS ARE IN THE INSTITUTION'S FUTURE."

Dr. Junius Gonzales

Gonzales said he plans to continue his health disparities research at UTEP and help the University achieve its goal of becoming the first national research institution with a 21st century student demographic. His studies are funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health.

"I look forward to working with all the terrific minds and people at UTEP and know that more great things are in the institution's future," he said.

Prior to his experience at USF, Gonzales was a principal and scientist at Abt Associates, one of the largest for-profit government and business research and consulting firms in the world, where he led science, technology, education and health projects. He also spent six years at the National Institute of Mental Health, ending his tenure there as director of the Division of Services and Intervention Research, where he oversaw three research branches, a clinical trials support unit and a budget of approximately \$250 million. He has held national leadership positions in education, policy and research and is a member of the National Advisory Council for the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality.

Gonzales also has served as clinical professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at George Washington University and deputy chairman and clinical associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Georgetown University.

He received his M.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and an M.B.A. from the University of Maryland. He earned his undergraduate degree at Brown University.

Gonzales took over for former Interim Provost Howard Daudistel, Ph.D., who was appointed senior executive vice president of the University. ➤

Program Takes Students FHAR

By Laura L. Acosta

Jessica Archuleta had lived in five foster homes since she was 11 years old. But as she was about to transition or “age out” of the foster care system at age 18, she was left with the daunting question, “What now?”

At an age when most young people are making plans to enter college, find a job and seek their independence with the support of family, Archuleta was on her own.

“In foster care, when you’re 18, it can feel like you either sink or swim,” Archuleta, now 24, said. “I was worried (about a) lack of a support system, but I was so motivated and looking forward to getting my freedom.”

Archuleta prepared for her independence by taking classes through the Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) program offered by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. The classes prepare foster care youth for independent living by showing them such skills as how to balance a checkbook and sign a lease.

Through one of these classes, Archuleta learned about Texas Senate Bill 1652, which waives tuition and fees at state-supported vocational schools, colleges and universities for students who aged out of the foster care system in Texas. Youths who are adopted from foster care or who are eligible for adoption at age 14 or older may also be eligible for the waiver.

Archuleta used the waiver to enroll at El Paso Community College in 2004, transferring to The University of Texas at El Paso in 2008.

But the road to graduation for Archuleta, a social work major, has been a challenge.

Last year, a class she took was not waived and she had to pay for it out of her own pocket.

“It caused a ripple effect where I couldn’t pay my rent and I had to get a loan to cover that,” Archuleta said.

She contacted Josué G. Lachica, who until recently was an academic adviser with UTEP’s Academic Advising Center and the coordinator of the Foster, Homeless, Adoption Resources (FHAR) program at the University.

Lachica, who left his position to become a social work grad student at UTEP, was well acquainted with the state’s tuition waiver and helped get Archuleta a refund within five days.

The FHAR program was created at the University more than a year ago to connect foster care alumni, adoptees and homeless individuals with the necessary resources to obtain a university education. While other programs throughout the United States offer tuition waiver assistance, Lachica said FHAR is the only program to offer help to all three populations.

The first time Lachica heard about the tuition waiver was when a student who had aged out of foster care asked him about it.



The FHAR program helped social work major Jessica Archuleta continue her education.

“Working with individual cases, we started to understand better what this tuition waiver was and we started to understand what was lacking,” Lachica said.

He saw an opportunity to develop a program that would provide students who were homeless, adopted or lacked a family support system with the different services available to them at the University and in the community, such as housing, health care and financial aid.

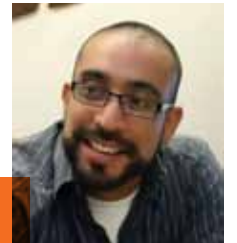
“Our primary mission is to help students navigate higher education,” said Donna Ekal, associate provost of undergraduate studies. “But we know that for them to be successful at UTEP, there are all these issues outside of school that impact them. We try to connect them with the resources in the community that can help them with these external issues.”

Lachica said there is a movement among education providers to increase higher education awareness among foster care youth.

According to Casey Family Programs, a national operating foundation based in Seattle that works to provide and improve foster care, only 7 to 13 percent of students from foster care enroll in higher education. The study also found that only about 2 percent of foster care alumni obtained bachelor’s degrees.

“Education is not ingrained in us as a first priority,” Archuleta said. “We’re more concerned with how we are going to live and what we are going to do, and education is the last thing on our minds.”

Lachica said that there is a high correlation between homelessness and foster care youth. Once youths age out of the foster care system, they no longer have access to services provided by the state. As such, up to 50 percent of foster care alumni end up being homeless within the first 18 months of emancipation, he said.



Josué G. Lachica

But Lachica said FHAR helps students who want to break the cycle of poverty by giving them the resources they need to navigate the system and work their way through higher education.

“It shows that they have the drive to get out of their situation,” he said. “This person is stepping into an institution that may be intimidating, but they’re doing it. All they need is a little bit of help.”

FHAR works with community organizations such as the Pride Center and the Opportunity Center to spread the word about the program. It also provides student referrals to these centers.

Currently the program helps 31 foster care youth and 25 homeless individuals who are enrolled at UTEP or plan to attend the University.

Archuleta, who is now working with the program as an outreach specialist, knows first hand the challenges foster care youth face.

“It helps them not feel like they’re going through the process alone. We want them to get an education so they can help themselves,” she said.

For more information about the program, contact 915-747-6674 or e-mail fharc@utep.edu.

(A version of this story first appeared in the Oct. 24 – Oct. 30, 2010, issue of El Paso Inc.)

MINER Orangeville

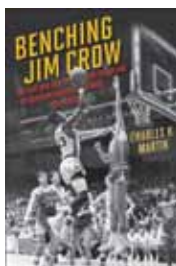


Business and community leaders joined elected officials to celebrate the return of UTEP men's basketball coach Tim Floyd and the start of another Miner season by changing the name of the city to Miner Orangeville on Nov. 12, 2010.

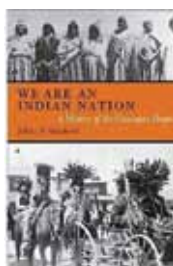
It was the culmination of Orange-Out Week that started Nov. 8

and ended with the Miners' first game of the season at the Don Haskins Center. Orange was rampant around campus and the city. Even the famed Star on the Mountain went orange. The hype worked as 12,222 fans sold out the Don for a home opener for the first time since 1986. ☞

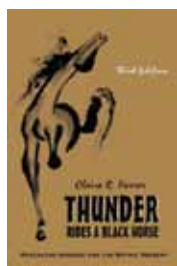
Faculty Must-Reads



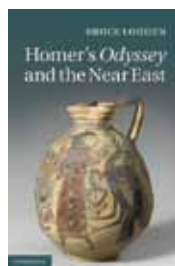
Benching Jim Crow: The Rise and Fall of the Color Line in Southern College Sports, 1890-1980, by Charles H. Martin, Ph.D., associate professor of history (2010)



We Are an Indian Nation: A History of the Hualapai People, by Jeffrey P. Shepherd, Ph.D., associate professor of history (2010)



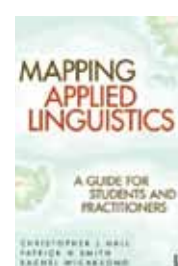
Thunder Rides a Black Horse: Mescalero Apaches and the Mythic Present, contributor David L. Carmichael, Ph.D., associate professor of anthropology (2010)



Homer's Odyssey and the Near East, by Bruce Loudon, Ph.D., professor of languages and linguistics (2011)



Broadband Access Networks: Technologies and Deployments, contributor Michael McGarry, Ph.D., assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering (2009)



Mapping Applied Linguistics: A Guide for Students and Practitioners, Patrick Smith, Ph.D., associate professor of teacher education, et al. (2011)

Pete in the Spotlight

Now the nation knows how much Miner pride UTEP and El Paso have.

Interest in Paydirt Pete, the fun-loving mascot for The University of Texas at El Paso, has reached an all-time high due to the national recognition he has received during the past few months.

One campaign pitted him against mascot rivals, while another promoted his thick mustache. However, along the way, some may have been left with the impression that Pete had gone “Hollywood,” and the prospector wanted to set the record straight – pronto.

Pete, who has been at UTEP since 1974, experiences many of the same things that students do around campus.

To give fans a closer look, UTEP launched A Day in the Life of Paydirt Pete video series, which shows viewers through how Pete navigates his life on campus when he is not turning University sports fans into Miner Maniacs.

This series culminates a hectic academic year for the lovable Miner mascot who finished second in the 2010 Capital One Bowl Mascot Challenge to Big Blue, the crown-wearing lion who stumps for Old Dominion University.

“I want to thank everyone in the Sun City, at UTEP and all of Miner Nation for supporting me during the competition and getting me to the finals,” Pete said. “Now the nation knows how much Miner pride UTEP and El Paso have.”

He also was a finalist in The Robert Goulet Mustached American of the Year Award in 2010. 📧



what's in his wallet?

Come see what I do off the court and in my everyday life.

Get a sneak peek into a Day in the Life of Paydirt Pete at www.youtube.com/UTEP.





(GET PICKED)

GROUP CALLS OUT NON-UTEP APPAREL

It is a calm, sunny day on the campus of The University of Texas at El Paso as students, faculty and staff walk to their classes, meeting places and offices. With many proudly displaying their Miner pride with their orange and blue apparel, others seem to stand out by wearing clothing from other colleges.

The Student Alumni Association (SAA) along with the Miner Ambassadors, the group of dedicated students who serve as official representatives of the University, hope to put a dent in that practice by “picking” those rebels to put on a special UTEP T-shirt over the clothes they are wearing from rival schools.

“This is something we’re really excited about,” said Claudia Vargas, junior communication major and president of the SAA. She pointed out that students should feel proud of the accomplishments UTEP

has achieved.

“We’re on our way to Tier One and, academically, we consistently rank high in the nation,” she said.

To help document the exchanges, the Miner Ambassadors will record their confrontations with their chosen targets and post the videos on UTEP’s YouTube channel for the Miner Nation to see. Vargas explained that the campaign is about the Miner spirit, not about humiliation.

“The motivation here is school pride,” Vargas said.

To add a philanthropic component to the campaign, the shirts that the “picked” students choose to give to the Miner Ambassadors are then donated to local homeless shelters and clothing drives. It’s an effort that is a “win-win” for UTEP and the El Paso community. 📍

LOOK FOR VIDEO ON [HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/UTEP](http://www.youtube.com/utep)

Photos by Niki Rhynes



Luis B. Morales Jr., associate director of Facilities Services, right, complimented his staffers, including Miguel Sarabia, left, and Al Corchado, for the work they did to maintain the University during Winter Storm 2011.

Photo courtesy of Justin Reed, UTEP Police Department

Facilities Crews’ Dedication Helps UTEP Weather Winter Storm

“The Winter Storm Event of 2011” at The University of Texas at El Paso will go down in history as a high-water mark for selfless service by UTEP work crews and for, uh, high water marks.

About 100 key personnel braved bitter cold to work an almost 24-hour cycle from Feb. 2-7 when the weather and utility outages forced the University to go dark, but not dormant.

The facilities services crews sprung into action forming a close-knit community of plumbers, electricians, maintenance men, HVAC experts and staff from the key shop and the auto pool. Even custodians were given battlefield commissions

when plumbers needed an extra set of hands to fix ruptured pipes.

The facilities team worked day-and-night under the assumption that the University would open the next day. This response helped contain and limit damage from broken water pipes.

“I’m very proud of my guys,” said Luis B. Morales Jr., associate director of Facilities Services. “I told them so, almost to the point of tears.”

He said the University’s mechanical and structural damage was fixed within a month. The grounds will take longer to recover, as some plants

and palm trees are not expected to survive. The full impact will not be known until late spring.

Morales said another key that limited damage around campus was the proactive decisions to set out resources – sand, rock salt, snow shovels and squeegees – strategically around the University in anticipation of the foul weather.

Miguel Sarabia, ground maintenance supervisor, said that the camaraderie displayed by the facilities crews is what he will remember most from this winter storm.

“People weren’t thinking of themselves,” he said of the crews working in sub-zero wind chills. “They were thinking of the job they had to do for the University.”

Despite the long hours and the poor weather conditions, there were no reports of injury to the crews.

University irrigator Al Corchado said his worst memory of the event was being pelted by snow flurries and wind as he drove a tractor to redirect snow piles. His favorite recollection was feasting on an ice cold hamburger after a long shift.

“That burger tasted so good because I was so hungry,” he said.

Morales also praised University Police and the Environmental Health and Safety Office for their assistance. 📍

College of Engineering Adds Master's in Construction Management



Many of today's construction projects are complex puzzles that require specialized skills, so The University of Texas at El Paso created a graduate degree that will provide students with the necessary training.

UTEP's Department of Civil Engineering will debut its Master of Science in construction management (M.S.C.M.) degree in the fall. The new degree plan recently was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The plan builds on the existing construction management certificate program that has been growing rapidly in its first three years, said Austin Marshall, J.D., director of the new degree program and clinical professor of civil engineering.

The University pushed for the new degree because construction projects today require sophisticated management skills that go beyond what is taught to undergraduates.

"Managing the risk of money, time, safety and quality in construction requires very detailed documentation, using highly technical document control, sophisticated scheduling software systems, and safety and quality audits," Marshall said. "Students in the M.S.C.M. program will ... be trained to integrate quickly and effectively into beginning level jobs in construction management."

The program will be open to students with bachelor's degrees in civil engineering, architecture, business and other engineering disciplines.

The M.S.C.M. is the next step in the college's plan to link a full range of professional graduate programs to local and national need, said Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., dean of the College of Engineering.

"Graduates of this program will fill a great need for construction managers coinciding with the growth of Fort Bliss and El Paso, and also will significantly contribute to the great national need for bilingual construction managers across the U.S.," he said. ☒



BETTER THAN C.S.I.

UTEP to Offer Forensic Science Degree

Students from The University of Texas at El Paso and law enforcement agents in the El Paso region have asked for and will receive a new bachelor's degree in forensic science.

Required coursework will include a strong focus on science, as well as courses in ethics, crime scene sketching and photography, psychology and criminal justice.

Students who complete the program, scheduled to begin in fall 2011, will be well prepared to continue with graduate study in science or forensic science, go to medical school or teach high school science, said Nancy Marcus, Ph.D., associate dean of the College of Science and interim director of the new program.

"We're going to offer a relevant degree," she said. "It's a highly-sought after degree that will prepare students to transition to careers in high demand."

The new degree is not a reaction to TV shows such as *C.S.I.: Crime Scene Investigation*, said UTEP College of Science Dean Anny Morrobel-Sosa, Ph.D.

"We wanted to make sure we didn't create a program just to satisfy a current fad," Morrobel-Sosa said. "These TV shows sometimes get students interested in the concept, but when they realize there is a significant amount of scientific and mathematical know-how required, they begin to lose interest. This is going to be a science-based degree."

Eventually, Marcus and Morrobel-Sosa plan to develop a doctoral program in forensic science that would not be housed within one college, but would become UTEP's first truly institutional and interdisciplinary doctoral degree. ☒

The construction management graduate degree programs will enroll students with bachelor's degrees in civil engineering, architecture, business and other engineering disciplines.



On the **MOVE** for Service

MINER NATION HELPS EL PASO

The Miner Nation volunteered almost 5,500 hours on one exceptional day in February with one main goal: make El Paso a better place.

The hours of sweat equity were compiled by 1,367 students, staff, faculty and alumni of The University of Texas at El Paso who participated in the second annual UTEP Project MOVE (Miner Opportunities for Volunteer Experiences) on Feb. 19.

Participants fanned out to 48 project sites around the borderland to paint, landscape, build, clean, organize and help 38 nonprofit organizations. At the same time, many of the volunteers learned about the groups, the need they fill and the people they serve.

Some students mentioned that one of the event's key lessons was how easy it was to volunteer, and how a little effort by a lot of people can have a big impact.

"It feels good to help people out and make a difference in your community," said Stefanie Morales, a junior history major who arranged clothes for Child Protective Services. "I'll definitely keep volunteering."

Interest in the program grew from last year when 800 volunteers put in 3,200 hours of service. The growth in participation, especially among faculty and staff, is a testament to the campus belief in community involvement, said Cindy

Juárez, a Project MOVE organizer and coordinator of UTEP's Professional and Public Programs.

Events such as Project MOVE remind the University, which continues its effort to become the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic, of its obligation to the borderland, home to the vast majority of its students.

"That's where we can have great impact," said William Robertson, Ph.D., associate dean of the College of Education and another MOVE organizer. "We teach students leadership through service and help them manifest it in their daily (lives)."

Efforts like UTEP's Project MOVE are among the reasons the University recently earned the prestigious Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, which goes to institutions of higher education that share their resources with their neighboring communities.

"This activity is an excellent example of the strong partnerships between the University family and the community to work together to advance El Paso," said Tammie Aragon Campos, Ph.D., assistant dean of students and project organizer. 📍



Photos by Niki Rhynes

PROJECT MOVE 2011 AT A GLANCE

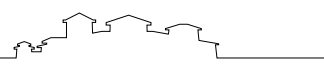
- 5,468 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER WORK BY
- 1,367 STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND ALUMNI
- AT • 48 PROJECT SITES



Water Break

FROM THIRST TO FIRST

About 100 UTEP students, staff, alumni and other volunteers earned the top water station prize from organizers of the 5th annual Michelob Ultra El Paso Marathon on March 24. The UTEP station, themed "Miner Country," was among 19 that were judged on theme, costumes, music and overall enthusiasm. The \$2,000 first prize will go back to the many student organizations that showed up before sun-up to show off their Miner spirit. 📍



Former Visiting Fulbright Scholar Witnesses Arab History Unfold



An associate professor of international relations from Morocco who was a visiting Fulbright Scholar at UTEP last year has been a witness to some of North Africa's most astonishing and powerful social revolutions in half a century.

Said Sadikki, Ph.D., who teaches at the University of Fez, has seen students and citizens in several Arab countries take to the streets to protest the unjust and often violent measures carried out by their leaders.

Last February, former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stepped down after 30 years in power in response to the demands of millions of angry protestors. Other leaders began to resign their positions soon after accusations of oppression and corruption emerged.

Sadikki said he saw thousands of students in Morocco stand in solidarity with their

counterparts in Tunisia, as its former president Zin al-Abidine Ben Ali fled the country after weeks of mass protests.

"There are fascinating questions being asked," he said. "(They are) questions that require us to think deeply and deliberately about the future of our societies here in the Arab world, and some of its new and irresistible factors of special changes, such as social networking."

In Egypt, many students organized through the power of social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter. He called them among the most valuable tools of the revolution.

"The logic of revolution is that the power of the people is invincible," he said.

The University of Texas at El Paso played host to Sadikki during the fall 2010 semester. ☞



Said Sadikki, Ph.D., saw social networking's impact on student protests in Morocco.

Photo by Laura Trejo



Mark Lusk, Ed.D., professor and chair of UTEP's Department of Social Work, and Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Governor Frank Paiz

Graduate and undergraduate social work students from The University of Texas at El Paso have a new opportunity to learn about the culture and daily challenges that face Tigua Indians courtesy of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo.

University and Pueblo officials signed an agreement earlier this year that will allow four UTEP interns to work with the Pueblo's social services division.

The partnership will allow interns to be involved in several specialty areas: policy and procedure development and program creation, social services to include child, adult and elder welfare, substance abuse programs for youth and adults, and the tribal court.

"For someone who is not sure which pathway they want to go, this is a good opportunity not only to work with the native population but to experience different areas of social work," said Rosario E. Olivera, deputy director of the Pueblo's Health and Human Services.

The Tiguas, a U.S. federally recognized Native American tribe and sovereign nation, represent a distinct population along the U.S.-Mexico border, said Mark Lusk, Ed.D., professor and chair of UTEP's Department of Social Work. He and Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Gov. Frank Paiz signed the formal agreement in February.

"As a result, we're giving students a chance to work with a population they've never worked with before," Lusk said. ☞

UTEP Social Work Expands Focus to Tigua Indians



UTEP Researchers to Help Cancer Patients Cope With Pain

By Laura L. Acosta • Photo by Laura Trejo

Primary investigators Diane Monsivais, Ph.D., far left, and Kris Robinson, Ph.D., FNPbc, RN, far right, pose with research assistants, left to right, Belinda Duran, Edna Vasquez, Erika Gonzalez Beltran and Vanessa Avelar.

Nursing and health sciences researchers from The University of Texas at El Paso's School of Nursing will help develop a cancer pain management program for Hispanic patients during a two-year study funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The goal of the research is to improve communication about pain management between patients and health care providers, UTEP program officials said. The situation can be complicated along the U.S.-Mexico border where patients, who primarily speak Spanish, and medical staffs, who primarily speak English, cannot adequately express themselves.

The program's first phase involved the development of an interview guide that is culturally and linguistically appropriate for Hispanic patients. Students will use the guide to assess the patients' pain by having them describe the pain, how they deal with it, and whether or not their methods work.

"The students will help the individuals decide what they want to do to improve their lives, and it may be as simple as remembering to take their pain meds, but it may be as complex as wanting to have better communication with their spouse," said Kris

Robinson, Ph.D., associate professor and assistant dean for graduate nursing.

Robinson will oversee the project along with Diane Monsivais, Ph.D., assistant professor at the School of Nursing. They will be assisted by graduate student Belinda Duran and undergraduate nursing students Vanessa Avelar, Erika Gonzalez Beltran and Edna Vasquez.

Duran, who is enrolled in UTEP's Master of Social Work program, said she understands the importance of doctor-patient dialogue because her mother is a cancer patient. Although her mother spoke English, she struggled to understand her diagnosis because she preferred to communicate in Spanish.

"Cancer is awful, especially when you don't understand what is happening and no one is really there to try to help you," Duran said. "I want to be that individual to make things better for my community."

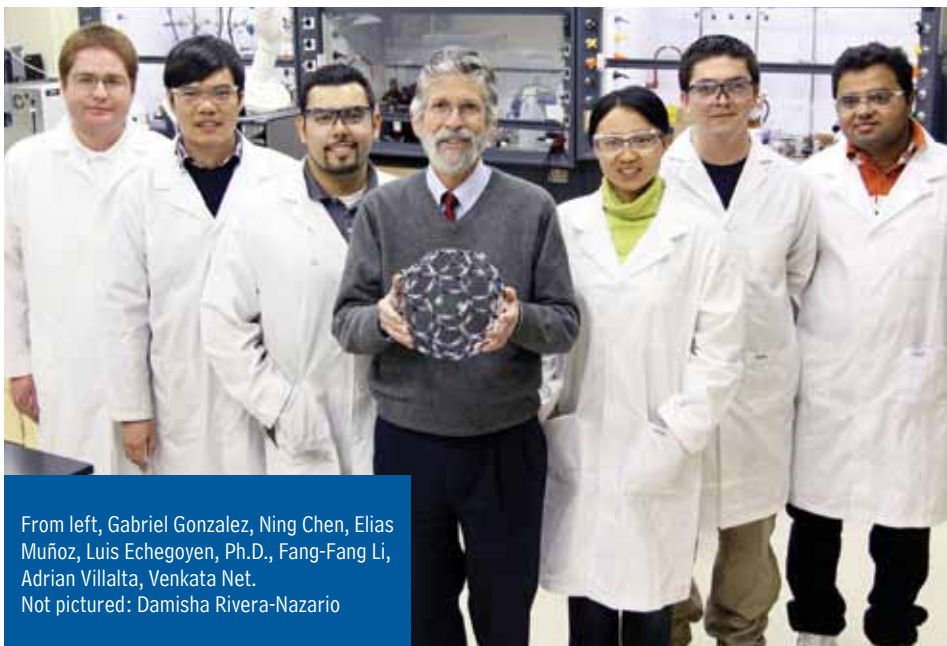
The interview guide was developed along with Kent State University and Francisco Soto Mas, Ph.D., associate professor of teacher education at UTEP. Once the material is translated, Soto Mas is expected to run focus groups to make sure the tools

"THE STUDENTS WILL HELP THE INDIVIDUALS DECIDE WHAT THEY WANT TO DO TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVES..."

Kris Robinson, Ph.D., associate professor and assistant dean for graduate nursing

are linguistically and culturally appropriate. The \$419,147 project grant comes from the Academic Research Enhancement Awards, which were established by the NIH to stimulate research at educational institutions that provide baccalaureate training for a significant number of the nation's research scientists, but that have not been major recipients of NIH support. ✉

INFORMATION: 915-747-8209



From left, Gabriel Gonzalez, Ning Chen, Elias Muñoz, Luis Echegoyen, Ph.D., Fang-Fang Li, Adrian Villalta, Venkata Net. Not pictured: Damisha Rivera-Nazario

2020: A Miner Odyssey

By Rebecca Downey • Photo by Laura Trejo

The year is 2020, and researchers at the University of Texas at El Paso's Solar Center have discovered how to increase the efficiency of solar cells, thus making solar power a more affordable, practical source of renewable energy.

The work toward this futuristic achievement began in 2010 with the arrival at UTEP of Luis Echegoyen, Ph.D., as the Robert A. Welch Chair in chemistry. He came to UTEP from the National Science Foundation, and hoped to use El Paso's sunny climate and UTEP's state-of-the-art laboratories to help inspire his research team to advance experiments on carbon cages called "fullerenes" or "bucky balls," and to apply them to organic photovoltaics.

Named after American architect R. Buckminster Fuller, who designed the geodesic dome, the C60 is a hollow carbon cluster shaped like a soccer ball, and represents one of three forms of pure carbon. The other two are graphite and diamond.

In 2011, UTEP's Solar Center has yet to be realized, but Echegoyen is busy putting into motion the foundational components for one, which could someday revolutionize the field of solar energy. His first step was

to form an Energy Group made up of UTEP researchers in engineering, mathematics, physics and chemistry who have an interest in nanotechnology and renewable power sources, and who are committed to finding ways to help reduce global energy dependence on petroleum. Echegoyen also has plans to recruit – on behalf of UTEP – the finest graduate and postdoctoral students from across the United States and

around the world to research sustainable energy.

He has a track record of collaborations with researchers globally, including researchers from Spain, Germany, Mexico, Colombia and, most recently,

China.

Echegoyen continues to focus most of his scholarly research on enhancing the functionality of fullerenes by inserting different chemical groups inside their carbon cages and also attaching other chemicals to the outside, resulting in a structure he calls "bucky ball maracas." Members of his research team say they believe that with the right chemical components both inside and outside the cages, these maracas might become the key components in organic solar cells. ☞

ECHEGOYEN IS BUSY PUTTING INTO MOTION THE FOUNDATIONAL COMPONENTS...WHICH COULD SOMEDAY REVOLUTIONIZE THE FIELD OF SOLAR ENERGY.



Lourdes Echegoyen, Ph.D.

College of Science: Professor Propels Undergrad Research

In its quest to become a national research institution, The University of Texas at El Paso is focused on creating research opportunities for all students, both graduate and undergraduate.

Lourdes Echegoyen, Ph.D., director of the new UTEP College Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives (COURI) in the College of Science, said students who engage in undergraduate research are poised for success.

"Universities such as UTEP that are encouraging their students to engage in research activities as early as possible

"UTEP STUDENTS CAN COMPETE WITH ANYBODY, ANYWHERE."

UTEP PRESIDENT DIANA NATALICIO

are finding that well-trained and properly mentored undergraduates can make significant contributions to the advancement of science and are getting better education, career and employment opportunities than peers without undergraduate research experience," Echegoyen said.

COURI encourages and supports undergraduate science researchers, hosts universitywide undergraduate research symposiums and is developing an undergraduate research journal.

Ernesto Licon, a senior microbiology major who plans to enter an M.D./Ph.D. program after graduation, said his research on how the anthrax toxin affects human cells has enhanced his learning.

"I've been able to apply what I've learned in class in the lab," he said.

UTEP students who participate in research as undergraduates are more likely to attend and be successful in graduate school than undergraduates who do not participate in research, said UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

"You're going to tell the world that UTEP students can compete with anybody, anywhere," she said to a group of undergraduate science researchers at a recent reception. "That, in turn, is going to help us get to that Tier One goal because the best evidence of our success as a university is your success as graduates." ☞

Tarahumara Study Yields Unexpected Results

By Daniel Perez • Photos By Cynthia Gallagher



“WE’RE NOT TRYING TO MAKE A JUDGMENT, BUT THE ATTITUDE IN THEIR CULTURE IS THAT YOU MUST WORK TO SURVIVE.”

Lawrence Ingalls, Ph.D.

The Tarahumaras, one of the purest and unmixed of the Native American tribes, were interviewed on their acceptance of children with disabilities. The results of a quality-of-life study of the Tarahumaras left researchers from The University of Texas at El Paso as interested in what was not said as in what was.

Few studies have been done on the subject and UTEP faculty members Helen Hammond, Ph.D., and Lawrence Ingalls, Ph.D., said it could have great academic and cultural benefits.

Liliana Rojo, a former UTEP special education graduate student who is familiar with the Tarahumaras, volunteered to conduct the interviews in July 2009 at two agrarian villages near Chihuahua City, Mexico, about 220 miles south of El Paso. The Tarahumaras said children with disabilities were accepted, but they had no first-hand knowledge of any.

While some Tarahumaras mentioned people with minor impairments, there were no instances of more life-altering disorders. Medical care near the villages has improved in the past 10 years and the residents have become more acculturated through time, but there are still no formal health practices, including prenatal care. Many still rely on curanderos, or healers, who use herbs and prayers to help the sick.

Hammond and Ingalls, associate professors of educational psychology and special services, said they thought the villages would have a few members with some physical or mental disability because of the law of averages.

The researchers said their study suggests that something is being left out about Tarahumara children who have more severe disabilities, and that will lead to more questions.

“We’re not trying to make a judgment, but the attitude in their culture is that you must work to survive. A child with a disability could ‘injure’ a family to where it would be better to not have the child,” said Ingalls, who added an old Tarahumara principle: “If you don’t endure, you’re worthless.”

Hammond said Rojo only heard rumors – such as poisoning or abandonment – of what happened to babies with severe disabilities. A nurse who was re-interviewed earlier this year said it is possible that children with severe disabilities die naturally because the family does not have the time to give them the special medical care they need.

“I asked the question several ways to try to get the people to expand on their responses, but they wouldn’t,” said Rojo, who is a bilingual special education teacher in Austin. Nevertheless, she felt the Tarahumaras answered honestly.

The research, which also involved UTEP sociology graduate student Carrie Trussell, was funded through a 2008 College of Education Enrollment Growth Funding Allocation of more than \$9,000. The information collected should be printed soon in a sociology or anthropology journal, Ingalls said.

“This is just another piece in a puzzle,” he said.



Photo by Laura Trejo

From left:
Joao Ferreira-Pinto,
Oralia Loza,
Manuel Miranda-Arango,
Laura O'Dell,
Edward Castañeda,
Kristin Gosselink,
John Wiebe
and Larry Cohn.

Not pictured:
Jon Amastae,
Louis Lieberman
and Mary Cuadrado

UTEP takes Multidisciplinary Approach to Addiction Study

By Chris Lechuga

El Paso's diversity in culture, beliefs and customs have made it a perfect place for faculty from The University of Texas at El Paso to conduct groundbreaking research in the areas of neuroscience, cognition and behavioral sciences.

This year the National Institutes of Health awarded a five-year grant worth more than \$2 million to a group of UTEP professors from the colleges of Science, Health Sciences and Liberal Arts to fund the University's Vulnerability Issues in Drug Abuse (VIDA) research training program.

The program, which will be led by Edward Castañeda, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Psychology, will study the factors that contribute to drug addiction among Hispanics of Mexican origin, which is an understudied population.

"We made the argument that El Paso is a very unique environment – it's a border community," said Castañeda, an El Paso native and UTEP alumnus. "We have an opportunity to look at a number of diverse factors such as gender, culture and ethnicity, across different disciplines here at UTEP."

As part of the University's Diversity-promoting Institutions Drug Abuse Research Program, the VIDA project aligns UTEP researchers from the health, social/behavioral and biological sciences and public policy fields. They will collaborate in activities that integrate

the neuroscience and socio-cultural dimensions of drug use among vulnerable Hispanics.

"What made this work was that we came together as a team and everybody had an opportunity to contribute to the (program's) development based on their perspectives," Castañeda said.

The professor noted how VIDA's multidisciplinary approach coincides with UTEP's bid to become a national research university. Such efforts will bring additional federal research funds to the University and build the collaborative interdisciplinary research structure.

"(VIDA) is going to help us train the next generation of scientists," said Miguel Miranda-Arango, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences and program participant. He added that the multidisciplinary approach will allow various branches to share addiction data and create a stronger training program.

"This is the first time I have taken part in such an interdisciplinary project," said Miranda-Arango. "It's becoming a tight circle of different scientists from different disciplines."

The program's secondary benefits include the recruitment of talented graduate and undergraduate student researchers, the organization of campus seminars and workshops, and the planning of two drug abuse conferences. ☒



Come Together

"What made this work was that we came together as a team and everybody had an opportunity to contribute to the (program's) development based on their perspectives."

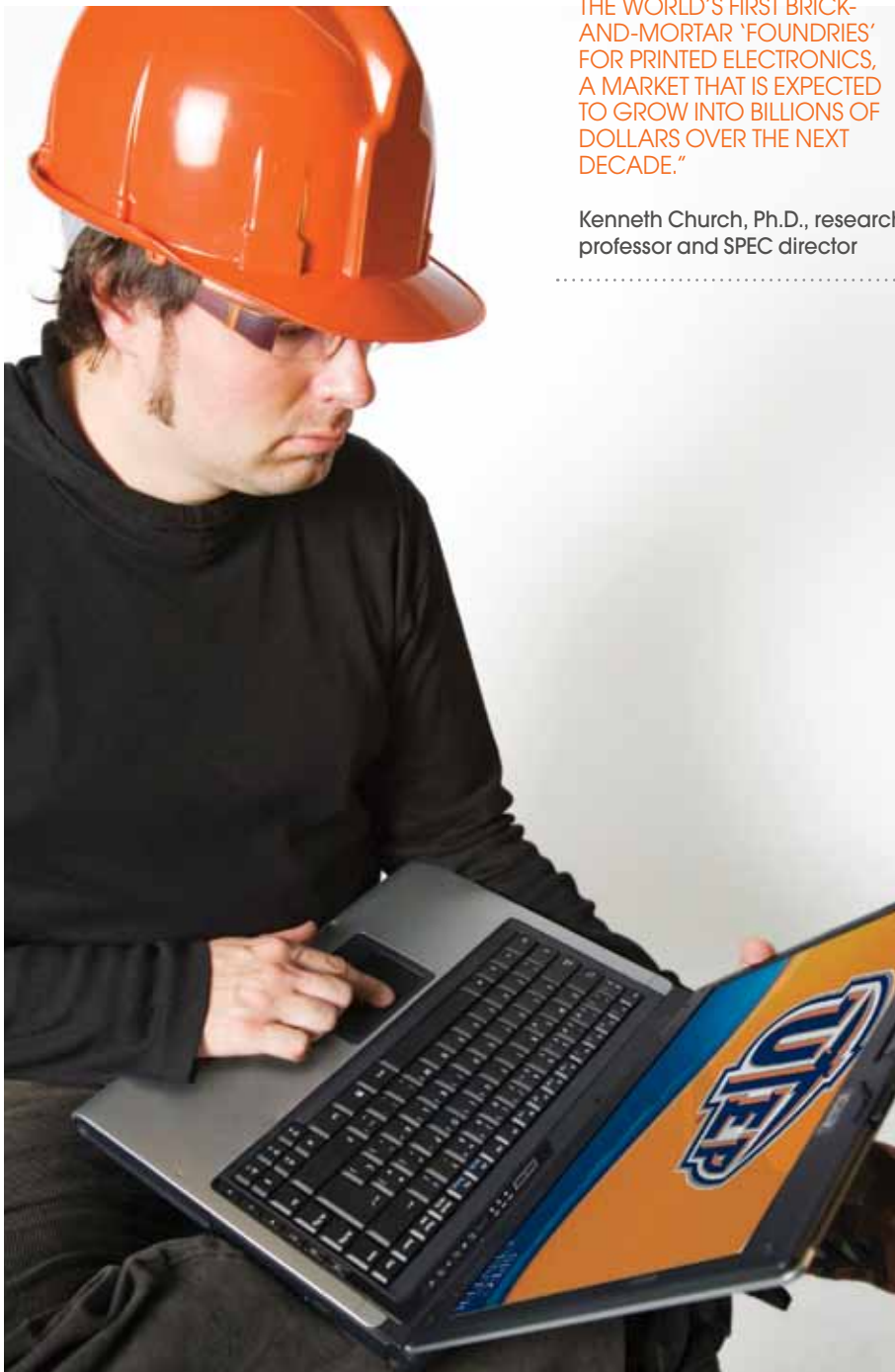
Edward Castañeda, Ph.D.,
professor and chair of the
Department of Psychology

UTEP's SPEC Creates Nexus for Technology

By Joe Velarde

"THE SPEC WILL BE ONE OF THE WORLD'S FIRST BRICK-AND-MORTAR 'FOUNDRIES' FOR PRINTED ELECTRONICS, A MARKET THAT IS EXPECTED TO GROW INTO BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OVER THE NEXT DECADE."

Kenneth Church, Ph.D., research professor and SPEC director



The revolutionary technology needed to manufacture slimmer, lighter, but more efficient consumer goods such as computers, televisions and cell phones is being tested at The University of Texas at El Paso.

Faculty and students who work at the Structural and Printed Electronics Center (SPEC) conduct the research needed to make tomorrow's dreams a reality.

Created with the help of a \$9 million donation from the Texas Emerging Technology Fund, The University of Texas System and Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, the center opened in January inside UTEP's W.M. Keck Center for 3-D Innovation.

The new center will combine additive manufacturing – the creation of a part or product by adding layers of material in an efficient way that results in less waste – with printed electronics technologies to build entirely new functional products.

"The SPEC will be one of the world's first brick-and-mortar 'foundries' for printed electronics, a market that is expected to grow into billions of dollars over the next decade," said Kenneth Church, Ph.D., research professor and SPEC director. "We anticipate 3D Monolithix (the horizontal and vertical stacking of circuits) will be one of the first of many opportunities to commercialize the research conducted by our faculty and students."

The SPEC plans to build on the world-class successes achieved by the Keck Center in research, rapid-prototyping and additive manufacturing equipment.

The Keck Center, located on the first floor of the College of Engineering Building, will balloon to 12,000 square feet to accommodate the SPEC, which will have labs for optics, lasers and metrology. The computer-driven systems will fabricate complex three-dimensional mechanical and electronic devices, and even medical products formed of living tissue.

"This is revolutionary, not evolutionary," said Ryan Wicker, Ph.D., professor of mechanical engineering and Keck Center director, last year when the SPEC was being planned. "Evolution is too slow."

The creation of the SPEC will generate outstanding research opportunities for UTEP faculty and students, and lead to exciting discoveries and the creation of high-paying, high-skilled jobs in the Paso del Norte region, said University President Diana Natalicio.

"UTEP, with our long and proud engineering legacy, is now ready to become the region's nexus for the next generation of manufacturing technologies," she said. 📍



Timothy Tansey, Ph.D., and a group of researchers will identify vocational rehabilitation practices.

\$5 Million Grant Research Aimed at Increasing Career Opportunities for People with Disabilities

As tough as it is to get a job these days, it's tougher if you have a disability. A team at The University of Texas at El Paso is part of a five-year national research project to develop ways to improve the job outlook for people with disabilities.

The task of UTEP's group, led by Timothy Tansey, Ph.D., associate professor and director of UTEP's Master of Rehabilitation Counseling program, is to identify vocational rehabilitation practices that can support people with disabilities in finding jobs.

"Approximately 70 percent of people without disabilities are employed. The number drops to 35 percent for people with disabilities who are employed," Tansey said. "There is an incredible employment gap."

The \$5 million national grant comes from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, which is part of the Department of Education. The lead investigators in this job rehabilitation research study are tied to the University of Wisconsin campuses at Madison and Stout. UTEP will get \$375,000 through 2016.

Tansey, Barbara Schoen, Ph.D., assistant professor of rehabilitation counseling, and

their graduate students will look at the International Classification Functioning (ICF) model to help them identify environmental and personal factors that may increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The ICF was developed by the World Health Organization to review factors of human functions that may be affected by a health condition. Environmental factors include culture, social norms and workplace accessibility, while personal factors include age, gender and education.

As part of their research, Tansey and his team review articles about disabilities to help them understand what impact a specific disability or personal and environmental factors have on finding a job.

"By looking at this type of research, the idea is to start developing a sense of what factors come into play that limit the employment outcomes for persons with disabilities and then ultimately develop the interventions that help mitigate some of those factors," Tansey said.

The goal is to develop an intervention program by Year 5 that can be used to train and offer technical assistance to



THE TASK ... IS TO IDENTIFY VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PRACTICES THAT WILL FIND MORE AND BETTER JOBS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

Timothy Tansey, Ph.D., associate professor and director of UTEP's Master of Rehabilitation Counseling program



support personnel at public and nonprofit organizations that assist people with disabilities. The concepts will incorporate theory-driven, culturally sensitive, evidence-based practices.

UTEP alumnus Kevin Glancey knows how tough it can be to look for a job when one is disabled. The graduate, who uses a wheelchair, ended an eight-month job search in March after he was hired by United Blood Services.

Glancey said the key was to not get discouraged. "Jobs are out there," he said. ☑



Adolfo Coronado, Ph.D. candidate, is one among many researchers in the IS field who work to identify the vulnerabilities of information.

Information Security Failures Can Weaken Economy

By Joe Velarde
Photo by J.R. Hernandez

With the pace of today’s technology moving information across the globe faster than ever before, mistakes are bound to happen. Every day, advancements in information security are being conceived faster than the technology itself. However, there is a significant price tag attached to a securities breach.

“There is no doubt that Information Systems (IS) Security is a prevalent issue,” said Adolfo Coronado, Ph.D. candidate in business administration at The University of Texas at El Paso.

Coronado is one among many researchers in the IS field who work to identify the vulnerabilities of information.

“Despite investments, announcements of information security incidents are constantly made public by the media,” Coronado said. “As a consequence of the increase in publicized IS security incidents, there is a need to empirically quantify IS security’s financial impact on organizations.”

M. Adam Mahmood, Ph.D., professor of information systems, has focused his research on measuring the economic impact of security failures.

“(Security failure) is just as big an economic problem as it is a technical problem,” Mahmood said. “For instance, who really pays the price when a system is

compromised?”

According to Coronado, previous studies have looked at different types of IS incidents and quantified their financial impact through the use of event-study methodology, or a close analysis of the impact of different events – thus measuring the value of impact on a market. The advantage of an event-study is that the market reacts efficiently to new information, and it captures tangible and intangible effects.

Coronado said he hopes to expand on these findings by introducing an international environment.

“The combination of a comparative study of the financial impact of various types of security incidents with an international component is the novelty and contribution of this research,” Coronado said.

There are many additives that contribute to the failure of IS security. Knowing how to gauge a failure’s impact is as essential as knowing how the system broke down.

“Security often fails not for technical reasons, but because incentives are wrong,” Mahmood said. “In other words, systems are particularly prone to compromise when the people who stand to gain the most from a system are not the people who end up paying the most when the system is compromised.”



Christopher Villa, a consultant with Helix Solutions, left, and John Bretting, Ph.D., associate professor of public administration, are updated on a project that will benefit the United Way of El Paso County by graduate students, seated from left, William Castilla, Angelica Jaquez and Marcus Brown.



Positive Change

“Today’s philanthropists want to know how they’ve impacted a community. They want to see positive change.”

Deborah Zuloaga, president and chief executive officer of the United Way of El Paso County and member of UTEP’s 2014 commission.

United Way, UTEP Join Forces for Solution-Driven Models

By Daniel Perez • Photo by Laura Trejo

Graduate students from The University of Texas at El Paso are in the middle of a real-world project that could become a blueprint for nonprofit agencies that deal with cost-conscious donors and growing community needs.

Fifteen students who took a Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) class during the spring 2011 semester worked on the first two phases of a groundbreaking plan that will assess, track and gauge the United Way of El Paso County’s progress toward its goals in education, basic needs and income.

The project is the latest example of the valuable experiences students gain through UTEP’s M.P.A. program. Previous classes have produced work for the City of El Paso focused on the impact of gang activity and the sustainability of mass transit.

John Bretting, Ph.D., associate professor of public administration, said the partnerships serve students on multiple levels.

In this case, the students gain access to

decision-makers who can demonstrate how things get done among El Paso nonprofits. The students can also make recommendations to modify and improve the way nonprofit organizations use their funds. And the students can demonstrate their skills to people who may hire them or help them land a job.

“This is the illustration of service learning,” Bretting said.

The skeleton of the United Way plan was developed by Christopher Villa, principal consultant with Helix Solutions, an El Paso-based strategic planning firm. He earned his M.P.A. and M.B.A. in 2007 from UTEP.

Villa suggested the partnership because the students use what they learn in the classroom toward a real-world solution, and the agency will receive a needed quality product for little to no cost. The partnership strengthens the community, Villa said.

The local United Way spent eight years building a transparent and inclusive

foundation for its strategic new outcome-based plan that focuses on education, basic needs and income.

“We needed a template that would tell us if we’re making a difference,” said Deborah Zuloaga, president and chief executive officer of the United Way of El Paso County. “Today’s philanthropists want to know how they’ve impacted a community. They want to see positive change.”

Among the students involved is Marcus Brown, who anticipates earning his M.P.A. in May 2012.

Brown said he looked forward to the research, during which his team will learn the best and worst practices of other nonprofits. The information will be used to develop methods to streamline the donation process and make it more accountable and data driven.

“I see this as a lab in which we can look at what other cities do and see how we can go beyond that,” he said. ☞

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO CLASS OF 100,000

By Chris Lechuga

EACH DEGREE
HAS A PERSONAL STORY OF TRIALS, TRIUMPHS
AND THINGS STUDENTS LEARNED INSIDE AND
OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOMS ON THEIR WAY TO
WALKING ACROSS THE STAGE.

Photo by Laura Trejo



TOUCH OF CLASS
UTEP President Diana Natalicio and graduating Senior Alex Muñoz salute historic class.



THE GOLD GRADUATION MEDALLION,
which students will get for free, will have a
distinctive design that honors this special class.

The University of Texas at El Paso, then known as the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy, issued its first bachelor's degrees to three students during its first commencement ceremony in May 1916.

Since then, thousands of UTEP graduates have followed in their footsteps on the road to successful, impactful careers in El Paso and around the world.

As the University prepares to celebrate its 100th birthday in 2014, it also has decided to mark another milestone: the presentation of its 100,000th degree.

It will be awarded during the May 2011 Spring Commencement.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio announced earlier this year that the entire graduating class will be recognized as the "Class of 100,000" so everyone could celebrate.

"It is important that all graduates share in this very special moment," Natalicio said in her remarks during the 2011 Grad Fair March 1 at the Peter & Margaret de Wetter Center.

To mark the occasion, University officials have developed special plans to make the May commencement unique.

The gold graduation medallion, which students will get for free, will have a distinctive design that honors this special class.

However, it is the graduates themselves that make the class special. Each student who attends UTEP has a unique story.

Some are the first in their families to go to college.

Some are parents. Some work full time and take classes at night.

Each degree has a personal story of trials, triumphs and things they learned inside and outside the classrooms on their way to walking across the stage.

Alex Muñoz, senior accounting and finance major, said the interaction he had with College of Business Administration faculty, staff and administrators early on put him at ease.

"They are really interested in your success," Muñoz said. "It made me feel at home that there are people who want to be stakeholders in my future."

Muñoz served as president of the Student Government Association in 2009-10 and will work as an investment banker with J.P. Morgan Chase in New York after he graduates in May. ☑

2011 TOP TEN SENIORS

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

These outstanding seniors – selected for their academic success and University and community involvement – represent the quality education that UTEP provides its more than 22,000 students. This is the 61st anniversary of the Top Ten Senior Awards.

VISIT
alumni.utep.edu/topten
FOR MORE
INFORMATION.



MARCELA AGUIRRE
Communication Studies
College of Liberal Arts



HUMBERTO CRUZ-CHAVARRIA
Political Science/Latin American Studies
College of Liberal Arts



MONICA DELGADO
Biological Sciences
College of Science



MELISSA C. DESILETS
Chemistry
College of Science



KATHERINE A. DIAZ
Biological Sciences
College of Science



JOSÉ D. GUERRA
Finance & Accounting
College of Business Administration



ALEJANDRO MUÑOZ
Finance & Accounting
College of Business Administration



ROCIO J. OROZCO
Nursing
School of Nursing



LUIS A. RUBIO
Biological Sciences
College of Science



RUBI K. YAÑEZ
Interdisciplinary Studies; Mathematics 4-8
College of Education

EVERY DEGREE HAS A STORY:

To document the individuals who are at the center of the 100,000th degree celebration, the University Communications office recorded video testimonials of the May 2011 graduates who shared a few thoughts in their own words.



Paloma Sanchez

Bachelor of Science in Microbiology

“My degree from UTEP means a world of opportunities. Now with a degree, I can do so much more and it would open up other doors.”



Brenda Lepenski

Bachelor of Arts • Multimedia Journalism

“I wanted to go somewhere where I would be offered a different kind of experience. By a different experience, I mean a bilingual, bicultural atmosphere, and I think that’s something that UTEP has given me.”



Lucia Dura

Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition

“A degree from UTEP means that I can break the mold. That I can think outside the box. It’s been challenging but the ability to shape my future as I go along has been very unique.”



Lee David Deloach

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering

“I’m only the second person in my family to graduate from college. It says a lot for me to be able to do that, especially given my age, my circumstances and my life.”



Fred Perea

Master of Public Administration

“A degree from UTEP means opportunity to let this be the first step of many to learn more, do more and never stop growing.”



Roberta Corbell

Master of Science in Nursing

“I’m a full time employee and administrative director at a local hospital. Since I was working full time and going to school full time, I was grateful for a lot of online courses with UT Telecampus.”



Fernando Reyes

Master of Education in Guidance and Counseling

“El Paso is my hometown and I wanted to humbly and modestly use the knowledge and the skills that were handed down to me from my professors, and use those skills that I learned and apply them to help the citizens of El Paso.”



Maria Cedillos

Master of Arts in Languages and Linguistics

“A degree from UTEP meant that I needed to show my girls that I was able to finish a degree. I had started a long time ago, I didn’t finish but now I’m back at UTEP, so I’m showing them that it can be done.”



Raymond King

Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology

A UTEP degree “means an opportunity to achieve your life goals as far as career choice and to start a new chapter in life.”



UTEP officials, led by Donna Ekal, Ph.D., associate provost for undergraduate studies, center, have been able to adapt the way the University offers scholarships and promotes its resources to Early College High School transfer students such as Andrea Magana, senior psychology major, and Roberto Viña-Marrufo, senior chemistry major.

Early College High School Students Succeed

By Daniel Perez • Photo by Laura Trejo

One important thing that The University of Texas at El Paso has learned from the initial cadres of Early College High School students is not to underestimate them.

Almost 200 students from the Mission Early College High School, or MECHS, have become part of the Miner Nation since fall 2009. They are part of a program in which students earn an associate degree at the same time as their high school diploma, or possibly sooner.

MECHS is one of five collaborations among local school districts, El Paso Community College and the Communities Foundation of Texas. When it opened in fall 2006, MECHS was the first school of its kind in El Paso County.

The schools, which focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, were created to give more opportunities to students who were underrepresented in higher education, including Hispanics, low-income families and first-generation college students.

Some UTEP staff, faculty and administrators were skeptical at first about how these students would perform at the University, but no longer, said Donna Ekal, Ph.D., associate provost for undergraduate

studies.

“They are marvelous students,” Ekal said. “They have exceeded our expectations academically and socially. We know they can do it.”

Gloria Michaud, a senior criminal justice major, was part of the original 23 MECHS students to attend UTEP. She said the transition to the University was seamless and that she was glad to be part of UTEP’s efforts to become a national research university.

The untimely deaths of three close family members, including her father, in the past 15 months made it hard to concentrate on academics, but she said she has regained her focus and looks forward to completing her degree plan, which includes a minor in general business.

“I’m trying to take everything I can from this experience,” Michaud said.

In general, Carl Dirk, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, is pleased with the performance of these nontraditional students. In some cases, he has been pleasantly surprised by their abilities. He has invited two of the students to participate in some theoretical chemistry research with him because of their enthusiasm and inquisitiveness.

“I’ve had some (ECHS) students who are head and shoulders above the rest of their classmates. They’re going to be (university) professors somewhere,” he said. “I think one of those students could go to grad school right now.”

His main suggestion to ECHS transfer students is to identify themselves to their professors early in the semester and keep the lines of communication open. This will help the students if they begin to feel overwhelmed by the coursework and need help.

“As educators, I think we should have a higher level of accountability and responsibility when it comes to these students,” he said. “I think it will be easier to address their concerns (as a faculty member) if you know who you are dealing with.”

The University had to create new financial aid models and revise its orientation process to best serve this new hybrid of high school and transfer student.

The students who accelerated through MECHS and earned their associate degrees before their diplomas were not eligible for federal financial aid, which stipulates that a person must have finished high school or received a General Educational Development (GED) high school equivalency certificate.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio did not want these students to delay their degree plans, so she directed the University Development office to create a special scholarship fund for them. The office was able to collect \$270,000 from private donors, which helped 65 students, according to a Dec. 20, 2010, article in Education Week.

The University also adapted the ways it promotes its resources for these students. Usually, new students and transfer students learn about the campus through entry-level courses that encourage the use of the University Library, the University Career Center and other assets, as well as ways to improve study skills. Often, the ECHS students already have taken similar courses.

The University merged or expanded the most appropriate pieces of its New Student Orientation and Transfer Orientation to meet the needs of both sides of the ECHS student, and inform them how to succeed at UTEP, Ekal said.

As a pioneer in these situations, Ekal and others familiar with the UTEP/ECHS student transitions have been sought out by up and coming ECHS programs from coast to coast to speak about the best practices developed at UTEP.

“Every semester we get a better handle on it,” Ekal said. “It’s a dynamic process and (UTEP) is excited to be a part of it.” 📧

Catching a Wave and Easing Cystic Fibrosis

By Daniel Perez • Photo by J.R. Hernandez



Her passion for surfing and success in the classroom has created philanthropic opportunities for Tess Hall, a sophomore kinesiology major.

To learn more about the connection between surfing and cystic fibrosis, visit the website Hall created for her 1312 class: cfsurfing.webs.com.

A lifelong love to surf has created a philanthropic opportunity for a student from The University of Texas at El Paso to help people with cystic fibrosis, a life-threatening disease that can impact a person's ability to breathe and digest food.

Tess Hall, a sophomore kinesiology major, combined her interests in hanging 10 with physical therapy to create a website and short film for her fall 2010 First-Year Composition class that defines cystic fibrosis (CF) and details how the salt in sea air can benefit people with the disease.

CF is a genetic disease that causes thick, sticky mucus to clog lungs and disrupt the digestive tract. It affects 30,000 Americans and about 70,000 people worldwide, according to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation website. Hall's video highlights the research that shows how the inhalation of sea air breaks down the excess mucus and allows people with CF to enjoy deep breaths.

The student's seven-minute film earned praise from as far away as her hometown of Anaheim, Calif., where Michael Shumard, executive director of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Orange County Office, asked her to be part of the Surf Experience Days. She will teach surfing classes this summer to children with CF and work on the group's annual gala fundraiser, Pipeline to a Cure.

"Passion is what drives our foundation, and when I met Tess and saw all she did through her video to create awareness about cystic fibrosis, I had to recruit her to do more and help spread that passion throughout our community," Shumard said.

Hall, who also is a midfielder on UTEP's soccer team, said she is thrilled with the opportunities that have sprouted from her project, especially the dialogue and growth of CF awareness it has started among her friends.

"They're all stoked," said Hall, who used the surfer lingo for "full of enthusiasm."

Hall said UTEP soccer coach Kevin Cross has given her a few days off from preseason training to attend the Aug. 6 gala in Huntington Beach, Calif.

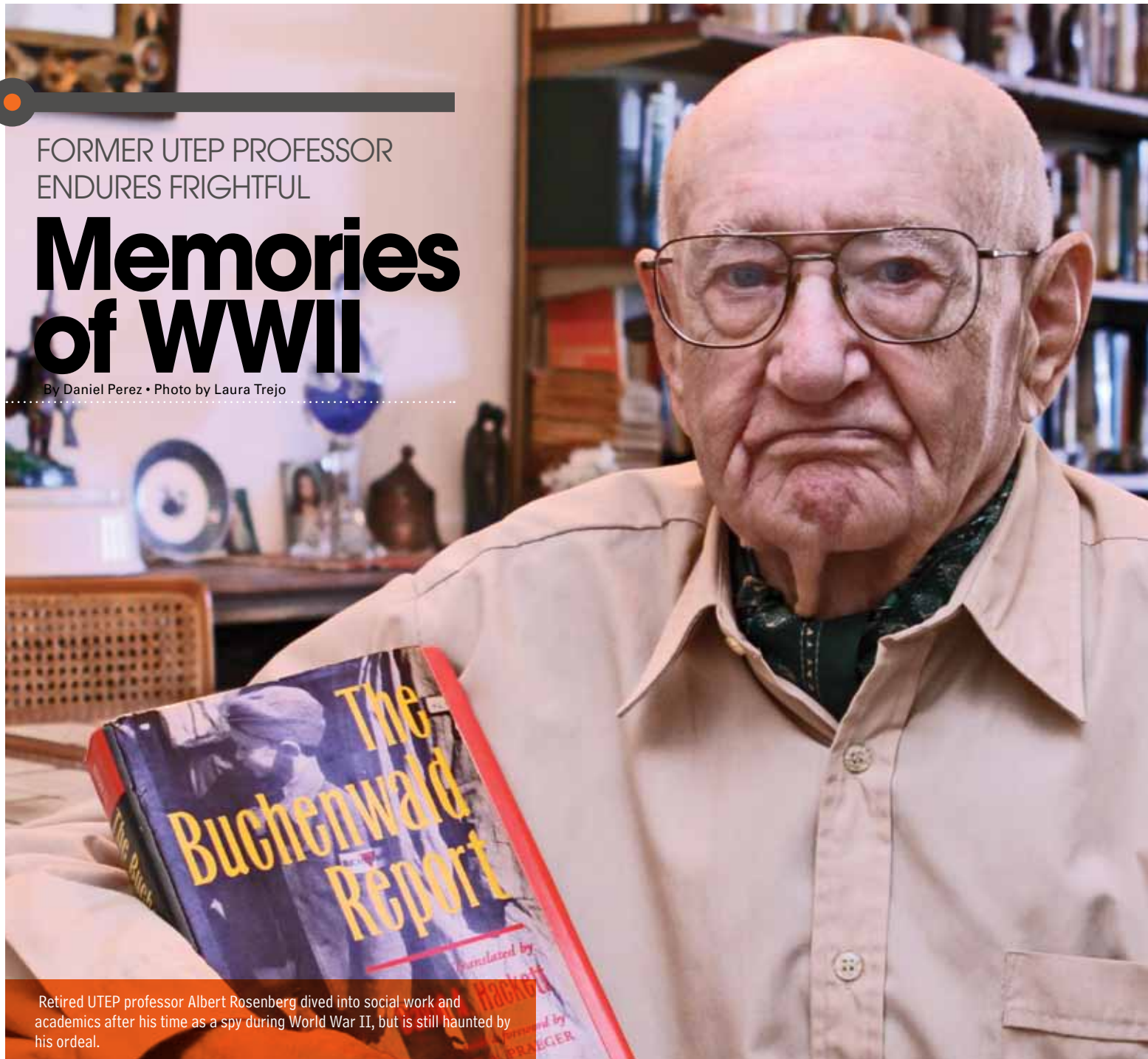
Among those excited by Hall's success is her composition class instructor, Judith Fourzan-Rice, who helped Hall shape her project.

"Tess exemplifies the best in our students. She came to class ready and open minded," Fourzan-Rice said. "She is the product of good luck made possible by hard work, dedication and interest, and she deserves great recognition for that." 📌

FORMER UTEP PROFESSOR
ENDURES FRIGHTFUL

Memories of WWII

By Daniel Perez • Photo by Laura Trejo



Retired UTEP professor Albert Rosenberg dived into social work and academics after his time as a spy during World War II, but is still haunted by his ordeal.

Mild-mannered Albert Rosenberg, a retired professor of sociology from The University of Texas at El Paso, closed his eyes and trembled as he recalled his experiences as a soldier spy for the U.S. Army during World War II.

Rosenberg, a German native who fled his country to avoid Nazi persecution, led an elite squad of foreign-born multilingual

soldiers in the Army's Psychological Warfare Division during the war. His team often went behind enemy lines to rendezvous with Allied resistance fighters.

He had several brushes with death, but the former professor said his toughest military mission was when his squad was ordered in April 1945 to interview the freed prisoners of the Buchenwald concentration camp and write a report about it. An estimated 54,000 people died at Buchenwald, which was the first such camp

liberated by U.S. soldiers.

The process lasted about a month. He spoke to hundreds of former prisoners and recalled some of them looked like skeletons and their voices were like whispers. That was 66 years ago, but it could be yesterday to Rosenberg, who still is haunted by the ordeal.

"It was a sad job," he said and added that he still visits a psychiatrist because of the emotional trauma. "I have nightmares to this day of what I had to live through. It's



GRIPPING ACCOUNTS FROM THE GREATEST GENERATION

ALBERT ROSENBERG

He had several brushes with death, but the former professor said his toughest military mission was when his squad was ordered in April 1945 to interview the freed prisoners of the Buchenwald concentration camp and write a report about it. An estimated 54,000 people died at Buchenwald, which was the first such camp liberated by U.S. soldiers.

very hard. I don't want to talk about this stuff. You try to put (the memories) away, but most of it you can't."

Interest in his work at Buchenwald resurfaced recently because of his involvement in *The Lampshade*, a book published in 2010 about a lamp discovered in 2005 at a New Orleans rummage sale. The shade supposedly was made of human skin that belonged to a Buchenwald prisoner. Rosenberg was interviewed for the book and also for news stories after the book was released.

Rosenberg found his copy of the report on the freed Buchenwald prisoners in the late 1980s in a bedroom closet where he keeps much of his war memorabilia. He gave the report – the only complete copy thought to exist – to his colleague David Hackett, Ph.D., professor of history at UTEP. Hackett's specialty is German and European history.

Hackett took the brittle, yellowed and, in some cases, barely legible carbon copied pages, translated them and edited them into *The Buchenwald Report*, which was published in 1995. After the book was released, Rosenberg donated his copy of the report to the National Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

Hackett said his friend took a hands-off approach as the book was prepared.

"(Rosenberg) couldn't deal with it emotionally," Hackett said. "He was pleased when it (was published). I think it helped get him the recognition he deserved."

Rosenberg was born in 1918 and raised in a well-to-do German-Jewish family in Göttingen, Germany. He attended a local university, but left for America in the late 1930s after he recovered from a savage beating by Nazi soldiers. Many members of his family were not as fortunate: 28 of them were killed as part of Adolf Hitler's final solution.

He arrived in New York, but within a few years enrolled in the University of Miami School of Law. The Army drafted him in 1942 before he could complete his studies. He was assigned to the Army's air corps and armored branch before he joined an intelligence unit.

Rosenberg used his fluency in German, English and French to translate German intelligence, interrogate German prisoners, and use that information to prepare materials that would demoralize German soldiers.

"It was quite effective," he said about the psychological warfare.

One of his most dangerous missions was when he impersonated a Nazi and was captured by U.S. troops. He played it cool inside the chain-link cages topped with

barbed wire until a group of Nazis became suspicious and began to surround him. He called out an emergency password to his U.S. guard, but was ignored initially. Fortunately, another more senior guard heard Rosenberg's plea and got him out of harm's way.

"It was nightmarish. I shiver when I think of it. People were killed if someone thought they were giving information to the enemy. I was getting scared," he said. "I'm sure there were others who didn't make it out."

Upon his return to the states, he earned a master's degree in community organization from the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work. Rosenberg used his skills to quell race issues in Baltimore, Chicago, Dayton (Ohio), Detroit and New Orleans. He also served the U.S. government as an urban renewal expert in Austria and Belgium and was part of a United Nations Economic Council in Switzerland.

"My job was trying to get people to work together," he said and added that he usually lectured about his efforts at area colleges and universities.

During a cross-country road trip, he visited UTEP's Department of Sociology. After a brief conversation, the department chairman told Rosenberg that the University wanted someone with his skills to start a community organizing curriculum and offered him a job. Rosenberg liked the border and the University and accepted the job offer in 1980. He stayed 10 years.

Today he lives in a second-floor apartment in a gated West El Paso community nestled in the foothills of the Franklin Mountains. He is married to Lourdes, his wife of 33 years and a retired bilingual education teacher whom he met at UTEP.

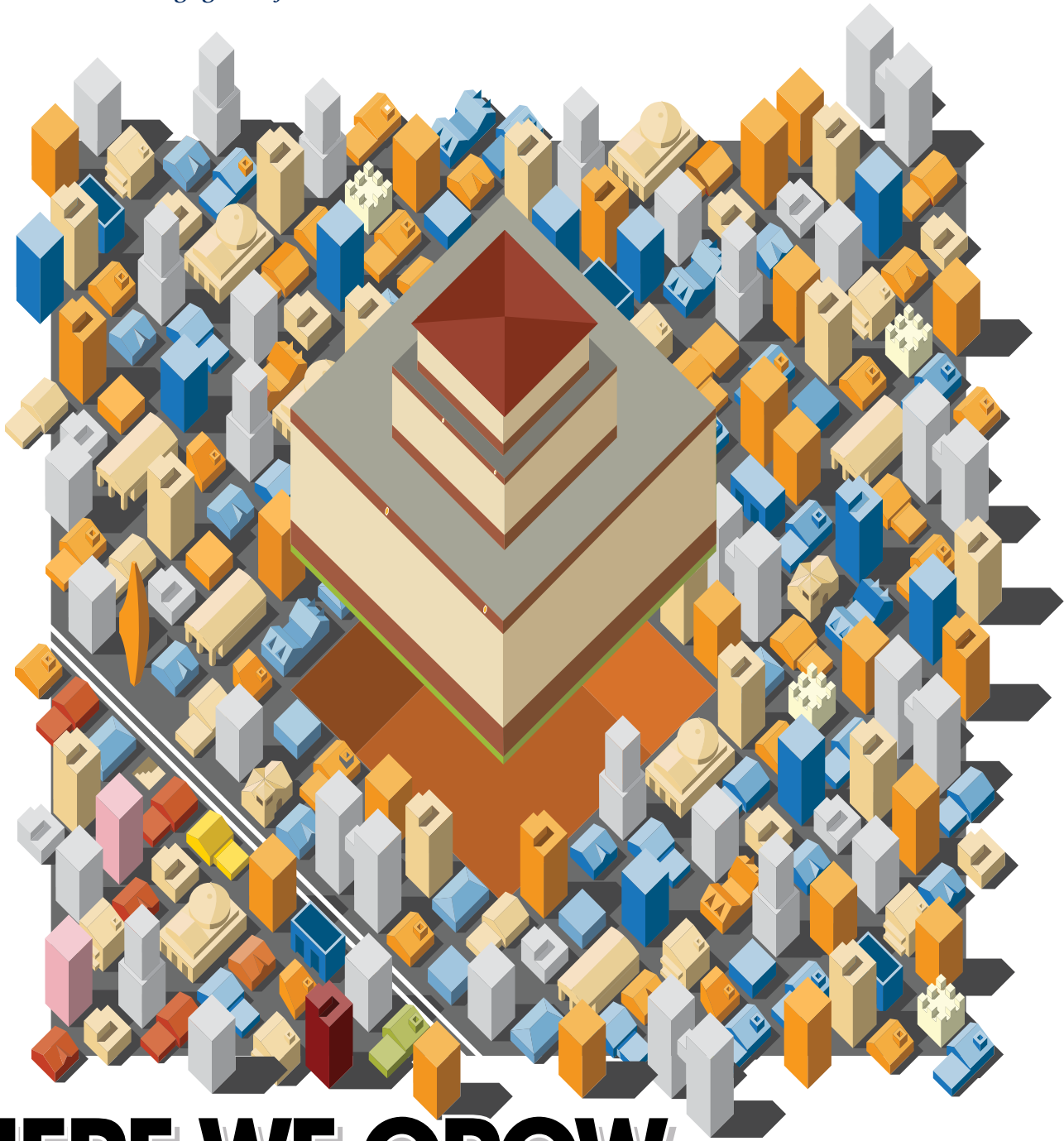
Rosenberg was remembered as approachable, encouraging and professional by former student Eunice Martinez, a licensed professional counselor and social worker with the Elinor Zind Early Childhood Intervention program. The 1987 UTEP graduate, who earned her bachelor's degree in social work, said Rosenberg always was involved in department activities.

She said he occasionally would share stories about his life during the war and praised him for his resilience and inner strength.

"He brought so much life experience into the classroom," she said. "His teaching went beyond the books."

Martinez also commented about her former professor's physical traits and fashion choices – his shaven head, ramrod posture and use of ascots.

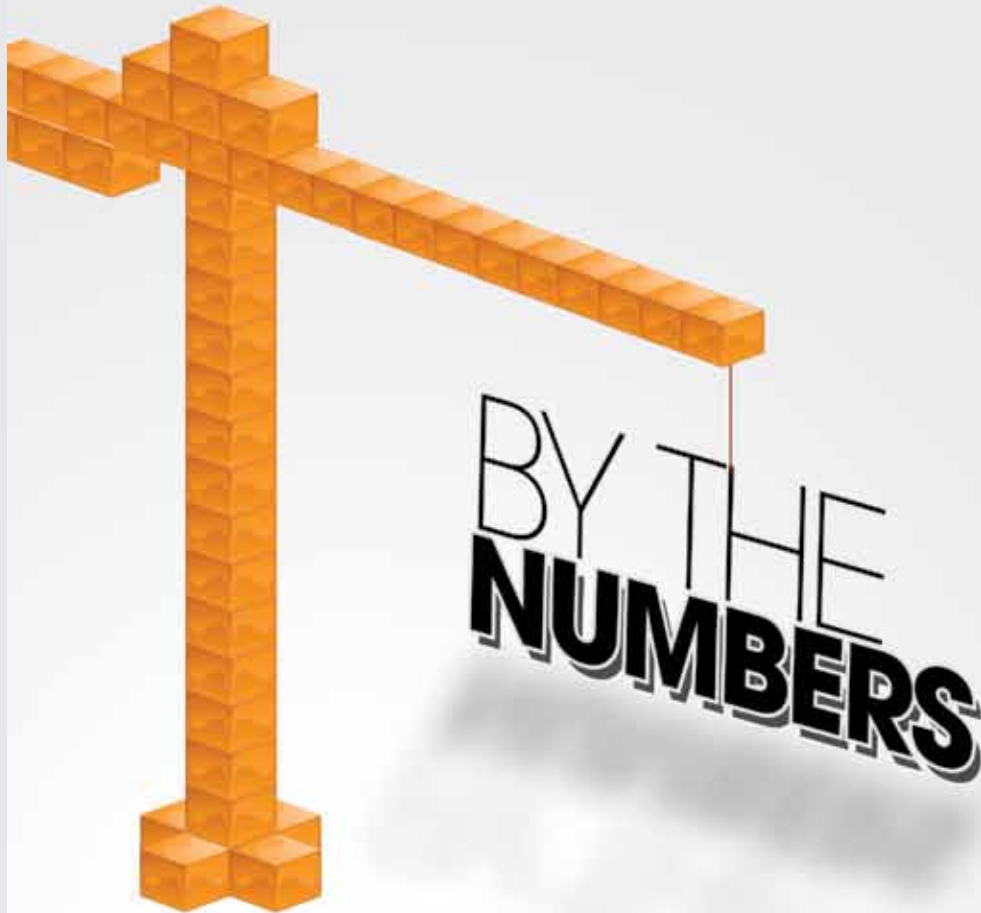
"You know, I always thought he looked like a spy," she said. 🗨️



HERE WE GROW

Stories Compiled by Jenn Crawford, Daniel Perez, Laura L. Acosta, Chris Lechuga and Joe Velarde

THE PLAN TO BUILD The University of Texas at El Paso into a national research institution started with a dream that was backed up with a can-do attitude. **UTEP ADMINISTRATORS** set their sights high when they developed the University's 10-year master plan in 2001. The vision included the addition of 1 million square feet in academic, research and support space. For some, the idea was a hard sell since it might be too difficult to find the money. **UNIVERSITY LEADERS** explained the expansion plans to the Texas Legislature and The University of Texas Board of Regents and got them to share the vision. Each completed project showed an effective use of taxpayer funds and a determination to become a Tier One institution by 2018. **BY THE END OF 2011**, the University will have spent \$383 million on just under 2 million square feet of additional space, including several new academic buildings capable of state-of-the-art research. **"PEOPLE DIDN'T THINK WE COULD DO IT,"** said Greg McNicol, associate vice president for facilities services. "The thing is none of our people took 'no' for an answer. Sure it was a daunting task, but none of us thought we couldn't get it done. Our attitude was to go after things and see where we landed."



THE UNIVERSITY'S PLANS are to maintain a robust construction pace that will attract highly competitive faculty whose research will resonate with talented students from the border and beyond.

AMONG THE NEW BUILDINGS ON THE DRAWING BOARD is a \$100 million, 250,000-square-foot interdisciplinary research building. The proposed five-story facility will have classrooms and research space. The plan is to build it at the southwest corner of University Avenue and Sun Bowl Drive and replace Barry and Burges halls, which both are more than 40 years old. Construction would take at least four years.

TAKE A PICTURE
FOR MORE INFO



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The Changing Face of UTEP

9,500:

Cubic yards of concrete that will be used to build the Schuster Parking Garage.

6:

120-foot-long beams that will span Schuster Avenue and support the “flyover” bridge.

2:

Four-sided, 25-foot tall ornamental Bhutanesse towers that will be part of the landscaping around the new Schuster off-ramp.

8:

Pickaxe art pieces that hold up the exterior awnings outside the Glory Road Transfer Center and Parking Garage.

80,444:

Individual 1-inch square tiles that make up both murals honoring the 1966 men’s basketball team in the Glory Road Transfer Center and Parking Garage.

107:

Pieces of new cardiovascular equipment in the Student Recreation Center expansion.

520,000:

Gallons of water required to fill the pools in the Student Recreation Center.

6:

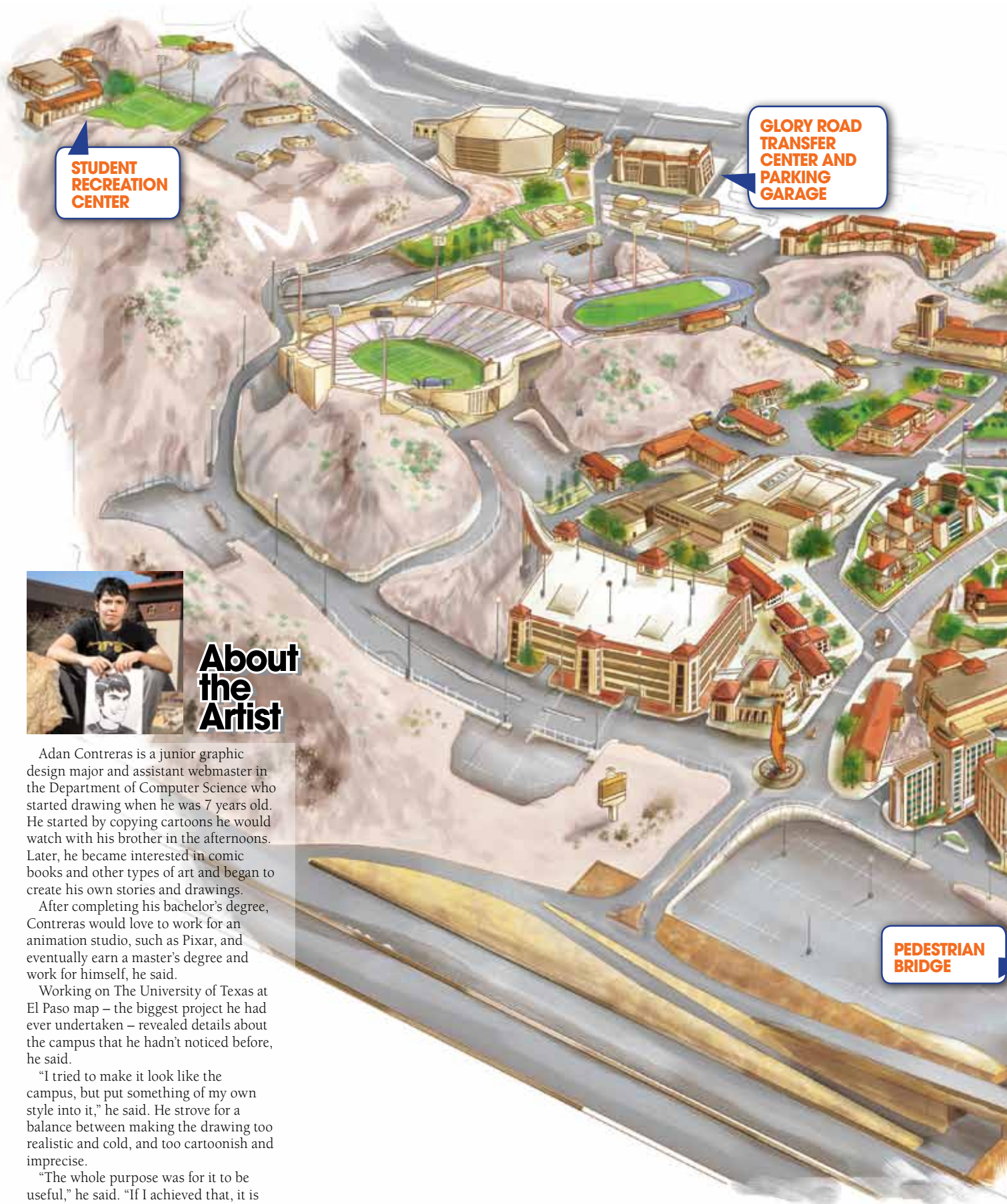
Number of air conditioners needed to cool the Student Recreation Center expansion.

35:

Feet above the ground of the pedestrian bridge across Sun Bowl Drive.

92:

Weight of the pedestrian bridge deck in tons.



STUDENT RECREATION CENTER

GLORY ROAD TRANSFER CENTER AND PARKING GARAGE

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE



About the Artist

Adan Contreras is a junior graphic design major and assistant webmaster in the Department of Computer Science who started drawing when he was 7 years old. He started by copying cartoons he would watch with his brother in the afternoons. Later, he became interested in comic books and other types of art and began to create his own stories and drawings.

After completing his bachelor's degree, Contreras would love to work for an animation studio, such as Pixar, and eventually earn a master's degree and work for himself, he said.

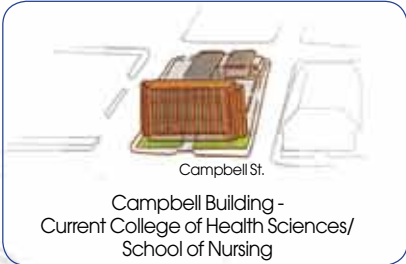
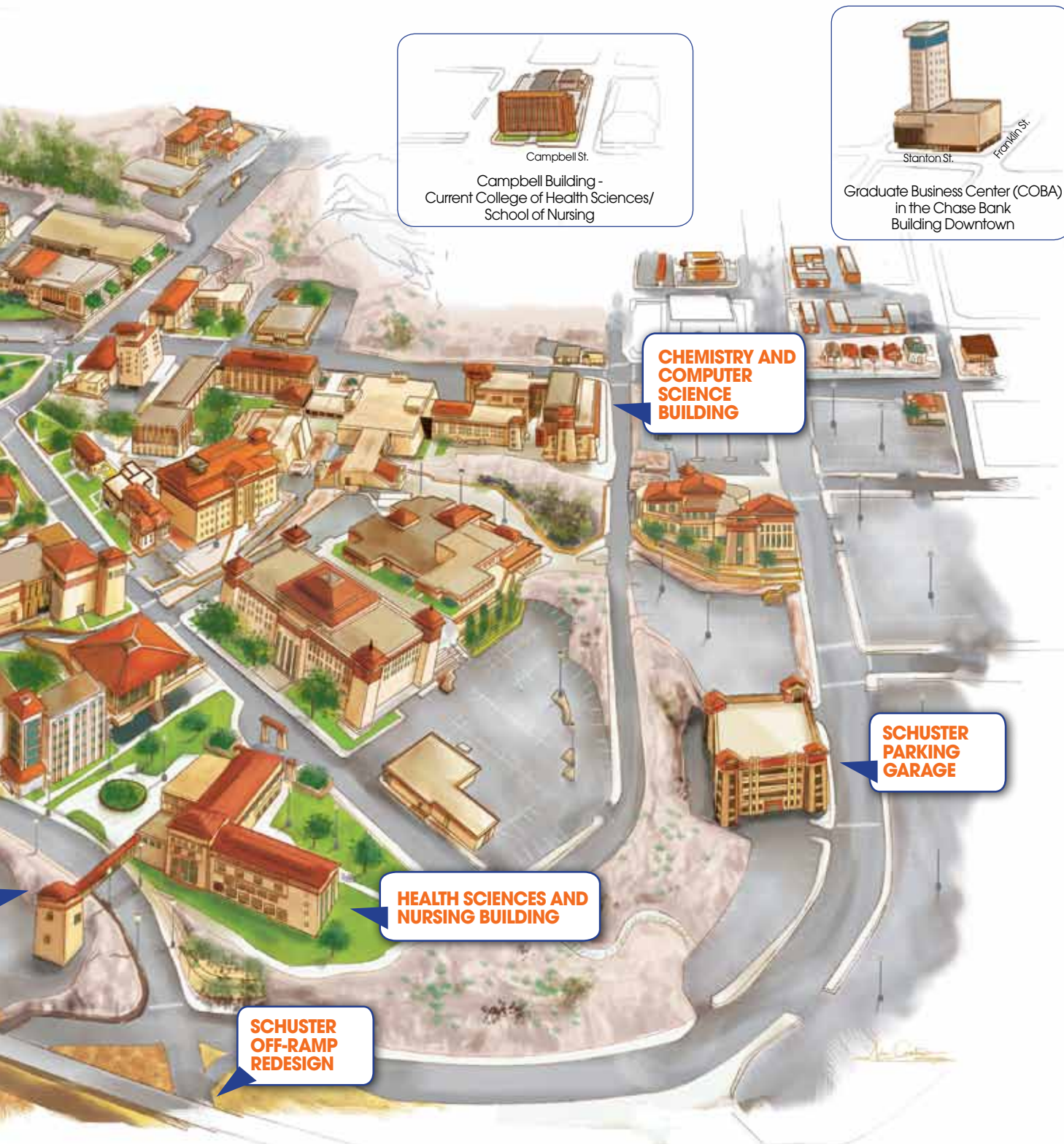
Working on The University of Texas at El Paso map – the biggest project he had ever undertaken – revealed details about the campus that he hadn't noticed before, he said.

"I tried to make it look like the campus, but put something of my own style into it," he said. He strove for a balance between making the drawing too realistic and cold, and too cartoonish and imprecise.

"The whole purpose was for it to be useful," he said. "If I achieved that, it is complete."

The Changing Face of UTEP

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO CAMPUS
SPRING 2011



**CHEMISTRY AND
COMPUTER
SCIENCE
BUILDING**

**SCHUSTER
PARKING
GARAGE**

**HEALTH SCIENCES AND
NURSING BUILDING**

**SCHUSTER
OFF-RAMP
REDESIGN**

STUDENT RECREATION

Center

After celebrating its “topping out” ceremony in the fall, the expansion of the Student Recreation Center continues. The project, which will expand the center by 87,427 square feet, is slated to open its doors in summer 2011.

The \$32 million undertaking is still well under budget. Once completed, the existing center’s cardiovascular machines and free weights will be transferred into the new complex or traded in for new equipment.

The new expansion will include additional gym and workout space, 10 basketball hoops, a 1/8-mile indoor running track and a 45-foot climbing wall. After the soft opening of the new complex, the existing building will undergo renovation of the pools, locker rooms and weight room.



GLORY ROAD

Transfer Center and Parking Garage

The Glory Road Transfer Center and Parking Garage, 100 E. Glory Road, officially opened Jan. 13, 2011. The \$13 million structure was a partnership between The University of Texas at El Paso and the City of El Paso. For its part, the University wanted to provide its students, faculty and staff with an improved mass transit opportunity as well as additional convenient parking for everyday use or special events at the Don Haskins Center and the Sun Bowl. The seven-story garage has 436 parking spaces including 220 for UTEP use weekdays. The 202,000 square-foot garage eventually will have at least 12 electric charging stations for battery-powered vehicles. The center is decorated with two large mosaic tile murals that honor UTEP’s Hall of Fame basketball coach Don Haskins and his Texas Western College (now UTEP) Miners team that won the 1966 NCAA basketball championship and made history by starting five African-American players.





SCHUSTER

Off Ramp Redesign

The construction of a redesigned Schuster Avenue off ramp from westbound Interstate 10 comes at a critical time in the growth of The University of Texas at El Paso. UTEP students, faculty and staff who use the exit at peak times are familiar with the congestion that can line cars up for a half mile along the freeway's shoulder.

This \$8 million project by the Texas Department of Transportation was designed to create easier traffic flow into and around the University. It will include an additional exit lane and a bridge over Schuster that will direct traffic into campus via University Avenue. The work, which also will include a westbound entry onto the freeway from University Avenue and two 25-foot-tall decorative Bhutanese towers, should be completed in spring 2012.

TxDOT and UTEP officials said the new infrastructure was needed to stay ahead of the anticipated growth at the University where student population is expected to reach 30,000 by 2020.



CHEMISTRY AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Building

The Chemistry and Computer Science Building, located on the corner of Hawthorne Street and Rim Road, will open in winter 2011. It hugs the existing Engineering Annex and will provide further room for UTEP's growing family of academics. Students, faculty and staff are expected to move into their new home in early 2012. The \$69.2 million project will offer an additional 150,000 square feet once completed. The expansion will make room for slated research projects, which will contribute to campus growth and UTEP's journey toward becoming the first national research facility with a 21st century student demographic. The building began construction in March 2009.



PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

and Tower

A pedestrian bridge across Sun Bowl Drive will span more than 150 feet from the S-3 parking lot to a plaza adjacent to the new Health Sciences and Nursing Building on Wiggins Road. The \$2 million project includes the covered bridge and a 26-foot tower that will have stairs and an elevator.

Lifting the bridge deck into place were two cranes, one of which was the largest ever used on the UTEP campus. When completed, the 92-ton bridge deck will be capable of supporting up to 188 people, and will provide a safe and direct route for students, faculty, staff and visitors to enter the south end of campus from the parking lots on Sun Bowl Drive.



PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Building Renovations

In addition to other new projects being constructed around campus, the Physical Sciences Building is enjoying its own makeover, Miner style. The Science and Engineering Core Upgrade involves more than 83,000 additional square feet around the breezeway and skywalk of the existing building. The project is part of a \$22 million renovation project that includes more office and classroom space, restrooms, fire-detection system upgrades, cooling system additions and exterior waterproofing. On the aesthetic side, contractors will create a new entrance to the building as well as replace some windows and the roof. The work should be done by spring 2012.





SCHUSTER

Parking Garage

The newest multilevel parking garage at The University of Texas at El Paso should open in spring 2012 and was created with growth and ease of access in mind.

The \$12.43 million, 244,672-square-foot Schuster Parking Garage will handle many of the students, faculty and staff who will use the Chemistry and Computer Science Building and the College of Health Sciences/School of Nursing Building that will be finished this summer. The CHS/SON is expected to bring to campus an additional 3,000 faculty, staff and students who previously used the Campbell Building near downtown El Paso.

The five-level parking facility will accommodate 696 vehicles and will be bookended by two surface lots that will have 57 and 49 spaces.

“These projects are part of a continuous effort to plan for UTEP’s anticipated growth in enrollment and facilities,” said Cynthia Vizcaino Villa, vice president for business affairs. “The projected increases compel us to improve our options for safe and convenient movement through campus.”



HEALTH SCIENCES AND NURSING

Building

One of UTEP’s most anticipated construction projects, the Health Sciences and Nursing Building, will open in June. The \$60 million, 130,000-square-foot facility that can be seen from Interstate 10 near Schuster Avenue will house the undergraduate health sciences and nursing programs, which have previously been located in the current College of Health Sciences and School of Nursing Building north of downtown El Paso.

The five-story Bhutanese-style building includes laboratory, classroom and research space and a 16,000-square-foot simulation lab that is equipped with high-tech mannequins, 50 hospital beds, and a clinic and apartment-style settings that will provide future health professionals hands-on opportunities to practice their skills in a safe learning environment.

One of the building’s most distinctive features is the two-level courtyard, which is typically found in Bhutanese *dzongs*, or monasteries. The building is also the first to incorporate windows with a three-arch design, which is a typical element of Bhutanese architecture.



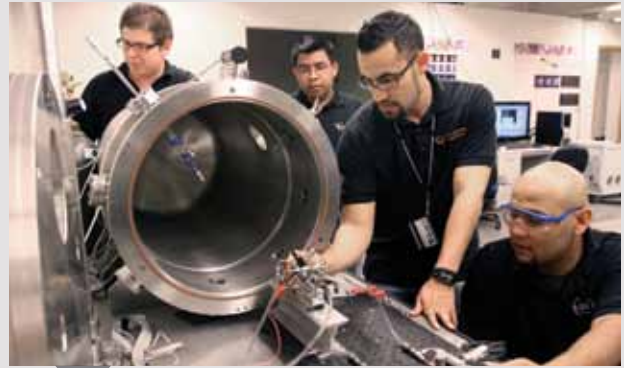
SMALL PROJECTS

Enormous Results

Several smaller construction projects that will bring high-tech research opportunities to The University of Texas at El Paso should go online this year in and around the College of Engineering.

UTEP invested \$22 million in five areas that will offer state-of-the-art research, computing and laboratory facilities.

- **The Structural and Printed Electronics Center** (SPEC), will showcase future generations of electronic devices that produce rapid manufacturing opportunities. It will include labs for optics, lasers, metrology and electronics. It will be housed in an expanded 12,000-square-foot W.M. Keck Center for 3-D Innovation on the first floor of the Engineering Building.
- The new **Research and Academic Data Center** will be in a one-story “saddle” built on top of the existing sky bridge that connects the Classroom and Engineering buildings. It will be home to the University’s high-performance computing equipment that research faculty will use to perform high-capacity computing. The additional space will allow for more research computing equipment.
- Researchers will use wet and dry labs in the 7,000-square-foot **Biomedical/Bioinformatics Annex** in the Physical Sciences Building to study biomaterials and tissue engineering, bioinformatics and health care delivery in low resource settings. Faculty will use other space to expand their research programs and attract new faculty for biomedical engineering and bioinformatics programs.



- UTEP’s new **Center for Space Exploration and Technology Research Propulsion Lab** will conduct world-class research in rocket propulsion and energy engineering, including clean, alternative fuels. It will take up 11,000 square feet on the first and second floors of the College of Engineering Building.



- The goal underlying the 3,165-square-foot **Engineering Design Studio** is to allow faculty and students to put theory into practice on a multidisciplinary scale. They will work on complex real-world projects from design through manufacturing. It is located in the basement of the engineering building.



- In addition to the \$22 million research investment, the University has spent \$4.5 million on the **Nanotechnology Fabrication Center**. Nicknamed “the Clean Room,” the center will provide an extremely sterile environment where researchers can work with materials that are so small they cannot be seen with microscopes. The 6,876-square-foot center will be managed by the University’s NanoMaterials Integration Laboratory.

Tip of the Pick

BUILDING A NATIONAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

Research at The University of Texas at El Paso has reached historic heights. As the University's skyline evolves with new construction and renovation projects, dynamic research opportunities for faculty and students in several fields continue to grow.

Through new state-of-the-art laboratories and research centers, the University has made great strides to educate future leaders in research, especially in science and technology.

In 2008, the University embarked on an unprecedented \$260 million construction program —the single most significant facilities investment in the University's history. Today, several of those construction projects are nearly complete.

"These facilities, and others currently under construction or undergoing renovation, represent the progress that will accelerate our journey toward Tier One, or national research university status," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

The \$60 million College of Health Sciences/School of Nursing Building is expected to open in June and will include a 16,000-square-foot simulation lab that will enhance the educational experience for future health professionals.

Another prime example of UTEP's ongoing research efforts is the new \$69.2 million Chemistry and Computer Science Building, which should be completed in Spring 2012. The building will facilitate interdisciplinary research in such fields as bioinformatics, computational chemistry and nanotechnology.

UTEP also has invested \$22 million in research infrastructure in and around the College of Engineering, and \$32 million in the expansion of UTEP's Swimming and Fitness Center, which will draw students, faculty, staff and alumni to its ultramodern recreational facilities.

The University's outlay in cutting-edge infrastructure has helped attract renowned faculty and talented students who will help transform UTEP into the country's first national research university with a 21st century student demographic.

"These facilities represent the progress that will accelerate our journey toward Tier One status."

UTEP President Diana Natalicio





Army Medical Officer Credits UTEP for Style of Leadership

By Daniel Perez • Photo by Laura Trejo

U.S. Army Capt. Chris Burciaga, an alumnus of The University of Texas at El Paso, said UTEP helped him develop a leadership style that is mostly military, but partly empathy.

Burciaga, who earned a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in military science in 2004, said he integrated management techniques from different faculty members to become what he called "a soldier's leader."

The medical company commander with the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division visited campus in early 2011 prior to a yearlong duty assignment in Iraq. He said he may be among the last UTEP alumni to be deployed to the Middle East if the military follows its exit strategy to leave by Dec. 31, 2011.

He said his leadership skills were needed during his last Iraq tour in 2005-06. His convoy was hit on two separate occasions – once by an improvised explosive device (IED) and another time by a rocket-propelled grenade.

"Seconds seem like minutes in those situations," he said during a conversation at the library café. "Your body feels as if it's being rebooted, like when you restart your computer. You make sure you can move your fingers and toes and then you have to be a leader – assess the situation, look for defensive positions, rescue survivors and get

your soldiers out of the kill zone."

One of Burciaga's commanders at UTEP, Lt. Col. James Pleasant, expected his former student's success in the Army because he was armed with a combination of brains, skills and personality.

"He could be outspoken and very

"EL PASO AND THE U.S. NEED MORE PEOPLE LIKE CHRIS BURCIAGA."

Kathy Staudt, Ph.D.,
professor of political science

articulate," Pleasant said. "When things got tough, he would be optimistic."

The empathy part of his leadership style grew as he participated in UTEP's Center for Civic Engagement under Kathy Staudt, Ph.D., professor of political science. She remembers Burciaga as a "good man" committed to public and community service because it improves society and democracy.

"He realized the ways that active learning

strengthened his intellectual development," she said. "El Paso and the U.S. need more people like Chris Burciaga."

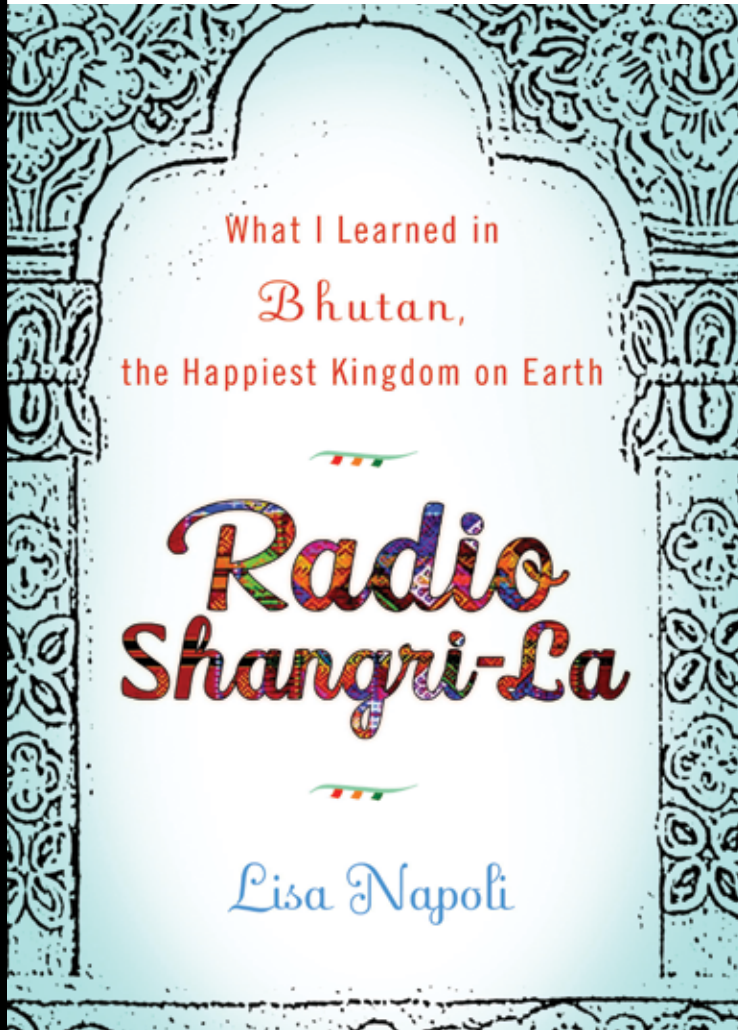
Burciaga, whose father and grandfather served in the Army, said he initially wanted to become a G.I. lawyer, but the service decided it needed him in the medical corps. He took the change in stride and worked to become the best leader and medical administrator possible. His positive attitude helped him move up in rank and responsibility.

"It's important that you can relate to the private, but think like a field-grade officer. Your decisions have to benefit the team," he said.

He understood the value the Army puts in education, so he earned in 2007 an online graduate degree in health care management. He said he plans to work on a second master's in human resources management after his Iraq tour.

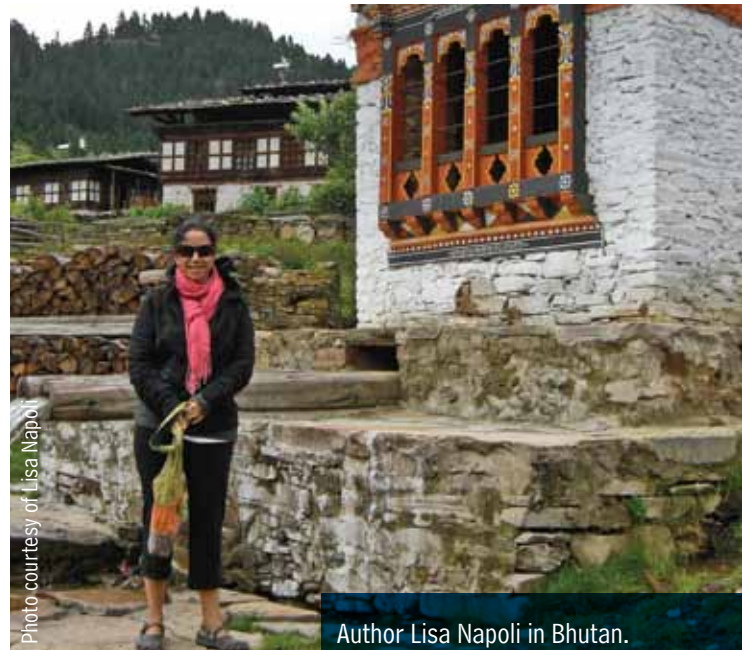
Burciaga said his goals are to retire from the Army as a lieutenant colonel, become a civilian hospital administrator, and possibly run for elected office. ☒

Army Capt. Chris Burciaga, a 2004 UTEP graduate, plans to get a second graduate degree after his year-long deployment to Iraq.



Shangri-La of the Southwest

By Chris Lechuga



Author Lisa Napoli in Bhutan.

A noted journalist touched on the connection between The University of Texas at El Paso and the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan in her new book, *Radio Shangri-La*, which was published in February.

Lisa Napoli, who has worked for media outlets such as the New York Times, CNN and MSNBC, wrote her book about what she experienced during a 2008 trip to Bhutan to help the country start its first non-government controlled, youth-oriented radio station.

Due to her newfound love of the country, the journalist volunteered to help at the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C., which featured Bhutan. While at the event, she met a team from the University including UTEP President Diana Natalicio. The team was there to document the construction of a Bhutanese temple on the National Mall.

The UTEP crew told Napoli about the University's unique architecture that has earned it the nickname "Bhutan on the Border."

Almost all of the University's buildings

are designed in a Bhutanese style with deep inset windows and tall sloping walls decorated with dark brick bands and colorful mosaic-tiled mandalas, which are symbols of unity and wholeness.

Kathleen Worrell, wife of the first dean of the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy, which is now UTEP, saw a photo essay about Bhutan in a 1914 issue of National Geographic magazine. She suggested to her husband, Stephen Worrell, that the architectural style would blend in well next to El Paso's Franklin Mountains.

Napoli's interest was piqued enough to visit UTEP on her way back to the Himalayas. She said the sight of so many Bhutanese-style buildings 8,200 miles away from Bhutan blew her away. She devoted a chapter in her book to the connection.

"I always thought it was a couple of buildings, not the whole campus," said Napoli, who continued her research in the University Library's Special Collections Department. "I think it's just a fantastic curiosity that so many people don't know about." ❏

For more information, visit lisanapoli.com

"I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS A COUPLE OF BUILDINGS, NOT THE WHOLE CAMPUS."

Lisa Napoli, author and journalist

going the distance

By Laura L. Acosta • Photo by Laura Trejo

A boxer since she was 10, Stephanie Han, a 20-year-old kinesiology major at The University of Texas at El Paso, plans to go the distance in the ring in 2012. Han is training for the summer Olympics in London, which will mark the first time women's boxing will be included in the Olympic Games schedule.

"This year is very important because I have to qualify for the Olympic trials, which will either be at the end of this year or the beginning of next year," said Han, an El Paso native. "I'm hopeful because I'm one of the top athletes in my weight class, so hopefully I'll make it. That's one of my goals."

Han is well on her way to achieving her goal. In 2010, she won the National Golden Gloves Tournament and the Police Athletic League National Tournament. A graduate of El Paso's Irvin High School, Han also has won several junior titles as a boxer and is a former state high school wrestling champion.

"She has a desire to win. She wants to be the best," said her father, Master Bea Han, who began training his daughter in kickboxing when she was 8 years old. "No one is better balanced than her in mind, body and spirit. She has everything."

Boxing is a tradition in the Han family. Han and her four siblings, including her twin sister Heather, grew up at their father's martial arts school, Han Oriental Martial Arts.

"The gym is our second home," Han said. "Our whole childhood was at the gym. It's like something natural to us."

Two of Han's siblings, Jennifer and Abraham, are professional boxers. Jennifer Han graduated from UTEP in 2007 and Abraham Han is expected to

graduate in spring 2011. Stephanie, Heather and their brother Izzie are amateur boxers.

"We want her to accomplish the Olympic dream," Jennifer Han said of her sister.

"She has a lot of talent. Her best asset is she can think while in the ring. When you're fighting, it's not just about punching; you have to include strategy."

When Stephanie Han is not sparring at the gym, she teaches martial arts classes to

SHE HAS A DESIRE TO WIN. SHE WANTS TO BE THE BEST.

Master Bea Han, Stephanie's Dad



children. Despite a full course load at UTEP, where she maintains a 3.7 GPA, Han is not one to throw in the towel when times get tough.

"Sometimes it's difficult because it gets very stressful, but I'm used to it. I like a challenge, and it's very challenging just to manage school and practicing," she said.

Han is intent on pursuing her career in physical therapy and her dream of boxing in the Olympics. Just as she is relentless in the ring, she refuses to sacrifice one goal for the other.

"I want to have an education and I also want to box," she said.

"If I focus on boxing and I don't go to school and I don't make it in boxing, then I don't have a career. I know that as long as I stay positive and try hard, I can do it." ☑



From left, Jaime Carrasco, Eric Martinez, Betsy Tinajero, Joe Ramirez and Rudy Melendez II.

Musical Cells

UTEP Production Mixes Musical with Moods

By Chris Lechuga • Photo by Beverly Kerbs-Ward

Staged musicals usually conjure images of happy dance numbers, lively music and funny situations. That would make The University of Texas at El Paso's Union Dinner Theatre's spring production of *Kiss of the Spider Woman* a bit unusual.

The dark but riveting tale encompasses such themes as prison life, depression and paranoia.

"It gave us a challenge," said Don Cieslik, interim director of the UTEP Dinner Theatre and production director. "Because it is a more dramatic show than most musicals, it gave us a lot of opportunity to work on the more dramatic elements, like the acting and staging."

Kiss of the Spider Woman tells the story of two cellmates, Valentin and Molina, who are held in a Latin American prison. Subject to torture, Molina tries to help Valentin, and himself, through the ordeal by sharing his fantasies of his favorite actress, Aurora, and her most famous role as the Spider

Woman.

"He's afraid of that character and never knew why," Cieslik said. "That's where a lot of the big song and dance numbers come in."

For Frank Montes de Oca, assistant director for University Relations, portraying Valentin in the play has been a rewarding experience. He said he based his character on his recollections of the book from which the musical was adapted and his experiences as an audience member who saw an original cast performance on Broadway in the early 1990s.

"I had that perspective of knowing the show firsthand," Montes de Oca said.

Cieslik said he recognized that the switch to a more serious and dramatic production from the normal, lighter musical comedy might have been a stretch for some, but he added that the El Paso audiences still appeared to have enjoyed the show. ➤

➤ UPCOMING SHOWS:

- **The Sound of Music**
April 22-May 15
- **Urinetown**
July 8-24

UTEP DINNER THEATRE
Union Building West, 2nd floor
915-747-6060
Tickets available through the
University Ticket Center
utep.edu/udt

By Joe Velarde

Crossing of Tomás

UTEP ALUM HOPES FILM WILL SHED LIGHT ON PLIGHT OF JUÁREZ

“WE CANNOT PRETEND AS THOUGH OUR SISTER CITY DOES NOT EXIST. I AM NERVOUS, BUT I AM DOING THIS FOR OBVIOUS REASONS.”

Christopher Velasquez
Writer/Director

The task of filmmakers is to bring an image into the moving light that will evoke whichever emotion they want. An alumnus of The University of Texas at El Paso said he hopes to do that with his latest thought-provoking project.

Writer/director Christopher Velasquez will shine a light on illegal immigration and the violence in Juárez in his feature *The Crossing of Tomás*, which will star El Pasoans Lee of the *Twilight* film series and Ara Celi, a former UTEP student and veteran actress of stage and screen.

The film chronicles the journey of a young man from the ravaged region of northern Mexico to the promising valleys of West Texas.

Velasquez, who earned his bachelor’s degree in communication in 2010, originally considered recreating certain scenes from Juárez in El Paso because of the continued violence south of the border, but scrapped that idea. Instead he led a small camera crew into Juárez to capture genuine shots of urban decay and the hostility of the drug cartel wars.

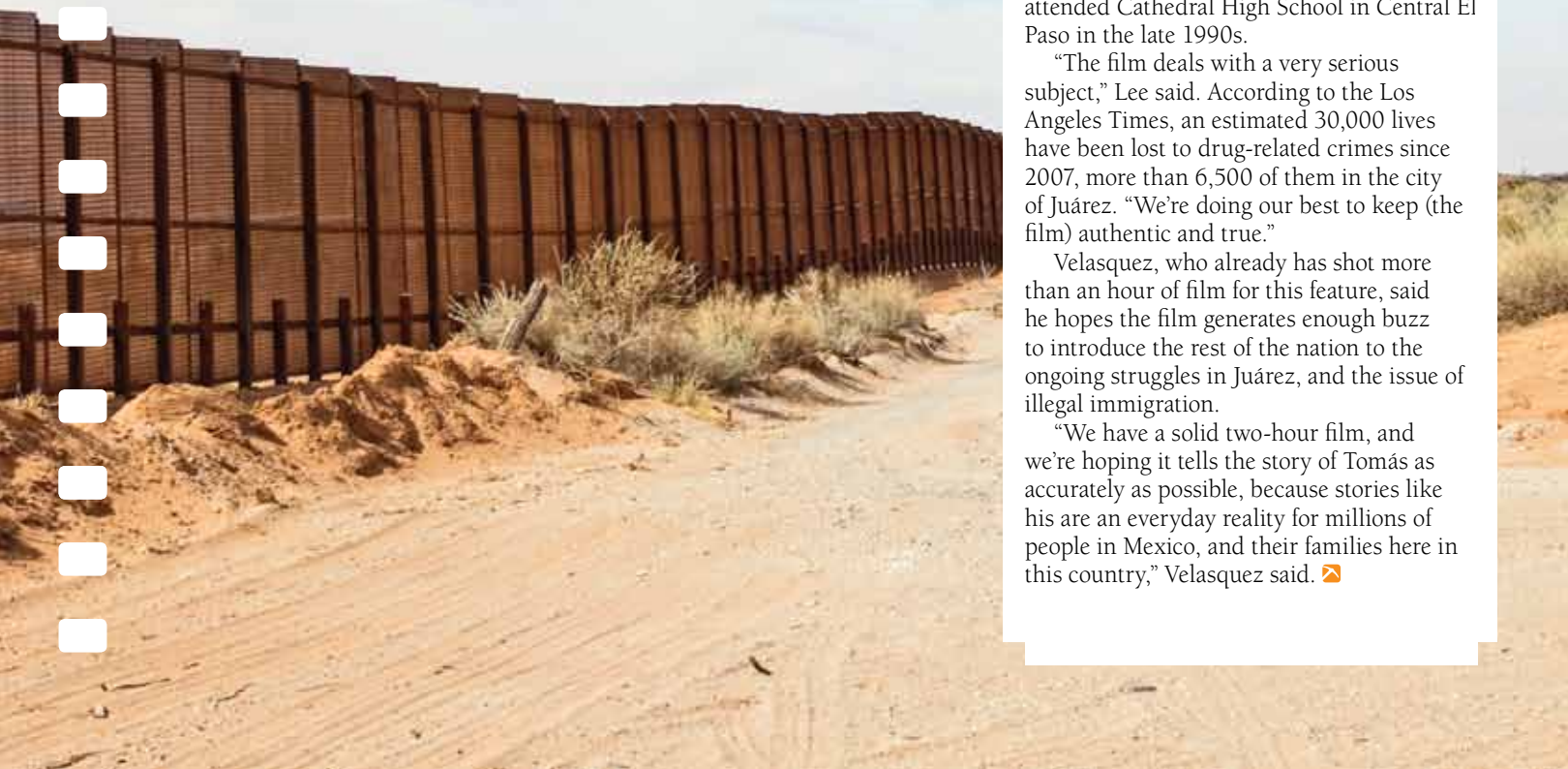
“We cannot pretend as though our sister city does not exist,” Velasquez said. “I am nervous, but I am doing this for obvious reasons. This is the only way I can do justice – by bringing the harsh reality (of Juárez) to light.”

Jordn Lee, best known for his role as a newly born vampire in *Twilight: Eclipse*, will play the lead role of Tomás. Lee has been friends with Velasquez since the two attended Cathedral High School in Central El Paso in the late 1990s.

“The film deals with a very serious subject,” Lee said. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, an estimated 30,000 lives have been lost to drug-related crimes since 2007, more than 6,500 of them in the city of Juárez. “We’re doing our best to keep (the film) authentic and true.”

Velasquez, who already has shot more than an hour of film for this feature, said he hopes the film generates enough buzz to introduce the rest of the nation to the ongoing struggles in Juárez, and the issue of illegal immigration.

“We have a solid two-hour film, and we’re hoping it tells the story of Tomás as accurately as possible, because stories like his are an everyday reality for millions of people in Mexico, and their families here in this country,” Velasquez said. ☑





Steve Wilson, D.M.A, associate professor of music, left, and Steve Haddad, senior lecturer of music, take their talents south of the border to play with the Orquesta Sinfonica de la Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juárez, Symphony Orchestra of the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juárez.

IN A PLACE WHERE PASSION FOR THE FINE ARTS WOULD SEEM ALL BUT EXTINGUISHED, CIUDAD JUÁREZ MAINTAINS ITS LOVE FOR CLASSICAL MUSIC.

Sweet Symphony

By Chris Lechuga • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

In keeping that appreciation for the arts alive along the border, faculty and students from The University of Texas at El Paso cross from El Paso, Texas, into Juárez, Mexico, to play in the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juárez (UACJ) Symphony Orchestra, despite the threat of violence that has plagued the city.

The ensemble, which is comprised of musicians from both sides of the border, continues to play for near sold-out crowds at each performance.

“I love playing in [the symphony],” said Steve Wilson, D.M.A., associate professor of music at UTEP and trombone player in the symphony. “The audiences are highly engaged in what’s going on and really enthusiastic in the music.”

Wilson, who has participated with Orquesta Sinfonica de la Universidad

Autonoma de Ciudad Juárez (Symphony Orchestra of the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juárez) for about five years has seen firsthand how the city has changed. With many of the principle players leaving the symphony to avoid the violence, musicians from the U.S. were recruited to fill the empty spots, making it a truly binational orchestra.

A five-minute drive from the Bridge of the Americas Port of Entry, one of four international bridges that link El Paso to Juárez, the music hall at UACJ provides a sort of safe haven for music lovers who escape the sounds of fighting and struggle in exchange for Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert.

“For (the audience), it may be a refuge from the violence,” said Steve Haddad, senior lecturer and area director of

commercial music at UTEP. “(It’s) a place they can go where they can leave that behind for a couple of hours and hear music and know that there is still some level of beauty in an otherwise ugly environment.”

For Haddad, the group’s newest tuba player, performing with the Juárez symphony is no different than playing with groups in El Paso or Las Cruces. The same amount of professionalism and musicianship is required in the Juárez symphony, especially since the ensemble performs the most operas in Mexico outside of Mexico City, he said.

Along with Wilson and Haddad, as many as 10 UTEP students and numerous alumni also are involved in the symphony and contribute their talents south of the border, taking the necessary precautions to stay safe. 📍



Miners Honor Brown - Basketball Star, Social Pioneer

Athletics officials at The University of Texas at El Paso honored one of the school's greatest basketball players and social pioneers during a pre-game ceremony before the March 2, 2011, home regular season finale.

The University honored Charles Brown, who along with a family member were the first black athletes to play in a main sport for a major college in what had been part of the Confederate states. The 6-1 guard from Tyler, Texas, was a star on the Texas Western College (now UTEP) teams from 1956-59.

In front of a buzzing crowd of 10,331 in the Don Haskins Center, a white jersey with an orange No. 25 on it was hoisted over the basketball goal on the tunnel side of the arena. It is called an "honor" jersey, which means the number is not retired and can be worn by future players.

Brown, who was inducted into the UTEP Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008, scored 1,170 points and collected 578 rebounds in 67 games. He was named to the All-Borderland Conference team three times. The Miners were Border Conference Champs in 1956-57.

Ray Sanchez, the dean of El Paso sportswriters, remembered watching Brown play. He called Brown "a perfect specimen" for TWC Coach George McCarty, who wanted a good player who could handle possible discrimination issues.

"(McCarty) couldn't have found anyone better," Sanchez said. "He was nice and polite. He was fast and quick. He could shoot and rebound. He could do it all."

After he earned his bachelor's degree from TWC, Brown earned his master's degree from San Francisco State and became an administrator in the San Francisco public school system.

He could not be at the ceremony, but several family members stood in for him. ☞

Miners Stay Hot for Second Season in a Row

By Joe Velarde • Photo by Niki Rhynes



For the UTEP men's basketball team, the 2010-11 campaign proved one for the record books, as several players earned individual honors and the team earned a postseason berth for the fourth straight year.

The Miners, under first-year head coach Tim Floyd, compiled a 25-10 record on their way to a fifth National Invitation Tournament (NIT) bid, but the team suffered a first-round NIT loss to UTEP's long-time rival University of New Mexico Lobos.

UTEP endured several dramatic finishes during its exciting season, including a heartbreaking last-second 67-66 loss to the University of Memphis Tigers on March 12 in the Conference USA Tournament final at the Don Haskins Center.

But the season also saw the first opening-night sellout at the Haskins Center since 1986. That sellout coincided with a community-wide celebration which featured the City of El Paso changing its name to Miner Orangeville just for the occasion.

Among the bright spots were the performances of senior guards Randy Culpepper and Julyan Stone, who were selected to the All C-USA team. Culpepper becomes the second Miner player to garner back-to-back first team honors, joining Stefon Jackson who was selected in 2008 and 2009.

Stone, a senior communications major, finished his UTEP playing career with a .516 field-goal percentage. Last December, during a game against Arkansas-Pine Bluff, he broke

a 20-year-old UTEP assists record. The record had been held by former UTEP great and National Basketball Association Hall of Famer Tim Hardaway. Stone ended his Miner career with 714 assists, which is also the most in conference history.

Culpepper, also a senior communications major, was the team's top scorer with a season total of 606 points. His 2,338 career points rank second in UTEP history and 15th on the all-time Conference USA scoring list. Culpepper's individual records include leading the Miners with 318 career three-point field goals.

Floyd in his first year as UTEP head coach energized the Haskins Center and brought the same ferocity to the job as his mentor, the late former UTEP coach and Hall of Famer Don "The Bear" Haskins.

A "realistic" Floyd predicted the senior-heavy team would be competitive for the 2010-11 season. The combination was good for another 20-plus-win season, including 15 straight victories at the Haskins Center.

Seniors Culpepper, Stone, Claude Britten, Isaac Gordon, Eric Muñoz, Christian Polk, Wayne Portalatin and Jeremy Williams helped account for 93 victories over the past four seasons.

Next year, the Miners will have a new look as John Bohannon, Gabriel McCulley and Michael Perez are the only returning lettermen. McCulley will be the team's only senior. ☞



Guard **Randy Culpepper** gets air.



Season Predictions

A "realistic" head coach Tim Floyd predicted the senior-heavy team would be competitive for the 2010-11 season.

Photos by Niki Rhymes

Young Lady Miners Rose Above Adversity

By Joe Velarde • Photos by Niki Rhynes





True Grit

"We're playing hard – there's no denying that. This team is showing heart. These players have character."

Keitha Adams
UTEP Women's Basketball
head coach

During its 2010-11 season, the UTEP women's basketball squad proved a gritty bunch.

Among the ladies turning heads was Gloria Brown, a first-year transfer and junior multidisciplinary studies major, who was only the fifth Miner in history to earn second-team All-Conference USA honors.

Brown, a 6-2 forward, posted a .549 field-goal average and a league-leading 65 blocked shots.

Undeclared freshman forward Kayla Thornton showed her work ethic this season. She gained the respect of her upper classmates as she grabbed 175 combined rebounds. Her abilities were part of the reason she was named El Paso Times' Girls Basketball MVP as a senior at El Paso's Irvin High School after the 2009-10 season.

Guard Dietra Caldwell, a junior nursing major, had an impact year, leading the team with 33.4 minutes-per-game and a total of 54 three-point field goals. She was second in assists-per-game (3.4) and steals (34).

Head coach Keitha Adams, the winningest coach in program history, said she was impressed with the players' heart and determination, and that the young team has promise.

"I am extremely proud of our team," Adams said. "We really faced a lot of challenges and adversity this year. It's been a long season. We lost four players to injury who would have played big parts in the equation."

The coach's statement is verified by the Miners' early 9-4 record before injuries slowed the team down.

But the Miners fought through the adversity and headed into the 2011 Conference USA tournament with some momentum after an overtime win against the University of Tulsa to finish the regular season.

In the opening round of the tournament, the Miners dismantled Southern Methodist University by a score of 75-57, but UTEP lost in heartbreaking fashion 68-64 in the second round against the University of Houston.

"We lost some really tough, close games, but there were many opportunities this year," Adams said. "We could have fallen apart, been dismantled, thrown in the towel and turned on one another. But we didn't. The thing this group did that I really respect is they just kept fighting." 🏀

Photo courtesy of Andre Patterson



A.C. Patterson, left, and father Andre, right, will step onto the field together as father and son this fall, when UTEP opens up its 2011 season. A.C. was one of 21 recruits picked up by the Miners last February.

Action-Packed Season!

2011 Football Schedule



- Sept. 3 Stony Brook
- Sept. 10 at SMU*
- Sept. 17 at NMSU
- Sept. 24 at South Florida
- Oct. 1 Houston*
- Oct. 15 at Tulane*
- Oct. 22 Colorado State
(Homecoming)
- Oct. 29 Southern Miss*
- Nov. 5 at Rice*
- Nov. 12 East Carolina*
- Nov. 19 Tulsa*
- Nov. 26 at UCF*

* Conference USA game

For more info, www.utepathletics.cstv.com

Miners Pick Up 21 Recruits, One Son

By Joe Velarde

The next crop of Miner football hopefuls – 16 freshmen and five junior-college transfers – signed on the dotted line Feb. 2 and agreed to don the orange and blue to continue their gridiron careers.

UTEP head coach Mike Price revealed the names of the 21 signees during a news conference at the Larry K. Durham Sports Center.

Three of the players – linebacker Tyrone Darling, quarterback Blair Sullivan and wide receiver Ishmael Harrison – were among the Texas Top 300 in Dave Campbell's Football Magazine, but the biggest contribution next season should come from the transfer students, Price said.

"The junior college transfers that we signed at mid-year look like they're all going to play for us and be an important part of our team this fall," he said.

He expects them to play key roles during spring drills that started April 1. Those student-athletes are linebackers Josh Fely and A.J. Ropati, quarterback Nick Lamaison,

offensive lineman James Robinson and defensive back Darren Woodard.

"They give us a lot of depth. They're attending classes and they're fitting into the program well," said Price, who led the Miners in 2010 to their third bowl appearance in seven seasons.

Incoming freshman Sullivan was first team All-District and second team All-State quarterback as a senior at San Antonio's Central Catholic. He completed 112-of-217 passes (51.6 percent) for 1,876 yards and 24 touchdowns with three interceptions his senior year. He also rushed for 820 yards and 11 scores.

"We filled a need with Blair Sullivan. He's probably going to be the face of our program in two to three years," Price said.

The coach also said he looks forward to great production from the five big offensive-line recruits. The one name that might be especially familiar to Miners fans is A.C. Patterson, son of second-year UTEP defensive coordinator Andre Patterson.

Coach Patterson said it will be an honor to be on the same sideline with his son, an All-State and All-League selection who played center at Bishop Gorman High School in Las Vegas. It will be the first time the two have shared a sideline.

"He's a big kid (6-1, 305), and he's always been bigger than all of the other kids," the elder Patterson said. "He's worked really hard for this, and I think he fits into our system nicely."

A.C. was rated the No. 28 center prospect in the country by Scout.com, and the sixth-best overall prospect in the state of Nevada by Rivals.com.

The younger Patterson said a reunion with his father under the lights at the Sun Bowl is an opportunity he's often thought about since he was a small child.

"I've never played with my father, so it's going to be exciting," he said. "Some of my earliest memories of the game are of my dad coaching, watching him walk up and down the sidelines." 📍

Miners Spring Sports Review

By Joe Velarde

The Miners have been striking paydirt throughout the country, and from track and field to soccer, student athletes playing for the University of Texas at El Paso are poised to keep its winning tradition alive right on into the summer.



Photo by J. R. Hernandez



Photo by Niki Rhynes



Courtesy of Conference USA

SOFTBALL

The Miners are still swinging for the fences at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex. With 15 wins midway through the season, the ladies marched into the second half of their schedule with some power.

Chelsea Troupe, the tiny junior education major and 2009 Conference USA Freshman of the Year put up numbers. As of last March, she was batting .407 and had 11 home runs and 25 RBIs. She also was named Conference USA Hitter of the Week the last week in February.

Senior psychology major and hurler Courtney Auger leads the team in just about every pitching category. In March, she was sitting on a 4.94 ERA, had seven wins and had struck out 70 in 80 innings.

"She's been the backbone of our team," said co-head coach James Rodriguez. "We appreciate all of the work she's done for us during her time here."

SOCCER

The Miners women's soccer team picked up eight new players and head coach Kevin Cross said that youth will blend in well with the five returning seniors.

Cross, who will enter his 11th year as head coach (14th overall), said the team will use its six exhibition games this spring as a time to gel as a team.

"Our youth is an advantage," Cross said. "Youth is what energizes this team - and as a team, we expect to be competing at the highest level of the conference."

While still a young squad, the ladies show promise. They will look for leadership from their seniors, especially standout goalkeeper, senior psychology major Chandra Morden. This Canadian keeper started the final 15 games for the Miners and racked up six straight wins. The other seniors are Katie Dorman, Sara Kaltwasser, Jessie Pettit and Brittany Thornton.

"The key to victory is aggressive, smart play, scoring points and great goaltending," Cross said. "Each player has set her individual goal, but our team goal is to win."

TRACK AND FIELD

The team wrapped up the first half of its 2011 season by celebrating the accomplishments of two of its stars who finished in the Top 10 at the NCAA Indoor Championships.

Junior nursing major Risper Kimaiyo and junior business major Endurance Abinuwa added to the UTEP track and field legacy by finishing as All-Americans, the initial ones for first-year head coach Mika Laaksonen.

"This is a great accomplishment for Endurance and Risper," Laaksonen said.

Abinuwa finished fourth in the women's 400-meter race finishing in 53.06 on the second of two heats. Kimaiyo placed seventh in the women's 5,000-meter run with a time of 16:13.55.

UTEP continued to win inside the class as well. The U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Association named in February the women's track and field team as the 2010 Division 1 All-Academic team, with a cumulative GPA of 3.13. 📌



Raffle helps Miner fans score trip of a lifetime

By Chris Lechuga

George and Ida Mae Ellis admit they never win any game of chance, but that did not stop them from buying a \$5 raffle ticket last year to support Miners athletics.

This time, the couple hit paydirt.

George and Ida bought the winning ticket from a representative of UTEP's Touchdown Club, an organization that raises money for Miners football activities, at one of the first games of the season.

"We only got one ticket," Ida Ellis said as she recounted her good fortune.

Their ticket number was called during halftime festivities so they went to the information booth to claim their prize. Both were surprised to learn that they had just won an all-expense-paid trip to travel with the Miners to watch them take on the University of Alabama-Birmingham Blazers in October 2010.

"From the time we got to the airport, everything worked like clockwork," Ida explained about the couple's trip of a lifetime. "We were treated like royalty."

George and Ida flew with and stayed in the same hotel as the Miner players and coaches. Unfortunately, the Miners fell to the Blazers, but Ida Ellis said she and her husband will always cherish the opportunity they had to meet head coach Mike Price and athletic director Bob Stull, and to interact with the team players and trainers.

"Everyone was so nice and so helpful," she said. "We had a wonderful time." 🗨️



FOX Sports is New TV Home of Conference USA

By Joe Velarde

For years, sports programs of The University of Texas El Paso have earned the prestige of being covered nationally through the airwaves, beaming the image of its iconic pickaxe into the homes of millions. Starting this fall, the Miners will have a new home at FOX Sports Network.

Conference USA Commissioner Britton Banowsky announced in January, that the conference had reached a new multimillion dollar agreement for national television rights under the Fox Sports Media Group banner.

According to the agreement, FSN will show a minimum of 20 regular-season football games and a minimum of 10 regular-season men's and women's basketball games per year. The deal also includes coverage of the C-USA football and basketball championship games carried on FSN, FX or the Fox Network.

Local cable provider Time Warner Cable and the Dish Network offer these options in their respective cable plans.

"This is a huge step forward for our conference and we are pleased to have the opportunity to work with Fox," Banowsky said. "Our interests are aligned and we are very excited about the potential of this partnership."

According to a C-USA press release, by extending its partnership to other media outlets, the league has substantially increased its revenue and number of national and regional television appearances.

FOX carries a viewership of more than 115 million households nationwide, including FX, Fox's flagship general entertainment network available in more than 98 million homes.

"Not only can FOX provide extensive national TV exposure for the conference through a variety of outlets, but we can also serve the conference's member schools and local fans through our strong regional presence," said FSN President Randy Freer.

The agreement was met with a resounding applause by C-USA schools that looked forward to working with one of the nations leading broadcast companies.

"This move benefits everyone, from the University to the Conference and FOX," said Bob Stull, UTEP's athletics director. "The new contract will allow UTEP to be featured in many other games, most of them during regular (game) hours."

C-USA will continue to honor its existing contract with the CBS Sports Network until the new contract begins in the fall. 🗨️

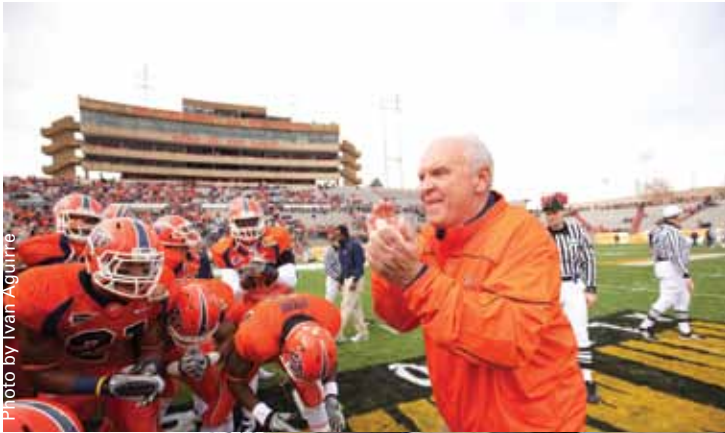


Photo by Ivan Aguirre



Photo by Estrella Escobar



Photo by Estrella Escobar



Photo by Estrella Escobar



Photo by Ivan Aguirre



Photo by Estrella Escobar



Photo by Estrella Escobar



Photo by Ivan Aguirre

UTEP VS. BYU

MINERS WERE ONE OF THREE C-USA TEAMS TO GO BOWLING.

• NEW MEXICO BOWL • DEC. 18, 2010 • ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.



CONFERENCE USA HOOPS TOURNAMENTS ROCK THE DON

FOR DECADES, the banners of the Don Haskins Center (formerly the Special Events Center) have been a constant reminder that the Miners are steeped in a legacy that goes deeper than their storied Glory Road past.

By Joe Velarde
Photos by J.R. Hernandez



This year the University of Texas at El Paso played host to the Conference USA men's and women's basketball tournaments, March 9-12. It marked the first time the campus played host to a conference tournament in more than 25 years.

In May 2010, the C-USA board of directors selected UTEP as the conference tournament host. The City of El Paso beat out bids from other cities that had played host in the recent past: Tulsa (2010) and Memphis (2005-09). El Paso's bid included a \$1 million guarantee that absorbed the risk if the event did not generate significant revenue.

All of the men's games and the semi-finals and finals of the women's tournament were in the Haskins Center. Some of the women's early-round games were played in UTEP's venerable Memorial Gym, home to the 1966 men's-basketball Miners, who won the NCAA basketball championship.

"The group was very impressed by the quality and comprehensiveness, including the financial guarantee, in the El Paso proposal," Conference USA Commissioner Britton Banowsky said. "We felt confident that we would have a great experience."

El Paso is well-known for its efforts to show out-of-towners a good time – from family visitors to the teams and fans who make a pilgrimage to the Sun City to participate in the annual Hyundai Sun Bowl football game.

This year's tournament included activities such as the outdoor Glory Road Block Party between the Haskins Center and Memorial Gym. Fans could enjoy El Paso weather, food and entertainment before, during and after games.

The overall event experience was lauded across the board, said Brian Wickstrom, senior associate athletic director for external relations.

"We got great reviews on our tournament, our city and the University from the fans, visiting teams and conference officials," he said.

This year the Miner women bowed out in the quarterfinals, 68-64, to Houston. The men lost in the final few seconds of the championship game to Memphis, 67-66.

"The City of El Paso is passionate about its basketball," said athletics director Bob Stull. "Known for being a tremendous sports town with a dignified past, the city is also known around the country for its hospitality and warmth, not just with the weather."

The last time El Paso played host to a conference tournament was in 1985, when UTEP lost the tournament championship to then-Western Athletic Conference (WAC) rival San Diego State, 87-81. UTEP had beaten New Mexico for the tournament championship – also played in El Paso – the year before. 📍



UTEP ALUMNA ANNA FULLER WANTS TO MAKE SURE THAT FUTURE UTEP ATHLETES NEVER LACK THE BASIC RESOURCES, AS SHE DID, TO EXCEL IN THE SPORT THEY LOVE.



Photo by Laura Trejo

Former UTEP Athlete Boosts Women's Sports

By Robert Seltzer

By focusing on the past, Anna Fuller is trying to make an impact on the future. Fuller graduated from UTEP in 1973, earning the education degree that she believes provided the foundation for all the success she has achieved in life.

A school teacher for several years, both in El Paso and abroad, Fuller eventually followed the footsteps of her father, an electrical contractor.

Fuller has enjoyed remarkable success as an electrical contracting executive in El Paso. She is president of Mountain Electric Corp. and general manager of Tri-State Electric Ltd.

"I'm a busy person," she said, smiling. "Because of my dad, I had a good leg up on the business. And, I took a lot of math courses in college."

Fuller also played tennis at UTEP, and that is where her past and her vision of the future intersect. A true pioneer, she participated in the UTEP tennis program before it was a tennis program. There were no coaches, no uniforms, no facilities.

As a student at El Paso's Austin High School, Fuller had been a city tennis champion. Upon enrolling at UTEP, she continued to play recreationally at the El Paso Tennis Club because tennis wasn't offered at the University. That is where she met three other former high school players.

"We had some alumni and some professors who volunteered to help us," Fuller said. "They would raise money for us and drive us to tournaments out of town. Our mothers had to sew our uniforms."

While she has fond memories of those years, Fuller wants to make sure that

future UTEP athletes never lack the basic resources, as she did, to excel in the sport they love.

To that end, Fuller recently made a generous commitment to the University, establishing three endowments: a scholarship for women's tennis and golf athletes; an enhancement endowment that provides funding for the construction, enhancement and maintenance of women's tennis and golf facilities on campus; and a head coaches' endowment that will enable UTEP to attract and retain top coaching talent for the women's tennis and golf programs.

She included golf students in the endowments because, while tennis was her sport growing up, she has recently taken up golf with the same zeal she once displayed on the court.

The donation was made in the form of a deferred charitable gift annuity. The annuity ensures Fuller a sustained retirement income through the course of her lifetime, after which the balance will be distributed to UTEP to fund the endowments.

"We're very happy," Victor Aguilar, head tennis coach at UTEP, said. "And my players are very excited. Anna is an old friend. I grew up watching her play."

Twenty years after Fuller graduated, UTEP launched a Division 1 tennis program, and while the players still practice at the El Paso Tennis Club, Fuller and Aguilar see a future in which UTEP boasts its own tennis facility.

"Her gift was unbelievable," Aguilar said. "I think other people will follow with their own gifts. It will help not only the tennis team, but the University as a whole." 📧



Photo by Niki Rhynes



Photo by Niki Rhynes



“UTEP TAUGHT ME NOT ONLY TO BE A NURSE, BUT A LEADER —TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND STAND UP FOR CHANGES WHEN NECESSARY TO PROMOTE QUALITY OF CARE FOR THE PATIENT AND FAMILY.”

Sandy Arias, pictured with husband Victor Arias

Alum’s gift honors wife, benefits future nurses

By Robert Seltzer • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Christmas was approaching last year, and Victor Arias wanted to give his wife something different, something special – a gift he could not find in a mall or catalog.

The gift he chose was so unique, so kind and thoughtful, that his wife, Sandy Arias, regards it as the “most beautiful” gift she has ever received.

Victor’s gift was a contribution to The University of Texas at El Paso – where he and Sandy earned their undergraduate degrees – a donation made in his wife’s name to help finance the construction of the new College of Health Sciences/School of Nursing Building.

Sandy, a 2008 UTEP School of Nursing Gold Nugget Award recipient, is a registered nurse at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, a Catholic school that serves children from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

She also is a volunteer advocate for the homeless population in Dallas, and has been invested as a Dame in the Knights of Malta, a Catholic order that recognizes those who

have dedicated their lives to serving the poor and sick.

Victor’s contribution will play a critical role in helping UTEP fill the growing demand, regionally and nationally, for nurses and other health care professionals. It also will help propel the University toward its goal of attaining national research university status.

“This was the most beautiful gift that my husband could have given to me,” she said. “It brought back flashbacks of the deep experiences of being a nursing student.”

In recognition of his gift, UTEP offered Victor a naming opportunity in the new building, and he chose to name a room after his wife: The Sandra Endlich Arias, R.N., Group Study Room.

“To have (a room) in my name is a legacy and I feel immensely proud,” Sandy said.

Victor and Sandy view their quality education at UTEP as the springboard for their remarkable professional success.

Victor, who earned a B.B.A. in

management in 1978 and was presented the UTEP Distinguished Alumni Award in 2009, is a senior client partner at the Dallas office of Korn/Ferry International, the largest executive search and recruitment firm in the world.

“UTEP gave me a sense of who I am, where I’m from, and what is important,” he said. “What is important to me is dictated by the values my parents instilled, values that were also cultivated at UTEP – hard work, don’t take anything for granted, dare to dream.”

Sandy, who earned her bachelor’s degree in nursing in 1981, agreed.

“UTEP taught me not only to be a nurse, but a leader – to make a difference and stand up for changes when necessary to promote quality of care for the patient and family,” she said. “UTEP has an excellent nursing program that produces outstanding nurses and I strive to live up to that standard by being a leader in my field.”



The best gifts are the ones that last forever.

MARIO AND YOLANDA PADILLA HOPE THEIR DAUGHTER'S MEMORY WILL INSPIRE GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS WHO NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO MEET HER.

Quiet, talented daughter inspired parents' gift

By Robert Seltzer • Photo by Laura Trejo

The best gifts are the ones that last forever – monuments to the tenderness and devotion we feel for a loved one.

That's why Mario and Yolanda Padilla chose to make a gift to UTEP to commemorate the life of their beloved daughter – a dedicated student who inspired everyone who knew her. Now, the Padillas hope she will inspire generations of students who never got the chance to meet her.

Caprice Marie Padilla was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis when she was eight months old. She lost her battle with the disease at 26. Through the heartache that continues to grip her parents, however, there is also a deep and abiding joy, for they remember her grace and dignity, her courage and commitment, her wisdom and humor. Most of all, they remember her quiet dedication to excel.

It is that dedication that her parents have memorialized through their recent contribution to UTEP, which will establish the Caprice Marie Padilla Quiet Study Room in the new College of Health

Sciences/School of Nursing Building, expected to be completed this summer. Caprice studied communication at UTEP from 2002 to 2005.

"When the building has its grand opening, it will be a very emotional moment for us," Yolanda Padilla said.

Mario Padilla is an obstetrician and gynecologist in El Paso, and his wife is the business manager. He opened his practice after serving his residency at Thomason General Hospital from 1980-1984. He met Yolanda, who graduated from UTEP with a business degree in 1974, through a mutual friend. They have a 24-year-old son, Michael B., who adored his sister, they said.

"We knew we wanted to honor our daughter," Mario Padilla said. "She was so shy and quiet, and she never wanted the spotlight. What better way to honor her memory than with the quiet room? It shows our pride in her, and it helps support education in El Paso."

Caprice never used her disease as an "excuse" to keep her from excelling at school, her parents said. A graduate of

Coronado High School, Caprice earned a scholarship to UTEP in 2002. Yolanda Padilla urged her daughter to study journalism.

"I loved her writing," Yolanda Padilla said. "She just had this gift."

Living in the state capital, she combined her two loves – writing and music – by reviewing the local rock "n" roll scene for area newspapers and magazines.

"She wouldn't let her shyness hold her back," Yolanda Padilla said. "She kept challenging herself, and I'm sure she would have made it to Rolling Stone or Spin Magazine. That was her goal."

As her academic career progressed, however, so did the disease that afflicted her. She passed away in 2009. The "quiet room" that honors her memory will open two years after her death.

"There are instances when it is the children who teach the adults," Mario Padilla said. "Caprice provided us with so many valuable lessons – about life, about courage, about not giving up." ☞



Rene Franco

By Chris Lechuga

“I HAVE A LOT OF RESPECT FOR MY PROFESSORS AT UTEP. IT WAS THE BEST TIME I’VE EVER HAD.”

Rene Franco

The knowledge UTEP alumnus Rene Franco Ruiz gained as a member of the University’s Student Government Association in the late 1980s helped him advance his own political career in Mexico.

“It gave me a lot of experience,” Franco said. “The way we worked in the student senate ... the proceedings are similar (in the State Congress of Chihuahua).”

Franco, general director of Franco & Associates Environmental Consultants, serves as one of Ciudad Juarez’s *diputados*, or representatives, in the state congress.

The legislator, whose father formerly held the same seat, recalled how he immediately became involved in various student activities after he arrived at The University of Texas at El Paso in 1986.

During his two terms as an SGA

senator and one term as the executive assistant to the class president, Franco helped establish a Mexican student association.

In 1991, Franco graduated with a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering and received the coveted Men of Mines award. He noted that his classes helped him get focused on his career in engineering.

“I have a lot of respect for my professors at UTEP,” Franco said. “It was the best time I’ve ever had.”

Among his proudest non-governmental UTEP accomplishments was his participation in an intramural sports men’s soccer club that won a national tournament championship.

His father is also a proud Miner alumnus. 📧

UTEP alum puts online education to practical use in Mexico

By Daniel Perez • Photo by J.R. Hernandez



Recent UTEP graduate Justin McFarland promotes literacy development in the villages near Chiapas, Mexico.

A missionary trip to Chiapas, Mexico, in 2001 turned into an opportunity for a graduate student from The University of Texas at El Paso to bring academia as well as hope to surrounding villages.

Justin McFarland, who earned his master’s in education instructional specialist with a concentration in bilingual education in December 2010, used what he learned through UTEP’s online Alternative Teacher Certification Program and master’s programs to promote literacy development among the communities.

McFarland, who lives in Mason, Texas, about 90 miles northwest of Austin, began to make biannual visits to the villages to support the people, but also to assist the research conducted by Richard Evans, Ph.D., assistant professor of teacher education at Angelo State University. He would assess the Spanish speakers on their ability to read and write Spanish.

The UTEP alumnus said he is gratified to see how villagers have used his academic strategies to empower

themselves and their children. He shared one story of a family that sacrificed to send its daughters to a preparatory school. One daughter is on course to become a certified teacher.

“With stories like this I become amazed at the power of education and living for something bigger than ourselves,” he said.

Evans said McFarland’s abilities blossomed as he mentally connected the dots between what you learn in class and how you teach in the field.

“When things clicked he was able to take the lead,” Evans said.

McFarland’s efforts brought a smile to Maria de la Piedra, Ph.D., associate professor of teacher education, who taught his Spanish Literacy Development online courses. She said the course developed ways to use a mother tongue – what is read and what is written – to become bilingual.

“He was an excellent student,” she said. “He was interested in multilingual communities and always took a critical look at language acquisition.” 📧



Photo courtesy of Chris Porter

Former UTEP football star and Houston attorney Chris Porter, who earned a bachelor's in finance in 2001, praised the University for its challenging curriculum.

National Survey Validates UTEP's Success

By Jenn Crawford

The University of Texas at El Paso has some of the most satisfied recent graduates in the country, according to national survey data.

Survey results released in December by the American Council on Education (ACE) indicated that nationally, 89 percent of bachelor's degree recipients between ages 25 and 39 found their education worth the time and money spent. At UTEP, one of 22 colleges and universities to participate in the study, that figure is 94 percent.

In most cases, UTEP's results were at the upper end of the distribution among the institutions surveyed in terms of alumni satisfaction with their college experience, the value of their education and the level of knowledge and skills preparation.

"The results of the ACE alumni survey illustrate that UTEP is at the forefront of preparing students for success," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "In promoting both access and excellence, UTEP has consistently worked to ensure that students' learning experiences are equivalent to the learning experiences at the most selective institutions in the country."

Eighty-five percent of UTEP's young alumni surveyed by ACE reported that their education effectively prepared them with the knowledge and skills needed, compared with 81 percent of alumni nationally, and 89 percent of UTEP alumni indicated that they paid a fair price for their education,

compared with 76 percent nationally.

"When I see fellow UTEP alumni in Houston or other parts of the country, it just shows people what a great school UTEP is," said Chris Porter, a former UTEP football standout. "The academics were challenging and the professors made you think. It prepared me for going out in the real world and being comfortable in any situation."

Porter, 32, an attorney with Yetter Coleman LLP in Houston, attended UTEP on a football scholarship, earning a bachelor's degree in finance in 2001. He has since worked as an insurance underwriter in Philadelphia and Houston, attended law school at the University of Michigan, and clerked for El Paso Judge Philip Martinez before starting in his current position.

The high level of satisfaction expressed by UTEP students is not surprising for University leaders. Alumni regularly share stories of their success.

"The ongoing engagement of our young alumni with our institution is vital to enhancing the overall contribution alumni can make toward their alma mater and, in turn, directly to each individual student experience," said Richard Daniel, Ph.D., assistant vice president for alumni and constituent relations at UTEP. "We are committed to finding ways to continue to increase the number of graduates and to continue to enhance their educational experiences." ☑



Photo courtesy of Daniel N.

UTEP graduate and first-generation American Daniel N. Ramirez.

UTEP Graduate Named Among Top Texas Lawyers

By Laura Acosta

UTEP graduate and first-generation American Daniel N. Ramirez said a professor's suggestion put him on the road to become a prominent employment and immigration compliance attorney in Texas.

Ramirez, a partner with Houston-based law firm Monty & Ramirez LLP, was named a Texas Rising Star in the April 2011 Texas Super Lawyers magazine.

According to the magazine's website, Rising Stars recognizes the top up-and-coming attorneys in 17 states who are 40 years old or younger, or who have been practicing for 10 years or less.

"The fact that he's the son of immigrants himself, and is now a partner at the state's largest Hispanic-owned employment and immigration law firm, made the story all the

more rich," says Adam Wahlberg, editor-in-chief of Texas Super Lawyers.

Ramirez said Bill Weaver, Ph.D., professor and director of UTEP's Law School Preparation Institute (LSPI), encouraged him to join the first LSPI class.

"I always had an interest in law enforcement or criminal justice, but I never contemplated going to law school until Dr. Weaver planted the seed," said Ramirez, who earned his bachelor's in political science from UTEP in 1998 and his juris doctor from The University of Texas School of Law in 2002.

Weaver lauded Ramirez for his talent and commitment, and added that he has raised the standards for lawyers and UTEP students. ☑



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30's

Laymon N. Miller (B.A. '38) of Fort Myers, Fla., writes articles on acoustics for the quarterly newsletter of the National Council of Acoustical Consultants, of which he has been an honorary member for 15 years.

40s

Dorothy Woodley Hunt (B.A. '41), of El Paso, was recognized in October by the YWCA El Paso del Norte Region for her many activities and charitable contributions to the community. The city's Lower Valley branch of the YWCA was named in her honor.

50s

Samuel A. "Sam" Donaldson (B.A. '55), veteran journalist and former ABC News correspondent, was the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony for Park University's Fort Bliss, Texas, campus in August. Donaldson, a resident of McLean, Va., also was grand marshal for the New Mexico State Fair parade Sept. 11, 2010.

Don Maynard (B.A. '58) authored the autobiography *You Can't Catch Sunshine*, which was released by Triumph Books in October. Maynard, who played football for the Miners and the New York Jets, is a member of the UTEP and Pro Football halls of fame. He resides in Alto, N.M.

60s

James L. Carter (B.S.Mi. '61), a retired UT Dallas geosciences professor emeritus, is a world-renowned expert in simulated lunar regolith, or fake moon dirt, which he routinely supplies to NASA. Carter resides in Richardson, Texas.

Luis A. "Louie" Mendez Jr. (B.M. '60) retired in August after teaching music for 50 years. Mendez resides in Pearland, Texas.

Lester L. "Les" Parker (B.B.A. '67; M.B.A. '77), president and chief executive officer of United

Bank of El Paso del Norte, was named to the Minority Bank Council of the Independent Community Bankers of America in May.

Phillip T. Smith (B.A. '64), a professor of history at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, spent the spring 2010 semester in England researching the life of a 19th century London police commissioner.

70s

Sandra D. "Sandy" Aaronson (B.A. '70) recently joined the RE/MAX Real Estate Group in El Paso as a sales associate.

Francisco V. Baltier (B.S.E.E. '70) is the chief engineer at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq.

Judy Downs-Lombardi (B.A. '75; M.A. '82) of Northridge, Calif., was promoted to professor of secondary education at California State University, Northridge, in July. Downs-Lombardi's textbook, *Guide to PACT: Performance Assessment for California Teachers*, was published in January 2010.

Robert L. Giron (B.A. '73) was elected chair of the Department of English, Reading, World Languages and the American English Language Program at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus of Montgomery College in Maryland in January. Giron also edited and contributed to *Poetic Voices Without Borders 2*, a collection of English, French and Spanish poems by more than 150 authors. The collection received the USA Book News 2009 National Best Book Award for Fiction & Literature in the anthology category.

Johnny E. Hawkins (B.A. '79) owns and operates Johnny's Auto Detailing service in Pearl City, Hawaii.

Peter E. Hosey (B.A. '76), a resident of San Antonio, was elected to the Council of the Oil, Gas and Energy Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas. Hosey, a partner at Jackson Walker L.L.P., is an adjunct professor at St. Mary's University School of Law.

Laura A. Martinez (B.B.A. '78) retired in September after 30 years with IBM, where she was an administration manager. She resides in San Jose, Calif.

Harriet B. May (B.S. '71), president and chief executive officer of El Paso credit union GECU, was named chair of the Credit Union National Association in July.

Robert M. Muñoz (B.S. '77) was elected to serve a two-year term as chair of the Central Area Council of the Fort Worth [Texas] Chamber of Commerce in May. Muñoz is the vice president for continuing education services at the Trinity River Campus of Tarrant County College.

Adam Nieto Jr. (B.A. '71), owner of Native Contractors Inc., received the SBA 8(a) Business Development Program Graduate of the Year Award from the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in November.

Joseph A. "Joey" Pennies (B.S.Ed. '77; M.Ed. '86) was inducted into the El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame in October. Pennies was an all-district outfielder at Coronado High School in El Paso and a four-year letterman at UTEP. He also played and coached baseball in Italy. Pennies resides in El Paso.

Edward A. "Ed" Rosen (B.A. '71; M.Ed. '77) was hired by the state of Indiana as a vocational rehabilitation counselor in September.

Russell A. "Russ" Vandenburg (B.S.Ed. '70) and his wife, Martha "Marty" Vandenburg, were presented the West Texas-Southern New Mexico Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals 2010 Award for Outstanding Philanthropists in November. Russ Vandenburg is president and chief executive officer of TVO North America, a real estate services company headquartered in El Paso. He received UTEP's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2002.

80s

Patricia "Pat" Alva-Green (B.B.A. '80) received the Women of Color in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math special recognition award in August. Alva-Green, a business analyst for Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co. in Fort Worth, Texas, was recognized for being in the top 15 percent of the technology industry and for broad impact within and outside of her discipline.

Samer M. Barakat (B.B.A. '87) was appointed manager of website operations at the Applied Science University in Amman, Jordan, in October. Barakat also is a lecturer in the university's Department of Management Information Systems.

Lt. Col. James R. "Jim" Burch II (B.B.A. '83), who is retired from the U.S. Army, was named L-3 Communications' senior program manager for the Constant Hawk airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance program in Afghanistan. Burch is based at L-3 Communications' Greenville, Texas, facility.

Antonette Denise Graves (B.S. '80) was appointed assistant superintendent of schools for the Ascension Parish Public School District in Donaldsonville, La., in July. Graves, a resident of Gonzales, La., is the first African-American female to hold this position.

Robert C.M. Gunn (M.S. '86), is a consulting geologist in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He explores for Amoco Corp. and other oil and gas companies.

Hugh H. Hughes (B.A. '82; M.A. '85), an English lecturer at Texas A&M University at Qatar, presented a paper on the linguistic identity of Christopher Columbus at the Poetics and Linguistics Association Conference at the University of Genoa, Italy, in July. He and his wife, Carolyn Coker Hughes (B.A. '85), spent several weeks in Italy and

Switzerland researching Occitan and Romanish languages during summer 2010.

Lt. Col. Daniel A. Lauretano (B.A. '86), who is retired from the U.S. Army, was appointed counsel to the National Science Board in May. He resides in Chester, Va.

Michael D. Marin (B.A. '89) joined the Austin, Texas, law boutique of Boulette & Golden L.L.P. as a partner in August.

Susana Martinez, (B.A. '81) was elected governor of New Mexico in November and was sworn into office on Jan. 1, 2011. She was the former district attorney in Las Cruces, N.M., since 1997.

Naomi Mery (B.M. '81), a music teacher at Freedom Elementary School in Colorado Springs, Colo., received the Colorado Springs School District 11 Crystal Apple Teacher Excellence Award in June.

Sylvia Dickey Smith (B.A. '84; M.Ed. '85) is the author of *A War of Her Own*. The book, Smith's fifth, was published in September. Smith was named the 2010 SAGE Award winner by the Barbara Burnett Smith Mentoring Authors Foundation in May for her support of aspiring writers. A retired psychotherapist who resides in Georgetown, Texas, Smith also is the author of the cookbook, *Sassy Southern - Classy Cajun*, which was published in December 2009.

Scott W. Spivey (B.S.Ed. '88) is the U.S. Tennis Association's 2010 Southwest High School Coach of the Year. Spivey coaches tennis at El Paso's Burges High School.

BeEtta L. "Be" Stoney (B.S. '85; M.Ed. '87), a 2008 UTEP College of Education Gold Nugget Award recipient, was inducted into the UTEP Athletic Hall of Fame in October. Stoney, a former UTEP women's basketball player, is one of two Miner women to have more than 1,000 career points and 500 career rebounds and is UTEP's third all-time leading scorer.

Stoney is the faculty-athletic representative at Kansas State University, where she is an associate professor of curriculum and instruction.

Rosemary M. Torres (B.S.Ed. '89; M.Ed. '03) of Austin, Texas, in May was named Elementary District Teacher of the Year by the Lake Travis Independent School District.

Raymond M. "Ray" Tullius Jr. (B.S.W. '89) is the director of El Paso's Opportunity Center for the Homeless.

90s

Roberto Avant-Mier (B.A. '97; M.A. '99), associate professor in UTEP's Department of Communication is the author of *Rock the Nation*, which was published in May.

Marco C. Bencomo (B.B.A. '99), of JDW Insurance in El Paso, received the Production Leader Award for the month of May. The award recognizes employees who generate new business for the company.

Jose L. "Joe" Bradford (B.B.A. '94; M.B.A. '97) was promoted in June to vice president of business development for Shelby Distributions, an office supply, furniture and equipment retailer in El Paso.

Antonio Castro (B.F.A. '94), an associate professor at UTEP, received an honorable mention award in May at the 2010 International Latino Book Awards in New York City for his book cover design of Langston Hughes and Arna Bontemps' *Boy of the Border*.

Carmen Crosse (B.A. '93; M.Ed. '05) was named the principal of El Paso's Del Valle High School by the Ysleta Independent School District in September.

Veronica Escobar (B.A. '91) was elected El Paso county judge in November, and sworn into office in January.

Edward "Ed" Escudero (B.B.A. '92) was named chairman of the El Paso

Public Service Board, which manages the region's water and wastewater systems. Escudero is president and chief executive officer of Sierra Finance, and is vice president and chief financial officer of C&R Distributing, which operates convenience stores in the El Paso area and also is a major fuel distributor. He is co-chair of UTEP's 2014 Commission.

Warren A. Haston (B.M. '92; M.M. '94) created an instructional DVD, *Modeling for Band: Efficient Teaching and Authentic Learning*, which was released in October. Haston is an assistant professor of music education at The Hartt School in West Hartford, Conn.

Mary B. Kidd-Partridge (B.A. '95) is El Paso and Southern New Mexico regional manager for GuestLife Destinations, which publishes travel guides for destinations in the Southwest and Vancouver, Canada.

Cheryl S. Lay-Davis (B.S. '94) is an El Paso associate municipal court judge and managing partner of the law firm Leslie & Lay P.C.

Victor M. Macías-González (B.A. '92; M.A. '95), associate professor of Latin American History and director of the Institute for Latino/a and Latin American Studies at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, received a \$30,000 grant from the University of Wisconsin System to create a Minority Mentoring Program for sophomore liberal arts studies majors. Macías-González also is on the board of *Lugar de Reunion*, a Latino community resource center in Sparta, Wis.

Terrence "Terry" McChesney (B.B.A. '94) is the author of *Dog Tacos*, an action novel about skateboarding set in El Paso and Juárez, Mexico. He resides in San Antonio, Texas.

Scott A. McLaughlin (M.B.A. '96) of El Paso, was named chairman of the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority, a board designed to improve the

state's transportation systems in and around El Paso, by Texas Gov. Rick Perry in August.

Julieta "Julie" Melendez (B.I.S. '94; M.Ed. '02) was named assistant principal of Bill Childress Elementary School in Vinton, Texas, in September.

Daniel M. Pacheco (B.A. '93) recently was named Internal Medicine Resident of the Year at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix, Ariz.

Monica Perales (B.A. '94; M.A. '96), an assistant professor of history at the University of Houston, authored *Smelertown: Making and Remembering a Southwest Border Community*, which was published in September. The book examines the Mexican-American community that existed for almost 100 years in the shadow of El Paso's now-shuttered Asarco copper refinery.

Ginger J. Piñeda Raya (B.A. '99; M.P.A. '03) was elected board treasurer of *Latinitas* in October. *Latinitas* is a non-profit organization dedicated to the empowerment and advancement of Latina youth through media, art, culture and technology. Raya is a clinical administrator at the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine at Texas Tech University of Health Science Center at El Paso and adjunct faculty at Doña Ana Community College in Las Cruces, N.M.

Monika Poessiger Miles (B.B.A. '90) is national president-elect of the American Society of Women Accountants. Poessiger Miles, chief executive officer of Labhart Miles Consulting Group Inc., resides in San Jose, Calif.

Chris Quintana (B.S. '90) was promoted to associate professor of education at the University of Michigan in May. Quintana resides in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Robert Seeburger (B.A. '96) was named assistant principal of Jose Alderete Middle School in Canutillo, Texas, in August.

Martin Sena (B.B.A. '97) was promoted to senior business lending officer at El Paso credit union GECU in September.

Charmakeitha M. "Kiki" Smith (B.B.A. '96) finished second in the Fort Bliss, Texas, Got Talent competition hosted by the Army's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command in August.

Angel Urbina (B.S.C.E. '94; M.S.C.E. '99) received the 2010 award for Most Promising Engineer or Scientist with a doctoral degree at the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Conference in October. The annual conference is organized by Great Minds in STEM, a nonprofit that promotes the engagement, recruitment and recognition of Hispanics in science, technology, engineering and math fields. Urbina is an engineer at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, N.M.

Josefina Zamora (B.S. '97; M.Ed. '06) took first place in the Figure Class B Division at the 2010 National Physique Committee Junior National Bodybuilding Championships in June. She also won the Best in Show trophy and earned an International Federation of Body Building and Fitness figure pro card. In July, Zamora made her professional debut at the 2010 International Federation of Body Building and Fitness New York Pro Figure show, placing fourth out of 32 contestants. She teaches chemistry and biology at Chaparral Middle School and is choreographer for the Miss El Paso competition and the Hyundai Sun Bowl Game halftime show.

'00s

Patricia D. "Pat" Adatao (B.B.A. '00), an employee of the City of El Paso for 35 years, retired in September from her position as deputy city manager for development and information services.

Marshall C. Barclay Jr. (M.B.A. '05), of El Paso, was promoted to assistant regional managing director for Lincoln Financial

Advisors Corp. in October.

Jacob R. Boggs (B.S. '03) received Daw's Home Furnishings' Top Sales Consultant Award for excellence in customer service and sales achievement during the months of May through August.

Sandra E. Braham (M.Ed. '02; Ed.D. '05) was honored in October at the first Women of Impact Awards event, sponsored by Las Palmas Medical Center, Las Palmas Women's Advisory Board and El Paso Inc. newspaper. The awards recognize women who have dedicated their lives to the improvement of El Paso. Braham is chief executive officer for the Paso del Norte Region YWCA.

Erica Corral (B.S.M.M.E. '00) received the 2010 award for Most Promising Engineer or Scientist with a doctoral degree at the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Conference in October. The annual conference is organized by Great Minds in STEM, a nonprofit that promotes the engagement, recruitment and recognition of Hispanics in science, technology, engineering and math fields. Corral is an assistant professor of materials science and engineering at the University of Arizona.

Dr. Brandon Scott Elrod (B.S. '06) graduated from Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in Vallejo, Calif., in June. Elrod, who co-authored the research paper, "Stress-induced prophage DNA replication in Salmonella enterica serovar Typhimurium," published in the *Journal of Infection, Genetics and Evolution* in September 2009, was accepted into the Pediatric Residency Program at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash.



MINER ALUM PART OF POPULAR SUPER BOWL COMMERCIAL

"The Force" is with Kovar McClure, a former student at The University of Texas at El Paso, who was featured in the entertaining "Darth Vader" Volkswagen Passat commercial that debuted during this year's Super Bowl.

The actor played the father of a child dressed as the Star Wars villain who tries to use the force on objects around the house. The commercial was lauded as one of the most memorable of the day and quickly became a YouTube hit.

"The reaction has been awesome," said McClure during a telephone interview from his Southern California home. "My Facebook friends have doubled."

While at UTEP in the late 1980s and early '90s, the actor was known as Denny Kovar McClure and he participated in many University Dinner Theatre productions. He finished his B.F.A. degree at State University of New York - Purchase College.

The alumnus, who was born in 1972 and raised in Winkler County, Texas, has professional credits that date back to 1999 and include work in commercials, soap operas, independent films and prime time shows such as "Entourage" and "Criminal Minds." He has a recurring role in the NBC drama "The Event."

He said his dream job is to help create the kind of iconic television characters he admired as a child such as "Hawkeye" Pierce from "MASH" or Sam Malone from "Cheers."

McClure said the professional attitude he takes to every job partly comes from what he picked up at UTEP.

"We learned to be prepared and to always be ready to bring it, and those qualities translate to everywhere," he said. "That Texas work ethic serves me well."

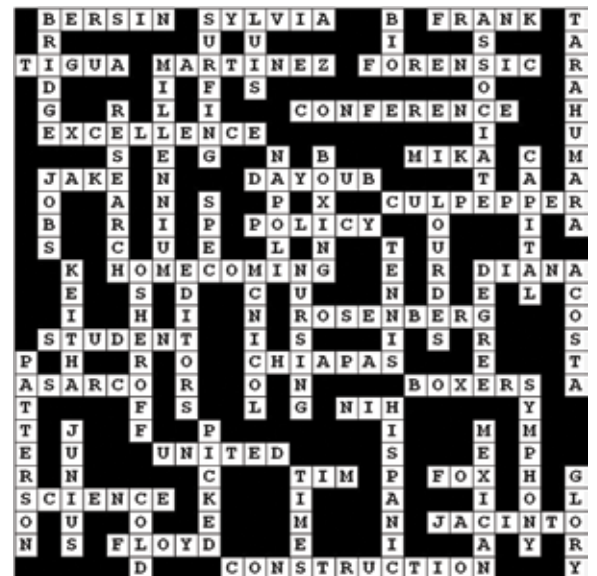
To learn more about McClure, visit kovarmcclure.com.



In Memoriam

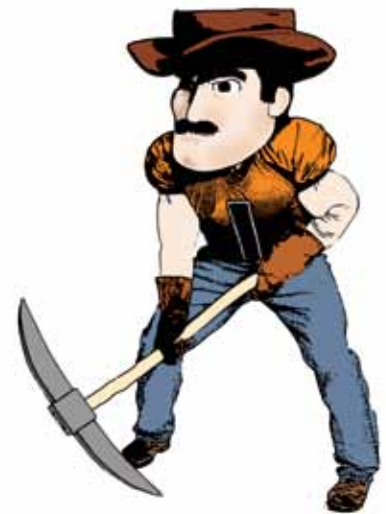
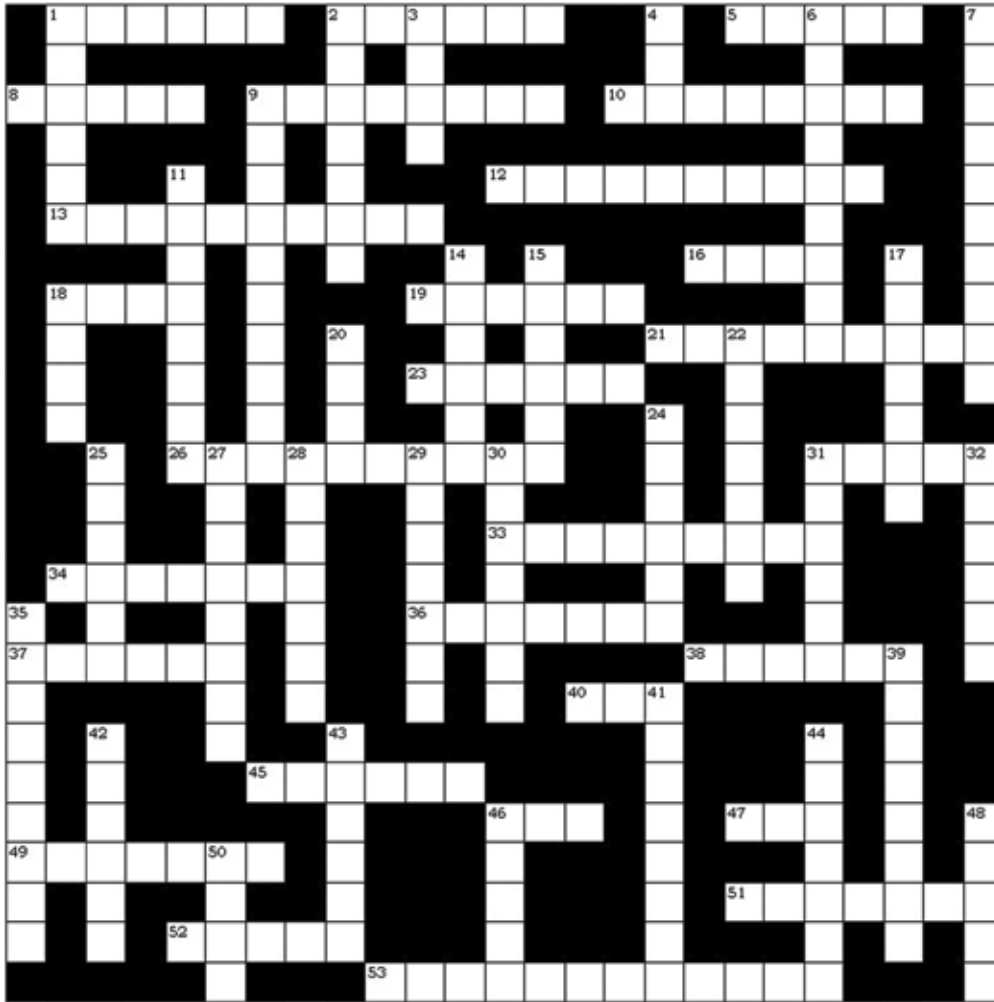
- **George Michael "Mike" Fitzpatrick** (B.A. '66) El Paso; Jan. 2, 2010.
- **Thomas S. Pearson** (M.Ed. '70) Odessa, Texas; Jan. 13, 2010.
- **Herbert Boyd "Harry" Howard** (B.S. '65) Skiatook, Okla.; Jan. 20, 2010.
- **Joseph Leonard "Chuck" Brownlow Jr.** (B.B.A. '49) Tucson, Ariz.; Jan. 27, 2010.
- **Luis de Herrera** (B.A. '99) El Paso; May 1, 2010.
- **Roy C. Collins** (B.B.A. '60) Brownfield, Texas; May 6, 2010.
- **Maria Estela "Stella" Vasquez Arredondo** (B.B.A. '51) El Paso; May 7, 2010.
- **Lorene S. Patneau** (B.A. '75; M.Ed. '88) El Paso; May 10, 2010.
- **Lianne N. Fridriksson** (B.A. '74) Granbury, Texas; May 13, 2010.
- **Pat Monroe Garland Sr.** (B.S. '60) Sunland Park, N.M.; May 15, 2010.
- **Gail L. Watson** (B.B.A. '91) El Paso; May 17, 2010.
- **John C. Bridges** (B.S. '68) Tucson, Ariz.; May 22, 2010.
- **John Reed "Pinky" Edwin** (B.A. '54) Arlington, Texas; May 26, 2010.
- **James A. "Jim" Henderson Jr.** (B.B.A. '72) Abilene, Texas; May 26, 2010.
- **Maria Josefa Cabanillas** (B.S.Ed. '70) Phoenix; May 27, 2010.
- **Marcia Keller** (B.A. '76) El Paso; May 27, 2010.
- **Jane Lyn Cochran** (B.A. '74; M.A. '76) El Paso; May 29, 2010.
- **Winston C. Yeargin** (B.S.C.E. '52) San Diego, Calif.; May 26, 2010.
- **Rita Damon** (B.A. '45) Largo, Fla.; May 31, 2010.
- **William "Bill" Gray Johnson** (B.S. '69) Midland, Texas; May 31, 2010.
- **Jacqueline C. "Jacque" Russell** (B.S.Ed. '71) Austin, Texas; May 31, 2010.
- **John Mark Friedmann** (B.A. '70; M.Ed. '78) Hampshire, Ill.; June 1, 2010.
- **Donna Lynn Montelongo** (B.I.S. '04) El Paso; June 3, 2010.
- **Ima D. Tarpley** (B.S.Ed. '62) El Paso; June 3, 2010.
- **Flora A. Alarcon** (B.B.A. '56) El Paso; June 4, 2010.
- **Robert F. Mayhall** (B.B.A. '55) El Paso; June 4, 2010.
- **Oscar Perez** (B.S.Ed. '70) El Paso; June 4, 2010.
- **Tom E. Hearon** (B.S.Mi. '54) Oracle, Ariz.; June 5, 2010.
- **Elizabeth McNail Dow** (B.A. '41) El Paso; June 6, 2010.
- **Judge Brunson Drury Moore** (B.B.A. '52) El Paso; June 6, 2010.
- **Herbert N. Sherwood** (B.B.A. '50) El Paso; June 9, 2010.
- **Martha Bagge Wilson** (B.A. '40) El Paso; June 11, 2010.
- **Benito Alejandro Rodriguez** (B.A. '53; M.A. '70) El Paso; June 15, 2010.
- **Laura Provencio Pinard** (B.B.A. '88) Friendswood, Texas; June 19, 2010.
- **Lt. Col. Richard P. "Mike" Hammer** (B.A. '57) El Paso; June 26, 2010.
- **Janeda Price Rush** (M.A. '50) Plano, Texas; June 28, 2010.
- **Berta Quintana** (B.A. '58) El Paso; July 1, 2010.
- **Carlos O. Lopez** (B.S. '50; M.A. '57) Gilroy, Calif.; July 3, 2010.
- **Staff Sgt. Herbert Earl Warren Sr.** (B.S.Ed. '71; M.Ed. '75) El Paso; July 3, 2010.
- **Mary Lee Klink Howard** (B.A. '44) El Paso; July 6, 2010.
- **Joseph Edward Wax** (B.S.Ed. '70) El Paso; July 9, 2010.
- **Sharon Marie Lindsey** (B.S.N. '00) El Paso; July 10, 2010.
- **Chief Warrant Officer Jerry Dale Foster** (B.B.A. '76) El Paso; July 13, 2010.
- **Yvonne "Bonny" Perez LeMaster** (B.S.N. '84) Niceville, Fla.; July 13, 2010.
- **James Edward Crowell** (B.S.Ed. '66) El Paso; July 14, 2010.
- **Raul Torres (B.A. '63)** El Paso; July 14, 2010.
- **Dorothy Jean McGill** (B.A. '89) El Paso; July 17, 2010.
- **Dennis Edward Fitzpatrick** (B.S.Ed. '76) El Paso; July 20, 2010.
- **Susan Terrazas** (B.M. '79) El Paso; July 20, 2010.
- **Carlos Oscar Rodriguez** (B.S.Mi. '50) El Paso; July 28, 2010.
- **Jean M. Hill** (B.A. '67) El Paso; July 29, 2010.
- **Yvette Marie Avila** (B.A. '06) El Paso; July 30, 2010.
- **Alla Lee Reinhardt** (B.A. '61) El Paso; July 30, 2010.
- **Robert "Bobby" Tibuni** (B.S.E.E. '60) El Paso; July 30, 2010.
- **David Elias-Assi** (B.B.A. '59) El Paso; July 31, 2010.
- **Mary Francis "Chula" Hayward Woodul** (B.A. '67) El Paso; July 31, 2010.
- **Victoria M. du Quesnay Cooper** (B.A. '73) El Paso; Aug. 1, 2010.
- **Anne Harwell Jordan** (B.A. '43) Austin, Texas; Aug. 4, 2010.
- **Margarita S. Peña** (B.A. '72; M.Ed. '75) El Paso; Aug. 4, 2010.
- **Pablo Villalobos** (B.B.A. '60) El Paso; Aug. 4, 2010.
- **Winifred McVey Middaugh** (B.A. '72) El Paso; Aug. 7, 2010.
- **Arline E. Beahler Abbott** (B.B.A. '47) Coronado, Calif.; Aug. 8, 2010.
- **Jose L. Mercado** (B.M. '73) San Diego, Calif.; Aug. 9, 2010.
- **David L. Samuel** (B.B.A. '50) El Paso; Aug. 9, 2010.
- **John Acuña Jr.** (B.A. '67) El Paso; Aug. 11, 2010.
- **Arthur Gilbert "Art" Peinado** (B.A. '69) San Diego, Calif.; Aug. 12, 2010.
- **Israel "Lulu" Villa Jr.** (B.S. '75) Denver; Aug. 16, 2010.
- **Christine Elizabeth McEachern** (B.M. '58) Santa Teresa, N.M.; Aug. 17, 2010.
- **Lois Elaine Smith** (B.A. '41) El Paso; Aug. 17, 2010.
- **Cynthia Anne Bickford** (B.S.Ed. '85; M.Ed. '92) El Paso; Aug. 18, 2010.
- **Therese Lynn Fitzgerald** (B.S.N. '04) El Paso; Aug. 18, 2010.
- **Julian "Curly" Pacheco Jr.** (B.A. '93) El Paso; Aug. 23, 2010.
- **Anita Blair** (B.A. '44; M.A. '51) El Paso; Aug. 25, 2010.
- **Helen Lucille Eisert** (B.A. '63) El Paso; Aug. 25, 2010.
- **Robert Harold Lauchner Jr.** (B.B.A. '69) El Paso; Aug. 25, 2010.
- **Agnes L. "Laverne" Evans** (B.S.Ed. '74) El Paso; Aug. 27, 2010.
- **Grace Davis Luhnning Meyers** (B.S.Ed. '76) Stafford, Texas; Aug. 27, 2010.
- **Rosa M. "Rosie" Gad** (B.S.Ed. '77) El Paso; Sept. 1, 2010.
- **Joseph Michael Alvarado** (B.A. '09) El Paso; Sept. 2, 2010.
- **T.W. "Coach" Harvey** (B.A. '54) El Paso; Sept. 3, 2010.
- **Arnold Edward Ellsworth** (M.Ed. '68) El Paso; Sept. 4, 2010.
- **Eugene A. Scussel** (B.S.Mi. '50) Clifton, N.J.; Sept. 5, 2010.
- **Margaret Frank Gibbe** (B.A. '49) El Paso; Sept. 6, 2010.
- **Joe Livingston Karr Sr.** (M.A. '51) Fredericksburg, Texas; Sept. 7, 2010.
- **Carlos M. Galvan** (B.S.C.E. '76) Lubbock, Texas; Sept. 8, 2010.
- **Juan M. Alvidrez Jr.** (B.A. '72) El Paso; Sept. 11, 2010.
- **David Charles Chavez** (B.A. '71) El Paso; Sept. 12, 2010.
- **Elaine Webb** (B.S.N. '75) West Lafayette, Ind.; Sept. 15, 2010.
- **Anthony E. "Tony" Kendrick** (B.B.A. '64) Aztec, N.M.; Sept. 16, 2010.
- **Lt. Col. Sidney H. Boyd** (B.B.A. '54) Frederick, Md.; Sept. 19, 2010.
- **Michael Herbert "Mike" Newsome** (M.B.A. '90) El Paso; Sept. 20, 2010.
- **Leon L. Baldwin** (B.A. '52) Elephant Butte, N.M.; Sept. 21, 2010.
- **Antonio Z. Duran** (B.B.A. '77) El Paso; Sept. 21, 2010.
- **Dr. Pablo Ayub** (B.S. '44) El Paso; Sept. 22, 2010.
- **Eugene H. Roberts** (B.A. '53) El Paso; Sept. 23, 2010.
- **Stephanie Segura** (B.A. '95; M.Ed. '98) El Paso; Sept. 23, 2010.
- **Lt. Col. Thomas Daniel "Stymie" Carter Jr.** (M.Ed. '75) El Paso; Sept. 27, 2010.
- **Josephine T. "Jo" Clark** (B.S.Ed. '66) El Paso; Sept. 28, 2010.
- **Patricia Consuelo Alcantar Navarro** (B.S.Ed. '79) El Paso; Sept. 29, 2010.
- **Alma J. Goldfarb** (B.A. '51) El Paso; Oct. 2, 2010.
- **Master Sgt. Francisco Antonio Carlos** (B.S. '80) El Paso; Oct. 3, 2010.
- **Virginia E. "Ginny" Lotspeich** (B.M. '62) Oklahoma City; Oct. 3, 2010.
- **Soledad Perez Newman** (B.A. '41) Houston; Oct. 3, 2010.
- **Jose Enrique "Joe" Navarro** (B.S.Ed. '82) El Paso; Oct. 4, 2010.
- **Rudolph "Rudy" Sandoval** (B.A. '56) El Paso; Oct. 4, 2010.
- **John William "Coach" Carpenter** (B.S.Ed. '73) El Paso; Oct. 22, 2010.

Crossword Solution



CROSSWORD

Solution on page 65



ACROSS

- 1 Alan _____, commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- 2 New associate vice president for development and alumni relations _____ + (32D)
- 5 Played Valentin in Kiss of the Spider Woman: _____ Montes de Oca
- 8 The Department of Social Work has a new partnership with the _____ Indian Reservation.
- 9 New Mexico Governor Susana _____ is a UTEP alumna.
- 10 New bachelor's degree in _____ science
- 12 UTEP hosted the 2011 _____ USA basketball tournament.
- 13 UTEP strives to achieve "access and _____."
- 16 UTEP Track and Field head coach _____ Laaksonen
- 18 Editor of Texas Monthly _____ Silverstein
- 19 Richard _____, president and CEO of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
- 21 Men's basketball guard Randy _____
- 23 UTEP's Institute for _____ and Economic Development
- 26 Save the Date for _____ 2011, Oct. 17-22
- 31 University President _____ Natalicio
- 33 Former WWII spy and UTEP professor Albert _____
- 34 UTEP goal: first national research university with a 21st century _____ demographic
- 36 Former student Justin McFarland conducted literacy research in _____, Mexico.
- 37 Demolition has begun at the _____ plant near UTEP.

- 38 Stephanie Han comes from a family of _____.
- 40 Abbreviation for agency funding a cancer pain management program for Hispanics
- 45 M.P.A. students are working with the _____ Way.
- 46 UTEP men's basketball coach _____ + (52A)
- 47 The new TV home of Conference USA
- 49 The College of _____ has a new undergraduate research office.
- 51 New associate vice president Chester _____
- 53 New master's degree in _____ management

DOWN

- 1 A new pedestrian _____ spans more than 150 feet.
- 2 A UTEP student studied the connection between _____ and cystic fibrosis.
- 3 Welch Chair and UTEP researcher _____ Echegoyen is studying solar energy collection.
- 4 New B.S. degree offered in _____ chemistry.
- 6 Degree earned by some Early College High School students before receiving their high school diplomas
- 7 UTEP researchers studied the _____ Indians who live near Chihuahua City.
- 9 UTEP _____ lecturer Jamie Merisotis
- 11 An interdisciplinary _____ building is on the drawing board to replace Burges and Barry halls.
- 14 Journalist Lisa _____ wrote a book about Bhutan.
- 15 Women's sport to be offered in the 2012 Olympics for the first time

- 17 Paydirt Pete was runner-up in the _____ One Mascot Challenge.
- 18 UTEP contributes 7,050 local _____.
- 20 3-D systems technologies will be created in the new _____ Center.
- 22 Director of COURI _____ Echegoyen
- 24 Sport Anna Fuller played in college
- 25 Women's basketball head coach _____ Adams
- 27 Nobel laureate in Physics Douglas _____
- 28 American Society of News _____
- 29 Associate Vice President for Facilities Services Greg _____
- 30 Doctor of _____ Practice degree
- 31 In May 2011, UTEP will award its 100,000th _____.
- 35 UTEP football defensive coordinator whose son will play on the team: Andre _____
- 39 UTEP faculty and students perform with a Juárez _____ despite unrest in El Paso's neighboring city.
- 41 More than 76 percent of the University's students are _____.
- 42 UTEP's new provost _____ Gonzales
- 43 New UTEP promotion: I Got _____
- 44 A new scholarship is designed for students who are _____ citizens.
- 46 Sam Tanenhaus is editor of the New York _____ Book Review.
- 48 _____ Road Transfer Center and Parking Garage
- 50 Unusually _____ temperatures created extra work for UTEP facilities crews in early February.



The University of Texas at El Paso is
building green.

IN ADDITION TO GROWING INTO THE FIRST NATIONAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY WITH A 21ST CENTURY STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO IS COMMITTED TO EVOLVING AS A GREEN CAMPUS.



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UTEP saves more than \$2.5 million a year as a result of energy-saving efforts, promoting water conservation through the use of native plants in landscaping and other xeriscaping measures; as well as pursuing transportation alternatives through car and van-pooling initiatives, electric vehicle procurements, and biodiesel shuttle operations.

The UTEP Sustainability Policy is a commitment to environmental stewardship, energy efficiency and sustainability. The University continues to look for alternatives that meaningfully contribute to the environment in order to maintain the natural beauty of the campus and the environment as a whole.

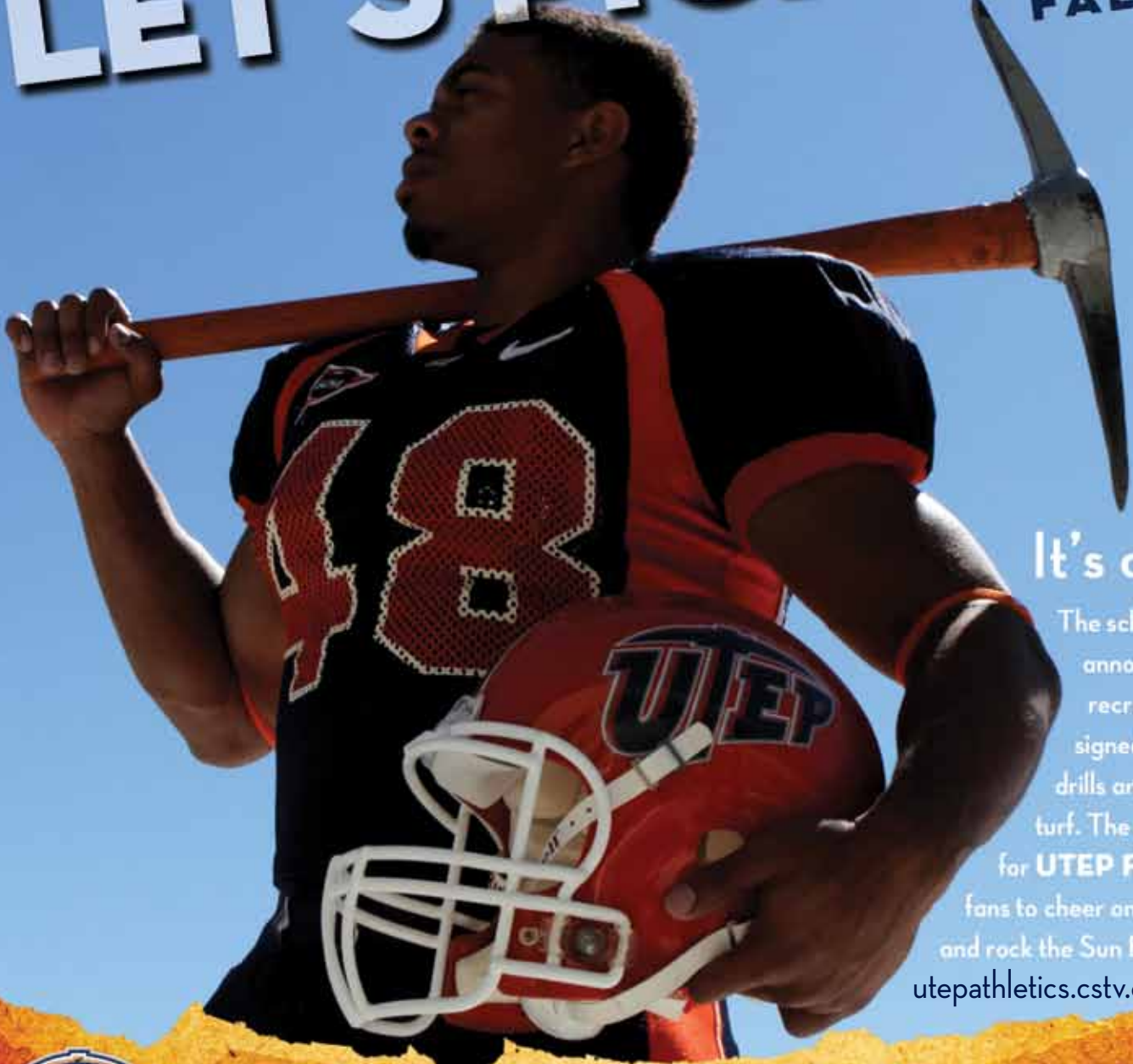


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LET'S PICK AXE!

FALL 2011



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The schedule has been announced, the recruits have been signed, and spring drills are grinding the turf. The countdown is on for **UTEP FOOTBALL** fans to cheer on their Miners and rock the Sun Bowl.
utepathletics.cstv.com



HOMECOMING WEEK: OCT. 17-22