

Centennial Series

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

SPRING/SUMMER 2014

UTEP

MAGAZINE



A SPRING FILLED WITH  
**SHINING MOMENTS**



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Contents © 2014 by

The University of Texas at El Paso

**UTEP Magazine**

UTEP Magazine is published three times  
per year by the UTEP Office of

University Communications

500 W. University Ave.

El Paso, TX 79968-0522

915-747-5526 • univcomm@utep.edu

utepmagazine.utep.edu



UTEP Magazine 2014 • Volume 6, Issue 2  
The University of Texas at El Paso

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 Printed on 10% post consumer recycled paper.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear UTEP Alumni and Friends:

UTEP's 2014 Centennial celebration has certainly started with a roar ... literally!

As we were busily planning and hosting Centennial activities this spring, one of our largest and most highly spirited events was an unscripted addition to the schedule: the exciting string of victories that Coach Keitha Adams and our women's basketball team delivered to us in the Women's National Invitation Tournament!

Coach Adams and her team earned their way into the championship game against traditional powerhouse Rutgers, defeating strong teams from Colorado, Washington and South Dakota State along the way. Their competitiveness and successive victories attracted a growing number of fans to the Don Haskins Center, and it was those fans – so many of you! – that earned UTEP the

opportunity to play all of its WNIT games at home. The final two games were played before sell-out crowds of 12,222 super-energized and VERY NOISY Miner women's basketball fans ... for the first time ever in UTEP women's basketball history!

Sell-out crowds were Coach Adams' dream when she first arrived at UTEP. After winning 29 games and the hearts of fans across this community, she and her team made that dream come true this year. In the process, they also made a huge contribution to the excitement and pride of UTEP's Centennial celebration. Thanks again to all of you who cheered them on at the Haskins Center ... they couldn't have done it without you! [See story on page 52.]

In this issue of our magazine we also feature a profile of UTEP students and their experiences on our campus in 2014, drawn from a recently conducted series of focus groups. When asked to characterize themselves and their peers, students responded with such terms as: "focused," "adaptable," "family-oriented," "hard-working," "ambitious," "caring," "goal-oriented," "energetic," "positive" and "involved."

Most UTEP students can be described in other ways, too. They are from El Paso County, first in their families to attend college, employed while pursuing their degrees, qualifying for and receiving financial aid, and helping to support and care for family members. In addition, their work hours and family responsibilities often require tight time management and flexible class formats and schedules, and they sometimes find themselves on circuitous pathways to degree completion.

That's where all of us at UTEP successfully play our role in serving as our students' partners, providing access to excellent educational opportunities at an affordable cost for talented young people of the Paso del Norte region and beyond. They bring to us their strong values, a clear understanding that higher education offers life-changing opportunities for them and their families, and the passion and focus to reach their goals. We offer them not only an opportunity to enroll, but our abiding respect for their aspirations and challenges, and our support of their efforts to complete rigorous degree programs that will enable them to compete successfully with their peers across the globe.

As we enjoy celebrating UTEP's many accomplishments over the past 100 years, I hope you'll join me, too, in reaffirming our shared commitment to UTEP's values and our mission of access and excellence. Your continued support during our second century of service to this region will be more important than ever in enabling us to achieve UTEP's full potential to transform individual lives and impact our collective prosperity and quality of life.

Go Miners!

Diana Natalicio  
President

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UTEP MAGAZINE | SPRING/SUMMER 2014

STAY CONNECTED TO UTEP



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Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

## MAGICAL MOMENT

Over a span of 16 days, the city of El Paso fell in love with the UTEP women's basketball team during a magical run at the 2014 Women's National Invitation Tournament (WNIT).

## CENTENNIAL SERIES

This issue of *UTEP Magazine* marks the fourth of six special collector's editions commemorating The University of Texas at El Paso's 100th anniversary in 2014. Each Centennial edition features a Centennial Series banner on the cover. Inside, content related to the Centennial Celebration fills the front of the magazine, followed by the other features, research, news, athletics and alumni's stories. For more on the Centennial Celebration visit [UTEP100Years.com](http://UTEP100Years.com).

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Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre. El Pasoan Kayla Thornton celebrates victory during the Women's National Invitation Tournament at the Don Haskins Center. The team's magical run at the tournament was just one of the shining moments of UTEP's Centennial spring.

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Want to learn more? Download a free QR code reader mobile app supported by your phone carrier and scan the tags throughout the magazine for more content related to a story.





A DRIVE TO  
SUCCEED,

A DESIRE TO SERVE:

COMMITTED

INVOLVED

FAMILY

Friendly

ORIENTED

ADAPTABLE

ENERGETIC

UNDERESTIMATED

FUN

Passionate

WHAT MAKES A MINER

By Daniel Perez



ario Sosa used his innate friendliness to engage other students throughout campus.

Elen F. Gutierrez helped organize a study group to assist classmates who were part of her “second family” in the Fast-Track nursing cohort.

Ron Saks knew that if he wanted to help others, he needed to commit to finishing his degree despite personal obstacles.

Nadia Rivas took her interest in philanthropy to another level and encouraged others to get involved.

They have different interests and different backgrounds, but they share similar traits with many of the more than 23,000 students who

attend The University of Texas at El Paso.

Today’s UTEP student is an 18-year-old Hispanic woman living in El Paso County. She is an undergraduate criminal justice major taking at least 12 credit hours and will earn her degree in approximately five years.

She is a first-generation college student from a middle- to lower-income family who receives some form of financial aid. She is employed off campus, involved in community service and spends time taking care of her parents.

This profile is based on data gathered mostly from The University of Texas at El Paso’s Center for Institutional Evaluation, Research and Planning, or CIERP. The data describe the backdrop for the words UTEP students – including Sosa, Gutierrez, Saks and Rivas – use to describe themselves and their classmates: adaptable, committed, family-focused, friendly, involved and hardworking.

One might say these characteristics are part of a UTEP Miner’s genetic code.

“Being friendly has opened a lot of doors for me,” said Sosa, a junior microbiology major and Student Government Association (SGA) senator-at-large. “I didn’t want to be just another student.”

Sosa, a member of several campus organizations, said he was a shy freshman when he started at UTEP, but a friend encouraged him to become involved with SGA. His decision brought him out of his shell. Today he spends part of his days starting conversations with strangers on campus to get their thoughts and feedback about the University.

Ron Saks’ goal is to help others achieve their higher education ambitions, and his 2013 multidisciplinary studies degree from UTEP will help. Saks, who plans to apply to graduate school, took 33 years to complete his bachelor’s degree – the last seven at UTEP – due in part to an intellectual learning disability.

The lack of a college degree forced Saks to take a series of low-paying jobs, but he knew he was capable of more. With UTEP’s Center for Accommodations and Support Services as his partner, he committed to graduating and did so with a 3.84 GPA. He added to his academics by serving as a volunteer peer leader who encouraged underclassmen to reach their full potential.

“I knew that if I finished my bachelor’s, it would take me to better things,” he said. “I had a hard time with the three R’s (reading, writing and arithmetic), but I know I can master them. I don’t underestimate myself. My disability drives me to want to go further.”

The support Saks received was similar to the peer-led study groups within the Fast-Track Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. The intensity of the program, an accelerated one-year experience that accepts 60 students per year, creates a tight-knit family bond within the cohort.

“If we heard someone needed help, we encouraged them to attend our study sessions after class or our clinical rotations,” said Elen F. Gutierrez, vice president of the 2014 Fast-Track class. She believes peer support and encouragement keep classmates positive and successful. “We’d send texts and emails if we thought of a study concept that could help everyone. It was like a chain reaction of help.”

Gutierrez is a first-generation college student who, like many UTEP students, worked off campus to put herself through school. The mother of three young children considered dropping out when her boss put her on a management track at work, but decided to stay in school to earn her bachelor’s in kinesiology from UTEP in 2013.

The students also have a genuine interest in serving the campus and the Paso del Norte community. For instance, accounting students help nonprofit groups with tax preparation, health sciences students

participate in neighborhood health fairs, and Greek organizations conduct clothing and canned food drives. From July 2012 to June 2013, the University documented 560,581 community service hours valued at more than \$13 million.

“There is a level of philanthropy among students who appreciate the value of giving back,” said Nadia Rivas, a senior multimedia journalism major who is a student assistant with UTEP’s Center for Civic Engagement, an organization that connects student volunteers with community-based teaching and learning initiatives.

Gary Edens, Ed.D., vice president for student affairs, has been at UTEP since he was an undergraduate in the mid-1980s. He has seen students as peers and pupils, and said they all are willing to use their talents and skills to achieve their dreams.

“The characteristics of the UTEP student are exactly the kinds of characteristics needed for this country to succeed,” said Edens, who sees these students as tomorrow’s leaders. “You want individuals who understand what it takes to work hard, set goals, educate themselves, and be responsible. I think those are really important traits and I think those are at the very heart of what it takes to be a UTEP student.”

Benjamin C. Flores, Ph.D., dean of UTEP’s Graduate School, said he always has been impressed by the focus of UTEP students who earn their degrees despite the economic challenges many of them face. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in electrical engineering in the mid-1980s at UTEP and has served in faculty and administrative positions since 1990. He has seen UTEP evolve into an institution with a student demographic that mirrors El Paso’s population.

Flores said students see education as an opportunity to enhance their social mobility and strike a balance with work and family to accomplish their academic goals. He said their ability to multitask allows them to spend their time and energy wisely.

“Our graduates are well-rounded and dedicated,” Flores said. “They bring their life issues to the table and offer a different perspective that challenges the status quo and is of value to the U.S. workforce.”

The qualities shown by today’s UTEP students helped the University rank #7 in *Washington Monthly* magazine’s 2013 College Rankings, which factor in community service, research, social mobility and cost effectiveness of degree completion.

UTEP students realize their friendliness, adaptability, commitment, involvement, family focus and strong work ethic are the traits that will carry them from what may seem to be an impossible dream to a brighter future. As they graduate and join the ranks of the Miner Nation, they take with them the tools for success.

“THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UTEP STUDENT ARE EXACTLY THE KINDS OF CHARACTERISTICS NEEDED FOR THIS COUNTRY TO SUCCEED.”

Gary Edens, Ed.D., vice president for student affairs



# THE UTEP STUDENT

AVERAGE AGE OF UTEP UNDERGRADUATE:

23

54 PERCENT FEMALE

MOST POPULAR MAJOR:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

AGE RANGE OF UTEP UNDERGRADUATES:

14-78

FIRST-TIME, FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS:

53%

EL PASO COUNTY RESIDENTS: 84%

AVERAGE YEARS TO GRADUATE:



78%

STUDENTS WHO WORK WHILE ATTENDING SCHOOL



By J.R. Hernandez

THE QUALITIES SHOWN BY TODAY'S UTEP STUDENTS HELPED THE UNIVERSITY RANK #7 IN WASHINGTON MONTHLY MAGAZINE'S 2013 COLLEGE RANKINGS, WHICH FACTOR IN COMMUNITY SERVICE, RESEARCH, SOCIAL MOBILITY AND COST EFFECTIVENESS OF DEGREE COMPLETION.



# STUDENTS REFLECT ON CENTENNIAL GRADUATION

By Kristopher Rivera

May and December 2014 graduates from each of the seven colleges at The University of Texas at El Paso will share the experience of earning their degrees during the University's Centennial year. A single Spring Commencement ceremony will be held in Sun Bowl Stadium May 17, and special plans are also in the works for Winter Commencement in December.

Several students graduating in the Class of 2014 reminisce about their time at the University and what it means to be part of the Centennial graduating class.



MAY 2014

**EMMANUEL ALLENDE**  
**FINANCE**

In 2011, Manny Allende enrolled at UTEP as a sophomore transfer from a community college.

"There are so many internships and opportunities here in El Paso," Allende said. "I can't explain my gratitude toward this city and University."

The Kansas native became an active student on campus as a member of Kappa Sigma and Delta Sigma Pi, a business fraternity, and the Student Government Association.

When Allende wasn't on campus, he took on internship opportunities throughout his undergraduate career. He interned at Hunt Real Estate Investments, Lincoln Financial Advisors and in the El Paso office of U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke.

"I can personally say that my experience here has been great," Allende said. "It's definitely an honor to be graduating during the Centennial."



DECEMBER 2014

**JAMI DELGADILLO**  
**ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

As soon as Jami Delgadillo graduated from Americas High School in El Paso, she began her path to higher education at The University of Texas at San Antonio to experience being away from home for college.

After a year and a half, Delgadillo found attending UTSA was a financial burden, even with a scholarship.

"I just found (UTEP) to be a better choice for me in the end, and I really wish I would have chosen UTEP as my first selection," she said. "Financially, the cost of tuition, you can't beat it and it's a wonderful engineering school."

At UTEP she worked on campus as an engineering ambassador and had an internship in Dallas with Texas Instruments. Now she's glad to be in the graduating class of UTEP's Centennial.

"They're making these Commencement ceremonies much more grand this year, so I'm excited about that," Delgadillo said. "This is the end of 100 years, but it's also the beginning of another 100 years."

**"IT'S AN HONOR TO BE PART OF A SCHOOL THAT HAS SUCH GREAT TRADITIONS, BUT TO KNOW THAT I'M A LITTLE PIECE OF THAT HISTORY IS A GREAT FEELING TO ME."**

Karla Elliott



DECEMBER 2014

## VICTOR DOMINGUEZ INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

When it was time to think about college, Victor Dominguez followed in the steps of his two older brothers who had continued their higher education.

Dominguez, a Juárez, Mexico, resident, completed his undergraduate degree at UTEP. He was the first in his family to attain a degree from a public university in the United States.

“What I like the most about this school is the architecture from Bhutan,” he said. “I have worked as an orientation leader, so I know pretty much everything about this school. It’s been a really good experience.”

Already a pioneer in his family’s history of pursuing higher education, Dominguez will raise the bar again. He’ll be the first in his family to graduate with a master’s degree from a university in the United States.

“(The Centennial Celebration is) really awesome,” he said. “I’m really excited to be graduating. It’s a big event for the school and I’m really happy to be part of that.”



DECEMBER 2014

## KARLA ELLIOTT MICROBIOLOGY

Karla Elliott and her husband came to El Paso to continue their education at The University of Texas at El Paso using the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

“I’ve enjoyed the whole experience,” Elliott said. “All the activities that UTEP has to offer, the different organizations, the school, the classes themselves that I’m taking — I’m definitely enjoying every single aspect of the college life.”

Born in Chihuahua, Mexico, and raised in Southern California, Elliott enlisted in the U.S. Army and served one combat tour from 2008-09 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It was a nerve-racking experience that built character, Elliott said of her time as an Army public affairs specialist in Iraq.

UTEP’s Military Student Success Center (MSSC), an office designed to assist military-affiliated students and their families with the transition into civilian life and higher education, helped Elliott.

“To be graduating during the Centennial year is a great honor,” Elliott said. “First off, it’s an honor to be part of a school that has such great traditions, but to know that I’m a little piece of that history is a great feeling to me.”



DECEMBER 2014

## ALEJANDRO EINAUDI MARKETING

There were two options for Alejandro Einaudi after he graduated from high school in Washington state: he could either go back home to Chihuahua City, Mexico, or go to Mexico City.

At the time, however, Einaudi’s older brother spoke highly about the university he was attending: UTEP. Einaudi decided to join his brother and enroll.

He expressed gratitude for the doors of opportunity the University opens to international students.

During his freshman year, Einaudi interned with Walt Disney Co., and afterward he was active in student organizations such as the American Marketing Association. He also interned with the UTEP Department of Marketing and Management for the Centennial Celebration.

“I will be able to be part of the history of the 100 years of UTEP,” Einaudi said. “I cannot believe how much the University has grown, not only construction-wise, but academically as well.”



MAY 2014

## SALVADOR FERNANDEZ CELLULAR & MOLECULAR BIOCHEMISTRY

Salvador Fernandez, who got a head start on higher education as a participant in an Early College High School program, will graduate from The University of Texas at El Paso at the age of 20.

“UTEP has been so helpful, from opportunities to organizations, to my maturity level since I’ve been here; it’s out of this world,” he said. “It’s interesting how UTEP is going to transform, because it’s transforming me.”

He was selected to conduct biochemistry research for two and a half months as part of an exchange program at Shantou University in China.

“May 2014 is something very exciting,” Fernandez said. “It’s like an open door, like something special happening, special for UTEP, special for me. Hopefully something special happens to me afterward, too.”

Fernandez plans to work toward becoming a pilot and physician in the Navy.



MAY 2014

**JENNIFER KORKOSZ**  
**DOCTOR OF NURSING**  
**PRACTICE**

Jennifer Korkosz, a nurse practitioner in the United States Air Force (USAF), was selected through a competitive program in the USAF to get a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). She had the freedom to choose whichever school she wanted to attend as long as it met criteria for the Air Force, and she chose The University of Texas at El Paso.

“I am a Texan, born and raised in Texas, and I got my bachelor’s degree in Texas, so it was a really easy fit for me to slip back in the Texas mode and get another degree from Texas,” said Korkosz, who has served 21 years in the USAF and is currently stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M.

Korkosz makes a trip to UTEP once a month. She is one of 13 students graduating from the DNP program, which is geared and tailored toward practicing nurse practitioners.

“It’s pretty neat to be a part of history for the school,” Korkosz said. “Also, the fact that we’re the second DNP class that is going to be graduating, we’re a part of history in that way, too.”

After graduation, Korkosz will start the Air Force’s first DNP program.



MAY 2014

**PAULINA LOPEZ**  
**CORPORATE**  
**COMMUNICATION**

Born in El Paso and raised in Chihuahua, Mexico, Paulina Lopez started to consider coming back to the United States when it was time to think about college.

She decided to come to UTEP after hearing positive feedback from friends.

“One thing leads to another,” Lopez said. “You have to take that first step for something else to come in.”

As a freshman, Lopez became an active student on campus, focusing on the Student Government Association (SGA). She worked her way up to becoming senator-at-large for Liberal Arts in 2012-13, and then SGA president in 2013-14. As a member of SGA, Lopez worked on projects that helped improve the quality of facilities for students on campus.

In 2012, through the communication department, Lopez spent one month in Indonesia conducting research in communication with Stacey Sowards, Ph.D., chair of the communication department, and other UTEP students.

Centennial graduation will be the crowning achievement of her college experience, just as it will be for other graduates.

“I’m really excited to share Commencement with 2,500 students who are graduating that day as well,” Lopez said. “It’s UTEP’s birthday, we need to make it very fun, exciting and, of course, memorable for the next 100 years.”



MAY 2014

**TANYA MAESTAS**  
**BIOLOGICAL**  
**SCIENCES**

Tanya Maestas, a first-generation college student, is walking out of UTEP with plenty of memories and the accomplishment of having achieved many personal milestones.

“A lot of my professors in high school really encouraged me to venture out of El Paso and, thinking back now, I’m really disappointed they didn’t encourage me to come to UTEP, more so because there are a lot of great programs here, and UTEP is on its way to reaching Tier One,” Maestas said.

In the 2012-13 school year, Maestas served as the president of the Student Government Association and as an intern with the UTEP Centennial Office.

Her education opened opportunities to intern at dental schools around Texas, which have given her the foundation needed to attend dental school in the fall.

“I think being a part of the Centennial class is not only an opportunity to be graduating during UTEP’s birthday, but we’re representing 100 years of tradition and excellence that UTEP has strived for, and we’re also making history in itself — the Centennial graduation is history in the making,” Maestas said. “We’re celebrating a legacy that UTEP has created.”



MAY 2014

## **SHERYL MAXSOM** **DOCTORAL DEGREE IN** **TEACHING, LEARNING** **AND CULTURE**

Sheryl Maxsom's father, a high school dropout, had a goal to send his children to college. Fulfilling that goal, however, was difficult with no guidance or financial support.

Maxsom married her high school sweetheart, who joined the military. While they were stationed in Germany, Maxsom became a Sunday Bible school teacher. A friend suggested she pursue a career in education after seeing how she worked well with children.

She took that advice and ran with it. In 1989, Maxsom earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from The University of Texas at El Paso. After graduation, she taught for five years in the Ysleta Independent School District (YISD). In 1997, she earned her master's from Sul Ross State University and began to work in the central office of YISD, where she stayed for 10 years.

In 2007, she transferred to Canutillo Independent School District as an administrator. For the past five years, Maxsom has served as a principal at Gonzalo & Sofia Garcia Elementary School while working toward her doctorate.

"The University is an awesome experience for young people," Maxsom said. "There's a lot of support on campus, the professors are open to students who need that extra support. I think anybody who wants that education, we can get it for them at UTEP."



DECEMBER 2014

## **ELISA TAMAYO** **ECONOMICS**

Drug-related violence had become an issue in Elisa Tamayo's hometown of Chihuahua City, Mexico. To escape it, her parents encouraged her to enroll at UTEP.

The University accepted Tamayo under special circumstances because she was a GED student. She enrolled in fall 2010.

"I didn't want this opportunity to be taken for granted, so that's when I started getting involved," Tamayo said.

As a freshman, she formed a solid foundation with the help of the Excel program in the Student Government Association (SGA). She became an active member in SGA, the Women's Business Association, the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting, and Delta Sigma Pi.

In fall 2012, she interned at the White House with the Council on Environmental Quality.

"It was very exciting just to walk in the White House every day," Tamayo said.

She saw White House officials such as former Secretary of State Hilary Clinton in action, and got to meet President Barack Obama and watch him come and go from the residence on the Marine One helicopter.

"Graduating in the Centennial Year means the world to me," Tamayo said. "It's so special to be here at this time. It's so uplifting."



MAY 2014

## **VICTORIA VALENCIA** **KINESIOLOGY**

Coming from the small town of San Elizario, Texas, to complete a four-year degree and play volleyball at the Division I level at The University of Texas at El Paso is something to feel great about, said Victoria Valencia.

"Two thumbs up," Valencia says of her experience at UTEP. "I enjoyed everything. Playing volleyball was definitely the icing on the cake."

After learning about a doctoral program in physical therapy available at UTEP, Valencia knew which University she wanted to attend after high school. At the same time, since the age of 12, she had come to summer volleyball camps at the University, familiarizing herself with the coaching staff by the time she got to UTEP.

As a freshman, Valencia was a walk-on athlete on the UTEP volleyball team. After a year of displaying hard work and commitment, she received a full athletic scholarship. She gave the same dedication to her courses. Valencia is a two-time recipient of the C-USA Commissioner's Academic Medal, and a two-time member of the C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll.

Though she has been able to achieve personal milestones and graduate, Valencia isn't quite satisfied. Her sights are set on earning the doctoral degree that got her interested in UTEP in the first place.

"I do feel like it's one chapter that's ending, but I know I have plenty more to finish," Valencia said. 🏠



Use your smartphone to scan this code to see a video from these and other students who will graduate during UTEP's Centennial Year.



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

# UTEP HISTORY

UNCOVERED  
DURING THE  
CELEBRATION

*UTEP's Centennial Celebration provides the occasion to celebrate, look to the future, and seek a greater understanding of the University's history. Over the past two and a half years, many students, staff and faculty have joined the effort to learn more about Miner history.*

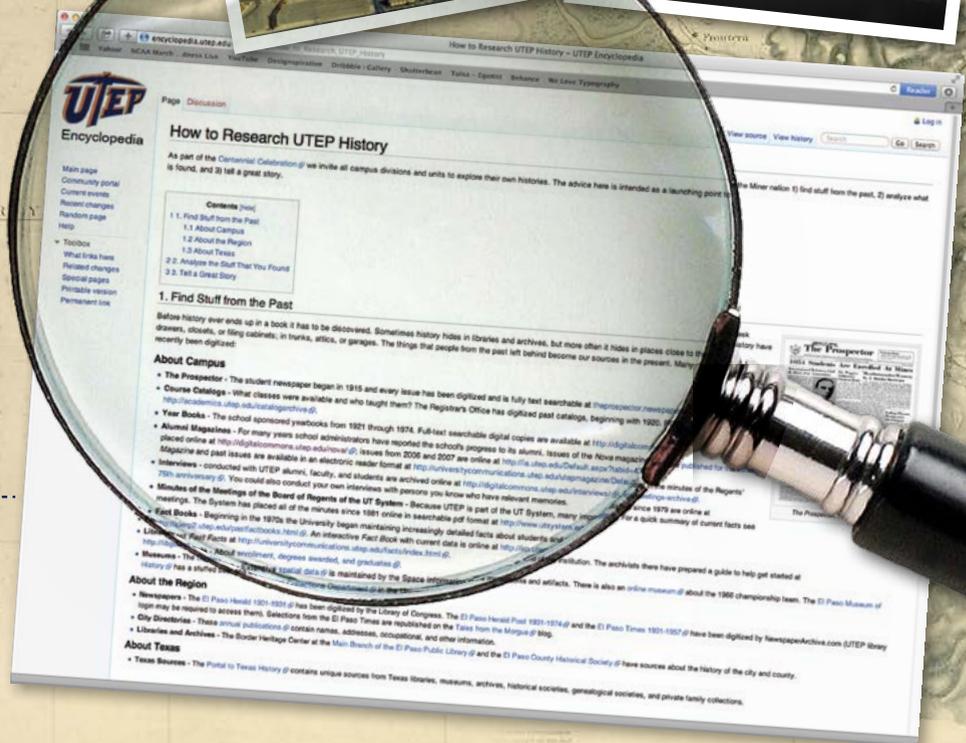
By Keith A. Ereksen Ph.D.

P.J. Vierra, a researcher in UTEP's Centennial Office, holds up a school grade record for Steve Worrell, first dean of the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy. The record is one of many new documents the Centennial Office team uncovered while conducting research for the Centennial Year.





A "How to Research UTEP History" page provides links to all of the new and existing digital resources available to those who want to learn more.



The staff of the University Library has been actively digitizing past issues of *The Prospector*, yearbooks and other publications. The Institute of Oral History has been collecting and recording individual stories. Campus departments and offices have looked for history in file cabinets and closets. Many students have explored UTEP history for class assignments, honors projects and graduate studies. All of this information is finding its way into the new, online UTEP Encyclopedia at [encyclopedia.utep.edu](http://encyclopedia.utep.edu).

Some of the most exciting discoveries reveal previously unsung heroes who had a hand in establishing and developing the University. William B. Phillips, a former professor of geology at what is today The University of Texas at Austin and an expert on mining and petroleum in the state, may

well be the father of the mining school, or at least the grandfather. After discovering oil at Spindletop in 1901, the Texas legislature created a state geological survey and Phillips became the first director. In 1909, he was appointed head of the university's Bureau of Economic Geology and Technology, where he hired one of his former student assistants, Steve H. Worrell, as the bureau's chemist. Since 1903, Phillips had endorsed the call for a mining school in El Paso. In 1911, when El Pasoans first attempted to get a bill through the legislature to create the school, he offered public support. After the 1913 bill, Phillips recommended Worrell as the school's first dean.

Research on this topic also settled a long-running debate about Worrell's first name. His legal name on his high school transcripts was Steve, not Steven, as previously thought.

Other heroes shaped the school from the

inside. Raúl Ramón Barberena of Tampico, Mexico, enrolled as a student during the first semester in the fall of 1914, but since he arrived with transfer credits, Dean Worrell quickly hired him as a student assistant to fill the vacant, but unapproved, position of instructor of Spanish. Barberena became one of the school's first Hispanic students, the school's first Hispanic instructor and possibly the first Hispanic instructor in what has become The University of Texas System.

The school's registrar, Ruth Monro Augur, had a hand in creating an icon for the newly formed university. Arriving at the Texas School of Mines in 1917, the professionally trained artist wrote plays and designed the school's first seal. That seal, completed in 1919, featured a mining pick, making the pick the longest-running visual identifier for the Miner Nation.

Some of the discoveries have refined the



Registrar Ruth Monro Augur designed the school's first seal, which included a mining pick.

Raúl Ramón Barberena became one of the school's first Hispanic students, the school's first Hispanic instructor and possibly the first Hispanic instructor in what has become The University of Texas System.

University community's understanding of stories long told about UTEP's founding. For example, writers of school histories have long searched to verify the date of the first day of class. Without a solid confirmation, they followed the date on an announcement that work would begin on Sept. 23, 1914. In preparation for New Miner Convocation in 2013, researchers in UTEP's Centennial Office found a newspaper article pointing to Sept. 28 as the first day of class. A letter from Dean Worrell recently discovered in the archives at UT Austin clarified that registration began on Sept. 23 and classes began on the 28th.

Along the way, researchers learned that the first day of practice for the school's football team also occurred on Sept. 28, making the team exactly as old as the school.

As a result of all of this activity, the UTEP Encyclopedia has become a comprehensive

resource for understanding the University's history. A "How to Research UTEP History" page provides links to all of the digital resources available to those who want to learn more.

In fall 2013, when organizers of the International Food Fair asked when the fair began, they were invited to use these resources and discovered that last year's fair was their 30th anniversary. A look around drawers and storage areas has uncovered an old engineering exam now on display in the Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens, as well as a large cache of video footage documenting decades of Miner football and basketball games.

What better way to join the Centennial Celebration than to learn more about UTEP's past and share it for the future!

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

# LOCAL ARTISTS CREATE CENTENNIAL PICKAXE PIECES

*When does a pickaxe become an artist's canvas? About once every 100 years — at least in UTEP's case.*

A dozen acclaimed local artists – 11 professionals and one UTEP student – contributed talent, inspiration and hard work to the University's Centennial Celebration by taking blank pickaxe sculptures and turning them into something beautiful and memorable.

Displaying 100th-anniversary pride, the works of art were revealed at the Union Gallery on Jan. 27, 2014.

After donating countless hours of time and expertise, the artists debuted their creations and spoke with visitors about their processes for transforming the three-dimensional, five-foot pickaxe canvases. Their work incorporated concepts including dogs, bilingual phrases, iconic leaders, metals and books.

The roster: Jesus "Cimi" Alvarado, Margarita Cabrera, Suzi Davidoff, Francisco Delgado, Gabriel Gaytán, Linda Hains, Becky Hendrick, Anna Jaquez, Jeff Litchfield, Candy Mayer and Lyuba Titovets, and UTEP student Fabian Uribe.

Uribe is a senior art major graduating in May 2014. Five of the artists received bachelor's, master's, or both degrees in art from UTEP. Davidoff, Delgado and Jaquez are members of the UTEP faculty, while Hendrick retired from teaching at UTEP in 2013.

Although her artistic work was complete, Jaquez felt excited about a new beginning as the pieces go out into the world for public consumption.

"It's really fun seeing everybody else's work, and I'm super excited about being part of the Centennial Celebration," she said. Jaquez said the on-campus exhibit was a great teaching and learning tool, and she planned to use it to show her design students the wide variety of approaches available to them for their own creations.

GECU president and CEO Crystal Long represented the credit union – which sponsored the art project in partnership with UTEP – at the exhibit opening. The pickaxes

will be auctioned off during Homecoming week to raise money for the GECU Foundation's R.C. Morgan Scholarship Fund, which supports UTEP students.

GECU has proven itself a dedicated partner in UTEP's Centennial initiatives. In September 2013, its representatives proudly joined with the University to unveil the newest structure on campus: a digital marquee enclosed within a Bhutanese-style tower. GECU branches are lit up with orange lights in the evenings and employees are wearing orange on Fridays. The credit union also is displaying large, interactive cutouts at its branches, offering the chance for anyone to pose within actual photos taken during the century of UTEP's history.

"This is just the beginning of a long relationship [for GECU and UTEP]," Long said. "UTEP's great historical story will be told through this wonderful vision of art."

El Paso-based painter Jeff Litchfield said he was "blown away," not only to have his work on display, but also for the opportunity to be part of a team.

"It's always great to see what other artists do," Litchfield said. "We all kind of work in a vacuum and try to reach out to one another every now and then to see what each other is doing, but it doesn't really come together until you have a show like this. So it's always great to see how other artists interpret the same project."

Titovets' unique connection to the University began when her family emigrated from Russia to El Paso, where her uncle taught at UTEP. Her father also became a UTEP professor, teaching "up until the last day of his life," Titovets recalled. Her daughter is a UTEP student.

"Besides the great honor of being part of this big celebration and doing something special for UTEP, it's in thanks for UTEP simply because it really took care of all those people who are very close to me," Titovets said. Like many of her fellow pickaxe artists,

she did not share any details about her finished piece until the big reveal.

For Uribe, the opportunity to be part of this effort as a student represents a world of possibility for him.

"It will give me great exposure and I'll get to learn from the top and most experienced artists in El Paso," he said. "This is just a great experience in every aspect."

UTEP alumnus and pickaxe art auction coordinator Floyd Johnson expressed his appreciation for what he called a satisfying endeavor that will not only garner attention for each piece and artist, but also generate an exciting new way to fund students' educations at UTEP.

"I wanted this to be a very mixed group representing Chicano, Meso-American, figurative, landscape and many other styles. We were able to get a great group together to showcase what El Paso has to offer."

The public and the media first met the group of artists at an Oct. 8, 2013, event at the Centennial Museum, headquarters for the University's 100th anniversary celebration. On that afternoon, GECU's Long and Centennial Director Keith Erekson, Ph.D., unveiled a prototype blank pickaxe.

The finished pickaxes are now on display at the UTEP Library, the El Paso Visitors Center downtown, and at 10 GECU branches around town.

The official Centennial Celebration website at UTEP100Years.com has video interviews of the artists discussing the concepts behind their pieces, how they brought it them life, and the challenges they faced doing so.



Use your smartphone to scan this code to see video interviews of the artists discussing their pieces.



Visitors packed the Union Gallery on Jan. 27 for the unveiling of pickaxe art pieces by acclaimed local artists.

Inset: Artists selected to create pickaxe art pieces celebrating UTEP's Centennial included (second from right) UTEP student Fabian Uribe and professionals (from left to right) Jeff Litchfield, Jesus "Cimi" Alvarado, Margarita Cabrera, Candy Mayer, Linda Hains, Francisco Delgado, Lyuba Titovets, Gabriel Gaytán and Suzi Davidoff.



# THE ARTISTS



**JESUS "CIMI" ALVARADO** was born in Juárez, Mexico, but grew up in El Paso a mile away from the border. He studied with Gaspar Enriquez during high school and became active with graffiti art, where he earned the moniker "Cimi." Alvarado is primarily a muralist, but often works with large-scale pastel drawings. He is involved with programs in Texas that focus on murals and art education. His powerful murals can be seen throughout El Paso.



## MARGARITA CABRERA

Born in Monterrey, Mexico, Margarita Cabrera lived in Mexico City for 10 years and then immigrated to the U.S. with her family. Her work explores the relationship between the United States and Mexico. She first became known for her soft sculptures — made using non-rigid materials — depicting commercial products such as coffeemakers and blenders manufactured at U.S.-owned *maquiladoras* (factories) in Mexico. She received her M.F.A. in 2001 from Hunter College of the City University of New York. Her most recent honors include residencies at Artpace in San Antonio, Texas; Border Art in La Union, N.M.; and an International Exchange residency in the Netherlands.



**SUZI DAVIDOFF** creates drawings, paintings, prints and collaborative installations that explore themes of structure and perception in the natural world. Zane Bennett Contemporary Art in Santa Fe presented three of her solo exhibitions. Austin's Flatbed Press featured solo exhibitions of new monotypes in 2009 and 2012. She was awarded a Fiskars Artist's Residency in Finland, a Mid-America NEA Fellowship and a Ford Foundation/Pollack-Siquieros Binational Art Award. Davidoff's work is in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Hallmark Collection, Museum of Texas Tech University and the El Paso Museum of Art.



**FRANCISCO DELGADO** was born in Juárez, Mexico, and grew up in El Paso's *Segundo Barrio*. Delgado's "Bordeño" artworks are informed by the social and cultural struggles inherent in life on the U.S.-Mexico border. Delgado explores and questions problems of racism, identity, traditions in Mexico and the U.S., and the U.S. government's policies affecting immigrants.



**GABRIEL GAYTÁN** is a native El Pasoan who has recently attracted attention as a visual artist. He was commissioned by The University of Texas at Austin to produce an original work for the McDonald Observatory's commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month. His painting *Mi Jefita* was selected as the cover illustration for *The Last Tortilla and Twelve Other Stories* authored by El Paso native and Yale University professor Sergio Troncoso. He received a Bachelor of Arts — art all levels and Texas teaching certificate from UTEP. In 25 years of art teaching, he has educated all age levels, from children in kindergarten to professionals. As an artist, he incorporates Mesoamerican symbolism with Mexican-American historical experience.



**LINDA HAINS** was born in Renton, Wash., and began painting as a child. She has worked in choreography, drawing, painting and sculpture, and is very interested in movement, color, placement and form. She earned her B.F.A. in sculpture from Virginia Commonwealth University and an M.A. in art education with a minor in painting and drawing from UTEP. Her exhibitions can be found throughout the United States in New York, Texas, Virginia and Wyoming, and her work was featured in the *New Yorker's* Exhibition in Tokyo.



**BECKY HENDRICK** recently retired as a lecturer in UTEP's Department of Art. Her work is in private, corporate and museum collections, including the El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso Holocaust Museum, New Mexico State University, Meridian Museum of Art and the Mississippi Museum of Art. She is the author of *Getting It: A Guide to Understanding and Appreciating Art* (Houghton Mifflin Company) and *About and Through the Arts: Lessons and Activities for Creative Teaching and Learning* (Kendall Hunt). Hendrick co-hosts the Border Arts Residency with her husband, sculptor Willie Ray Parish. She received her M.F.A. from Instituto Allende in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, and her B.F.A. from Tulane University's Newcomb College.



**ANNA JAQUEZ** incorporates her experiences as a woman, a mother and a Mexican-American living along the border in her artwork. Her sculptures rely heavily on metalsmithing techniques, which influence the scale and the scope of her work. Jaquez received her B.F.A. and M.A. from UTEP and her M.F.A. from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. She is a full-time lecturer in the UTEP Department of Art.



**JEFF LITCHFIELD** studied painting at The University of Texas at Austin and has worked in top galleries, museums and art service companies in New York, exhibiting his art in galleries in New York, Amsterdam, Buenos Aires, Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Dallas and El Paso. Litchfield co-founded the nonprofit arts space Forum Arts & Culture in a former fire station in El Paso and curated its first season of shows. Litchfield is currently laying the groundwork for another nonprofit gallery, curating, writing for the *El Paso Times* and painting in his El Paso studio.



**CANDY MAYER** displays her skill in a wide variety of media, including acrylics, pastels, pen and ink, and collage. She earned a B.F.A. in art and art education at the University of South Dakota. Many of her works originate from trips to Mexico and other locales taken with her photographer husband. Mayer has exhibited and won recognition in shows and competitions including the Sierra Providence Arts International Show, the Sun Bowl Show, the Paquime Festival in Casas Grandes, Mexico and many El Paso Art Association events. Her work is currently on display in galleries and businesses in the El Paso area and sites throughout the United States and Mexico, including the Hal Marcus Gallery and the Sunland Art Gallery.



**LUYBA TITOVETS** Born and raised in St. Petersburg, Russia, Lyuba Titovets began receiving art instruction at age five, earning her B.A. and M.F.A. at St. Petersburg State University College of Fine Art. In 1992 she moved with her family to the United States, where her father became a professor at UTEP. Her work has been exhibited at Westminster Abbey in London, by the National Academy of Design and Oil Painters of America, and as part of the "Women Without Borders" exhibit that traveled throughout consulates on the U.S.-Mexico border. Titovets' name is included in the Archive of the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.



**FABIAN URIBE** is studying drawing and painting at UTEP. He is a multimedia artist whose work challenges concrete definitions of concepts within identity such as religion, sexuality, culture and politics. In 2012, Uribe's work was included in exhibitions at the Glass Gallery in El Paso and the Paisano Gallery in Marfa, Texas. His work is currently featured at the Stanlee and Gerald Ruben Center for the Visual Arts. 📍



HOOVER HOUSE CELEBRATES

# UTEP'S CENTENNIAL

AS THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO COMMEMORATES ITS 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY IN 2014, HOOVER HOUSE - UTEP'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE - HAS OPENED ITS DOORS TO MEMBERS OF THE EL PASO COMMUNITY TO JOIN THE CELEBRATION.

By Laura L. Acosta

An archival photograph shows what is now known as the Hoover House during its early years (circa 1919).



*The stately 7,063-square-foot mansion is the only official presidential residence owned by an institution in The University of Texas System.*





UTEP President Diana Natalicio welcomed members of the Pan American Round Table of El Paso to the Hoover House on Jan. 21, 2014. Members include, from left, (back row) Carolyn Lee Scott, Olga V. de Badia, Ellen Speights, Esther Ledesma Spence, Ann Cameron Adams Jackson, Judith Page Goggin, Dorothy Schatzman and Cheryl McCown. Second row: Barbara Gorman, Betty MacGuire, Mary Carmen de la Vega Saucedo, Sandra Hoover, Mary Ann Dodson and Suzanne Coles Hubbard. Seated: UTEP President Diana Natalicio, Mildred Marcus and Kay Lassiter.

Built in 1917, the Hoover House serves as a residence for UTEP President Diana Natalicio and as a center of hospitality for the University. The stately 7,063-square-foot mansion is the only official presidential residence owned by an institution in The University of Texas System.

“The Hoover House has always been a welcoming venue for special events celebrated by members of the UTEP family — students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and supporters,” President Natalicio said. “We thought that one very nice way of sharing our Centennial Celebration with community groups that have shared our history would be to invite them to hold their meetings or special events at the Hoover House during 2014.”

Since December, the Hoover House has welcomed members of prominent community groups including the El Paso Executive Forum, the Pan American Round Table of El Paso and El Dedon Verde Garden Club to enjoy the home’s grand atmosphere and learn about its historical connection to the University and the El Paso community.

Nestled in the city’s historic Kern Place neighborhood, the Hoover House was donated to the University by Louisiana Hoover, widow of local businessman Robert Thompson Hoover, in 1965.

“I have been to several wonderful receptions at the Hoover House,” said Mara Asya Blatt, assistant U.S. attorney, appellate division, and president of the El Paso Executive Forum. The organization,

which provides scholarships to UTEP students through the El Paso Executive Forum Memorial Endowment, is made up of 100 women professionals, executives and business owners in El Paso. They hosted their annual holiday gathering at the Hoover House in December.

“I thought that my membership would especially love its beauty during the holiday season and enjoy the warmth with which President Natalicio extends the hospitality of her home,” Blatt said.

The house was the perfect setting for the Pan American Round Table of El Paso to host its annual Founder’s Day Tea in January. The group began funding scholarships at UTEP when the University was still named Texas Western College.

More than 90 members enjoyed a delicious assortment of finger sandwiches, fresh fruit and desserts in the dining room while being serenaded by Zuill Bailey, one of the world’s premier cellists.

Guests were greeted by President Natalicio, who talked about the history of the house, the ongoing campus transformation and the University’s achievements over the last several years.

“Some of our older members knew the Hoovers and knew the family (that owned the house) before the Hoovers, so it had great sentimental meaning to them, too,” said Suzanne Hubbard, director of the Pan American Round Table of El Paso. “It really was a lovely afternoon.”

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# LAUNCHING *a new* CENTURY

As the Miner Nation rang in an Orange New Year, it bid farewell to UTEP's first century and welcomed its second. Now almost halfway through the Centennial year, celebrations will continue through summer and kick into high gear as the fall semester approaches.

From a New Year's Eve party and gifts for the region's first babies to a City Council proclamation, a Centennial exhibit at the El Paso International Airport and a three-day communitywide Open House, 2014 has so far been one of the busiest years on record at UTEP, and there are no signs that it will slow down anytime soon.

By Laura L. Acosta, Jenn Crawford,  
Lisa Y. Garibay, Rachel Anna Neff  
and Kristopher Rivera



Photo by J.R. Hernandez



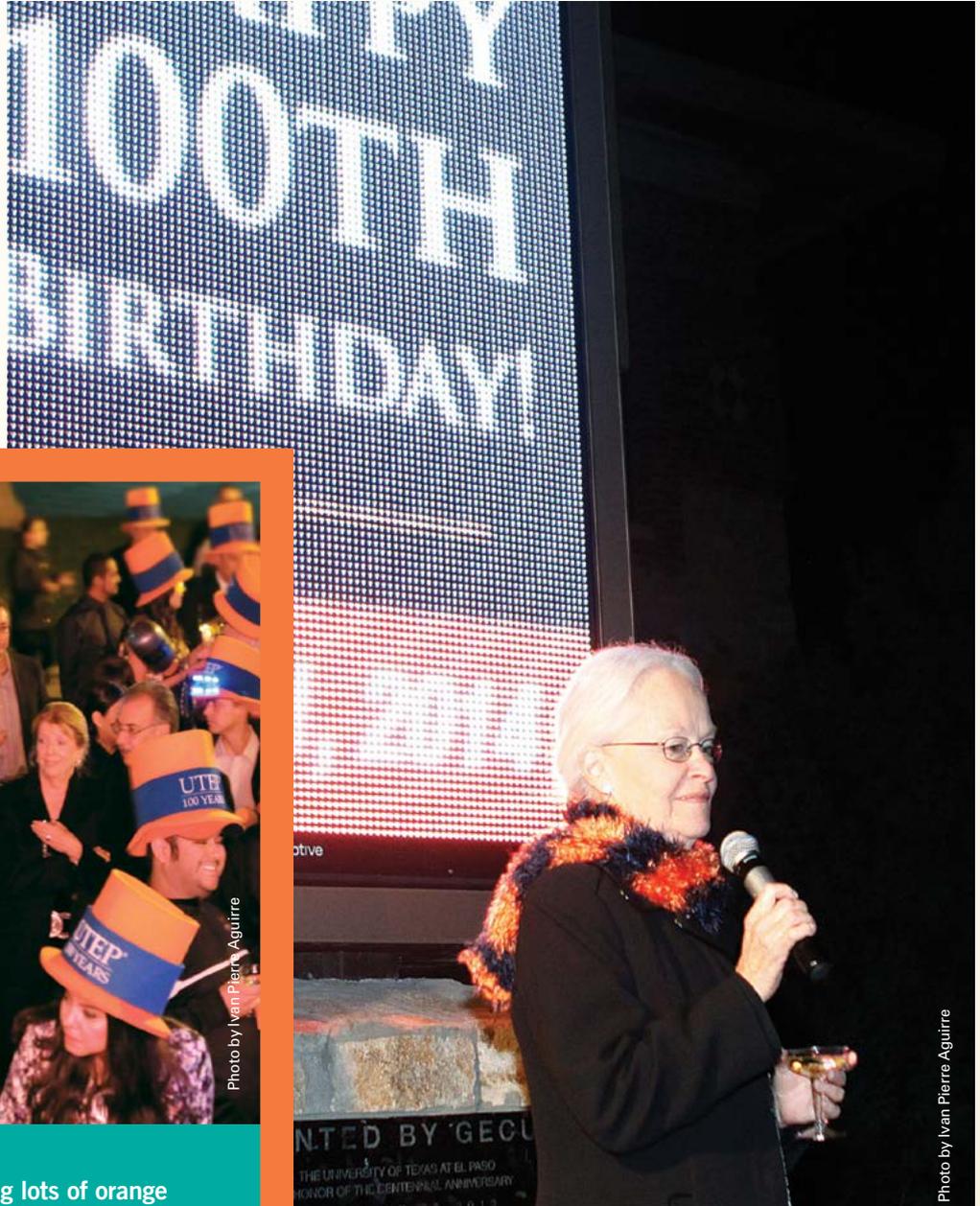
## ORANGE NEW YEAR

The 100-day countdown to New Year's Eve ended with a party at the Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens for the University community, and fireworks at midnight.

Many Miners threw parties at home and celebrated with New Year's Party Packs from UTEP's Alumni Relations, decking their halls with orange tablecloths, silver centerpieces, orange and blue hats, noisemakers, confetti and a "UTEP 100 Years" sign.



# LAUNCHING *a new* CENTURY



On the UTEP campus, revelers sporting lots of orange accessories – the most prominent being orange top hats – gathered under heat lamps outside the Centennial Museum, hit the dance floor and watched the digital marquee tick down to 2014.

The countdown to UTEP’s Centennial began 100 days prior on Sept. 23 when local credit union GECU donated the digital marquee enclosed within a Bhutanese-style tower to kick off the once-in-a-century festivities.

The LED screen faithfully ticked down the days, hours, minutes and seconds until 2014. Shortly before midnight, the message changed, asking partygoers, “Are you ready?”

With President Diana Natalicio looking on, a dazzling array of fireworks in school colors silhouetted the screen and the crowd blew party horns and shouted “Happy New Year!” while the marquee’s message changed to “Happy 100th Birthday!”



Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre



President Natalicio gave a brief speech on UTEP's last century. Then she offered a toast to the continuation of the next 100 years of UTEP's mission of educational access and excellence as part of its goal to become the first national research university in the U.S. with a 21st century student demographic.



Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

“The entire party was very memorable, from the food, music, fireworks and photo booth, but being able to celebrate with UTEP faculty, staff and students that all share a love for our University was the best part,” said Ashley Rodriguez, psychology major and intern at the Student Engagement and Leadership Center. “I’m graduating in May so I am very excited for our Centennial and all of the celebrations.”



## PREPARING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

The firstborn baby of 2014 at each of El Paso's major hospitals received UTEP swag to remind parents that it's never too early to start thinking about their child's education.

Possible future members of the Class of 2032 received a navy blue UTEP onesie with the words "I Back the Miners" proudly displayed across the top of the tiny bodysuit. Also included in the gift bags was a cuddly stuffed monkey or UTEP socks for the baby and "UTEP Mom" and "UTEP Dad" T-shirts for the proud parents.

Among the newborns was Staff Sgt. Jeannette Leonguerrero's daughter Alessandra, who was born at 10:53 a.m. at William Beaumont Army Medical Center (WBAMC) on Jan. 1, 2014.



Leonguerrero, a medic with the 2nd Engineer Battalion at White Sands Missile Range, was asked whether Alessandra would attend UTEP. She told the *Fort Bliss Bugle*, "Well, I don't know where my next duty station will be, but we do like El Paso and Alessandra is definitely going to college. So, maybe."

WBAMC was happy to join UTEP's Centennial Celebration.

"The gift basket does indeed get parents thinking about their child's future," said Julia Yubeta of WBAMC Public Affairs. "UTEP's reputation as an educational institution is well known within the military and civilian community."

In addition to WBAMC, New Year's babies and their families received UTEP Centennial gift bags at Sierra Medical Center, Providence Memorial Hospital, Sierra Providence East Medical Center, Del Sol Medical Center, Las Palmas Medical Center and University Medical Center.



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## CITY COUNCIL JOINS THE CELEBRATION

Showing their UTEP pride, mayor Oscar Leeser and members of the El Paso City Council, many wearing orange, issued a proclamation on Jan. 14, 2014, recognizing the 100th anniversary of The University of Texas at El Paso.

After the mayor's proclamation, the room filled with applause and a standing ovation from city council members. The proclamation declared 2014 "The University of Texas at El Paso's Centennial Year" and highlighted the University's achievements and contributions to the region's history, economy and citizenry.



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

**"Our Centennial could not have been better timed," President Diana Natalicio said. "We're enjoying unprecedented national recognition for academic and research accomplishments, and we're well positioned to achieve our Tier One aspirations. With the continued support of [the El Paso City Council] and others across this wonderful community, we will surely and very soon become the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic. You can bet on that. Go Miners!"**



Photo by J.R. Hernandez



Photo by J.R. Hernandez





# UTEP CENTENNIAL EXHIBIT GREET'S AIRPORT VISITORS THROUGHOUT 2014

The nearly 3 million annual visitors passing through El Paso International Airport might do a double take and think they have stepped onto The University of Texas at El Paso's campus, thanks to a series of three 8-foot-tall kiosks designed to look like miniature Bhutanese towers.



**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO**

**UTEP TODAY**

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

UTEP's vibrant culture, art and entertainment scene attracts thousands of guests from across the globe to its many events.

UTEP's theater, music and gallery have nearly 100 concerts, exhibits and activities each year, and these events are held in the historic El Paso Theatre and the newly opened El Paso Center for the Performing Arts, featuring state-of-the-art facilities and outdoor theater.

The Centennial Museum in El Paso is a must-visit for anyone interested in the history of the Chihuahuan Desert region, and the historic El Paso Center for the Performing Arts, featuring state-of-the-art facilities and outdoor theater.

The El Paso Center for the Performing Arts, featuring state-of-the-art facilities and outdoor theater.



# LAUNCHING *a new* CENTURY

Located between the check-in counters and baggage claim area, each kiosk is painted to have the same look and texture as UTEP's distinctive buildings. The kiosks' 12 panels describe UTEP's arts and entertainment, athletics, community outreach, Centennial Celebration, Campus Transformation projects, architecture and connection with Bhutan. Other panels detail the history of the airport and UTEP and highlight their futures.

Both institutions have physically expanded, changed their names and served the community by providing 21st-century solutions to the growing and thriving Paso del Norte region.

During the Jan. 24, 2014, dedication ceremony for the kiosk exhibit, UTEP President Diana Natalicio spoke about the shared anniversaries of the University and the airport – 100 for UTEP and 85 for the airport – and highlighted the hard work and dedication by the University's Facilities Services to make the replicas a reality.



Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre



Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

“We thank the El Paso International Airport and the City of El Paso for making their exhibit space available to us this year as The University of Texas at El Paso celebrates its 100th birthday,” President Natalicio said. “We hope airport visitors from El Paso and across the world will browse the kiosks and learn more about the history and impact of these two great institutions in our community, and their bright futures.”

The kiosks will be on display throughout 2014.



## WELCOME TO THE MINERS' HOUSE

UTEP invited the Paso del Norte community to join in a campuswide open house and celebration spanning three days, April 10-12, 2014.

With a theme of “Come and Discover,” the 2014 Open House featured nearly 100 events hosted by departments within all seven of UTEP’s colleges, including lab tours, lectures, exhibits, hands-on activities, athletic events, performances and interactive demonstrations.

“This was the first campus-wide Open House we’ve ever had, and we think it showcased the programs we have here at UTEP,” said Patricia Witherspoon, Ph.D., dean of the College of Liberal Arts and a key organizer of the event. “It was also a chance to reflect on and celebrate UTEP’s history – all 100 years of it – in a variety of interactive and exciting activities.”



UTEP’s Department of Art and College of Engineering to musical concerts throughout the campus and demonstrations in the School of Nursing Center for Simulation. Visitors had their pick of hands-on activities and special tours.

Events ran the gamut from open studios and labs in



# LAUNCHING *a new* CENTURY

“THIS WAS THE FIRST CAMPUS-WIDE OPEN HOUSE WE’VE EVER HAD, AND WE THINK IT SHOWCASED THE PROGRAMS WE HAVE HERE AT UTEP.”

Patricia Witherspoon, Ph.D., dean of the College of Liberal Arts



## ALUM PRODUCES DOCUMENTARY ABOUT FIRST 100 YEARS

Hollywood producer Hank Cohen — recipient of The University of Texas at El Paso’s Distinguished Alumni Award and the Gold Nugget Award — gave his alma mater an 11-minute documentary film called *UTEP: The First 100 Years* chronicling its history in celebration of the Centennial. The film’s world premiere took place during UTEP’s Open House April 10-12.

Speaking to the challenge of condensing 100 years, Cohen recalled the first cut of the film was 40 minutes long, while his original draft of the script was an hour long.

“As I was writing the script, I actually got more into the older stuff than I did the new stuff,” he said. “The roots [of the school] are so interesting.”

The effort began during a University function in early 2013 when Cohen asked President Diana Natalicio whether anyone had considered producing a film in honor of UTEP’s Centennial. When she said it wasn’t yet in the works but would be very welcome, Cohen jumped at the chance to take on the project.

Several UTEP offices — including the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department and University Communications — provided Cohen and his team with archival material and recent footage. It was up to Cohen to winnow it all down to a compelling short film.

Cohen recruited Ana Alicia, a 1976 UTEP alumna, to provide narration for the documentary. Alicia is best known for her longtime role on the primetime soap opera *Falcon Crest*.

Cohen earned his bachelor’s in mass communication from UTEP in 1978. After moving to Los Angeles, he began his career as a page at NBC, quickly moving to his first network executive job at ABC. His determination within the TV industry quickly propelled him to the top of MGM Television. Currently, he is CEO and partner in Trifecta Entertainment & Media.

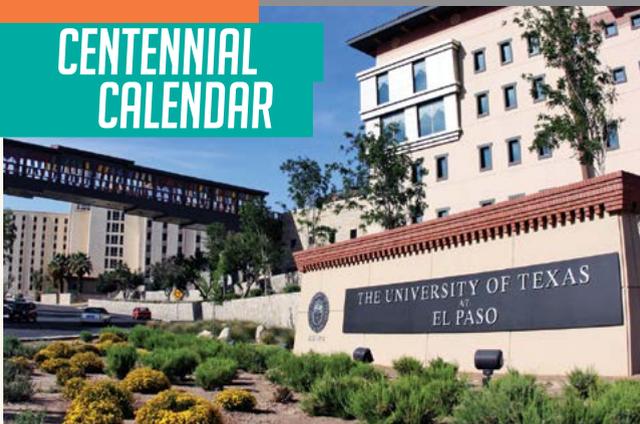
Cohen is grateful for the opportunity to give his expertise and talents back to the university that helped him discover his passion for the arts and entertainment.

“It was my pleasure and honor to make this film,” he said. “I wanted El Pasoans and UTEP graduates in particular to share the same pride that I do that I went to school here, that we know where we came from and where we’re headed.”



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

## CENTENNIAL CALENDAR



- May 17** Spring Commencement at Sun Bowl Stadium
- July 12** Alumni PICK-NIC
- Aug. 24** New Miner Convocation at the Don Haskins Center
- Aug. 30** Opera Bhutan: An Evening of Music and Dance at the Don Haskins Center
- Sept. 5** Minerpalooza
- Sept. 6** Football season opener against Texas Tech
- Sept. 19** One Direction concert at Sun Bowl Stadium
- Oct. 5-11** Homecoming
- Nov. 11** Veteran's Day Recognition
- Dec. 13** Winter Commencement

The weekend included the premiere of a new documentary about UTEP by Hollywood producer and UTEP distinguished alumnus Hank Cohen, who created the film in honor of the University's 100th birthday (see story on page 29).

High school students and their families learned about applying to UTEP, academic programs, financial aid and scholarships during the weekend's Orange, Blue and You event. They also had a chance to tour the campus.



Photo by Laura Trejo

Another highlight was an appearance by the women's basketball team just a week after their Cinderella run at the Women's National Invitation Tournament, where they took second place (see full story, page 52). The players and Coach Keitha Adams signed posters and posed for photos with fans and their trophy in front of the University Library.

"This Open House was a very important dimension of our Centennial Celebration because UTEP is El Paso's university," said UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "It's very exciting for us to be able to have a 100th birthday and to be able to celebrate with all of our friends and partners. You only get to celebrate a 100th birthday once in 100 years, so we're trying to do it as best we can, and we're thinking of every possible way to get it right." 📧

**"WE HOPE THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE VERY PROUD OF US AS WE FINISH THIS 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, THIS CENTENNIAL, AND THE WAY THAT WE HAVE DRAWN IN ALL OF OUR PARTNERS."**

**Diana Natalicio**



  
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# TCM *Day*:



Each year in observance of St. Patrick's Day, engineering students from The University of Texas at El Paso leave the comfort of their classrooms and laboratories and engage in various feats of agility, strength and cunning to honor the University's mining heritage during the Texas College of Mines Day, or TCM Day.



# UTEP'S OLDEST TRADITION WELCOMES ALL MINERS

By Laura L. Acosta • Photos by Ivan Pierre Aguirre and J.R. Hernandez



## TCM DAY

The annual rite of passage started in 1920 when UTEP was known as the Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy to initiate new engineers and geologists into the Order of St. Patrick, the patron saint of engineers.



Celebrated each year in March, TCM Day is the oldest continuous student tradition at UTEP. The annual rite of passage started in 1920 – when UTEP was known as the Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy – to initiate new engineers and geologists into the Order of St. Patrick, the patron saint of engineers.

As an initiate, Richard O. Martinez helped whitewash the “M” on the mountain off Sun Bowl Drive and kissed the University’s version of the Blarney Stone, which was doused with green paint.

“(TCM Day) got the College of Engineering together,” recalled Martinez, the deputy director for the Future Forces Division of the Materiel Test Directorate at White Sands Missile Range, who went through the initiation in 1974. Martinez earned a degree in mechanical engineering from UTEP in 1979 and was honored with the College of Engineering’s Gold Nugget Award in 2007. “It was a bonding experience and it was across all different disciplines in engineering and geology.”

In 2014, to commemorate both TCM Day and the 100th anniversary of UTEP’s founding, faculty, students and staff from all disciplines across campus joined the festivities and earned their official TCM Day Green Cards alongside engineering students on March 21, 2014.

Karen Baca, a senior accounting major, proudly displayed “TCM” in green letters across her right cheek.

“I wanted to know what (TCM Day) was about because I’ve heard about it the whole semester,” said Baca, who spent the morning with other initiates marching on Glory Field, where they learned a new mining song with help from Fort Bliss soldiers.

Activities kicked off outside Sun Bowl Stadium with a canned food drive for the El Paso Rescue Mission, whose building was formerly known as Hacienda Tech. Engineering courses were taught there during the 1970s.

Miners then whitewashed the “M” on the mountain off Sun Bowl Drive, a tradition that dates back to 1923 when students first assembled brooms, buckets and whitewash to paint the “M” at its original location on Mount Franklin.

Civil engineering major Paloma Zamarripa said having students from the other colleges participate in TCM Day is an opportunity for them to learn about UTEP’s heritage.

“We have liberal arts majors, criminal justice majors, and it’s really nice seeing them all come together for this event and being able to (show them) what exactly (TCM Day) is about,” said Zamarripa, a volunteer who went through TCM Day two years ago.

Top: Participants shield their faces as they get the shamrock stamp of approval spray painted on their T-shirts after whitewashing the “M” on the mountain off Sun Bowl Drive.

Middle: Students learn about hydraulic mining while participating in the Team Mining Challenge in the Engineering and Sciences Complex.

Bottom: TCM participants trek through the arroyo at the Engineering and Sciences Complex during their quest to conquer the Team Mining Challenge.



Members of the Mighty Guard of St. Pat Karla Muro (right) and Pamela Baca (left) help keep things in order during TCM Day activities.

(Heritage + Tradition)  
x Transformation  
A bright future





COLLEGE OF  
**ENGINEERING**  
100 YEARS • 1914-2014

The College of Engineering  
for the 21st Century

“If you ask anyone who is not in the College of Engineering what TCM Day is, they have no idea.”

After touching up the “M” on the mountain, Miners then headed to Magoffin Auditorium to witness the Coming of St. Pat. Each year, a senior engineering student is voted by the Engineering Student Leadership Council to be St. Pat and preside over all of the engineering events throughout the school year.

This year’s honor belonged to Kayla Morales, a senior civil engineering major, who dressed as Jessie the Yodeling Cowgirl from the *Toy Story* film series.

St. Pat’s wardrobe has dramatically changed since 1920 when the first reported St. Pat wore a long robe, a bishop’s miter made of cardboard and a white cotton beard. Since then, other notable St. Pat characters have included a Maya God, Alice in Wonderland, a Ninja Turtle and Cleopatra.

“The St. Pats that I’ve seen in the past have been people who I’ve always looked up to, who upon graduation they have a great job opportunity,” Morales said. “As a freshman, I didn’t really understand engineering and all it had to offer and now I want to have that opportunity and be like that person (who graduated before me).”

As St. Pat, Morales led participants in the “Long Green Line,” a new activity uniting the campus that has replaced the tradition of

painting green lines to separate the College of Engineering from the rest of the University. The ritual started in 1949 when engineering, geology and chemistry students painted green lines in front of the College of Engineering to protest the name change of Texas College of Mines to Texas Western College.

Miners then got their hands dirty and their shoes wet during the first-ever team challenge course in the Classroom Building. Participants rode in mining carts through the seven-station obstacle course, where they learned about the evolution of mining from using serapes or pans to sift for gold to other more modern mining techniques, such as hydraulic mining.

As a final step to earning their Green Cards, participants kissed the Blarney Stone, a 1,000-pound boulder in front of the Engineering Building. The act is said to give the kisser the gift of eloquence and persuasiveness.

TCM Day also welcomed back UTEP alumni such as Ruben Chavez, who went through the initiation in 1992.

Chavez, who graduated from UTEP in 1995 and is the principal engineer at CEA Engineering Group in El Paso, said the TCM experience started his lifelong engagement with the University.

“Your freshman year, if you’re ingrained in something, then you’re invested,” Chavez said. “That needs to happen more.”



# Project **MOVE** Smashes Record for Community Involvement

By Daniel Perez • Photos by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

The Centennial edition of UTEP's Project MOVE set new records for the number of volunteers and projects served.

More than 1,600 students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of The University of Texas at El Paso built, planted, painted, raked, swept, read, taught, repaired, sorted, cleaned and picked up during UTEP's fifth annual day of community service at 80 locations throughout the Paso del Norte region.

The growing popularity of Project MOVE, which stands for Miner Opportunities for Volunteer Experiences, serves as a testament to the directive of working together to serve El Paso, home to almost 84 percent of UTEP's student population.

"We rely on each other," said Ryan Holmes, associate dean of students and MOVE's lead organizer. "This strengthens the bonds between the University and the community."

This year's community partners included neighborhood associations, skate parks, a youth soccer league, area beautification groups, and organizations that assist the elderly, the disabled, children with cancer, and animals.

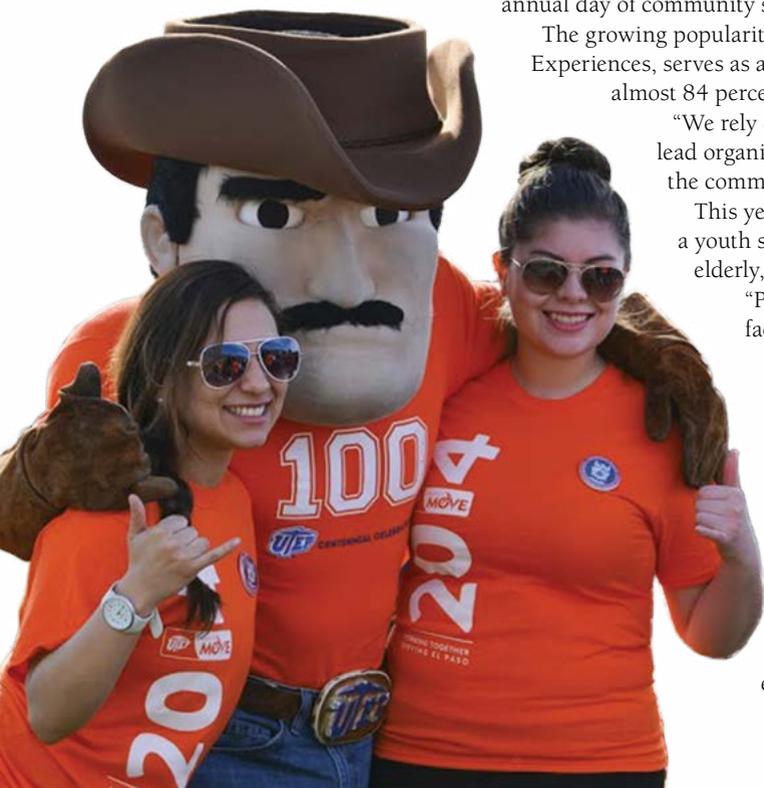
"Project MOVE is a rewarding experience," Holmes said. "It's good to see the faces of those being helped."

Liliana Zubia, a senior accounting major, was among the volunteers who helped paint the front and back porches of a home owned by an elderly Vinton resident. This was Zubia's first time participating in Project MOVE, and she found it rewarding.

She described the positive interaction with the homeowner's daughter, who was grateful for the work of the team of student volunteers who collaborated with Rebuilding Together El Paso.

"She seemed genuinely happy and proud to have us around," Zubia said. "It was heartwarming and gratifying to witness that we truly were making a difference in (the family's) life."

Organizers already have started to plan the 2015 Project MOVE and expect it to be bigger and better. ☑





UTEP volunteers worked on projects around El Paso during 2014 Project MOVE (Miner Opportunities for Volunteer Experiences). More than 1,600 members of the Miner Nation – students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends – participated in the biggest Project MOVE in the event’s five-year history.



***“It was heartwarming and gratifying to witness that we truly were making a difference in (the family’s) life.”***

Liliana Zubia

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF UTEP CELEBRATES

# 90 Years of Excellence

By Laura L. Acosta • Photos by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

For the past 90 years, the Woman's Auxiliary of The University of Texas at El Paso has supported highly motivated and talented UTEP students through scholarships, making it possible for them to continue their studies and find their way to a bright and rewarding future.

Among them is Blanca Ruiz, whose passion to study biomedical sciences was ignited when she was an undergraduate student at UTEP.

Now a Ph.D. candidate in pathobiology in the College of Science, Ruiz used to work part time as a teaching assistant to pay for her education. However, her instructional responsibilities interfered with the time she could spend in the lab studying the link between a receptor on T-cells and autoimmune disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus.

Thanks to a \$10,000 fellowship from the Woman's Auxiliary of UTEP, Ruiz is able to concentrate full-time on her studies and her future career as an independent researcher.

"It was very important for me to receive this award," Ruiz said. As an international student from Juárez, Mexico, Ruiz was not eligible for federal, state or institutional financial aid, nor did she qualify for the University's student research training programs that provide stipends to students who are pursuing biomedical research careers.

"I was starting to believe that I would not be able to have a career in the United States," said Ruiz, who expects to graduate in December. "I felt as if my hard work was not enough. This fellowship not only provided me with much-needed financial support, but it also restored my confidence. It made me believe in myself. It made me remember that what I am doing is important."

The Woman's Auxiliary of UTEP was established in 1924 as the El Paso Women's



Top: Dana Cassolopez, the mistress of ceremonies at the 2014 Scholarship Benefit Luncheon, is a third-generation UTEP Woman's Auxiliary member. Her mother and grandmother also are members.

Bottom: Auxiliary member Marilyn Cromeans, left, stands with her daughter Dana Cassolopez.

Association of the College of Mines. Members raised funds for student loans and to help pay faculty salaries.

Led by Mrs. Frank H. Seamon, whose husband was head of the Chemistry Department at the Texas College of Mines (now UTEP), the group of 24 prominent El Paso women organized fundraising projects that supported athletic teams, dormitories and a student loan fund.

Projects included a card party that raised more than \$100 to buy blankets for the Miner football team. Members also started and staffed the Pick 'n' Shovel cafeteria, the first campus dining facility.

The association was instrumental in organizing the school band in the late 1920s. They paid for the band director's salary.

They also supported the construction of the Centennial Museum on campus and purchased the museum's first two collections.

Nearly a century later, the membership of the Woman's Auxiliary of UTEP has grown to more than 300 loyal UTEP supporters. Their fundraising efforts, including the annual Scholarship Benefit Luncheon, have raised \$275,000 to support educational endeavors at the University.

"You may not realize how these contributions over time begin to add up," UTEP President Diana Natalicio told Woman's Auxiliary members at the 2014 luncheon on Feb. 22, which also celebrated the group's 90th birthday. "You've been one of UTEP's earliest supporters and for that we are always

**The Woman's Auxiliary of UTEP was established in 1924 as the El Paso Women's Association of the College of Mines. Members raised funds for student loans and to help pay faculty salaries.**



Fifteen scholarships were awarded during the Scholarship Benefit Luncheon on Feb. 22 at the Wyndham El Paso Airport hotel. The event also featured a silent auction, raffle and bake sale.

grateful. From this group it means the most because you know us the best.”

One of the most recognizable endeavors by the Woman’s Auxiliary began in 1984 when the organization raised \$28,000 to start two \$10,000 scholarship endowments: the Endowed Academic Scholarship and the Endowed Athletic Scholarship. Eight years later, the group established The Woman’s Auxiliary of The University of Texas at El Paso Endowment Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Woman’s Auxiliary member Dana Cassolopez believes one of the best ways to support UTEP students is through scholarships.

“Because El Paso is so unique and most students work, scholarships provide some relief and peace of mind to students who are paying for their own education,” said Cassolopez, an auxiliary member since the 1980s. “Hopefully it allows students to focus more on their studies rather than getting to work on time.”

Brigitte Palacios has worked part-time in UTEP’s Department of Residence Life since she enrolled at the University in 2009. The \$1,500 scholarship she received from the Woman’s Auxiliary in 2009 helped her pay for tuition and books and allowed her to work fewer hours and focus more on academics. In addition to providing financial assistance, the scholarship also has enhanced her employment opportunities.

“I believe being a scholarship recipient demonstrates to employers that you have

exceptional capabilities and are accountable and responsible,” said Palacios, a UTEP criminal justice graduate who is pursuing a second bachelor’s in linguistics. “So far, this has proven true in my jobs and academic merits.”

The Woman’s Auxiliary awarded 15 scholarships at this year’s benefit luncheon, which also featured a silent auction, raffle and bake sale. All proceeds from the event are used for scholarships. The Woman’s Auxiliary also raises money through the sale of sterling silver pickaxe pins and earrings, and UTEP rhinestone pins. The auxiliary was the first group to market the UTEP pickaxe pin.

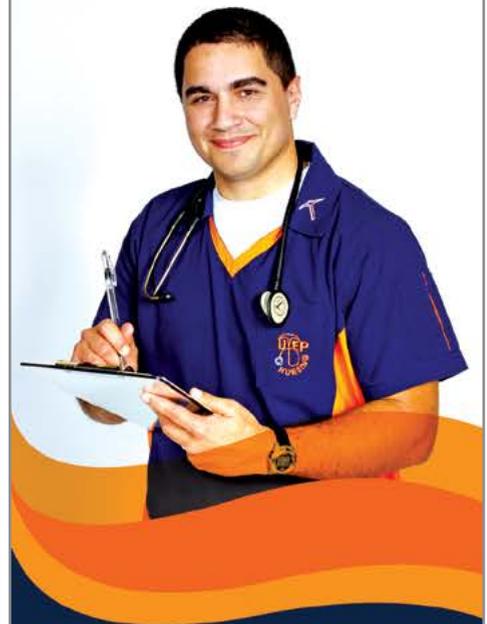
For Cassolopez, who was the mistress of ceremonies, the annual luncheon is more than a fundraising event; it’s also a family affair.

Cassolopez is a third-generation Woman’s Auxiliary member. She follows in the footsteps of her mother, Marilyn Cromeans, and her grandmother Kathleen Moore, who, at 101 years old, is the group’s oldest member. Her grandfather is Ross Moore, a Texas College of Mines graduate who served as UTEP’s first athletic trainer.

“We love (giving scholarships),” Cromeans said. “What can be better than helping the young people of El Paso?”

Membership in the Woman’s Auxiliary is open to any woman with an interest in the betterment of the University, the community, youth and society in general. 📌

# UTEP SCHOOL OF NURSING



As the American health care system undergoes change, the UTEP School of Nursing is leading the way in educating nurses to meet 21st century health care standards by:

- Increasing the number of nurses with bachelor’s degrees to 80 percent by 2020
- Doubling the number of nurses with a doctorate by 2020
- Implementing nurse residency programs

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# MINERS HELPING MAYAS

MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCHERS  
DEVELOP METHODS TO DELIVER  
HEALTHY MESSAGES

By Daniel Perez • Photo by J.R. Hernandez



The members of Project Building Bridges research team are developing instructional modules that are having a positive impact on the quality of life of undocumented Maya immigrants living in the United States of America as well as those who return to their home in Mexico's Yucatán.

“WE’RE CONNECTED BY AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO MEANINGFUL RESEARCH. WE’RE USING TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE AN IMPACT. WE’RE DEVELOPING MATERIALS THAT ARE CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY RELEVANT, AND COLLECTING THESE IDEAS AND MAKING THEM ACCESSIBLE. THE KEY IS TO UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE AND CONNECT WITH THEM.”

Guillermina “Gina” Núñez-Mchiri, co-principal investigator



hat started as an academic collaboration between UTEP and a university on Mexico’s Yucatán Peninsula has turned into a transnational, interdisciplinary research mission to assist Maya immigrants in San Francisco.

Following several brainstorming sessions between representatives from The University of Texas at El Paso and the Universidad Autonoma de Yucatán (UADY), the Mexican educators said they wanted social scientists, health experts and educators to develop ways to promote health services to Maya immigrants living in U.S. urban communities. This has been a growing need in the U.S. and the Yucatán, where more Maya deportees have returned to their communities with social and medical issues.

“The Mayas are different after having lived in the U.S. They seem almost like foreigners coming home,” said Fidencio Briceno Chel, Ph.D., professor, researcher and coordinator of linguistics at the National Institute of Anthropology and History in Merida, Yucatán. “Their rural communities are not prepared to handle these changes.”

Seeing the broad implications of this project, Judith H. Munter, Ph.D., UTEP associate professor of teacher education, reached out to colleagues from UTEP’s departments of social work, and sociology and anthropology. Her UADY counterpart, Miguel Gomez, Ph.D., director of the Department of Social Sciences, assembled his own interdisciplinary team.

The universities also brought in Asociacion Mayab, a nonprofit community center in San Francisco that provides health services to approximately 20,000 undocumented Mexican immigrants of Maya descent. Mayab stands for Maya Yucateca del Area de la Bahai.

Principal investigators Munter and Gomez obtained a \$42,000 grant from PIMSA, a University of California, Berkeley, Latino

health outreach organization, to start Project Bridging Worlds in April 2013.

“UTEP is positioned as a bridge,” Munter said. “Bridging Worlds aims to serve as a model for the development of binational approaches to health education focused on health promotion for an indigenous diaspora in the U.S.”

The universities’ researchers have used such health promotion approaches as Photovoice, YouTube and community exhibits to develop and test a series of modules to enhance access to health resources at Mayab. The Yucatan partners also have helped train the on-site providers.

The modules use culturally relevant scenarios and vignettes that suggest ways immigrants can deal with the stresses of a new country that could lead to depression, drug addiction, diabetes, high blood pressure and poor diet. They are written in English and Spanish and then translated into the Yucatec Mayan language.

Joining Munter as co-principal investigators on the UTEP team are Guillermina “Gina” Núñez-Mchiri, Ph.D., associate professor of anthropology; Ernesto Castañeda, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology; and Eva M. Moya, Ph.D., assistant professor of social work. They are supported by eight students – from undergraduates to doctoral candidates – from the colleges of Education, Engineering, Health Sciences and Liberal Arts.

“We’re connected by an opportunity to do meaningful research,” Núñez-Mchiri said. “We’re using technology to make an impact. We’re developing materials that are culturally and linguistically relevant, and collecting these ideas and making them accessible. The key is to understand the needs of the people and connect with them.”

Núñez-Mchiri said the study’s human element has brought out the best of UTEP’s student researchers. Their ability to improve someone’s quality of life has boosted their confidence and self-esteem.

Among those involved is Blanca Diaz, who

earned her bachelor’s in psychology and philosophy from UTEP in 2013 and expects to begin her graduate work in counseling and rehabilitation at the University in fall 2014. As a former undocumented immigrant, she empathized with the plight of the Mayas.

Diaz, a Juárez native who has lived in the United States since age 14, got a permit to work in the United States due in part to the DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act and DACA, which stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. She said she understands the struggles of undocumented residents as they seek an education and health care in America. She dealt with it when her father needed treatment for a serious illness.

“It feels good to be able to help others who don’t speak English or Spanish,” said Diaz, who helped present some Bridging Worlds research results at the annual meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology in Albuquerque in March 2013. Her research module centered on depression and other mental health issues that impact immigrant communities. “It’s exciting to know that I was able to take a bad experience and turn it into something positive.”

The initial modules are having a positive impact among those who use Mayab, said Alberto Perez Rendon, M.D., Asociacion Mayab director and board member. He said the center was grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the two universities that lent their credibility and helped build its academic and financial resources.

Munter said she and the other researchers plan to go after a larger grant that will allow them to grow their research to include more faculty and students. She added that the initial grant has led to more serious discussions to develop formal agreements between UTEP, UADY and Universidad Modelo, another important Mexican university in the Yucatán Peninsula. 📍



# GRANTS ROUNDUP

*Between October 2013 and March 2014, The University of Texas at El Paso received a number of research grants to study a range of topics. The following is a sampling of grant research in each college started during that six-month period.*

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**Tom Fullerton**, Ph.D., professor of economics and finance, was awarded several grants as part of the Border Region Modeling Project. The Water Research Foundation of Denver asked him to do an international study, “Improving the Accuracy of Water Demand Forecasts.” The El Paso Water Utilities will fund his study on business cycle impacts on municipal water use. The City of El Paso awarded a grant for a municipal forecast model focused on the city’s 15 largest revenue sources. He will be assisted on these projects by **Adam Walke**, research associate in the Department of Economics and Finance; economics graduate students **Alex Ceballos** and **Alan Jimenez** will assist him with these projects.

## COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

**Ruey Long Cheu**, Ph.D., associate professor of civil engineering, has received a grant from the Texas Transportation Institute to study express carpooling in the El Paso region as a low-cost option for reducing the number of vehicles on the roads. The system matches drivers and riders using smart phone apps, has no pre-established routes, no fixed pickup or destination locations, and is designed for commuters with similar transport schedules. The goal of Cheu’s research is to gauge local interest to develop a successful strategy to operate and finance the system in the area.

**Nathaniel Robinson**, associate director of the Center for Space Exploration Technology Research, has received a grant to continue offering NASA’s Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy (SEMMA) at UTEP. SEMMA provides K-12 students with age-appropriate lessons in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). All children who participate in SEMMA gain up to 441 hours of advanced studies in the STEM disciplines.

**Tzu-Liang (Bill) Tseng**, Ph.D., associate professor of industrial, manufacturing and systems engineering and director of the Research Institute for Manufacturing and

Engineering Systems (RIMES), received funding from Lockheed Martin Aeronautics to research measures to prevent foreign object damage (FOD) to aircraft. FOD includes any debris or article that can damage a vehicle, such as debris on a runway that may impair tires or get sucked into engines. FOD is currently a \$4 billion to \$6 billion annual cost to the aircraft industry. By predicting types of FOD, custom elimination plans can be put in place to potentially eradicate the problem.

**Peter Golding**, Ph.D., professor of metallurgical and materials engineering, and co-principal investigators **Elsa Villa**, Ph.D., research assistant professor; **Erika Mein**, Ph.D., assistant professor of teacher education; and **Harry Meeuwssen**, Ph.D., professor of kinesiology; received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to increase the number and proportion of Hispanics who persist and graduate from undergraduate engineering programs.

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

**The Minority Health International Research Training (MHIRT)** program in UTEP’s College of Health Sciences has been awarded \$1.34 million over the next five years from the National Institutes of Health – National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to continue its training of students in health disparities research. The funding will support the project “Hispanic Health Disparities Across Cultures in Latin America: Collaborative Research for the 21st Century.”

**Mark Lusk**, Ed.D., professor of social work, received a grant from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services to fund the Child Welfare Training Project in the College of Health Sciences through the Title VI-E program. The grant also will fund technical assistance and staff development training for caseworkers, investigators and child protection social workers at Child Protective Services offices in Region 10, which includes El Paso, Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties.

**Samuel Terrazas**, Ph.D., assistant professor of social work, and **Candyce Berger**, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Social Work, have been awarded a grant from the Department of Family and Protective Services to fund the Texas CPS Parent Partners project, a yearlong pilot program with Child Protective Services (CPS). The program will train peer parent mentors to offer guidance to parents whose children have been placed in foster care by CPS.

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Meredith Abarca**, Ph.D., associate professor of English, and co-principal investigator **Consuelo Carr Salas**, a rhetoric and writing studies doctoral student, were awarded a grant from Humanities Texas to fund a two-part public lecture series “What the Study of Food Studies Adds to the Humanities.” The series also included two roundtable discussions focusing on how the study of food addresses central issues relevant to the humanities. Four renowned scholars facilitated the lectures and roundtables, bringing an ongoing national and international conversation of how the study of food makes concrete the abstract principles of humanities such as ethics, values, race, class and identity.

**Adam Arenson**, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, was awarded a grant from Humanities Texas for his “Digital Mapping of El Paso, Yesterday and Today” project. It creates four weeklong humanities-based lesson plans utilizing Geographic Information System (GIS) sites for 9th-12th grades focusing on the cultural, political, linguistic and physical history of Texas and the borderlands of the United States and Mexico. The grant also funds six daylong workshops for high school educators, hosted by UTEP, throughout the grant year.

**Timothy Collins**, Ph.D., associate professor of geography, and co-principal investigator **Sara Grineski**, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology, were awarded a supplemental grant from the National Science Foundation for their project “Advancing Environmental Equity Research: Vulnerability to Air Pollution and Flood Risks in Miami and Houston.”

This supplement will support research experiences for one undergraduate student as part of an interdisciplinary research team that also includes investigators from the University of South Florida. This project aims to address several limitations associated with current environmental justice research and practice, and advance knowledge of social and spatial influences on residential exposure to environmental hazards. The research involves parallel analyses of two high-impact hazards – air pollution and flooding – conducted in the two largest urban areas on the U.S. Gulf Coast: Houston and Miami.

**Theodore R. Curry**, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology, was awarded a supplemental grant from the National Science Foundation for his project “Why Are Immigrant Neighborhoods Low Crime Neighborhoods? Testing Immigrant Revitalization Theory and Cultural Explanations.” With the supplement, undergraduate students will collect data to assess hypotheses about the relationship between neighborhood levels of immigration and crime. Primary data will consist of survey data to be collected from random samples of adult residents living in selected neighborhood clusters in El Paso County.

**Sandra Garabano**, Ph.D., acting director of the Center for Inter-American and Border Studies and associate professor of Spanish; and co-principal investigators **Meredith Abarca**, Ph.D., associate professor of English and CIBS academic adviser; and CIBS Coordinator **Zulma Mendez**, Ph.D., were awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for “Border Security and the Humanities,” a yearlong faculty fellows program creating nine fellowships for faculty selected from history, literature, cultural anthropology, communication, and languages and linguistics. Participating faculty will increase the presence and impact of humanities scholarship on UTEP’s master’s program in Intelligence and National Security Studies and UTEP’s master’s program in Latin American and Border Studies, two graduate programs that have traditionally relied on a solely social science perspective. Fellows will also develop innovative coursework with content and syllabi that bridge the gap between the national or mainstream narratives of border security and the everyday reality of border crossing as revealed by fiction, theater, poetry, folktales and personal testimonies. The program aims to enhance graduate curricula by developing a cohesive set of courses that humanize and broaden the study of border issues

in both programs.

**Kate Houston**, Ph.D., research assistant professor of psychology, was awarded a grant from the University of Portsmouth for her project, “The Influence of an Interpreter on Eliciting Information, Rapport Building and Detecting Deceit in an Interview.” Her grant work will examine whether the use of an interpreter during investigative interviews alters the information gained from the interviewee and the ability of the interviewer to detect deceit. The participants recruited will be Spanish-speaking. Hiring two undergraduate research assistants to assist in the recruitment and scheduling of participants for data collection will also be part of the grant.

**Daniel Jones**, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology, received a grant from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues for “Honor Through Psychopathic Eyes: A Synergistic Explanation of Family Violence,” which examines how antisocial personalities (such as psychopathy) may have a synergistic effect in predicting extreme forms of family violence when combined with a sense of cultural honor. Two studies will examine the possibility that the combination of psychopathy and personal honor may create extreme family violence. The first will be an online study examining reactions to various scenarios of perceived family dishonor. The second will be a laboratory experiment examining behavioral aggression in response to perceived family dishonor.

**Patrick Piotrowski**, KTEP-FM radio general manager and communication department lecturer, was awarded a grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) for annual general operations of the public radio station. KTEP will use this grant to pay one year of salary for an IT radio and TV specialist, and to pay for national programming from the CPB program networks National Public Radio, Public Radio International and American Public Media.

#### COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

**Tunna Baruah**, Ph.D., associate professor of physics, earned a major grant from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Basic Energy Sciences. Her goal is to develop computational methodologies for calculations on the charge transfer characteristics using quantum chemical theories. This will help predict photon conversion efficiency in organic molecules using powerful supercomputers.

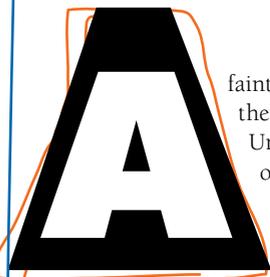
**Lin Ma**, Ph.D., assistant professor of geological sciences, received funding from the National Science Foundation to quantify the weathering rates of volcanic rock to understand how they respond to changes in climates, landscapes and tectonic changes over time. Using a new age-dating technique, the research team will specifically study weathering rinds on France’s Basse-Terre Island in the Caribbean Sea. The team will conduct the research over the course of the next three years.

**Elizabeth Walsh**, Ph.D., chair of biological sciences, and co-principal investigators **Eric Hagedorn**, Ph.D., associate professor of physics; Lixin Jin, Ph.D., assistant professor of geological sciences; **Vanessa Loughheed**, Ph.D., assistant professor of biological sciences; and **Diane Doser**, Ph.D., professor of geological sciences, received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to revise the freshman and sophomore-level environmental science (ES) curriculum to improve recruitment and retention. The team plans to develop a two-year introductory ES program to engage Hispanic students and improve recruitment, retention and graduation rates. Students will be provided supplemental mentoring and research experiences to prepare them as highly trained professionals.

A team of seven interdisciplinary faculty members were awarded funds from the National Institutes of Health to plan a new initiative to develop opportunities for mentoring and biomedical and health research for minority undergraduate students. Known as NIH’s Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD), the initiative aims to drastically diversify the workforce in the biomedical, behavioral, clinical and social sciences. The members of the team are: **Renato Aguilera**, Ph.D., professor of biological sciences; **Thomas Boland**, Ph.D., professor of biomedical engineering; **Tim Collins**, Ph.D., and **Sara Grineski**, Ph.D., associate professors of sociology and anthropology; **Lourdes Echegoyen**, Ph.D., director of the Campus Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives; **Oswaldo Morera**, Ph.D., professor of psychology; and **Homer Nazeran**, Ph.D., professor of electrical and computer engineering. ☒

# Engines Rattle and Rumble at UTEP for Baja SAE Competition

By Kristopher Rivera • Photo by Laura Trejo



A faint smell of oil lingered in the design studio of the Engineering and Sciences Complex at The University of Texas at El Paso, where a group of 28 engineering students had spent most of their Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings building two off-terrain vehicles.

"It's tough, but you gotta love it to do it and put in the work," said Christopher

Caviglia, mechanical engineering graduate student and team captain of the UTEP SAE Baja competition team. "You lose a lot of sleep getting all of this stuff done."

The desert environment of stone, sand and warm temperatures made UTEP a pleasant place to host a Baja Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) event, one of a series of competitions between universities to design and build off-road racing vehicles, on April 24-27, 2014.

Sergio Maldonado, graduate mechanical engineering student and project manager, asked the organizers of the 2012 Baja SAE event in Oregon if they had ever been to UTEP.

"The first thing (the main director) said was, 'Is El Rincon de Cortez still there?'" Maldonado said, referring to a popular Mexican restaurant near UTEP.

UTEP hosted the Baja SAE competition in 1988, 1992-95 and 1998, according to an official at SAE International.

"We told them our Centennial is happening in 2014 and it would be amazing to have this event," Maldonado said.

In April 2013, UTEP received word it would host the first Baja SAE competition of 2014. The planning began the same month.

The students received help from the UTEP Police Department, the Student Recreation Center (SRC), Parking and Transportation, and Facilities Services with the use of their facilities, parking lots, shade structures, generators, barricades and other necessities. Officials from Facilities Services walked the track and conducted safety inspections as it was being constructed. A total of 200 volunteers were at the event to lend a hand.

"Our involvement is background; we want this student group to go out there and do it," said Luis Morales, associate director at Facilities Services. "They want to be able to put a feather in their cap to say 'We did this.'"

Jorge Vazquez, executive director of Special Events, advised on logistics, event production and service procurement.

"I'm very happy to help a group of students committed to produce a quality event that showcases their talents in such a fun and creative way," Vazquez said. "We provided guidance and let them produce their own event. The intent was to give them real-world and hands-on experience."

The coordination team set a budget of \$120,000 for the event. Baja SAE provided \$45,000 and the coordination team raised the remaining money from nine national and eight local sponsors.

UTEP was the first of three Baja events that will take place throughout the year – one in Kansas and another in Illinois.

Building the vehicles was also a yearlong design process. Members had to get materials and cost estimates, then present a budget review to faculty in the College of Engineering. That was followed by a design review with professors. After all the protocols, students began to construct the vehicles.

In the design and build process, members analyzed the stresses and strains each part of the car would see in off-road competition.

UTEP's vehicles are rear wheel drive and can reach speeds of up to 38 miles per hour. The frames are made out of 41/30 chromoly, an alloy steel, and each vehicle weighs between 300 and 360 pounds.

Once the vehicles were built, the testing began.

"Things break, things don't work as expected, it's a back and forth," Caviglia said.

"It really comes down to the engineering, because you have to design a car that is both light and able to withstand some of the stuff they put us through in the Baja competition," Caviglia said.

The course for the endurance race was designed to try and eliminate 60 percent of the field of competitors; theoretically leaving only 40 remaining contestants. The natural terrain did not require heavy construction to meet the desired requirements.

The UTEP engineering students – competing under the team name Mad Pete Motorsports – made up two of 100 teams participating in the four-day event. There were 66 U.S. teams and 34 international teams from eight countries including Canada, Mexico, South Africa, South Korea and India.

Teams competed to have their designs ready for manufacturing by a fictitious firm. The event also served



Members of UTEP's Mad Pete Motorsports team stand by one of the two cars they built for the Baja SAE competition April 24-27 at UTEP. Pictured are mechanical engineering majors, from left, Diego Gallegos, Angel Ortega, Christopher Caviglia, Carla Beas and Angel Pineda.

as a recruitment opportunity for event sponsors and judges, represented by companies such as Honda Research and Development, Polaris, General Motors and Lockheed Martin.

The R-5 Parking Lot, used as the pits for the teams, was filled with the 1,500 competitors. On the first day of the event, teams completed sales presentations to promote the designs of their vehicles. The second day, a portion of Sun Bowl Drive was closed to accommodate the teams that went through "static" events in the R-2 parking lot, which included a vehicle inspection, design presentation and a cost audit. On the third day, the vehicles were fired up for the dynamic events that took place outside of the Student Recreation Center (SRC). Bystanders were able to watch the events from a distance of 30 feet. Each off-terrain vehicle was tested in hill

climbing, acceleration, maneuverability, suspension and traction. The fourth and final day encompassed a four-hour endurance race on a 1.3-mile track. Spectators watched from the patio outside the swimming pool of the SRC or from the multipurpose field.

Mad Pete Motorsports fielded two teams — a first for the program. One team consisted of experienced students and the other of first-time participants. The first-time participants used the frame from last year's competition, and the experienced team started from scratch.

"We try and pass on as much as we can so we don't start over every year," Caviglia said.

The off-road vehicles were put to the test in rigorous conditions, through boulders, hill climbs, big drops and jumps. 🏎️

**"The main purpose of Baja is to challenge students to build their own car, but also a competition to challenge students in real-life projects."**

Sergio Maldonado,  
project manager



**“The only way we can prosper is if we unite forces and collaborate on a different level than we have been.”**

Patrick Schaefer, director, Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness

## DIRECTOR OF NEW HUNT INSTITUTE PREACHES REGIONAL COLLABORATION

By Daniel Perez • Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Patrick Schaefer’s to-do list as executive director of UTEP’s new Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness is daunting, but he is confident he will succeed at what he considers a dream job.

The Institute is the vision of Woody Hunt, a successful El Paso businessman and philanthropist. He donated \$4 million to UTEP in 2010 to develop an entity that would study ways the governments in West Texas, Southern New Mexico and Northern Chihuahua, Mexico, could work together to enhance the region’s quality of life through trade, business, energy, education, the environment, infrastructure, and public health and safety.

Schaefer, a 35-year-old Maryland native, is an attorney, educator, author and linguist with multiple degrees. He was a Fulbright Scholar in Portugal and a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras. He studied international law in

the Netherlands, philosophy in Belgium and transnational resource management in Brazil. He was a journalist in Mexico, and has practiced law in New Mexico and Washington, D.C.

“I feel I was meant for this job,” Schaefer said. He said his ability to understand comparative economic, political and legal systems in the U.S. and Latin America will help him analyze data and seek trans-boundary solutions.

“The idea is to see the region as a whole and to understand that our future is together,” he said. “The only way we can prosper is if we unite forces and collaborate on a different level than we have been.”

Since he was hired in September 2013, Schaefer has met with regional government leaders to better focus his future research. He expects participation from UTEP faculty and students, but plans to cultivate other

research partners from regional universities and institutions such as the World Bank and the Brookings Institute. He also plans to seek grants from agencies including the Ford Foundation and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Robert Nachtmann, D.B.A., dean of the College of Business Administration, said he was immediately impressed with Schaefer after a chance encounter at the 2013 Border Economic Forum. After a few conversations with the young attorney, he suggested Schaefer apply for the Hunt job.

“Patrick’s the right guy for this job,” said Nachtmann, who oversees the institute that will encourage objective dialogue on the issues that bind the region’s 2.5 million residents. “He has a passion for solving thorny issues in this border region.”

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# DISTINGUISHED GUESTS



## ALLISON BROWNELL TIRRES, J.D., PH.D.

Prominent immigration expert and DePaul University professor Allison Brownell Tirres offered insight into the effects of deportations and the history of immigration law in the United States during her Centennial Lecture in February.



## MAURO VIEIRA

Brazil's Ambassador to the United States, Mauro Vieira, talked about his country's global impact during his Centennial Lecture in February.



## SERGIO ALCOCER

Mexico's Undersecretary for North American Affairs, Sergio Alcocer, joined American and Mexican officials to discuss economic opportunities for citizens of both countries at the Bilateral Forum on Higher Education, Innovation, and Research at UTEP in March.



## MARY WAKEFIELD

The administrator of the U.S. Health Resources and Service Administration visited with nearly 150 School of Nursing students, faculty and staff about employment opportunities in nursing made possible by the Affordable Care Act.



## ZARELA MARTINEZ

World renowned Mexican cuisine chef and author Zarela Martinez gave a talk and cooking demonstration at UTEP in March during a visit to El Paso, the city where she ran a successful catering business before opening a restaurant in New York City.



## MARK WYNNE, PH.D.

Mark Wynne, vice president and associate director of research for international economics of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, discussed the impact of the euro on the global economy during his March Centennial Lecture.



## HANK COHEN

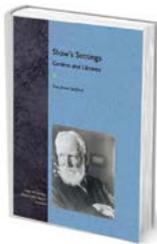
Hollywood entertainment executive and UTEP Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Hank Cohen returned to his alma mater to premiere his documentary *UTEP: The First 100 Years* during the University's Open House in April.



## MONICA LOZANO

Monica Lozano, CEO of ImpreMedia, LLC, and publisher of the largest Spanish language daily newspaper in the United States, discussed Latinos, Texas and America's future during her Centennial Lecture in April.

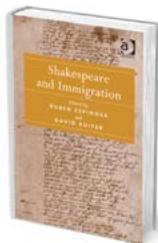
# FACULTY MUST-READS



**Shaw's Settings: Gardens and Libraries**, by Tony Jason Stafford, Ph.D., professor of English (University Press of Florida, 2013)



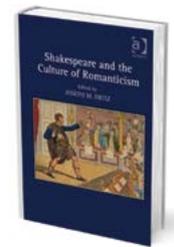
**Rethinking Chicana/o Literature Through Food: Postnational Appetites**, co-editor/contributor Meredith E. Abarca, Ph.D., associate professor of English (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013)



**Shakespeare and Immigration**, edited by Ruben Espinosa, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, and David Ruiter, Ph.D., associate professor of English (Ashgate Publishing Company, 2014)



**The Critical Merits of Young Adult Literature: Coming of Age**, contributor R. Joseph Rodriguez, Ph.D., assistant professor of English education (Routledge, 2014)



**Shakespeare and the Culture of Romanticism**, edited by Joseph M. Ortiz, Ph.D., associate professor of English (Ashgate Publishing Company, 2014)



**The Globalization and Corporatization of Education: Limits and Liminality of the Market Mantra**, edited by Char Ullman, Ph.D., associate professor of teacher education, et al (Routledge, 2013)



**Nanotechnology for Water and Wastewater Treatment**, contributor Jorge Gardea-Torresdey, Ph.D., chemistry department chair and Dudley Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Science and Engineering (IWA Publishing, 2013)



**The Art of Chinese Porcelain of the Ming and Qing Dynasties**, translated by Albert Wong, associate professor of art (Nanjing Normal University Press, 2013)



**En l'Air: A Collection of Poetry Created in the Air**, by Pamela Herron, lecturer in English, humanities and religious studies (Unsolicited Press, 2013)



**North American Integration: An Institutional Void in Migration, Security and Development**, edited by Gaspare Genna, Ph.D., associate professor of political science, et al (Routledge, 2013)



# 21st Century Scholars Program Cultivates UTEP Leaders

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

The University of Texas at El Paso’s nationally recognized 21st Century Scholars Program brought 150 undergraduate students together on Feb. 19 to hone their leadership skills.

Presented by the Division of Student Affairs, the program prepares UTEP students for high-caliber leadership in today’s competitive workforce. This “Centennial Edition” gathering marked the third year of the interactive, hands-on workshop, which emphasizes essential career-related leadership skills, including professional communication, networking, self-promotion and workplace collaboration.

The program was recognized in 2012 with a Silver Award from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

Participants represented the best of untapped, high-potential talent and were nominated by University deans, faculty and staff on the basis of academic achievement, community engagement and the students’ ability to have a positive campus impact.

The daylong workshop included case studies offering opportunities to practice leadership skills and a lunch with El Paso-area employers who were matched with students majoring in their sector. Participants also made formal presentations of their work to high-level campus leaders. Other activities included a self-awareness exercise designed to help students redefine themselves as leaders and opportunities for students to contribute to UTEP’s Centennial Celebration planning.

Freshman Karina Lujan said she was eager to apply the

program’s leadership lessons and principles to her own goals.

“This program really helped me to learn more about myself as a leader,” she said.

Armed with the skills cultivated by February’s workshop, the 21st Century Scholars are encouraged to participate in campus engagement and career development activities, including the pursuit of fellowships at the state and national level.

Coordinator of Student Life Programs Cemelli de Aztlan, who organized this year’s program, said, “In preparation of the 21st Century Scholars Program, each selected student was challenged with the task of articulating their dreams, visions and hopes for the future. Through this program, we give them the tools to make those dreams a reality.”

Christian Corrales, employer and community relations manager for the Division of Student Affairs, coordinated the workshop with de Aztlan.

“Knowing about leadership instills a lifelong learning component to our students’ professional career development,” he said. “These scholars are amazing, and we ask for them to spread their talents among their peers and their community.”

UTEP Junior Elphas Maiyo was grateful for his experience and to the University for offering a program that “creates leaders from regular students.”

“I also appreciate the fact that I was nominated,” he said. “It is an honor and I will treasure it for the rest of my life.”

**“This program really helped me to learn more about myself as a leader.”**

Freshman  
Karina Lujan

# Transformation Frenzy

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

By Daniel Perez • Photos by J.R. Hernandez



## Centennial Plaza

The underground utility work within Centennial Plaza is almost finished and the aboveground aspects will start to take shape in the next few months. The next step in construction is the creation of an oval area in the center, a tiered dirt terrace, holes for planting shade trees, forms for the sidewalks and exposed arroyos. The plaza is scheduled to open in the fall.

## Spur 1966

Contractors on the Texas Department of Transportation's \$31 million Spur 1966 project will remain busy during the summer months. Motorists who use Interstate 10 near campus will notice occasional freeway closures. Starting in May, work crews will set up the steel girders and columns that will support the concrete overpass that will connect Paisano Drive to Schuster Avenue at the roundabout. They also will use this time to complete the demolition of the Yandell Drive bridge. The project is scheduled for completion in summer 2015.



## Sun Bowl Drive Widening

TxDOT expects to complete its \$4.8 million, 10-month Sun Bowl Drive widening project in early summer 2014. When completed, it will enhance traffic flow on the north end of campus. Started in September 2013, the work stretches from just north of the Sun Bowl Parking Garage to just south of the Don Haskins Center. It includes sidewalks on each side of the road, enhanced lighting and an additional, wider driving lane in each direction to accommodate bicycle and automobile traffic. The project also includes the University's third roundabout at the intersection of Sun Bowl Drive and Glory Road. An artist selected during the summer will create a piece of public art to install in the roundabout early in the fall 2014 semester. ▣

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Tom Leech, right, displays the specially-struck medallion he accepted as the owner of The Press at the Palace of the Governors. Jackson V. Curlin II, left, chair of The Friends of the Library, and Robert L. Stakes, far right, associate vice president and director of the library, hold the Hertzog Award certificate.

**“We’re not only celebrating Carl Hertzog, but also how both he and this award have an impact outside of El Paso.”**

Robert L. Stakes, associate vice president and director of the Library

## Biennial Hertzog Award Celebrates Fine Printing

By Rachel Anna Neff, Ph.D. • Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre

Although a campus building bears his name, Carl Hertzog’s legacy is more than a small building near the University Library — he had a successful and celebrated career in printing before he brought his international renown to the Texas College of Mines as an instructor in 1948. He launched Texas Western Press in 1952, and served as its director until his retirement in 1972.

Today, the University Library collection contains many volumes published by Hertzog, each bearing a standard of excellence and beauty that is unparalleled to this day.

To honor Hertzog’s talent and impact on fine printing, former University Library director Robert A. Seal and the Associates of the University Library — now called the Friends of the Library — founded the Carl Hertzog Award for Excellence in Book Design as an annual lecture series in 1989. They added a juried award in 1991, and it became a biennial event after 1996.

“The award has a big impact on the small industry of fine printing,” said Robert L. Stakes, associate vice president and director of the University Library. “We’re not only celebrating Carl Hertzog, but also how both he and this award have an impact outside of El Paso.”

During the ceremony on March 9, 2014, the 14th winner of the prize was announced to the public: the Press at the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe for its 2012 edition of

*Jack Thorp’s Songs of the Cowboys*, designed by Arlyn Nathan and Tom Leech. The book was written by Jack Thorp, edited by Mark Lee Gardner and illustrated by Ronald Kil.

Robert Tauber, the previous winner of the Hertzog Award, gave the keynote address on “The Book as Art and the Art of the Book.” Tauber directs the Logan Elm Press & Paper Mill and is a book arts specialist in the Ohio State University Libraries’ Department of Preservation and Reformating.

Two honorable mentions, in no particular order, were also awarded. One went to designer Carolee Campbell for *Lives of Artists* by W.S. Merwin (2013) from Ninja Press in Sherman Oaks, Calif. The other went to J.B. Bryan and Tom Leech for *O’Keeffe Stories* by Margaret Wood (2012) from The Press at the Palace of the Governors.

The Press at the Palace of the Governors was the first press to have both a winning entry and honorable mention in the same year.

“These winners are able to go back into their communities and connect with a part of print history,” said Jackson V. Curlin II, chairman of the Friends of the Library. “This award is a signal to their peers and their profession of the art and craft behind (the winners’) work, and due recognition of their talent and skill. It shows how they stand on the shoulders of giants like Carl Hertzog.”

# December Commencement Celebrates More Than 2,200 Graduates



## CONGRATULATIONS!

“TODAY, WE JOYFULLY CELEBRATE NOT ONLY YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS AS UTEP STUDENTS, BUT ALSO YOUR MANY ANTICIPATED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS UTEP ALUMNI ...”

Diana Natalicio, UTEP President

More than 2,200 students earned bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees at The University of Texas at El Paso's 131st Commencement exercises on Dec. 14, 2013. Students donned black gowns and mortarboards decorated with their own personal touches, and smiled and cheered as they walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. Their families, friends and fellow Miners joined in the celebration of their accomplishments and the start of the next phase of their lives.

The three Commencement ceremonies featured the first Master of Science in

biomedical engineering degree and a record number of candidates to receive doctoral degrees: 73.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio spoke to the graduates about how their successes now and in the future would reflect on the University.

“Members of this Class of 2013, your lives have been transformed by your experience on this campus, and each of you has also been a participant in and contributor to UTEP's very exciting transformation,” President Natalicio said. “The many awards and honors that you

have earned in national competitions, the graduate and professional schools to which you have been admitted, the prestigious scholarships and fellowships you have received, and the highly competitive jobs that you've been offered all validate your and UTEP's quality.

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



# 'MAGICAL RUN'

CAPTURES HEARTS OF EL PASOANS

Story by Mark Brunner • Photos by Ivan Pierre Aguirre



**The 12,222 fans realized the magnitude of the moment. The Miners lost the game, but what they won was more valuable than a championship trophy: they won the hearts of El Paso.**



The University of Texas at El Paso's 2013-14 women's basketball team recorded an unprecedented third straight 20-plus win season at the University to finish with 29 wins — a school and Conference USA record-tying victory.

The Miners also broke or met 18 different single-season school records. They set program standards for assists (542); defensive rebounds (1,029); double-digit wins (21); field-goals (955) and attempts (2,353); free throws (697) and attempts (964); games (37); home games (25); home wins (22); offensive rebounds (577); points (2,825); points per game (76.4); rebounds (1,606); steals (355), three pointers (218) and attempts (697).

Those numbers, impressive as they are, don't even begin to capture what happened over a span of 16 days when the city of El Paso fell in love with the UTEP women's basketball team during a magical run at the 2014 Women's National Invitation Tournament (WNIT).

After UTEP lost to Southern Miss, 84-70, at home in the semifinals of the Conference USA Tournament March 14, 2014, UTEP's aspirations of making history and hanging another banner in the Don Haskins Center were seemingly dashed.

Amidst the uncertainty, an opportunity presented itself in the form of an at-large bid to the 64-team WNIT field. Thanks to a loyal fan base and the financial backing of the University, the Miners bid to host for as long as they remained in the tournament.

UTEP head coach Keitha Adams sensed history could be made, and encouraged the city to help her.

"I'm asking El Paso to help make a dream come true," Adams said two days before UTEP played host to Arkansas State in the first round. "I've always dreamed of 12,222 fans at

our game. We are home, playing in the WNIT Friday night. Why not make history?"

The dream seemed far-fetched, since UTEP averaged 2,249 fans during the season and the school-record of 7,255 had been set in a "free game" versus Southern Methodist University Feb. 28, 2008.

When the WNIT contest began, a good turnout of 4,500 watched the Miners beat Arkansas State University's Red Wolves, 74-64, March 21 in their first WNIT contest in program history.

With the Miners awarded another home game, Adams again made her pitch to sell out the Don Haskins Center. Attendance jumped slightly to 4,703, but more importantly, the Miners toppled Saint Mary's, 76-64, March 24 to punch their ticket to the WNIT Sweet 16.

In the Sweet 16 contest, a record 8,234 fans cheered UTEP on to a 68-60 conquest of Pacific-12 member Colorado on March 28. The attendance record stood for three days, before a staggering 10,227 fans helped cheer on the Miners past the University of Washington, another Pac-12 foe, on March 31.

The victory propelled UTEP into the Final Four of the WNIT. With the Cinderella run captivating the city, Adams' dream came true when UTEP sold out the Don Haskins Center

seven hours before tip-off against South Dakota State on April 2.

The Miners made the most of the moment and toppled the South Dakota State University Jackrabbits by a three-point margin (66-63) to advance to the finals. Thanks to the gracious offer by Franklin Graham and the Festival of Hope team to relocate their event — which had been booked for more than year in advance — to another spot on campus, the Don Haskins Center was available for the championship contest.

Tickets went on sale following the victory against SDSU, and once again all 12,222 seats were gone, this time in less than two hours, setting the WNIT record for fastest sell-out in tournament history. Adams summed up the moment perfectly.

"Wow, we did it again in record time, UTEP!" she said. "Thank you, El Paso!"

The Miners squared off against Rutgers in the title tilt, and played their hearts out April 5. UTEP battled back from 18 points down only to have Tyler Scaife convert a coast-to-coast lay-up with two seconds left to lift the Scarlet Knights to a 56-54 win.

The crowd fell silent as the Miners' destined run for a title was denied by Scaife's heroics, but the silence was fleeting. Loud repetitive chants of "UTEP" broke out as the Miners left the court to a standing ovation.

The 12,222 fans realized the magnitude of the moment. The Miners lost the game, but what they won was more valuable than a championship trophy: they won the hearts of El Paso.

"I'm proud of the team," Adams said following the WNIT contest. "I am so proud of El Paso for these two weeks; it's been amazing, just incredible. This is something we'll remember forever." 📸



Use your smartphone to scan this code to see a video montage from the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

TOBIN **ECHO-HAWK**  
HEAD SOFTBALL COACH



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

MYRIAM **SOPEL**  
HEAD TENNIS COACH



Photo by Laura Trejo

HOLLY **WATTS**  
HEAD VOLLEYBALL COACH



Photo by J.R. Hernandez



# UTEP WELCOMES TRIO OF NEW COACHES

By Drew Bonney

Within the last year, UTEP has hired three head coaches. Tobin Echo-Hawk joined the Miner family as head softball coach on June 20, 2013; Holly Watts soon followed as head volleyball coach on July 5, 2013; and Myriam Sopel was appointed head women's tennis coach on January 15, 2014.

All three had diverse coaching backgrounds prior coming to the Sun City.

Echo-Hawk, a native of Louisville, Colo., had a wealth of coaching experience under her belt from her previous five seasons as head coach with Portland State. She was named coach of the year five times and guided her squad to four NCAA Regional appearances. Coaching is her passion.

"Sports have always been a big part of my life and I was lucky enough to have great coaches growing up, including my dad," Echo-Hawk said. "They all had a tremendous impact on me and I wanted to be able to do the same for others. I love what I do every day and I couldn't imagine doing anything else."

Watts recently completed her first season as a head coach after leaving Florida State, where she was an assistant coach. The native of Devine, Texas, brought 19 years of Division I experience to the Miners, which made it easy for her to connect with her new team.

"It was nice how the seniors seemed to buy in and try to do what we wanted to do," Watts said. "I think every new head coach's nightmare is how they will be accepted by the team when they get in. Certainly the senior leadership jumping aboard, being ready to go

and willing to make changes made it easier for me."

Sopel, a native of Toulouse, France, arrived at UTEP after coaching for Wagner College, a small Division I school in Staten Island, N.Y., in the fall of 2012, and for the University of Idaho during the spring season.

The importance of the coach and team bond became clear to Sopel when she was team captain during her senior season at Indiana University in 2010. She observed and learned from her head coach, Lin Loring.

"I picked up a few things from him – like giving your best effort and learning common sense things on the court," said Sopel, an Academic Big 10 All-American. "Also, communication is key in tennis. Having a good relationship with your players is important and establishing a bond with the girls, while inspiring them to play better."

Inspiring players to do their best is part of Echo-Hawk's goal to improve the softball team's record. She plans to turn negatives into positives.

"You have to start with changing the mentality of the players," Echo-Hawk said. "So much of our game is mental. You have to be able to have confidence in yourself and your teammates. We really have been focusing on the fundamentals so we build a good foundation of skills, which hopefully will help build confidence."

Watts gained confidence in her volleyball coaching skills by incorporating what her coach at The University of Texas at Austin

conveyed to her, in addition to working for a former teammate.

"I picked up everything there (at UT Austin) from being a player," Watts said. "I also coached two seasons at UT Arlington – that's where I started my career – and was under a former teammate of mine from Texas. I learned a ton from all those places."

All three of the new hires were driven to pursue their profession because of their experiences with other coaches.

"There are two people who have really had an impact on me," Echo-Hawk said. "My dad, who was my coach growing up, and Coach (Rhonda) Revelle from Nebraska. If I can be half as good as either one of them, I will be doing a great job."

For Watts, her inspiration to become a volleyball coach stemmed from her positive experiences with her junior high and high school basketball coaches.

"They were people I really looked up to," Watts said. "And that's when I decided I wanted to become a head coach. I wanted to be like them."

Head coach emerita of the Tennessee Lady Vols' basketball team, Pat Summitt, inspired Sopel to coach tennis.

"She strives to make the person better, not only as an athlete but also as a human being," Sopel said. "I want my girls at the end of the day to remember that not only did they play great tennis, but they also got an education and became better individuals." ☒



# JAMEILL SHOWERS

*Sport: Football*

*Major: Master's in Leadership Studies*

*Hometown: Killeen, Texas*

Quarterback Jameill Showers' first season with the Miners was cut short due to an injury, but the senior saw success as he started in seven games, produced 15 touchdowns (11 passing, four rushing), 1,263 yards and only four interceptions on 188 attempts. Showers' reign was apparent when he threw for five touchdowns and 365 yards against Colorado State. He was 26-for-42 (60.5 percent) and threw no interceptions in Fort Collins, Colo. Showers came back the next week and tossed three more scores on 237 yards passing against LA Tech. Before his injury, Showers was ranked tied 28th in the nation in points responsible for (92). He was named to the C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll in 2014.



# LINDSEY LARSON

*Sport: Volleyball*

*Major: Civil Engineering*

*Hometown: Humboldt, Saskatchewan, Canada*

A definite threat on UTEP's frontcourt, Lindsey Larson started in 23 matches for the Orange and Blue as a freshman. The Canadian native posted 126 kills, 72 digs, 51 assists and 30 blocks (3s/27a), helping the Miners earn a bid to the 2013 Conference USA Championships. Larson notched a career best of .750 hitting percentage against FIU with only one error. She is a regular member on UTEP's Dean List with a 3.75 G.P.A. and was recognized as a 2012 C-USA Commissioner's Academic Medalist. In the fall 2014 season, she will make her debut as UTEP's starting setter.



# COSMAS BOIT

*Sport: Cross country  
Major: Criminal Justice  
Hometown: Eldoret, Kenya*

Cosmas Boit enjoyed an outstanding debut on UTEP's cross country team, garnering C-USA First Team honors as a freshman. The distance runner registered three top-three performances in his first season in the Orange and Blue. Boit earned C-USA Athlete of the Week honors with a silver finish at the Lori Fitzgerald Invitational. The Kenyan native not only took bronze at the C-USA Championship, but claimed Freshman of the Meet honors with a time of 24:53.62 in the 8k run. The Miner finished the season 22nd out of 115 runners at the NCAA Mt. Regional Championships. He is studying criminal justice and hopes to attend law school after graduation.



# SARAH DILLING

*Sport: Soccer  
Major: Kinesiology  
Hometown: Calgary, Alberta, Canada*

Sarah Dilling will be a senior captain for the 2014 UTEP soccer team. She has been a three-year starter at goalkeeper, putting up some big numbers in the process. She is currently second at UTEP for minutes played by a goalkeeper (5,441), games played (61) and starts (61) while ranking third for saves (231) and wins (29). Dilling was a member of the 2011 C-USA All-Tournament team while leading the squad to runner-up honors at the championship contest and has also been recognized as a C-USA Defensive Player of the Week. Dilling has excelled in the classroom as well, twice earning placement on the C-USA Academic Honor Roll. 🏠



*Running to the Top:*

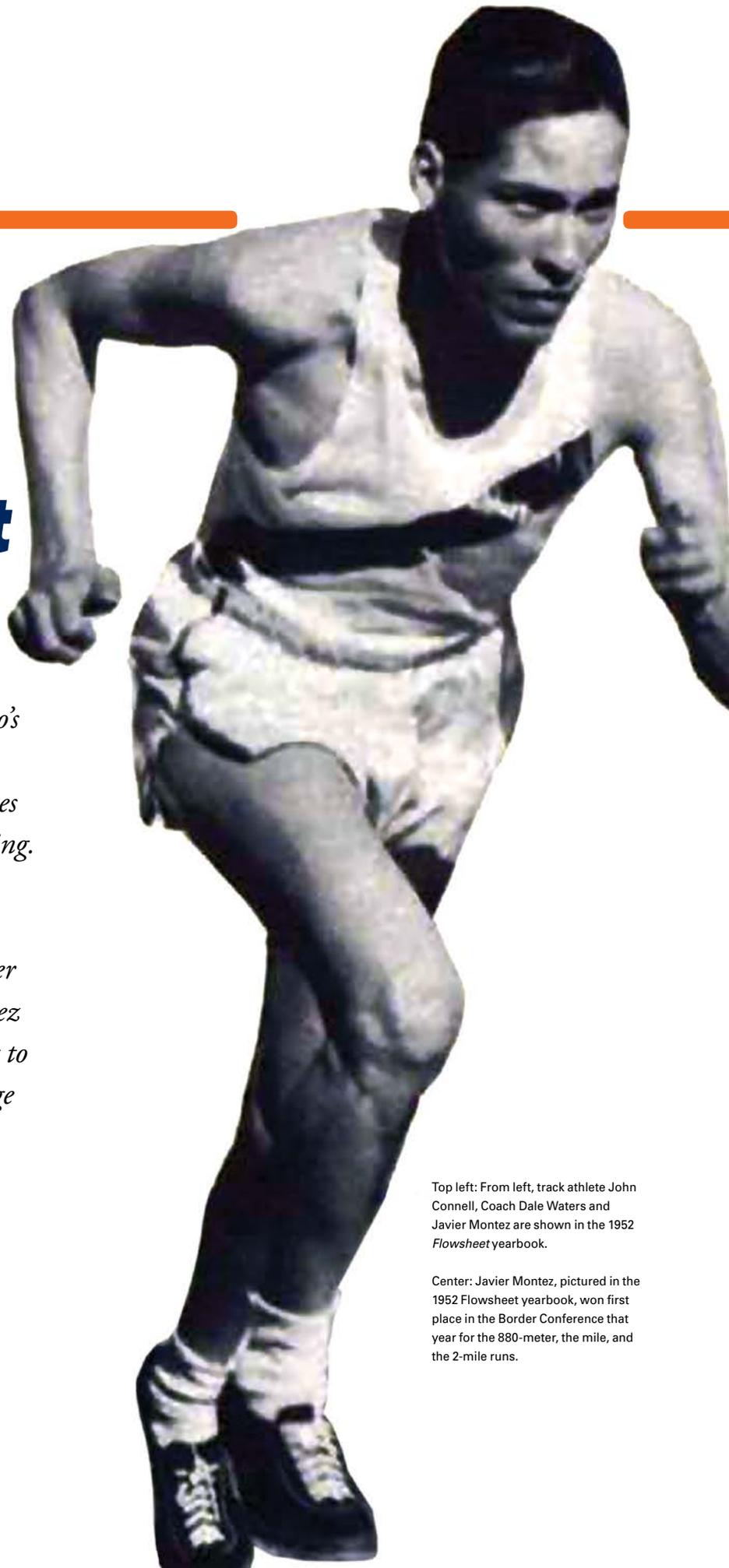
# UTEP's First Olympian

By Nadia M. Whitehead

*Born and raised a butcher's son in El Paso's Segundo Barrio — one of the lowest-income neighborhoods in the United States — Javier Montez had a meager upbringing.*

*“He used to tell us that he couldn't remember a time when they had hot water growing up,” his daughter, Marcia Montez Smith, said. “So he actually started going to the Boys and Girls Club to take advantage of their hot showers.”*

*Despite his humble background, Montez was destined for greatness.*



Top left: From left, track athlete John Connell, Coach Dale Waters and Javier Montez are shown in the 1952 *Flowsheet* yearbook.

Center: Javier Montez, pictured in the 1952 *Flowsheet* yearbook, won first place in the Border Conference that year for the 880-meter, the mile, and the 2-mile runs.

**“Javier Montez was a man of quiet dignity who served his community and country with zeal, commitment, accomplishment and honor.”**

Joy Barron, UTEP alumna

At 6 feet 2 inches, the slim, Hispanic youth had talent. While attending Bowie High School, he broke the Texas state record for the mile by a whopping 5.9 seconds, spurring a slew of nationwide college offers. But according to Bog Ingram and Ray Sanchez, authors of *The Miners: The History of Sports at The University of Texas at El Paso*, Montez wasn't ready to leave home just yet. Instead, he accepted a full-ride scholarship to Texas Western College, now UTEP, and enrolled in 1948.

Over the course of the next four and a half years, he thrust the University's track and field program into the limelight. In the Border Conference — which pitted the states of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona against each other — he set a record for the mile in 1950 and 1951. In 1952, he swept first place in three events at the conference: the men's 880-meter, the mile and the 2-mile.

Described in *The Miners* as “practically a one-man team,” Montez served as captain of the track team during his time at the University, leading to what the 1952 *Flowsheet* yearbook called “the best track year in the postwar era.”

At the peak of his time in the program, 21-year-old Montez made momentous strides when he became known as one of the fastest runners in America. His speed qualified him for the U.S. Olympic team in 1952 — where he became the first-ever El Paso-born Olympian.

UTEP alumna Joy Barron, who had a class with the legendary runner and lived across the street from him later in life, still remembers when he first qualified for the Olympic Games in Helsinki, Finland.

“It was very low key,” the longtime El Pasoan said. “At that time there weren't that many students on campus, but everyone knew who he was and appreciated what he had accomplished.”

Although he didn't place at the games, many were and still are proud of his feat of becoming the first Miner to participate in the Olympics.

On the way home from the competition, the U.S. team stopped to compete in the British Empire Games in London, where he ran the first lap on the 4-mile relay team. His

opponent on the very same lap was Roger Bannister — who would become the world's first four-minute miler two years later. Montez easily kept pace with Bannister on the lap, running just a few steps behind him.

“He never mentioned the races when he got back to class,” Barron said. “I actually don't think he ever even said a word in the class I had with him. He was very quiet.”

His daughter says that's because he was very reserved and modest about his track career.

“I remember whenever we went to UTEP games, people would come up and say, ‘You know your dad was an amazing runner,’” she said. “But he really didn't speak about it to anyone. Whenever someone would mention anything, he would just shrug it off.”

Still, Montez's accomplishment remains an important milestone in UTEP's history. In 2007, he was inducted in the UTEP Athletics Hall of Fame, joining the likes of Don Haskins and Nolan Richardson.

A year after competing in the Olympics, Montez graduated from TWC with a B.S. in electrical engineering — another interest and focus of his. He went on to work at Fort Bliss as a civil engineer, developing and testing missiles and weapons after briefly serving in the Korean War.

Just like his track career, Montez climbed the ladder in the workforce. He eventually became the chief of instrumentation on the U.S. Army Air Defense Board at Fort Bliss and earned an M.S. in computer science at New Mexico State University. He also served on the El Paso Independent School District's Board of Trustees for 12 years.

All the while, he found the time to jog regularly, keep in shape and remain devoted to the UTEP Miners — never missing a basketball or football game.

“Javier Montez was a man of quiet dignity who served his community and country with zeal, commitment, accomplishment and honor,” Barron wrote in a letter to Bowie High School in which she urged the administration to name the school after him. “He was an outstanding human being.”

Even after his cancer diagnosis, the 73-year-old was seen just two days before his death on Dec. 6, 2003, doing what he loved most: running. 🏃



## 2014 UTEP FOOTBALL HOME SCHEDULE

9/6

TEXAS TECH

9/13

NEW MEXICO STATE

10/11

OLD DOMINION\*

11/1

SOUTHERN MISS\*

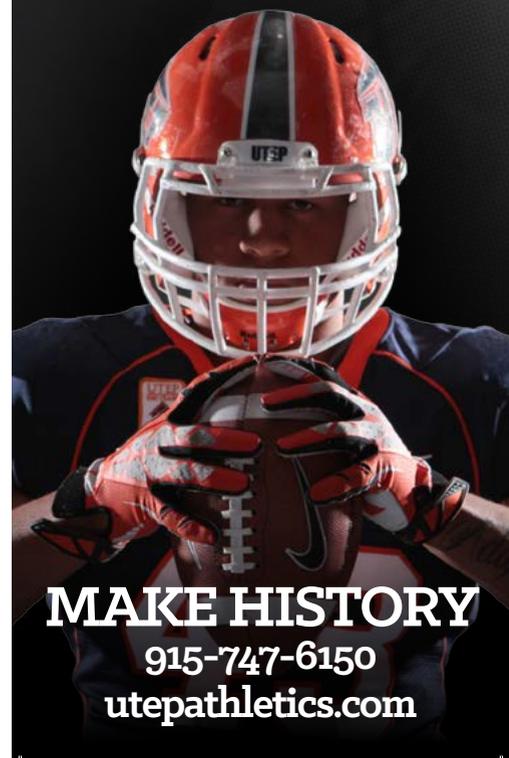
11/15

NORTH TEXAS \*

11/29

MIDDLE TENNESSEE\*

\*C-USA game



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# UTEP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## UTEP Invites Alumni to Celebrate Centennial

As The University of Texas at El Paso marks its 100th anniversary in 2014, the UTEP Office of Alumni Relations has planned several memorable celebrations on campus and across the country to help Miners reconnect with one another and with their University. Some of the activities and programs that will make UTEP's Centennial year unforgettable include the annual UTEP Alumni PICK-NIC and the UTEP Alumni Association Golf Tournament, Miner Mixers and a Centennial Lifetime Membership Campaign.

By Laura L. Acosta

### MINER MIXERS

For UTEP alumni who live outside the city and are unable to return to campus this year, the University will bring the Centennial Celebration to them.

In February, UTEP kicked off Miner Mixers, a series of 15 informal gatherings in different parts of the country throughout the year.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio and representatives from the University will visit with alumni in Texas, the Midwest and east and west coasts at these events. Alumni will have the opportunity to chat with the President and network with other Miners.

"Sometimes when you have a more formal presentation it creates a barrier," said Richard Daniel, Ph.D., UTEP's associate vice president for university advancement and special projects and executive director for Alumni Relations. "President Natalicio is behind a podium and they're seated. There's not that same connection when you are face-to-face with each other. At the Miner Mixers, you get to know people and understand and develop a stronger connection."

The first Miner Mixer took place on Feb. 28, 2014, at Sambuca Restaurant in downtown Houston, where more than 50 Miners reminisced about UTEP while listening to jazz and enjoying each other's company.

Will Davis, president of the UTEP Alumni Houston Chapter, believes the Miner Mixers not only bring members of the Miner Nation together, but also create new opportunities.

"It's about building a professional network of people that can support you when you move to (a new) city, and that can open your eyes to opportunities to careers and jobs," said Davis, an engineer at the NASA Johnson Space Center. "Having a network is without a doubt helpful."

### CENTENNIAL LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

To commemorate the founding of UTEP in 1914, loyal and dedicated Miners will have the distinct opportunity to establish a lifelong connection to the University by purchasing a new Centennial Lifetime Membership from the UTEP Alumni Association.

The once-in-a-lifetime membership will be available only during 2014. Those who join will have access to exclusive events, including a reception for Centennial Lifetime members during Homecoming. The membership includes special offers, such as discounts to the bookstore, athletic events and the UTEP Dinner Theatre. Members also will receive a customized UTEP Centennial keepsake box with exclusive commemorative items.

"The purpose is to engage the alumni into a higher level of participation and making a commitment to UTEP while celebrating its Centennial Year," said Bonny Schulenburg, UTEP Alumni Association vice president for membership. "It's a great way to celebrate UTEP's Centennial graduation by giving a membership as a Centennial graduation gift to honor the graduate."

For a full list of the Centennial Lifetime Membership levels, visit the alumni website at [alumni.utep.edu](http://alumni.utep.edu). Alumni who previously purchased a UTEP Alumni Association Lifetime Membership can upgrade to a Centennial Lifetime Membership for a modest cost. A portion of the membership dues will benefit the UTEP Campus Transformation Fund.



Top left: Paydirt Pete dances with UTEP alumni at the 2013 Alumni PICK-NIC at Memorial Park in El Paso.

Top right: Alumni and their families enjoy a summer day at Memorial Park in El Paso during the 2013 Alumni PICK-NIC. The PICK-NIC tradition continues July 12, 2014.

Bottom left: Alumni Association Golf Tournament winners, from left, Steve Curl, Paul Coleman, Duane Coleman and Hector Almeida won a trip to the Pinehurst Resort in North Carolina.

Bottom right: From left, UTEP alumni Michael Piñon, Pharm.D.; Araceli Piñon; Mary Helen Padilla and Richard Padilla attend the first Miner Mixer at Sambuca Restaurant in downtown Houston.

### UTEP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Golfers at this year's UTEP Alumni Association Golf Tournament will tee off at noon Friday, Aug. 15, at the Butterfield Trail Golf Club in east El Paso.

Since 2009, the golf tournament has raised more than \$140,000 for the UTEP Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The annual tournament is divided into two divisions, or flights. One flight is for recreational golfers. Skilled golfers participate in the tournament's Championship Flight.

Winners of the Championship Flight will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the legendary Pinehurst Resort in North Carolina to play in the 2014 Acura College Alumni Team Championship from Oct. 5-8.

The UTEP four-person team will compete against alumni from 75 universities across the United States to be crowned the National College Alumni Team Champions.

"It was like a dream come true," said Hector Almeida, who was part of the UTEP team that traveled to Pinehurst two years ago. "We represent UTEP and we compete against all universities nationwide in golf. This is the closest experience of what a professional golfer experiences in the PGA. It's a golfer's Disneyland."

### UTEP ALUMNI "PICK-NIC"

Alumni from coast to coast and border to border will join the Centennial fun during the third annual UTEP Alumni "PICK-NIC" on July 12.

As tradition goes, Miners in El Paso and cities across the United States, Mexico and the Kingdom of Bhutan will host picnics on the same day to celebrate UTEP.

Hundreds of Miners are expected to gather at Memorial Park to reminisce about their UTEP experience.

Organizers will receive a UTEP themed PICK-NIC package that includes a cooler filled with tablecloths, orange cups, plates and plastic cutlery, flying discs, beach balls, name tags, balloons, stickers, pom-poms and temporary tattoos.

Last year, parties were hosted in cities including Houston, New York, Chicago, Phoenix, San Antonio, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

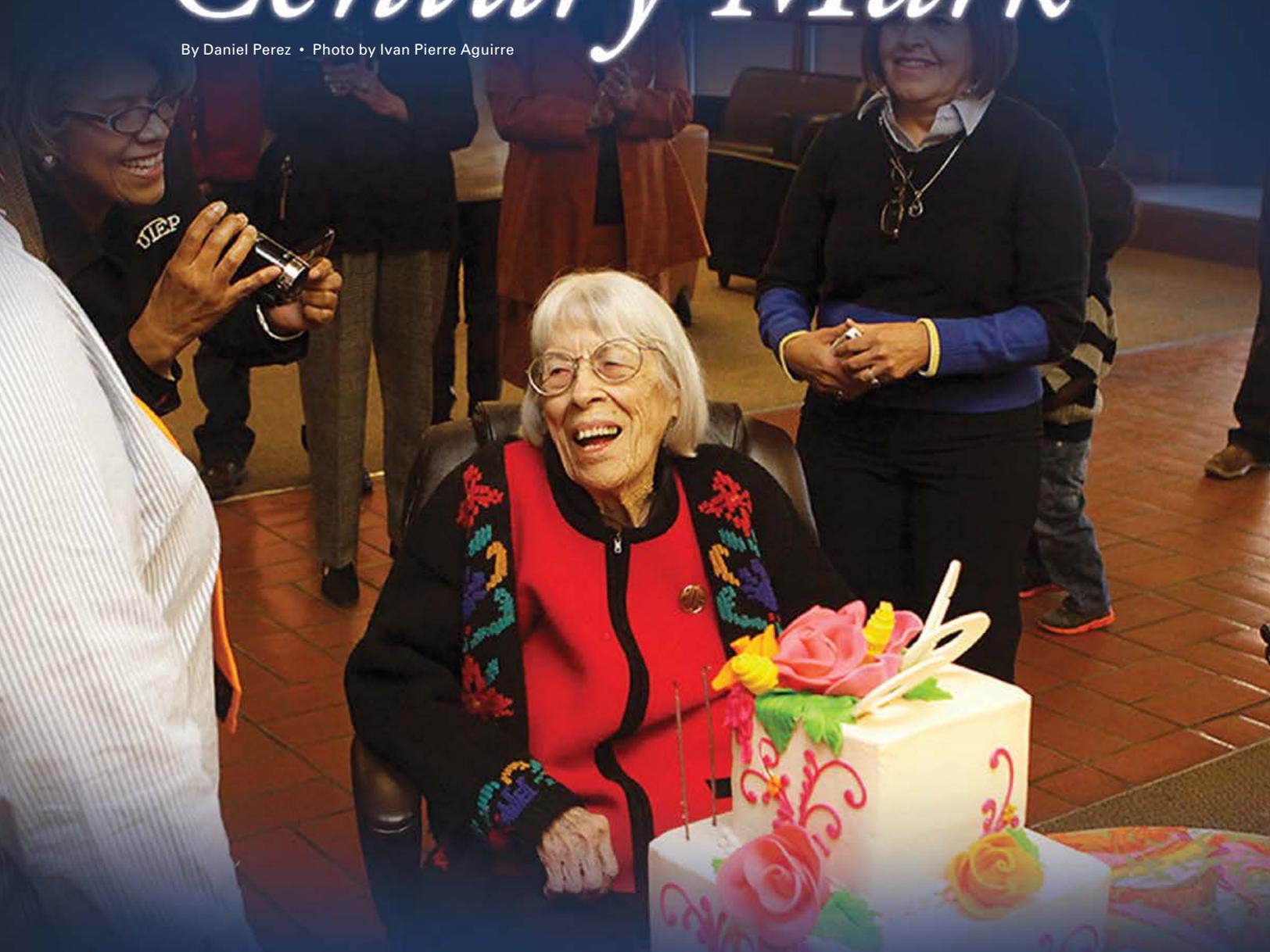
To host a PICK-NIC in your city, call the UTEP Office of Alumni Relations at 915-747-8600 or register at [alumni.utep.edu/picnic](http://alumni.utep.edu/picnic). To RSVP to attend the PICK-NIC, please visit the website. 📧

**Visit [alumni.utep.edu](http://alumni.utep.edu) for more information.**

BELOVED FORMER BUSINESS PROFESSOR BEATS UTEP TO

# Century Mark

By Daniel Perez • Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre



*“(Teaching) grows on a person  
to where you need to do it.  
To do something else is foreign.”*

*Lola Dawkins*

**T**wo weeks shy of her 100th birthday, former UTEP professor of business communication Lola Dawkins was the life of the party thrown in her honor in the Business Administration Building lobby.

The award-winning professor emerita of marketing and management kept approximately 70 well-wishers laughing with her good-natured asides during a Dec. 13, 2013, bash that foreshadowed The University of Texas at El Paso's own Centennial Celebration.

Dawkins, a 1954 business graduate from Texas Western College (now UTEP), joined the faculty in 1965 and retired in 1984. She built a reputation as a tough, but fair, instructor with organizational skills honed through 20 years of working with municipal and religious organizations. Even after her retirement, she maintained her ties to the University through volunteer work with organizations such as the Heritage Commission and a scholarship fund in her name that benefits business students.

Robert Nachtmann, D.B.A., dean of the college, could not help but chuckle as Dawkins interrupted him several times to clarify parts of his introduction of her. It went along with her reputation as a stickler for detail. His remarks included reading testimonials from two of her former students – a Dallas businessman and a New York law professor – who spoke of her authoritarian style and tender heart.

“Did you notice how well those people write?” the guest of honor asked rhetorically as the crowd roared at her demonstration of pride in her former students.

## *In the beginning*

When Lola Beasley was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on Dec. 29, 1913, the State School of Mines and Metallurgy (now UTEP) was still a work in progress. Her father was a carpenter and her mother was a poet and artist who thought nothing of milking the cows. Her parents promoted community involvement and led by example. Her family moved to Odessa, Texas, where she excelled as a student. She earned an academic scholarship to Texas Christian University, but dropped out after a year due to lack of money and motivation.

In 1934 she married Nathaniel Dawkins, a steamfitter who installed heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems for hospitals and military installations. Lola Dawkins quickly tired of being a housewife – but not for long.

She took administrative and bookkeeping jobs with the City of Odessa and the city's First Baptist Church until her husband's skills were needed in El Paso.

She enrolled at Texas Western College (now UTEP) as a sophomore and finished her business degree in a little more than two years, while keeping books for an El Paso insurance agency. She enjoyed her return to school, despite being away from academics for 20 years.

“It was wonderful. The campus was beautiful. I considered it a privilege to attend,” Dawkins recollected during an interview in the living room of her Kern Place home near campus. “I enjoyed making friends and competed quite well against the younger students. I was resented a time or two because I broke the (grading) curve.”

Upon graduation, her husband insisted she pursue graduate school at The University of Texas at Austin. She earned her M.B.A. in 1956 and her Ph.D. in management and business education in 1962. While studying for her graduate degree, one of her professors offered her a teaching assistant position and that is when she said she found her calling.

“(Teaching) grows on a person to where you need to do it,” she said. “To do something else is foreign.”

## *Coming home*

She taught at UT Austin and at Arizona State University until accepting a job at Texas Western College in 1965 and was promoted to full professor within three years. She enjoyed her time on campus balancing between academics, student group sponsorships and campus committee assignments. She got involved in local, state and national business education groups that enhanced both her reputation and the University's.

Among the former students who attended her birthday celebration were Joe O'Conner, Ph.D., assistant professor of marketing and management, and Elea Aguirre, Ph.D., a part-time teacher.

O'Conner said his experience as a U.S. Military Academy cadet prepared him for the rigors of Dawkins' business communication class in the early 1970s. He said she preached the importance of brevity and the content of a first sentence.

“She's the tops ... dedicated, passionate, exacting,” he said. “She taught us that communication is the lifeblood of a business and that the ability to communicate effectively

was timeless.”

Aguirre said she was a “Dawkins Girl” for six classes as an undergraduate in the late 1960s. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration and a master's in sociology from UTEP.

“There was no monkey business. You couldn't be a bad student in her class,” Aguirre said. “She wouldn't allow it.”

Dawkins said she is most proud of her efforts to stress the value of education to her students.

“I was the hardest professor they had, but many of them tell me that they are still using what they learned (from me),” she said. Dawkins had a reputation for giving a failing grade on assignments that included one misspelled word. Her simple and oft repeated advice to students: “Like what you do and do well what you like.”

One of her favorite UTEP assignments was leading the team that oversaw the design of UTEP's Business Administration Building, which opened in 1982. She also led the committees that recommended the building's furnishings and equipment.

“I am so proud of that building,” Dawkins said. “It's my baby.”

At the December birthday party, University President Diana Natalicio thanked Dawkins for her service to the campus. She noted the value of communication skills because that is one of the ways people are judged.

“You've been such a wonderful friend and loyal supporter,” said President Natalicio, who presented Dawkins with a plush orange UTEP blanket. “We owe you such a debt of gratitude.”

As a way to thank her for her years of inspired service, Dawkins' family and friends started a fund in her name in 1984. The Lola B. Dawkins Fund for Excellence in Business Administration Scholarship benefits juniors or seniors who major in marketing, management, accounting and computer information systems. Preference is given to students who plan to teach business education at the high school level.

Despite being older than UTEP, Dawkins still attends campus events and enjoys speaking with and advising students at scholarship functions. She said most students are the same as when she was an undergraduate: they share a desire to learn.

“I love reading their thank you letters,” she said. “It's heartwarming that I'm still able to help students.” 📖



*“I can’t even imagine what I would have done had I not come to UTEP. Would I have accomplished so much?”*

Robin Hoffer, Ph.D.

## **THREE-DEGREE ALUMNA BROKE BOUNDARIES, DEFIED STEREOTYPES**

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

Robin Hoffer, Ph.D., still wonders what her life would have been like if she had never enrolled at Texas Western College (TWC).

After a stint as a flight attendant with American Airlines, Hoffer settled in El Paso and decided to take courses at TWC on a whim — despite the fact the odds were against her.

“My dad believed girls didn’t go to college,” said Hoffer, referring to a common attitude toward women in the 1960s when she first enrolled. “He thought that their job was to just get married and have kids.”

Yet, a newfound love of geology enticed the young Hoffer to stay in school and keep studying geological sciences — a predominantly male field at the time.

“Those first few courses at TWC opened up a whole other world for me,” she said. “It was like Alice stepping through the looking glass, and I just kept going and going.”

Before she knew it, Hoffer became the first person to earn a bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree from The University of Texas

at El Paso. During the 1982 Commencement ceremony where Hoffer received her doctorate, then-President Haskell Monroe called her a “historic person” for the University.

Hoffer said earning all her degrees from UTEP was one of the best decisions she ever made.

Philip Goodell, Ph.D., associate professor of geological sciences, served as Hoffer’s doctoral chairperson and still remembers the persistent, innovative young woman who broke gender barriers while attending UTEP.

“Robin overcame a lot of difficulties while she was here,” Goodell said. “When she started, there weren’t that many female students or professors in geology. It was a different time back then. She was even told by some professors that there was no place for women in geology, but she embraced it and confronted those statements.”

After she began her life at the University, she did things she never imagined she could do, like lean over the edge of an active volcano to get a close-up look at fiery, bubbling lava;

conduct studies on Mount St. Helens in Washington and the Mendenhall Glacier in Alaska; and become one of the first El Paso women admitted to the geology honor society, Sigma Gamma Epsilon.

She even met her husband, Jerry Hoffer, Ph.D., former professor and volcanologist, while attending the University.

In addition to her many adventures — including teaching two Apollo 17 astronauts how to determine if a crater was once a volcano — Hoffer served as a geology lecturer at UTEP for 25 years and led the Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program, an educational platform that taught more than 500 local teachers about the Earth’s atmosphere, water, soil and land cover.

“I can’t even imagine what I would have done had I not come to UTEP. Would I have accomplished so much?” Hoffer wondered. “See, UTEP is so much more than going to school and getting an education. It’s a lifestyle.” ➤

*“If I can help someone get on his feet, so that he or she can start helping themselves, I will be more than happy to do it.”*

Modesto A. Gomez

## LEGACY OF GROCER, CIVIC LEADER SUSTAINED THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

By Marsha Hansen • Photo courtesy of Marcia McNamee



Whether it was through donating hot food and shoes to local schoolchildren, or championing civic engagement and civil rights, Modesto A. Gomez's efforts to create opportunities for people in El Paso became legendary.

It's no surprise his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren learned by example and carry on his tradition of community action and support.

In Gomez's name, family members now fund scholarships, manage a foundation and operate MAGI (Modesto A. Gomez Inc.), a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in both El Paso and Chicago through entrepreneurial development and strategic alliances. Today, Gomez's legacy of service not only lives on, it thrives.

Born in 1895 when El Paso's population was around 10,000, Gomez's pragmatism and idealism helped guide the future of the city. The grassroots activist and civic leader helped organize the El Paso League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and eventually served as the organization's 15th national president.

In the early 1930s, while raising a family and running a wholesale grocery business, Gomez co-founded Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2653. Patriotic to the core, the WWI veteran served on Draft Board #40 from 1949 until 1969, earning citations from U.S. Presidents Harry Truman, John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon. He also served on the boards of the El Paso Civic Center, the Rescue Mission and Goodwill Industries.

Gomez's granddaughter Marcia McNamee recalls her grandfather's grocery business at the corner of 7th Avenue and Stanton Street becoming an informal meeting place for El Paso city officials. Growing up, she met a series of El Paso mayors who regularly visited her grandfather's shop.

Gomez believed in the potential of all people and helped reduce crime in El Paso by drawing boys away from gang activity by organizing the El Paso Boys Club. He also organized the Tata (dads') Club at Bowie High School and assisted volunteers at other schools with forming similar groups. In 1975, the City of El Paso named the Modesto A. Gomez Park after him in recognition of his many contributions of time and talent.

Friends and family continue to honor the memory of the spirited civil rights advocate who believed in the importance of family, the strength of community and the power of education. Since 1984, the Modesto Gomez Foundation has awarded more than 300 scholarships to college students from the El Paso area and established the Modesto A. Gomez Endowed Scholarship at UTEP. The endowment continues to grow through the family's festive and newsworthy annual events, including the Modesto Gomez Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament, as well as through their determined efforts to demonstrate the ideals held so dearly by their family patriarch. 📌

# ALUM NOTES

Compiled by Eugene K. Reyes

## 1950s

**Donald S. "Don" Henderson** (B.B.A. '56), former El Paso mayor, was honored in January for his 40 years of work as president and board member of the Texas Municipal League. Texas Municipal League is a nonprofit association which provides services to Texas cities through legislative, legal and educational efforts.

**Patricia A. Scott** (B.S.Ed. '58), guidance counselor at Jefferson High School in El Paso, was named recipient of the FBI Community Leadership Award in November. The award recognizes individuals who have made contributions to the agency's investigations.

## 1960s

**Catalina E. García** (B.S. '61), anesthesiologist at Dallas Anesthesiologist Group, P.A., was honored in October as a Latina Living Legend by the DFW Hispanic 100, a service organization focused on leveraging the power of women. The award recognizes both García's medical trailblazing and her community service.

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

**Cecilia M. "Ceci" Miles Mulvihill** (B.S.Ed. '69), president and CEO at employment services company RMPersonnel, Inc. in El Paso, was named to the Borderplex Alliance board of directors in January. The Borderplex Alliance is a regional economic development organization based in El Paso.

## 1970s

**Michael H. "Mike" Acosta** (B.S.E.E. '71), of El Paso, joined Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande as a consultant in January. Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande is a nonprofit organization that provides employers with skilled workers and aids individuals in developing the skills needed to thrive in the workplace.

**Nathaniel "Nate" Archibald** (B.S.Ed. '77), former UTEP men's basketball standout, was a speaker at the New York Athletic Club in November, where the late Donald L. "The Bear" Haskins, former head coach for the UTEP men's basketball team, was honored as a Joe Lapchick Character Award recipient.

**Robert L. "Bob" Bowling, III** (B.B.A. '71), president and director of Tropicana Development, Inc. and vice president of Tropicana Building Corp. in El Paso, was honored with the El Paso Association of Builders' Pioneer Award in December.

**Patricia S. "Patsy" Burdick** (B.S. '79), along with business partners, opened El Paso's first pay-as-you-can community restaurant, The Mustard Seed Café, in November.

**Ivonne Durant** (M.Ed. '77) was named chief academic officer of the El Paso Independent School District in December.

**Jose M. "Joe" Gomez** (B.A. '70), director of business development and community affairs at C.F. Jordan Construction, LLC. in El Paso, was honored with the McDonald's *Hispanos Triunfadores* Community Service Award in September at the 14th annual celebration in El Paso. The award honors individuals for their professionalism, community service and for being role models to youth.

**Debra C. "Debbi" Hester** (B.B.A. '77), of El Paso, was recognized in February as ERA Sellers, Buyers, and Associates' No. 1 producing real estate agent in the firm for 2013.

**Jose Luna, Jr.** (B.A. '74) was appointed CEO for Centro San Vicente in January. Centro San Vicente is a nonprofit community health center that provides a comprehensive range of services in the El Paso Community.

**Ernst E. Roberts, II** (M.A. '75), vice president of administration and financial operations at El Paso Community College, was inducted into the El Paso Business Hall of Fame in October.

**William F. "Bill" Studer, Jr.** (B.A. '72) retired as the City of El Paso's assistant city manager in January.

## 1980s

**Renato J. Aguilera** (B.S. '81; M.S. '82), UTEP biological sciences professor, was honored with the McDonald's *Hispanos Triunfadores* Science Award in September at the 14th annual celebration in El Paso. The award honors individuals for their professionalism, community service and for being role models to youth.

**Robert B. "Bob" Anderson** (B.S.Ed. '89), head coach for the Coronado High School football team in El Paso, was named the 2013 *El Paso Times* All-City Football Coach of the Year in December. The honor recognizes Anderson's efforts in leading Coronado to a 8-3 season record and its first district championship since 2009.

**Robert A. Diaz** (B.B.A. '81), CPA and president of Robert A. Diaz & Co., CPAs, was named to the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger board of directors in January. El Pasoans Fighting Hunger is a nonprofit hunger relief organization that serves as a clearinghouse to solicit, store, inspect and repack surplus food for distribution in El Paso, Hudspeth and Culberson counties.

**Roberto Dozal, Sr.** (B.A. '84), El Paso artist, was the recipient of the Catherine Kistenmacher Memorial Award for his art piece *Stowaway* at the 46th annual Arts International exhibit in October.

**John W. "Jay" Dunbar** (M.B.A. '80), of El Paso, joined the accounting firm of Schmid, Broaddus, Nugent & Gano PC in November.

**Joe A. Garibay** (B.B.A. '88), El Paso Electric Company director of customer service, was the recipient of the company's Mega Watt Award in September for his leadership as the vice president of programs for the Boy Scouts of America Yucca Council. El Paso Electric's Mega Watt Award is presented to employees who have demonstrated excellence in community service.

**C. Patrick Mitchell, Jr.** (B.S. '85), dentist at Affiliated Dental Care in El Paso, was nominated by the El Paso Academy of General Dentistry for the Texas Academy of General Dentistry's (TAGD) Dentist of the Year Award in September. The award is considered the most prestigious honor a Texas dentist can receive.

**John D. "Danny" Olivas** (B.S.M.E. '89), director of UTEP's Center for the Advancement of Space Safety and Mission Assurance Research (CASSMAR) and former NASA astronaut, presented "Our El Paso: Reaching for the Stars" during the 7th annual Tom Lea Month in El Paso in October.

**Gayle B. Ray** (B.B.A. '88), principal business relationship manager for Wells Fargo Bank in El Paso, was named to the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger board of directors in January. El Pasoans

Fighting Hunger is a nonprofit hunger relief organization that serves as a clearinghouse to solicit, store, inspect and repack surplus food for distribution in El Paso, Hudspeth and Culberson counties.

**Gregory J. Watters** (B.B.A. '81; M.Acc. '86) was named Chief Financial Officer of the Catholic Diocese of El Paso in January.

## 1990s

**Anna I. Aleman** (B.A. '90), FEMAP Foundation executive director in El Paso, was selected in October as the 2013 Hicks-Middagh awardee. Named after Virgil Hicks and John Middagh, who both served as administrators at UTEP, the Hicks-Middagh award is given every year to an alumnus or alumna who best represents excellence in the communication field.

**Steven T. Buraczyk** (B.S.E.E. '91; M.B.A. '97) was promoted in October to senior vice president in charge of operations at El Paso Electric Co.

**Gloria V. Delgado** (B.S.N. '96), of El Paso, was named director of postpartum/GYN/nursery at Sierra Medical Center in January.

**Andrea C. Gates-Ingle** (B.I.S. '99), El Paso Creative Kids co-founder, received the President's Commission on the Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award in November for Project AIM (Arts in Motion), which provides hospitalized children with art materials and teaches them about arts including painting, drawing, photography and graphic design.

**Yolanda Giner** (B.S. '90), attorney at the law firm Gordon Davis Johnson & Shane P.C. in El Paso, was selected in September for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America 2014* in the area of real estate law. *Best Lawyers* is the oldest and most respected peer-reviewed publication in the legal profession.

**Tasha P. Hopper** (B.S.N. '98; M.S.N. '12), assistant chief officer at Providence Memorial Hospital in El Paso, achieved a Nurse Executive Certification by the American Nurses Credentialing Center in December.

**Renard U. Johnson** (B.B.A. '95), founder of the El Paso-based systems engineering and information technology support company Management and Engineering Technologies International Inc., was elected chair pro tem of the board of directors for the 2014 Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas' El Paso Branch in February.

**Norma A. Mendoza** (B.A. '92), president of marketing consulting firm MerKadoTeknia Research and Consulting in El Paso, co-facilitated the Wise Latina International group's Latina Identity Summit in El Paso in October. Wise Latina International is a nonprofit organization

that brings together community leaders and women from different backgrounds for a series of facilitated workshops in the arts and in leadership.

**Giridhar "Gary" Purushotham** (M.S.I.E. '95), of El Paso, was named chief operating officer for Del Sol Medical Center in February.

**David A. Roberson** (B.S.M.M.E. '99; M.S. '01; Ph.D. '12), assistant professor in the UTEP Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, received a Young Investigator Research Program grant in February from The Air Force Office of Scientific Research for his proposal, "Synthesis of 3-D-printable Polymer Matrix Composites."

**John E. Rust** (B.F.A. '98), El Paso artist, was the recipient of the Best of Show award for his El Paso-centric collage, *You Can't Bulldoze Your Way to the Highlife*, at the 46th annual Arts International exhibit in October.

**Ramon F. "Ray" Sanchez** (B.A. '93), columnist for *El Paso Inc.*, released a new book, *The Good, the Bad and the Funny of El Paso Sports History* in November. Sanchez's book chronicles sports highlights in El Paso dating back more than 100 years.

**Claudia V. Sandoval** (M.Acc. '97), senior vice president of corporate tax for Hunt ELP, Ltd. in El Paso, was named to the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger board of directors in January. El Pasoans Fighting Hunger is a nonprofit hunger relief organization that serves as a clearinghouse to solicit, store, inspect and repack surplus food for distribution in El Paso, Hudspeth and Culberson counties.

**Stephanie A. Schulte** (B.S.N. '99; M.S.N. '07), registered nurse at Sierra Medical Center in El Paso, was appointed to the Texas Crime Victims advisory board by Gov. Rick Perry in September. The Crime Victims' Institute was created in 1995 by the Texas Legislature to improve services, assist and inform victims of crimes and give them a voice.

**Diana M. Valdez** (B.A. '99) was named to the Homegrown El Paso board of directors in February. Homegrown El Paso is an organization that supports the efforts of El Paso's locally owned, independent businesses.

**Tracy J. Yellen** (M.P.A. '95), chief operating officer at the Catholic Diocese of El Paso, was named executive director of the Paso del Norte Foundation, a public charity organization, in August.

## 2000s

**Laura Aragon** (B.F.A. '03), contemporary jewelry artist of El Paso, was named to the 2014 board of directors of Las Artistas in February. Las Artistas is a nonprofit organization that promotes an appreciation for fine crafts and art within the El Paso area community.

**Jennifer Castaneda** (B.S.N. '01), of El Paso, was named director of emergency services at Las Palmas Medical Center in November.

**Frank A. Corral** (B.S.C.E. '01) was named a principal at the El Paso civil engineering firm CEA Group in September.

**Pamela De La O** (B.B.A. '00) joined the El Paso Chihuahuas Triple-A baseball team as a manager of finance and administration in October.

**Eunice J. Diaz** (B.B.A. '09) joined the accounting firm of White + Samaniego + Campbell in El Paso as an audit department senior assurance services team member in October.

**Gerald A. Espinoza** (B.B.A. '04; M.B.A. '12), of El Paso, joined Evolve Federal Credit Union as a compliance specialist in November.

**Patricia Fierro** (B.B.A. '02) was appointed chancellor of the Catholic Diocese of El Paso in January. Chancellor is the highest position a lay person can hold in the Catholic Church.

**Eugenia C. Gonzalez** (Ph.D. '08), assistant professor of occupational therapy at UTEP, was named Educator of the Year by the Texas Occupational Therapy Association at the association's annual conference in November.

**Jorge Grajeda** (B.S.C.E. '09) was named a principal at the engineering firm CEA Group in September.

**Estela A. Casas Hernandez** (B.A. '05), news anchor for El Paso news station KVIA Channel 7, was honored with the McDonald's *Hispanos Triunfadores* Arts and Entertainment Award in September at the 14th annual celebration in El Paso. The award honors individuals for their professionalism, community service and for being role models to youth.

**Aileen Kalt** (B.S.N. '07), of El Paso, was named director of women's surgical services at Las Palmas Medical Center in January.

**Eric J. Kappus** (M.S. '07), geology professor at El Paso Community College and dinosaur footprint discoverer, presented "A Luminous Window: Experiencing the Landscapes of Tom Lea" during the 7th annual Tom Lea Month in El Paso in October.



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FOR THE  
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SIGN UP  
TO BE A  
HOST  
IN YOUR  
CITY!

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EMAIL US AT [ALUMNI.UTEP.EDU](mailto:ALUMNI.UTEP.EDU),  
OR CALL 915-747-8600,  
TO SIGN UP



**Marguax Sarabia Lara** (B.A. '00) joined El Paso Physical Therapy Services as a director of business development in November.

**Criselda Lopez** (B.F.A. '05), contemporary jewelry maker of El Paso, was named to the 2014 board of directors of Las Artistas in February. Las Artistas is a nonprofit organization that promotes an appreciation for fine crafts and art within the El Paso area community.

**Hugo Madrid** (B.A. '02), of El Paso, joined the law firm of Pierce & Little, P.C. as a partner in February after working there since 2006.

**Jessica K. Margherio-Alvarez** (B.B.A. '02), vice president of commercial lending at United Bank of El Paso del Norte, joined the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce's 2014 Leadership El Paso program in December. The yearlong course focuses on grooming leaders who will help make contributions within the community.

**Pablo F. Martinez** (B.S. '05), M.D., joined University Medical Center of El Paso's Neighborhood Healthcare Center-Clint [Texas] in January.

**Edgar S. Montiel** (B.S.M.E. '01; M.B.A. '09), founder and contractor at Palo Verde Homes in El Paso, was installed as vice president of The El Paso Association of Builders in December.

**Rosalinda M. Natividad** (M.P.A. '08) was appointed director of commercialization at Texas Tech's Paul L. Foster School of Medicine in El Paso in December.

**Alba N. Nevarez** (B.S. '05), M.D., joined University Medical Center of El Paso's Neighborhood Healthcare Center-Fabens [Texas] in January.

**Japheth K. Ng'Ojoy** (B.S. '09), specialist in the U.S. Army and former UTEP All-American track and cross country runner, was selected in December to run at the 2014 World Military Marathon in the Netherlands as well as the 2014 USA Track and Field Cross Country Championships in Boulder, Colo.

**Francisco J. Ortega** (B.A. '03), an El Paso lawyer who specializes in commercial litigation, appeals, and labor and employment, was named a ScottHulse PC shareholder in January.

**Lee E. Rodriguez** (B.B.A. '02), of El Paso, was promoted to senior vice president of human resources at WestStar Bank in February.

**Lisa D. Saldana** (B.S. '08; M.B.A. '10), of El Paso, was named director of physician relations at Las Palmas Medical Center in December.

**Marcia C. Sonora** (B.A. '05) joined Hospice El Paso as a community relations representative in February.

**Elsa Y. Stoerner** (B.B.A. '02; M.B.A. '09), vice president of business lending at WestStar Bank in El Paso, was named to the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger board of directors in January. El Pasoans Fighting Hunger is a nonprofit hunger relief organization that serves as a clearinghouse to solicit, store, inspect and repack surplus food for distribution in El Paso, Hudspeth and Culberson counties.

**Eric Tarin** (B.B.A. '09) was promoted to director of business operations at Professional Document Services in January. Professional Document Services specializes in document management, scanning services and automated forms solutions, with offices in El Paso and Albuquerque.

**Denisse H. Villarreal-Reyes** (B.S.N. '07), cardiovascular intensive care nurse at University Medical Center of El Paso, achieved CCRN certification from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, or AACN, in January. The AACN is the largest specialty nursing organization in the world and is dedicated to providing its members with knowledge and resources necessary to provide optimal care to critically ill patients.

**2010s**

**Mara D. Arroyo** (B.B.A. '12), of El Paso, joined advertising and design consultants Lara & Company Creative as a bookkeeper and production assistant in January.

**Gerardo A. Benavente** (M.B.A. '12), CEO at development company Grupo Bermudez in Juárez, Mexico, was named to the Borderplex Alliance board of directors in January. The Borderplex Alliance is a regional economic development organization based in El Paso.

**Tello A. Cabrera-Madrid** (B.B.A. '12), of El Paso, was promoted to audit senior at the accounting firm of Schmid, Broaddus, Nugent & Gano PC in November.

**Nancy K. Escobar** (B.B.A. '12), of El Paso, joined the accounting firm of White + Samaniego + Campbell as an assurance services and audit team member in October.

**Richard G. Hunt** (B.B.A. '12), of El Paso, joined the tax department of the Schmid, Broaddus, Nugent & Gano PC accounting firm in November.

**Jennifer H. Matthews** (M.A. '11), licensed architect in Texas and New Mexico, became a principal at MNK Architects in January.

# IN MEMORIAM



Stephen N. Balog, Sr. (B.B.A. '71)  
Pecos, Texas; Aug. 23, 2013.

James F. "Fred" Murphy (B.A. '61)  
San Antonio; Sept. 7, 2013.

Lucille R. "Lucy" Garcy (B.A. '48) El  
Paso; Sept. 9, 2013.

Nannette A. Sheaffer (B.S.Ed. '69)  
San Antonio; Sept. 10, 2013.

Eldinda R. Gutierrez (B.B.A. '53) El  
Paso; Sept. 12, 2013.

Thomas J. Williams (B.A. '49; M.A.  
'50) San Francisco, Calif.; Sept. 15,  
2013.

Nora B. Dudley (B.S.Ed. '67) El  
Paso; Sept. 17, 2013.

Terry W.B. Johnson (B.A. '70). El  
Paso; Sept. 17, 2013.

William R. "Bill" Chesak (B.B.A.  
'51) San Antonio; Sept. 19, 2013.

Luis O. Parga (B.S. '77) El Paso;  
Sept. 21, 2013.

Vanessa Rosales-Mendez (B.I.S. '04)  
El Paso; Sept. 22, 2013.

Ricardo Pena (B.S. '61) El Paso;  
Sept. 23, 2013.

Richard A. Nielsen (B.B.A. '51)  
Santa Ana, Calif.; Sept. 25, 2013.

Nicholas De La Torre (M.Ed. '74) El  
Paso; Sept. 28, 2013.

Carlos A. Loweree (B.A. '50; M.A.  
'57) El Paso; Sept. 28, 2013.

Crispin Armendariz (B.B.A. '81) El  
Paso; Sept. 28, 2013.

Kenneth H. Rule (B.S. '68) Miami,  
Fla.; Oct. 1, 2013.

Leonard W. Howard (B.S. '55)  
Corpus Christi, Texas; Oct. 4, 2013.

Guy F. McNeal (B.B.A. '61) Odessa,  
Texas; Oct. 5, 2013.

Jesus M. Mena (B.A. '70) El Paso;  
Oct. 5, 2013.

Richard H. Caughey (B.S. '72)  
Bradenton, Fla.; Oct. 8, 2013.

Ignacio H. Aguirre (B.S.C.E. '56)  
Austin; Oct. 9, 2013.

John J. Moreland (M.S. '01) Dallas;  
Oct. 12, 2013.

Sandra C. Snell (B.B.A. '01; B.A. '08)  
Orlando, Fla.; Oct. 13, 2013.

David M. Lawrence (B.A. '62) Los  
Angeles, Calif.; Oct. 16, 2013.

Robert T. "Bob" Williamson (B.A.  
'65) Louisville; Ky.; Oct. 16, 2013.

Jose M. "Joe" Rizo (B.S.E.E. '73) El  
Paso; Oct. 18, 2013.

Joseph H. "Hoa" Van Dao (B.B.A.  
'75) Shelbyville, Ind.; Oct. 19, 2013.

John F. Peters (M.A. '74) El Paso;  
Oct. 28, 2013.

Manuel R. "Rey" Dutchover (B.A.  
'58) San Diego, Calif.; Oct. 29, 2013.

Conrad P. Ramirez (B.B.A. '48) El  
Paso; Oct. 29, 2013.

Mary White Peticolas (M.A. '58) El  
Paso; Nov. 4, 2013.

Mona R. Bearden Hudson (B.B.A.  
'51) Carrollton, Texas; Nov. 6, 2013.

Hugh F. Watson (B.S.Ed. '75) El  
Paso; Nov. 6, 2013.

Gabriele L. Elfriede Hamma (B.A.  
'01) El Paso; Nov. 8, 2013.

Joan Russell Hargrave (B.S.Ed. '67;  
M.Ed. '76) El Paso; Nov. 12, 2013.

Eric C. Sutton (B.A. '72) La Coste,  
Texas; Nov. 12, 2013.

Robert Robledo (B.A. '67) El Paso;  
Nov. 13, 2013

Donald H. Forrester (B.A. '72; M.S.  
'73) Albuquerque, N.M.; Nov. 14,  
2013.

Esperanza Frutos (B.I.S. '99) El  
Paso; Nov. 15, 2013.

Thomas A. Howard (B.M.S. '12)  
Alameda, Calif.; Nov. 18, 2013.

Consuelo "Connie" Gonzalez (B.B.A.  
'98; M.B.A. '09) El Paso; Nov. 20, 2013.

Philip A. Egger (B.B.A. '83; M.Acc. '00)  
El Paso; Nov. 22, 2013.

Nobuko T. Andersen (B.F.A. '81) El  
Paso; Nov. 29, 2013.

Phillip G. Martinez (B.S.Ed. '84) El  
Paso; Dec. 2, 2013.

Walter J. "Jim" Lane (B.B.A. '59)  
Kalispell, Mont.; Dec. 4, 2013.

Victor R. Lopez (B.B.A. '77) El Paso;  
Dec. 9, 2013.

Graciela "Gracie" Medina (B.B.A. '99;  
M.B.A. '04) El Paso; Dec. 11, 2013.

Lois X. Neuville (B.S.Ed. '69; M.Ed. '74)  
Helotes, Texas; Dec. 11, 2013.

Louis R. Hernandez (B.B.A. '49; M.A.  
'56) Tucson, Ariz; Dec. 12, 2013.

Ronald G. "Ronnie" Ward (B.B.A. '66)  
Iraan, Texas; Dec. 12, 2013.

Betty Morgan (B.A. '50) Newport  
Beach; Calif.; Dec. 13, 2013.

Morris S. Nelson (B.S.Mi. '57) Fort  
Worth, Texas; Dec. 13, 2013.

Ana M. de Navar (M.A. '64) El Paso;  
Dec. 14, 2013.

Vernon H. Warren (B.S.Mi. '42)  
Houston; Dec. 14, 2013.

Robert "Bobby" Taboada (B.S.Ed. '63;  
M.Ed. '70) El Paso; Dec. 17, 2013.

Alfred H. "Al" Anderson (B.M. '58) El  
Paso; Dec. 18, 2013.

William R. Pugh (B.A. '52) El Paso;  
Dec. 18, 2013.

William W. Ayer (B.S.Ed. '75; M.Ed.  
'79) Canutillo, Texas; Dec. 19, 2013.

Gladys Slater (B.S.Ed. '69) El Paso; Dec.  
20, 2013.

Julio Soria (B.S.Ed. '80) El Paso; Dec.  
22, 2013.

Raymond H. Gibbons (B.S.N. '74;  
M.Ed. '79; M.S.N. '83) El Paso; Dec.  
23, 2013.

Bryan F. Griffin (B.A. '75) Bethesda,  
Md.; Dec. 23, 2013.

Stephen A. Egger (B.A. '73) El Paso;  
Dec. 24, 2013.

Trueman P. "Pat" Wigim (B.B.A. '81) El  
Paso; Dec. 24, 2013.

Bashar H. Ashkar (B.S.C.E. '68)  
Houston; Dec. 26, 2013.

Doris Driscoll (B.A. '41) El Paso; Dec.  
27, 2013.

Jose N. Ordonez (B.S. '96) El Paso; Dec.  
27, 2013.

Maynard R. "Cookie" Cook (B.S.Ed.  
'69) Georgetown, Texas; Dec. 29, 2013.

Billy F. "Bill" Rea (B.B.A. '62) Odessa,  
Texas; Dec. 29, 2013.

Sidney J. Diamond (B.B.A. '63) El Paso;  
Jan 2, 2014.

Vernon Kennedy (B.S.Ed. '72) El Paso;  
Jan. 2, 2014.

Mitchell Abraham (B.B.A. '51) El Paso;  
Jan. 3, 2014.

Michael A. Lama (B.B.A. '81) El Paso;  
Jan. 4, 2014.

David E. Pineda (B.S. '76) El Paso; Jan.  
4, 2014.

Ernesto Hasegawa (B.B.A. '51) El Paso;  
Jan. 6, 2014.

Steven D. Tipps (B.S. '79) Fort Worth,  
Texas; Jan. 7, 2014.

Benjamin P. "Phil" Boswell (B.A. '64) El  
Paso; Jan. 8, 2014.

Eliu Enriquez (B.B.A. '72) Granbury,  
Texas; Jan. 8, 2014.

David "Bo" Richards (B.B.A. '53)  
Kettering, Ohio; Jan. 9, 2014.

John "Johnny" Estrada (B.A. '72) El  
Paso; Jan. 10, 2014.

Edward D. Lobdell, Jr. (M.B.A. '79) El  
Paso; Jan. 10, 2014.

Maze Qualls (B.S.Ed. '75) El Paso; Jan.  
10, 2014.

Roberto Ramirez (B.A. '67) El Paso; Jan.  
12, 2014.

Arnold Rivera (B.A. '56) El Paso; Jan.  
12, 2014.

Fernando A. "Ferni" Villalva (B.A. '69)  
El Paso; Jan. 13, 2014.

# Max Carlton Bolen, Ph.D.

By Nadia M. Whitehead

Always remembered for his friendly smile, Max C. Bolen, Ph.D., professor emeritus of physics, died Oct. 5, 2013, at the age of 94.

Born and raised on a farm in Indiana, Bolen was the first member of his family to attend college. He earned a B.S. in physics from Wabash College, an M.S. from Purdue University, and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University.

Texas Western College invited Bolen to help establish a physics department in 1965. He soon became close friends with TWC basketball coach Don Haskins, and the two would meet regularly to work out.

After serving as the chairman of physics for a number of years, Bolen — who was concerned about the level of high school science teaching — convinced the dean to create a position to help educate secondary teachers. He stepped into this role as coordinator of science education, leading training sessions for teachers in Texas. He co-wrote *Physical Science*, a high school textbook that was adopted across the United States.

His family describes him as not just a physics teacher, but as an educator of youth dedicated to expanding students' knowledge. He was recognized in 1992 with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching, one of the nation's highest honors for educators.

"Dad loved teaching kids," his son Ronald Bolen said. "I think that's what kept him young for so long. It was truly a calling for him."

In addition to his interest in education, Bolen worked as a TV weatherman in Illinois and Oklahoma and was a staunch supporter of Miner athletics. He was a regular attendee at El Paso's First Presbyterian Church, serving as an usher, elder and deacon and holding a weekly Bible study.

Bolen retired from UTEP in 1987. He is survived by his two sons, Roger and Ronald.



# Eleanor Duke, Ph.D.

By Daniel Perez

Professor emerita of biology Eleanor Lyon Duke, Ph.D., died Nov. 1, 2013. She was 95. Former students and colleagues praised her for her enthusiasm, her ability to make science theories understandable, and for stressing that the quest for knowledge is infinite.

The Texas College of Mines (now UTEP) hired Duke, a 1939 TCM graduate, in 1948. She taught biology and microbiology at the institution until she retired in 1985, but continued to volunteer with the University's Heritage Commission and the Library Special Collections Department. In all, the Marfa, Texas, native was with the school for 78 years. She earned her master's degree in science and her doctorate in microbiology from UT Austin.

Her accolades include serving as president of the Texas Association of College Teachers, being named The University of Texas at El Paso's Outstanding Ex in 1974 and the *El Paso Herald-Post's* "Woman of the Year in Science" in 1966, and being inducted into the El Paso Women's Hall of Fame.

She was married to Jack Duke for 62 years until his death in 2002. Survivors include her brother, William, and his wife, Verna; her sister-in-law Louise Duke Cross; three nieces, seven nephews and their families.

Ellen Smyth said her aunt was like a second mother to her and her siblings. She said Duke had a file cabinet at home filled with correspondence from grateful former students.

"She touched so many people," Smyth said.

Claudia Rivers, head of the UTEP library's Special Collections, said going out with Duke was like being with a celebrity because she was so recognizable.

"It seemed as if she must have taught half the doctors in El Paso," Rivers said.

# Joseph Benjamin Graves, J.D., M.P.A.

By Rachel Anna Neff, Ph.D.

Joseph Benjamin Graves, Jr., J.D., was a dedicated professor who taught criminal justice, political science and public administration for nearly 50 years of The University of Texas at El Paso's first century. Determined to keep working, Graves taught up until three days before his death on Feb. 7, 2014, at the age of 88.

Born in El Paso, Graves graduated from Austin High School. He started his university studies at the age of 16, but interrupted them to serve in the South Pacific with the U.S. Navy during World War II. He earned a bachelor's (1948) and law degree (1950) from Vanderbilt University, and an Master of Public Administration from Harvard (1955).

After holding a position in the U.S. Housing Department during the Eisenhower administration, Graves returned to El Paso in 1964 to become a faculty member at then-Texas Western College. He served as chair of political science and was instrumental in the creation and development of UTEP's criminal justice and Master of Public Administration programs.

Respected for his kindness and humanity, Graves permitted single parents to bring their children with them to class. One 6-year-old boy who studied the word lists Graves gave him became a lawyer himself.

"Dr. Graves was always here early, drinking coffee and sharing sweets. He loved talking and good company. He always had a funny story and a kind word," reflected Gregory Schmidt, Ph.D, current chair of UTEP's Department of Political Science.

According to one of his four daughters, Cierra Graves, her father loved UTEP, his students, and most of all, his family. She remembered her father's favorite food, red enchiladas, and how he would ask, "Where are we going for dinner?"

To honor Joseph Graves' commitment to his students and the University, the Department of Political Science has started the Joseph B. Graves scholarship fund. To make a donation, contact Gaspare M. Genna, Ph.D., at 915-747-6066 or [genna@utep.edu](mailto:genna@utep.edu).



## William G. Lucker, Ph.D.

By Lisa Y. Garibay

Retired professor of psychology William G. Lucker, Sr., Ph.D., died Nov. 22, 2013, at age 81.

"My uncle Bill loved the intellectual environment at UTEP. Even after he left, he continued to teach evening classes for the ongoing contact with students and faculty. He was a great advocate of higher education," said Lucker's nephew G. William Lucker, also a UTEP professor of psychology.

Lucker, Sr. was born in Tientsin, China in 1932 and was the great-grandson of El Paso pioneer Joseph Magoffin. He met his wife, Marie, while serving in the U.S. Army in Panama. They moved to El Paso, where Lucker entered the police force as an officer and detective before completing a Ph.D. program in psychology at Vanderbilt University. Lucker then became a tenured associate professor of psychology at UTEP, joining the University in 1967 and staying until 1991.

Lucker supervised Harmon Hosch, Ph.D., assistant director of UTEP's Center for Law and Human Behavior, during Hosch's postdoctoral internship. Around that time, Lucker decided to give up his position at UTEP to stay at La Tuna Federal Corrections Institute, where he worked as chief of psychology services. Hosch replaced Lucker as a faculty member in the Department of Psychology.

"He spent his life as a prison psychologist creating a humane yet secure environment for the inmates within the constraints of the U.S. penal system," Hosch said.

Adolfo Alvarez, lecturer in UTEP's Department of Psychology, was employed alongside Lucker at La Tuna. He, Hosch and Lucker worked to research connections between illegal immigration and crime, collecting important data that suggested different treatment within the U.S. criminal justice system for different types of inmates.

Alvarez recalls how much Lucker was respected by the La Tuna staff.

"Even though Dr. Lucker worked for many years at La Tuna and worked with hundreds and hundreds of inmates, he never lost his interest in motivating and helping inmates change their criminal lifestyles," Alvarez said.



## Cyril Parkanyi, Ph.D.

By Kristopher Rivera

Cyril Parkanyi, Ph.D., former chair of the Department of Chemistry at The University of Texas at El Paso, died April 26, 2013, at age 79.

Parkanyi earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Charles University, Prague, Czechoslovakia, and Ph.D. from the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague in 1962. After a postdoctoral fellowship at the California Institute of Technology and a brief return to Prague, he began his career at The University of Texas at El Paso.

After 19 years at UTEP, Parkanyi moved to Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. He was an active teacher, mentor, researcher and chairman of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

During the course of his scientific career, Parkanyi published more than 200 articles, primarily focusing on the chemistry of heterocyclic molecules. He was enthusiastic about attending conferences to share the results of his work, presenting hundreds of papers at regional, national and international meetings. He gave seminars at more than 200 universities around the world.

“He also loved to travel, and because of his knowledge of 10 languages and his cooperation with scientists around the world, he did a lot traveling,” his wife, Marie Parkanyi, said.

“(Cyril) could always be relied on to provide the neophyte traveler with details of the most appropriate restaurant, including suggested dishes, hotels, galleries and music venues of almost any places most of us would wish to visit,” said Keith Pannell, Ph.D., UTEP chemistry professor, colleague and friend of Parkanyi.

“Cyril considered the 19 years we spent in El Paso and at UTEP to be the best time of our life,” Marie Parkanyi said. She added that while living in El Paso, her husband enjoyed weekend hiking trips and eating authentic Mexican food.

He is survived by his wife and son, Michael.

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## Yolanda Rodriguez Ingle, Ph.D.

By Kristopher Rivera

A former UTEP assistant vice president in the Office of Alumni Relations and a 1968 graduate of The University of Texas at El Paso, Yolanda Rodriguez Ingle, Ph.D., died on Jan. 17, 2014. She was 68.

The El Paso native grew up in the Lower Valley in a home with adobe walls and floors made from railroad ties, but went on to college and earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

“She worked her way out of there, through education, to where she got in her life,” said Ingle's son, Stephen Ingle, reflecting on his mother's humble upbringing. “Her biggest treat was tortillas and butter; that was it.”

Stephen Ingle remembers his mother's tireless energy and the family environment she created at The University of Texas at El Paso, where she worked from 1995 to 2005. It was at UTEP where she met her husband, Henry T. Ingle, Ph.D., who was a professor of communication at the time.

“She liked to work, whether it was working on her studies to get her Ph.D. or at the University,” Stephen Ingle said. “She just was really engaged and she put a lot of time and effort into moving herself forward.”

Ingle is survived by her husband, son and daughter, Lisa Ingle.

“She demanded a lot and expected a lot of you as an employee, but she also was very good about listening and promoting you; higher education was her passion,” said Margie Brickey, coordinator of chapter development for the UTEP Office of Alumni Relations. “She would always give her time, her advice and was always ready with that hug or that laugh or that push if you needed it.”

The Yolanda Rodriguez Ingle Scholarship Fund has been created at UTEP to honor her memory. Donations may be sent to the UTEP Office of Institutional Advancement at [givingto.utep.edu](http://givingto.utep.edu). 



# MINERS AROUND THE WORLD



The University of Texas at El Paso asked Facebook fans to submit photos of themselves wearing UTEP gear during their travels around the world. Here are some of the photos submitted.



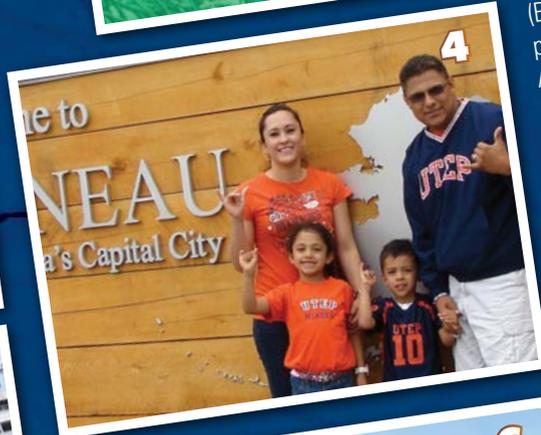
**1)** David A. Roberson, Ph.D., (B.S. MME, 1999; M.S. MME, 2001; Ph.D. MASE, 2012) his wife, Adriana (B.A. Creative Writing, 2000; B.A. History, 2001), and their son, Austin, visit the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the Big Island of Hawaii.



**2)** Joseph Kevin Chemali (B.B.A. CIS, 1998) makes a UTEP pickaxe sign with his hand while enjoying the treasures under the sea in Paradise Island, Bahamas.



**3)** Olsa Alikaj-Cano (B.A., 2001) and her husband, Omar Cano (B.S.M.E., 2001), display UTEP pride at Skanderbeg Square in Tirana, Albania - Olsa's homeland.



**4)** Vanessa Barreda Ramirez (B.B.A. Economics, 2000; M.B.A., 2004), former UTEP Golddiggers captain, and Guillermo "Gil" Ramirez (B.I.S., 2002; M.Ed., 2007) former UTEP Cheerleader captain, along with their two children show their Miner Pride in Juneau, Alaska.



**5)** Maria Susan Lopez-Montanez, (B.S.N., 2005) and husband Steve Montanez are proudly decked out in UTEP gear in Nassau, Bahamas.



**6)** Zac Hildenbrand, Ph.D., (B.S. Biological Sciences, 2007; Ph.D., Chemistry, 2010) shot 1 under par with his lucky UTEP golf bag at his side at the Ocean Club in Paradise Island, Bahamas. He played with the UTEP Men's Golf team from 2003-07. His wife, Gaby, (B.S.N. 2009) was behind the camera here! 📷

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



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# CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF UTEP



# HOMECOMING | 2014

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Join us in celebrating our rich history, heritage and tradition as we look forward to our bright future.

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