The wait for a new president was over in March 1980 with the announcement that Haskell M. Monroe, Jr., dean of faculties and associate vice president for academic affairs at Texas A&M, would succeed Dr. Templeton in the summer.

Other good news related to gifts to the university. The Samuel Goldwyn Foundation of Los Angeles established a substantial graduate fellowship in memory of George A. Krutilek, a 1935 graduate who had been a star athlete and a respected El Paso businessman. The 1979 Excellence Fund campaign, under Lloyd Stevens' chairmanship, had reached an all-time high of $877,191. The campaign for 1980 was being called "Templeton Tribute Year" with a goal of $100,000 in order to establish a professorship honoring the retiring president.

In his first day on the job, July 14, 1980, Dr. Monroe made an informal speech to faculty, staff, and students in which he said a new library was his top priority. He also wanted to begin a long-range growth plan, attract talented students to the university, and strengthen the Continuing Education offerings.

Earlier in the year, the university had achieved impressive cuts in the use of electricity and heating/cooling, saving substantially in utility bills. But the eighties were to bring a period of continuing financial crises. The depression in the oil industry dealt a lingering blow to the state's income, and the economic crisis in Mexico affected UTEP more than other schools because of the large numbers of students who commuted daily to the campus from Juarez. Their numbers decreased alarmingly. With a tuition increase in 1985 came an eight percent decrease in enrollment and a thirty-two percent decrease in Mexican students. Throughout this period threats of drastic budget cuts were common each biennium, hiring freezes were effected from time to time, and the number of state employees was reduced. By the mid-eighties, Texas' financial woes were affecting faculty salaries adversely.
and UTEP was one of many institutions losing valued people to other states.

In 1981, early in this financial crunch, Dr. Monroe was interested in attracting more highly qualified students to the campus. He wanted to get rid of a local impression that high school valedictorians should go to school away from home. He started the Presidential Scholarship program, bringing in special gifts to establish scholarships for the brightest students available from the New Mexico-West Texas region. He also encouraged donors to establish professorships and chairs, with some matching funds made available through the UT System’s Eminent Scholars Program. By mid-1987, under that program the university had established the Charles R. and Dorothy S. Carter Chair in Business Administration, the Richard M. Dudley and Frances M. Dudley Memorial Professorship, the El Paso Community Professorship in Accounting, the Betty M. MacGuire Professorship in Business Administration, the John T. MacGuire Professorship in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, the Ellis and Susan Mayfield Professorship in Business Administration, and four chairs in engineering under the Mr. and Mrs. MacIntosh Murchison gifts.

Through a new program initiated in cooperation with local public and nonpublic schools, gifted children were offered opportunities on the campus in the early eighties. The Young People’s University provided Saturday instruction by faculty members in a variety of subjects for children in grades one through six. The Junior Scholars program was for high school students who were allowed time to take university courses as part of their school day, earning regular credits. For those unable to arrange such work during the school year, the Summer Institute was operated in 1982 and 1983 as a residential program for those who had completed grades seven through twelve. As the various school districts improved their own offerings

VPAA Joseph D. Olander in 1980 initiated awards for academic excellence for faculty members from the six colleges. The first recipients were, from left: David Stephens, Business; Dorothy Corona, Nursing; Richard Henderson, Music; Braja Das, Civil Engineering; John Poteet, Health and Physical Education; Billie Etheridge, English; John Arnold, Art; and Clarence Cooper, Physics.

Timothy P. Roth, at right, chairman of the Department of Economics and Finance, in 1984 became the first person to hold the Arleigh B. Templeton Professorship in Financial Management and Banking. In recent years he has been invited to Washington twice, first to serve as senior economist for the United States Congress Joint Economic Committee and as research director for its Special Study on Economic Change, and later as executive director of President Ronald Reagan’s Steel Advisory Committee and as senior economic advisor in the office of the secretary of commerce.
for gifted students, the special programs at the university were phased out, but they succeeded in encouraging quite a few outstanding students to enroll at UTEP, several as Presidential Scholars.

Dr. Diana Natalicio, who had been acting dean since September, became dean of the College of Liberal Arts in April. She had formerly headed the Department of Modern Languages.

The regents in May 1980 added “and Allied Health Sciences” to the name of the College of Nursing, reflecting its wider scope of courses, and authorized the administration to negotiate with the City of El Paso to purchase the ninety-six-acre Charlie Davis Park, an undeveloped area of rocky hills immediately northeast of the Sun Bowl. This became the site for the annual Mini-Baja races and also of the new Physical Plant facilities completed in early 1988.

A new tradition started by Dr. Monroe in fall of 1980 was the holding of fall and spring convocations. For the first one, he invited Governor William Clements to speak. The Heritage Commission arranged for the creation of a set of banners for each of the colleges, the Graduate School, and the university; a ceremonial mace; and chains of office for the president and the vice president for academic affairs. They were introduced at the spring Honors Convocation. This event continues to be an important part of university life, when students are recognized for honors they have received, faculty and staff members are presented special awards, and professors emeriti are announced.

Computergarten, a technique for teaching pre-school children some computer basics, was developed in 1984 by Dr. Trisha Adkins Ainsa with children attending the College of Education kindergarten. Children learned the keyboard from a giant-sized reproduction of it they used as a gameboard on the floor, then operated the computer itself. The instructional program was published by Scholastic, Inc.

Sally Bishop (Art) and Albert Ronke (Drama) were involved in the design of the banners for the university and its six colleges. They unveiled them at this ceremony in the Centennial Museum in early 1981. The banners were first used at the Four Centuries ’81 Convocation. They are permanently displayed in the library.
In December 1981, after approval by the Board of Regents, the Union was allowed to sell beer and wine. This had been an issue several years earlier, when Dr. Templeton had turned down a student request, but the change came about very quietly and the Union did not, as some had feared, take on a barroom atmosphere.

Results of the Excellence Fund campaign for 1981 were amazing. Gifts surpassed two million dollars, doubling the previous record high of the year before.

In June 1982 the Texas Rehabilitation Commission recognized UTEP for improving facilities and services for the disabled.

The College of Business Administration in 1980 started the Center for Executive Development, which in 1983 changed its name to the Center for Professional Development. Continuing education courses are offered either in the center, located on the first floor of the college's building, or can be taken to those businesses and industries requesting them. Some special courses have been scheduled in Mexico.

By May of 1983 the Institute of Oral History had a catalog listing six hundred interviews. Looking toward the seventy-fifth anniversary, the institute began a concerted effort to increase the number of interviews with people associated with UTEP's history.

The College of Business Administration in the early 1980s eliminated typewriting laboratories, replacing them with keyboarding labs equipped with state-of-the-art computers. Computer information courses are required for some majors and encouraged for all in the college.

The College of Education in June 1983 opened a new service for the community, the Autism Resource Center. That college also became the center for a four-state Bilingual Education Training and Technical Assistance Network operated under a three-year contract with the United States Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs.

In November 1984, Texas voters approved a constitutional amendment that created a new fund for financing construction for twenty-six state institutions outside the UT and Texas A&M Systems and restructured the Permanent University Fund so that its proceeds are available to those two systems for construction, instructional equipment, and library equipment.

In 1984 students pursuing degrees in education were required under a new state law to pass basic skills examinations before being admitted to professional courses. Teachers already on the job also came under a similar testing mandate. By 1988 the state was looking toward required testing of graduate high school seniors and entering college freshmen.

The names of two buildings were changed by the Board of Regents in October 1984, honoring two men who had devoted many years to the athletic programs of the university. The Athletic Training Facility became the...
James C. Parker, left, director of Continuing Education, discussed that department’s programs for the community with philosophy professor John Haddox in 1981. At that time Dr. Haddox had been teaching CE courses (in addition to his regular course work) for seven years.

Debbie Michel, teacher education student, gained experience in a public school classroom in Sunland Park, New Mexico, as she taught fifth graders to identify rocks found near the school. The teacher supervising her work was a UTEP graduate, Patty Hudgens.
Ross Moore Building, honoring the longtime trainer and coach who had been recognized as Outstanding Ex, and the Research and Development Building, housing the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, became the Brumbelow Building, named for the former coach and department director. Also at that time approval was given to name a room in the library's Special Collections for Carl Hertzog, founder of Texas Western Press.

The Women's Center opened as a new service in the fall of 1984. At that time forty-eight percent of the 15,327 students were women, and more than one-third of those women were older than twenty-five.

The Regents came to El Paso in December 1984 for the celebration of the opening of the new library, which had been Dr. Monroe's first goal upon assuming the presidency four years earlier.

The National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, Inc., reported that for the year 1983-84, UTEP led the nation in schools producing Hispanic engineers, with eighty-four degree recipients; UT Austin had sixty-seven and New Mexico State, fifty-four. UTEP has headed that list several times in recent years and continues to offer special summer programs to encourage minority high school students to consider pursuing engineering degrees.

A new statement of purpose was drawn up in 1985, declaring the mission of The University of Texas at El Paso to be:

1. To provide a wide range of baccalaureate, graduate, continuing education, and professional development opportunities for the citizens of the West Texas region, the nation, and the international community;
2. to promote significant faculty creativity, discovery, and publication through research programs and artistic presentations; and
3. to meet its service obligations, both regionally and beyond, by involvement in such areas as culture, economics, health, sociopolitics, and technology.

For the Fall Commencement of 1985, Dr. Monroe reviewed his five years in the presidency. He noted as improvements the new library, faculty members attracted through recruiting efforts and by newly funded professorships, more excellent students, more endowed scholarships, more women and Hispanics in key positions, closer links between campus and community, supportive alumni, new research equipment, awards for faculty and staff, recognition of retired faculty members, advisory committees, and better leadership across the campus. He was concerned about declining enrollment, and expressed
hope for more doctoral programs for the future. Cited as
priorities were new facilities for Physical Plant, renova-
tion of the old library for other uses, and designation of a
building for research.

An asset for research was a substantial grant toward
the purchase of an electron microscope for Geological
Sciences under the National Science Foundation program
of Research Improvement in Minority Institutions.
Another major grant of $300,000 was made to the College
of Science for materials science research under the Texas
Advanced Technology Research Program. During a
campus visit in November, UT System Chancellor Hans
Mark encouraged UTEP to capitalize on two plus factors:
proximity to Mexico and other Latin American countries
and a strong heritage in metallurgy, geology, and
materials sciences.

The UTEP football team was invited to Melbourne to
play against Wyoming on December 7, 1985, in the first
Australian Bowl. The Miners, several years into losing
seasons, lost this one by only two points—23-21—but
their coach since 1982, Bill Yung, had already been re-
leased. He was able, however, to lay some groundwork
for his successor, Bob Stull, who in 1987 took the team
through its first winning season since 1970.

A memorandum of agreement was approved by the
regents in December 1985 for the Center for Research on
the Northern Border of Mexico, involving UTEP in scien-
tific, engineering, and humanities research with the
Autonomous University of Ciudad Juarez and the Na-
tional Institute of Investigations of Biotic Resources in
Mexico. In 1987 agreements were signed with the
Institute of Technology and Higher Education of
Monterrey and the Institute of Technology in Chihuahua
for similar cooperative research efforts. An International
Guide to Research on Mexico, published in 1986, showed
UTEP as the leader among United States universities
engaged in such projects, with thirty-one; next came the
University of California at San Diego with thirty, followed
by UCLA with twenty-five.

The track team was placed on probation by the
National Collegiate Athletic Association in 1986 after an
investigation in which the university cooperated. One
1983 men’s cross-country championship was forfeited as
a result.

The Board of Regents in October approved the Insti-
tute for Advanced Manufacturing and a program in-
volving UTEP with Malaysia. The institute was planned
to use the resources of the Colleges of Business
Administration, Engineering, and Science, as well as
departments of other colleges, in serving the El
Paso-Juarez area. Activities will include basic and applied
research, development and problem solving, applications
of computer technology, technology transfer, and engi-
eering and business services. Initial funding is to come
from public and private sources with some requested from
the state. Contracts and grants for specific projects are to
provide operating funds, with the institute expected to
operate eventually without state support. By November

_Filberto Gomez, left, and Geology Professor Jerry Hoffer collected samples of ash from El Chichonal volcano at Pinchucalco, fifteen miles away, in the spring of 1982. The destructive volcano in Mexico had erupted seven times over a short period by the time the UTEP team arrived to study its effects._
the institute had an office in Administration Building 320.

The Malaysian project was under an agreement with the Texas International Educational Consortium. Faculty and staff from UTEP, UT Arlington, and UT Austin provide college courses and services to Malaysian students at the Institut Teknologi MARA (ITM) Sah Alam Center in Kuala Lumpur. Under the joint venture, the first two years of course work leading to baccalaureate degrees are provided to students at the center in Kuala Lumpur, then the students come to the Texas universities to complete their work. Faculty members from several UTEP departments have spent several months on teaching assignments in Malaysia.

An important appointment made by Governor William Clements in 1987 was that of Hal Daugherty of El Paso to serve as chairman of the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System. He had served once before on the board, as had another El Pasoan, Sam Young, Jr. This eighteen-member board appoints the commissioner of higher education and, according to the 1965 law which created it, "shall represent the highest authority in the state in matters of public education." This board's approval is required in order to establish a new institution, add a school or college to an existing institution, add new degree programs, or make substantial changes in course offerings. Approval by the UT System Board of Regents is a preliminary step in such matters as new degrees, with the additional approval of the Coordinating Board required before such a program may be implemented.

Dr. Monroe on May 2, 1987, was named chancellor of the University of Missouri-Columbia, a position equivalent to president in the UT System. Upon his departure at the end of June, Dr. Diana Natalicio, vice president for academic affairs since 1984, became interim president. After a lengthy search process, she was chosen by the Board of Regents to head the university, effective February 11, 1988. She became both the first woman president and the first former faculty member who had risen through the ranks to the top administrative post.

Dr. Natalicio is a graduate of St. Louis University with graduate degrees from UT Austin. She was a Fulbright scholar in Brazil, a visiting scholar in Lisbon, and a research associate at UT Austin before joining the UT El Paso faculty in 1971.

She is committed to bringing the university and the community closer, encourages faculty members to seek contracts and grants, and wants to further growth in research and graduate degree opportunities.

One of her early priorities was a proper celebration of the Diamond Jubilee, marking the seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishing and opening of the School of Mines. For the Honors Convocation on April 13, 1988, the guest speaker was Lieutenant Governor William P. Hobby. He recalled that the enabling legislation in 1913 had established the school in order to develop the mineral wealth and state school lands, and the state had provided fifteen thousand dollars toward that goal. "If ever the people of Texas got a bargain, that was it," he observed. Graduates of this school, he noted, had helped develop the lands that brought into being the Permanent University Fund, from which funds are derived for buildings on various campuses. "We will recover from our economic hardship," he added, "only if our students are educated to compete in the world marketplace." He expressed the hope that in another seventy-five years, Texans will continue to reap the benefits of the founding of this university.

Other events marking the anniversary of the legislation creating the school included the dedication of a new section of the Wall of Honor in the library honoring faculty and staff who have made significant contributions to the history and advancement of the university.

Dr. Natalicio also authorized U.T. El Paso: 2001,
appointing a group headed by Robert Heasley to develop a set of goals and recommendations for UTEP thirteen years hence, an undertaking similar to Mission ’73 at the time of the golden anniversary. She described this as a cooperative effort involving the university’s internal strategic planning committee and others representing the community. The group is to submit a report in 1990.

Doctoral programs currently being developed are in psychology, engineering (emphasis on computer systems as applied to manufacturing), and materials science (involving physics, chemistry, metallurgy, and geology).

Dr. Natalicio feels that “we have made some great strides even in times of difficult budgetary constraints. In recent times, we have acquired more equipment for our research laboratories and teaching programs than ever before in our history, thanks to the availability to us of money from the Permanent University Fund; we have also recruited some outstanding faculty and professional staff.” A teaching and research facility for Geological Sciences is being planned for the old library.

“We have a long and distinguished tradition,” says the president, “and it is one in which we can take great pride during our Diamond Jubilee. We can also celebrate the present—tell people who we are and what we are doing—but we also have the opportunity to look to the future and think of future directions for UTEP. I hope that our alumni will become more aware of what we are now, what we are doing and what we hope to become. And I hope they will talk proudly about us because they are our best proof that we are a university of quality.”

The 1980 Federal Census showed El Paso as the twenty-eighth most populous city, just ahead of Pittsburgh and Atlanta. The population growth had been from 322,000 in 1970 to 425,000 in 1980. By 1984, El Paso had moved to twenty-sixth largest with a count of 463,809.

The City of El Paso Department of Planning, Research, and Development has made population projections of 525,000 to 535,000 for 1990, 630,000 to 645,000 for 2000, and 745,000 to 760,000 for 2010. With about eighty percent of the students in UTEP coming from the El Paso area, the growth of the city is expected to bring corresponding growth to the university.
Alumni

By December of 1923 the College of Mines could count forty-two graduates. That was enough to organize an Alumni Association. A member of the first class, Lloyd A. "Speedy" Nelson, who had joined the faculty in 1920, became the first alumni president.

By years, as listed in the 1927 Flow Sheet, those graduates were:

1916—Clyde Ney, Vere Leasure, Lloyd A. Nelson.
1918—Mann Prettyman.
1919—John Weldon Wilson.
1920—John Frederick Schaffer, Rolin B. Tipton, Walton H. Sarrels, Fred Whiston Bailey, Oscar Rheinheimer.

The purpose of the new alumni organization was described in the Prospector of December 15, 1923 as "to boost the College of Mines, to work for the best football team in the southwest, and to look after employment for students in school and for graduates and to work for a student body of 200 next year."

Serving with Nelson as officers were John Schaffer, secretary, and Fred L. Fox, treasurer. One did not have to be a graduate to join the association—a provision still true in 1988.

The alumni group received little public attention for several years until Dean John W. "Cap" Kidd entered the picture. He wrote to all the alumni he could locate to invite them to an ex-students' banquet on November 9, 1929, the date of the football game against traditional rivals, the New Mexico A&M Aggies. The Miners won by 8-0. Although the term was not used in the publicity at the time, the event marked the school's first homecoming. While a new alumni organization did not materialize as a result of the dinner, a new fund to support the athletics program did—some $545.

The first Outstanding Ex-Student, recognized in 1950, was S. L. A. Marshall, who was a brigadier general in the United States Army and an internationally renowned military historian. His books and papers became the foundation for the S. L. A. Marshall Military History Collection on the sixth floor of the University Library.
The "second annual homecoming" was held in November 1930, with another former student and faculty member, Eugene M. Thomas, announcing that all graduates were eligible to join the alumni group.

A reorganization was undertaken in 1932 when an election by mail resulted in the naming of R. E. Gilbert as president. After a period of limited activity, the association returned to the limelight in 1936. The impetus was the news from President Dossie M. Wiggins that the college would share in the bequest of millionaire Will C. Hogg. Part of his fortune was designated for Will C. Hogg Ex-Student Memorial Loan Funds in the state's public colleges and universities. The College of Mines was due $25,000 and Dr. Wiggins wanted alumni to help administer the fund.

The Prospector (November 7, 1936) reported that the November 14 Homecoming would see the formation of an active alumni association, with "secretaries from every graduating class to serve as contacts between the school and the alumni." Lloyd A. Nelson was again in charge. The possibility of an alumni magazine was aired.

The homecoming meeting drew four hundred exes to a barbecue on the tennis courts. They elected Brooks Travis, Class of '34, as president, and Joseph Friedkin as vice president, both later to be named Outstanding Ex-Student. Mrs. Isabel Abdou Joseph was secretary.

Interest in the organization picked up and was sustained until the war years. The election of Henry S. Bagley as president on November 22, 1941, was to be the last one for six years.

During the period from 1941 to 1947, George Krutilek, as secretary-treasurer of the association, compiled a mailing list of exes and sent them copies of the Prospector, which carried his column of alumni news.

The postwar rebirth of the association started with the election in 1947 of Thad A. Steele as president. A former football star, he also was destined for the Outstanding Ex honor. During his second term at the helm, alumni became involved in the movement to change the name from College of Mines to Texas Western.

Fred Bailey, a 1920 graduate, had a colorful career as a mining engineer before being named Outstanding Ex in 1960. He retired in El Paso and became a regular at Homecoming each year.

Among the early Outstanding Exes was Berte R. Haigh, a 1925 graduate who returned to teach geology for several years. He became geologist-in-charge of The University of Texas System's University Lands whose oil income made possible the Permanent University Fund. Its proceeds are used to construct buildings. He was honored in 1955.

Hector Holguin, 1958 Civil Engineering graduate and founder of an El Paso-based engineering firm that ranks among the top 500 Hispanic-owned businesses in the nation, was honored as the 1982 Outstanding Ex-Student.

B. Marshall Willis, a 1942 graduate of the College of Mines, was named Outstanding Ex in 1967. He was an executive with an El Paso industry.
David O. Leeser, a 1943 graduate who became an industrial executive, was honored as the 1969 Outstanding Ex. He was chief scientist, materials, for Chrysler Corporation’s Amplex Division in Detroit. Two United States government agencies honored him for his contributions to the development of special materials for the atomic bomb at the close of World War II.

Dr. Raymond Gardea, named Outstanding Ex-Student in 1971, was congratulated by his former teacher, Eleanor Duke, also an Outstanding Ex and now professor emerita. Dr. Gardea, who relied on the GI Bill for his higher education, began the practice of medicine in El Paso in 1956 after completing his M.D. at UT Medical School in Galveston.

Rudy Tellez was producer of the Johnny Carson “Tonight” Show on NBC-TV at the time he was named Outstanding Ex in 1970. Shown here with Carson, he had joined the show’s staff in 1966 and became producer in 1967.

The Ex-Students’ Association minutes of May 1, 1960 record a momentous decision: distinguished alumni would be honored with “Outstanding Ex-Student” awards. The first recipient was a distinguished general who had become one of America’s foremost military historians, S. L. A. Marshall.

During the period just after the war, Betty Ann Thedford of the college staff began compiling addresses of former students. (She later would spend many years as secretary to The University of Texas System Board of Regents in Austin.) By 1948, the duties of helping the alumni group became great enough to appoint Mrs. Jean Looze as executive secretary. The position was changed to part-time in the mid-1950s and by 1959 the Ex-Students office was merged with that of News and Information.

The first branch chapter was organized in 1951 at Midland, Texas. In later years, other chapters were formed in Dallas, Albuquerque, Los Angeles, and other communities where Miners wanted to maintain school ties. Out of these groups developed scholarships, get-togethers to celebrate Miner football or basketball appearances in their areas, and student recruiting activities.

News of alumni activities has been publicized in several forms over the years. In 1949-50 the TWX News was a small newspaper, succeeded in 1951 by a small magazine, the Nugget, in which two pages of the Prospector were reproduced. In the late fifties the magazine was reduced in size, then was succeeded in 1965 by NOVA. The name the Nugget in recent years has been used for the newsletter of the University Women’s Club.

Homecoming has been growing steadily in recent years. There have been many changes since that first Homecoming game in 1929. A history of Homecoming in the Fall 1967 issue of NOVA determined that Mickey McGhee Goodwin, then living in Tempe, Arizona, might be considered an early queen of that event, having won a city-wide popularity contest in 1932 as representative of the College of Mines and some years later having been invited to ride in the lead car of a Homecoming parade as “the first Homecoming Queen.” She was one of few women accorded the honor of initiation into the Order of St. Pat back in 1926-27.
The football team in 1937 elected Johnell Crimen as their queen, a title that later became identified with Homecoming. A bonfire was held the night before the game, and students snake-danced from Cleveland Square, behind the El Paso Public Library, to the campus. On Saturday, events included a barbecue on the tennis courts at noon, followed by an afternoon game which the Miners lost to Temple State Teachers College. Attendance for that Homecoming was about 4,500, with the game topped off by a dance in Holliday Hall to music by the Parmelee-Parks Orchestra.

Other past queens named in the NOVA article were Ann Burchell, 1942; Rita Russell, 1947; Frances Holmsley, 1948; Betsy Holik, 1949; Iris Ashton, 1950; Libby Holmsley, 1951; Hilma Gregerson, 1952; Jackie Perkins, 1953; Jackie Cryster, 1954; Frieda Howey, 1955; Beth Merrill, 1956; Barbara Burks, 1957; Ruthie Kaplan, 1958; Kay Young, 1959; Sharon Street, 1960; Marilyn Geyer, 1961; Peggy Wright, 1962; Sharon Criswell, 1963; Donna Cartwright, 1964; Judy Smith, 1965; and Mary Roen, 1966.

More recently, elections have been held for both queen and king of Homecoming. They ride in the traditional parade and are introduced at halftime of the football game.

For several years, especially during the fifties and sixties, Homecoming parades were routed through downtown El Paso. Organizations competed for honors in producing floats centered on the theme of that year’s celebration. More recently the parades have wound through the campus, still featuring colorful floats, the Miner Band, the Golddiggers, and special celebrities riding in decorated cars. Among them are the Alumni Association president, the Homecoming court, and alumni representing past honored classes.

Dr. Gordon L. Black, an El Paso radiologist, became the Outstanding Ex in 1972. He was a 1940 graduate of Texas Mines.

State Senator Wallace E. “Pete” Snelson, the 1973 Outstanding Ex-Student, was speaker for the December 19, 1982, commencement in the Special Events Center. He is also a former faculty member.

Ross Moore, a 1939 graduate, was named Outstanding Ex in 1975. He was associated with the university for forty-one years as student, coach, teacher, and trainer. In 1985 the athletics training facility was dedicated as the Ross Moore Building.

Sam Donaldson, the 1976 Outstanding Ex, was pictured interviewing Jimmy Carter following his acceptance speech for the presidential nomination. Donaldson, Capitol Hill correspondent for ABC-TV, predicted that a Carter presidency would be either “highly successful or a disaster.”
Don Henderson, prominent El Paso businessman and former mayor, was honored as Outstanding Ex-Student in 1980. With him at a pep rally on campus is Homecoming Queen Elizabeth Caples.

Hazel Cooper Haynsworth, the 1979 Outstanding Ex, was co-founder with her brothers, Professor Clarence Cooper and Herbert Cooper of El Paso, of a winery in 1977. At La Vina Winery north of El Paso, wine is aged in oak barrels.

Presidents of the Alumni Association

1923-24 Lloyd A. Nelson
1924-25 Ray Gilbert
1925-26 Brooks Travis
1926-27 Paul Lance
1927-28 Marvin Adkins
1928-29 Henry S. Bagley
1929-30 Thad A. Steele
1930-31 Robert Compton
1931-32 Pollard Rodgers
1932-33 Jack Chapman
1933-34 Joseph Parrish
1934-35 Marshall Willis
1935-36 Robert Lait
1936-37 James DeGroat
1937-38 C. W. Leverett
1938-39 William Collins
1939-40 James E. Hammond
1940-41 James J. Kaster, Jr.
1941-42 George Kistenmacher
1942-43 James M. Scott
1943-44 Donald Henderson
1944-45 Robert Heasley
1945-46 Dan Hovious
1946-47 Hughes Butterworth, Jr.
1947-48 Robert M. Cave
1948-49 John W. Donohue
1949-50 James L. Brennand
1950-51 David W. Tappan
1951-52 W. Cole Holderman
1952-53 Sanford C. Cox, Jr.
1953-54 Dr. Roger Ortiz
1954-55 Donald S. Leslie
1955-56 Dr. Rene M. Rosas
1956-57 Michael Wieland
1957-58 Walt Hyatt
1958-59 Ron McDaniel
1959-60 Mary Margaret Davis
1960-61 Richard Pearson
1961-62 John T. Kelley
1962-63 Horace Chavez
1963-64 Hugo Bustamante, Jr.
1964-65 Miguel Solis
1965-66 Lloyd V. Stevens
1966-67 Steve DeGroat
1967-68 George W. Butterworth
1968-69 Patrick B. Wieland
Outstanding Ex-Students

1951—John Payne, Jr. (1931), mining engineer.
1952—Dr. Thomas Clements (1922), consulting geologist.
1953—John K. Hardy (1923), mining engineer.
1956—Lloyd A. Nelson (1916), geology faculty member 43 years.
1957—Mary Vance Guinn (1937), attorney.
1958—Charles Steen (1943), mining engineer.
1960—Fred W. Bailey (1920), mining engineer.
1961—Salvador F. Trevino (1941), mining engineer.
1964—Eugene M. Thomas (1926), dean of engineering.
1965—H. Brooks Travis (1935), insurance executive.
1968—Thad A. Steele (1933), industrial executive.
1971—Dr. Raymond A. Gardea (1951), physician.
1972—Dr. Gordon L. Black (1940), radiologist.
1974—Dr. Eleanor Duke (1939), professor of biological sciences.
1975—Ross Moore (1939), head athletic trainer.
1976—Sam Donaldson (1955), TV network news correspondent.
1978—Dr. Vernie A. Stembridge (1943), pathologist, educator.
1979—Hazel Cooper Haynsworth (1945), business executive, civic leader.
1984—Abraham Chavez (1951), symphony orchestra conductor, professor of music.
1986—Ellis O. Mayfield (attended 1933-36), attorney.
1987—Dr. Dan Foster (1951), physician, medical school professor.

Paul Carlton, the 1981 Outstanding Ex-Student, enjoyed playing tennis for relaxation. A track star in College of Mines days, he was a partner in an El Paso accounting firm.

Ellis O. Mayfield, an El Paso attorney, was honored as Outstanding Ex-Student in 1986. He entered the College of Mines in 1933 and completed his law degree at Austin.
Mary Kelly Quinn took part in ceremonies during the 1981 Homecoming observance when one of the first buildings on the campus, named Chemistry in 1917, was renamed in honor of her late husband, Howard E. Quinn of geology. He taught from 1924 to 1965, and she was on the faculty from 1925 to 1965. Kelly Hall was named for her father, C. E. Kelly, an El Paso mayor who served on the University of Texas Board of Regents.

Homecoming 1980 featured a reunion of former Goldiggers who marched at halftime wearing special orange and blue shirts and waving orange pompons. Band alumni joined the marching band for the performance.

President Haskell Monroe, left, joined Homecoming Chairman Miguel Solis, center, and former El Paso mayor Ray Salazar in enjoying chili at the first Homecoming chili cookoff in 1982.
Golden Grads, out of school at least fifty years, had a get-together at Homecoming 1980. Here, in front of Old Main, are (from left) Hoot Gibson, 1929; Hugh D. McGaw, 1929; Royal Jackman, 1930; Berte Haigh, 1925; Lydia Clements, 1922; Thomas Clements, 1922; Harold Kersey, 1929; Dean Bevan, 1929; Albert Viescas, 1930; Ed Douglas, 1930; and Tom O'Connor, 1930. They were honored at a luncheon hosted by President Haskell Monroe.

A Homecoming 1983 ceremony at the flagpole honored students of Texas College of Mines and Texas Western who had served in the military or who had been killed in action during World War II.
Five engineers from the class of 1935 got together under the banner of their college during the Golden Grads luncheon at 1985 Homecoming. From left are William Jackson “Jack” Jones of San Francisco, Dr. James R. Cady of Glen Ellen, California, Woodrow W. Leonard of San Angelo, Texas, Charles H. “Red” Coldwell of Dallas, who was senior class president, and William H. Orme-Johnson of El Paso.

Eighteen former presidents of the Alumni Association attended a luncheon during the Fall 1983 Convocation. Reminiscing for the group were (from left) Dr. Roger Ortiz, Mike Wieland, Pollard Rodgers, C. W. “Lucky” Leverett, and Mary Margaret Davis.
Jack C. Vowell, Jr., right, at that time a state representative, and members of his family took part in the 1986 Homecoming ceremony in which the original Kelly Hall, built in 1920 and later called Mass Communication and Old Kelly, was renamed for his father. The senior Vowell was football coach at the College of Mines in the early 1920s and as a civic leader in later years, was a staunch supporter of the institution.

Leonard Chant, a 1937 cheerleader, was a special dignitary in the 1987 Homecoming parade on campus. He had not forgotten how to stir up a crowd. Later he participated in the Golden Grads gathering of his class.
High school students took part in Summer Engineering Institute activities during the 1970s and 1980s, learning something about each of the engineering major fields offered at UTEP. One of the popular activities is the egg drop, demonstrated here. The contest involves building a container that is engineered to carry a raw egg safely from the second floor to the ground.

Cesar Caballero, left, head of Library Special Collections, and Lic. Enrique Villarreal Macias, rector of the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez, look over a roll of microfilmed documents from the Juarez Archives. The cooperative filming project had completed ten of an anticipated two hundred reels of thousands of documents at the time of this meeting in 1980. The filming was arranged by Dr. Ricardo Aguilar, at that time assistant to the vice president for academic affairs, with former Juarez Mayor Manuel Quevedo Reyes, an alumnus of UTEP, in cooperation with the Juarez university.
Former Sixteenth District Congressman Richard C. White, left, presented his papers to the UTEP Library, represented by Director Fred Hanes, in 1983. White, an alumnus of the university, served nine terms in Congress from January 1965 to January 1983. His collection became one of the two largest in the library's Special Collections. In 1986 White was presented the Gold Nugget Award by the College of Liberal Arts.

Regent Jane Weinert Blumberg of Seguin and UTEP President Haskell Monroe braved a dust storm to take part in the ground-breaking celebration for the new library on April 17, 1982. He presented her a gift copy of the April 1914 National Geographic which had inspired the campus architectural theme. The auditorium in the new building was later named in honor of Mrs. Blumberg, who offered the motion in a regents' meeting that the library construction be approved.
James McBeth was the award-winning sculptor of "The Texas Wedge" at the entrance to the new library building. His proposal was among seventy considered by the committee that commissioned him to do the work. His unusual sculpture is made of 196 square tubes mounted on a wedge, placed six to nine inches apart. The gold-anodized tubes measure four feet high at the front, rising to twenty feet at the back. He was influenced by a group of standing stones he saw in the Orkney Islands of northern Scotland and wanted to recreate that feeling of his family homeland in a work of art.

Fred Hanes, who had experience in moving a large library from one building to another, presided over the 1984 move into the new six-story building on Wiggins Road. After eleven years as director of libraries, he retired in 1985.

Robert Seal, who became director of libraries in 1985, stands beside the Wall of Honor, dedicated during Homecoming 1986. The Wall of Honor, just inside the main entrance to the library, honors major benefactors with plaques in appreciation for their interest in the university.
Graduate students in biological sciences worked with faculty members in a major ecological study of White Sands National Monument, New Mexico, for the National Park Service. Here students walk across the gypsum dunes in which some animals and insects take on white coloration in order to blend into their surroundings.

Professor Robert Schmidt stands at the foot of the Cascada de Basaseachi in the Sierra Madre of Chihuahua. He led a UTEP team that made the first accurate measurement of the waterfall—806 feet—which ranked it fourth highest in North America, tenth highest in the Americas, and twentieth highest in the world. Among their research tools were poles borrowed from Larry Jessee, winner of three All-America honors in pole vaulting, 1974 NCAA indoor champion and 1975 WAC champion as a Miner.
Nate Archibald, a member of the UTEP basketball team in 1968-69, spent fourteen years in the National Basketball Association, where he was named to six all-star teams. His number—14—was retired in a ceremony led by President Haskell Monroe, right. After retiring from professional play, Archibald was an assistant coach at the University of Georgia and at UTEP and was head coach for the Jersey Jammers of the United States Basketball Association.

Abraham Chavez, right, professor of music and musical director of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, invited several UTEP alumni to perform with the symphony and later to take part in a campus panel discussion about their careers. One of those performing was Henry Cobos, left, pianist, who chaired the Music Department of East Los Angeles College. Chavez was Outstanding Ex in 1984.

Young people from the Tigua Indian Reservation of Ysleta performed a traditional dance for a celebration in the Union. They are standing near the entrance to the East Wing beside the trophy case containing national basketball and track trophies.
UTEJ机械和工业工程学生和教员在20世纪70年代早期多次主办Mini-Baja West。年度地区竞赛始于1974年，挑战学生建造能够在崎岖的地形上行驶的车辆，由两马力的发动机驱动。1983年4月，UTEP吸引了来自11个州和墨西哥的20所大学的参赛队伍。赛道在圣博士以北的崎岖山丘上。

春天，机械和工业工程学生用颜料刷涂他们的水泥独木舟，参加新墨西哥州立大学学生在里约热内卢格兰德河上的年度独木舟比赛。第一个挑战是让独木舟漂浮起来。
A springtime stroll across campus might call for braving a dust storm. This stroller, unperturbed by the weather, is in front of the Liberal Arts Building. Down the street at the left, a driver has turned on the car lights because of limited visibility. The Franklin Mountains are completely hidden by the dust.
Paydirt Pete became the Miners' mascot in 1974 when physics Professor Michael Blue won a contest to name the spunky guy with a miner's pick across his shoulder. Marshall Meece, an alumnus and artist for the original Pete drawing, served on the committee that picked the winner. An animated Paydirt Pete was created in 1980, designed by El Paso artists Henry Martinez and Mike Steirnagle and built by Roschu of Hollywood. Richard Pearson, Alumni Association president, spearheaded the campaign for that figure. Then in 1983, Pete was streamlined to look leaner and meaner and a new costume called Paydirt Pete II was designed and constructed by El Pasoan Richard Glass. Pete I, dubbed "Sweet Pete," became a goodwill ambassador, with Pete II official mascot for athletic events. Bernie Lopez, a 1972 UTEP graduate, designed the new cartoon version of Pete, right, which is a trademark of the university. In 1980 the university colors, traditionally the same orange and white as used by Austin, were changed to a deeper tone of orange, white, plus Columbia blue.

Uniforms of the Miner Band bear the emblem of the jaunty Paydirt Pete mascot.

La Rondalla, a student mariachi group of singers and instrumentalists, was started in the early eighties by Aquiles Valdez of the Music Department. Their costumes are in the UTEP colors—orange, blue, and white. This performance was during the fall 1983 observance of Hispanic Heritage Week.
Officials of the Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua visited the campus in August 1980 to discuss a proposed exchange international program involving faculty and students. One point of interest was the seismic equipment in the Department of Geological Sciences. From left are Donald Davidson, department chairman; Humberto Hinojos, head of engineering studies at Chihuahua; Randy Keller, director of the Kidd Memorial Seismic Observatory; and Manuel Portillo, professor of civil engineering at Chihuahua.

The humor of Joseph Olander became legendary while he was vice president for academic affairs from 1979 to 1984. In early 1981, saying he really wanted to “serve” the students, he donned a waiter’s outfit and waited tables in the Dining Commons. “It’s symbolic,” he explained. “We say we are here to serve the students, but it doesn’t hurt to re-emphasize that we really mean it every once in a while.”
Dave Daniels, left, area manager for Sun Electric Corporation, shows engineering students Bob Padgett and George Gonzalez how to operate a pollution detection machine provided by his company for a 1980 automobile pollution awareness project. Professor Howard Applegate, right, for many years directed pollution research on both sides of the border.

Denise Villa operates the new scanning electron microscope in the Department of Metallurgical Engineering.

Students in the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department learn how to operate sophisticated robotics equipment and do graduate research in manufacturing processes in this field.
Rosemary Lewis works with the Mettler balance in a Civil Engineering laboratory.

Dr. Steve Stafford of metallurgical engineering operates acoustic emission equipment that measures elastic strain energy in metals. He has been recognized with national teaching awards from the Society of Automotive Engineers and the American Society for Metals.
The St. Pat’s Day unofficial celebration of engineering students in the 1980s included a spell of singing their song on the steps of the Liberal Arts Building. They have a banner proclaiming that territory to be “Peedoggie U.” During this same period, mysterious green-painted outlines of Mickey Mouse-eared hats appear on the streets near Liberal Arts and a green line is painted opposite the Engineering-Science Complex.

Dean of Students Jose Avila, left, and Vice President for Academic Affairs Joe Olander took part in the St. Patrick’s Day initiation in March 1980. They smiled through egg yolks and green paint as they became card-carrying initiates of the engineers’ oldest campus tradition.
Mortar Board sponsored a five-mile race to benefit the United Way on October 18, 1980. The winner was Francisco Guzman of Juarez in 26:43:6. This second annual race drew more than 250 runners in the five-mile event and another 50 in a 1.5-mile fun run.

When the national president of the American Society of Civil Engineers visited the Summer Engineering Institute in 1980, students made a plaque of appreciation for him. Dr. Juan Herrera of the mechanical engineering faculty made the presentation to Joseph S. Ward.
In 1981 art professor Robert Massey restored the El Paso Centennial Museum's foyer mural of conquistadors in a Southwestern desert. The 68-by-118-inch painting was originally executed in 1945 by Salvador Lopez, who died shortly after completing it. Blasting for construction work in the vicinity was blamed for cracking and loosening the plaster on which the mural was painted. Massey, assisted by student Leslie White, removed the fragments from the wall and re-mounted them on a board, filled in cracks, and retouched the spots where paint was missing.

Before College of Education students go into a real classroom to get experience in teaching, they practice before fellow students and a television camera. They make critiques of their "performances" by viewing the TV tapes.

General of the Army Omar Bradley, who spent his final retirement years at Fort Bliss, visited the campus and chatted with history students and faculty members on April 24, 1980. Mrs. Bradley presented the library a collection of her own writings and some books and papers of General Bradley's.
Professor Emeritus W. H. Timmons, who became "Mr. History" during the community celebration of Four Centuries '81, entertained fellow emeriti at a dinner. A faculty member since 1949, he originated the Four Centuries celebration of the history of El Paso, which led to an annual community festival.

The Heritage Commission arranged for the creation of these banners which have been used for convocations and commencements during the eighties. From left, they represent The University of Texas at El Paso, College of Engineering, College of Science, College of Liberal Arts, College of Education, College of Business Administration, and College of Nursing and Allied Health.

President Haskell Monroe, at the microphone, and VPAA Joseph D. Olander presided at the first Honors Convocation held May 3, 1981, in Magoffin Auditorium. Platform guests included ten professors with a total of 234 years' service to the university who were designated professors emeriti. The emeriti were Robert J. Coltharp, whose honor was awarded posthumously, Thomas J. Barnes, Myrtle E. Ball, M. Lillian Collingwood, Francis L. Fugate, William Garth Henderson, Jack H. Meadows, John S. Williams, Paul D. Zook, and Lurline Hughes Coltharp.
The Sun Bowl addition of 1982 brought the seating capacity to 52,000. The original stadium, seating 30,000, was built in 1963 because the bowl game had outgrown the 12,000-seat Kidd Field. The first game played there was on September 21, 1963, when Texas Western defeated North Texas State, 34-7. The first Sun Bowl game was December 31 the same year, when Southern Methodist met Oregon. When Bob Stull became coach, the first WAC game of the season (a loss to Air Force) on September 6, 1986, drew a record attendance of 42,385. As the team’s record improved through 1987, crowds continued to show enthusiastic support for the Miners in their home games.
Vice President George Bush was the Commencement speaker on May 17, 1987, in the Special Events Center. He expressed support for bilingual education with a goal of fluency in English, said a priority for the 1990s should be help to families in financing college education, and cited the importance of intellectual property protection at home and abroad, mentioning American inventions whose manufacture is now located totally in other countries.

Pat Mora, former assistant to the vice president for academic affairs, became director of the El Paso Centennial Museum in 1988. She is an award-winning poet and was named to the Texas Institute of Letters.
Chad Puerling of NOVA was the only photographer in the locker room on October 26, 1985, after the Miners defeated Brigham Young, then the seventh ranking football team nationally and 1984 top team. President Haskell Monroe led cheers for Bill Yung's team in their first victory over BYU since 1970.

Dr. and Mrs. John R. Edwin received the first Life Membership plaque of the Alumni Association in 1980. They have been active in the association and the Matrix Society. Dr. Edwin was a member of the 1954 national championship rifle team.
This aerial shows the Engineering-Science Complex in about 1981. The College of Engineering departments are in the series of buildings at left, with the dean's office in the second-story link with the Classroom Building at lower right. Behind it is the Biological Sciences Building.
Dr. Eppie Rael (biological sciences) and graduate student Jose Galindo in 1985-86 were conducting research on snake venoms. The research, according to Dr. Rael, could be useful in treatment of many different diseases by revealing information about cell-to-cell communication at the molecular level. After completing his master's degree, Galindo went to the Salk Institute to work in AIDS research.

Dr. Stephen Riter, chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering, turns the tables on photographer Chad Puerling as they photograph each other for the March 1987 NOVA. The camera-computer hookup was used in a research study on the use of computer-monitored closed-circuit television in security systems. One project in which his department took part involved television monitoring for the border patrol of illegal aliens crossing the boundary.
"Miner Mania" hit El Paso in the eighties, with WAC basketball championships in 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1987, plus invitations to the NCAA national playoffs. Don Haskins was twice named WAC Coach of the Year.

Head football Coach Bob Stull, left, chats with Don Maynard, 1958 graduate and Professional Football Hall of Fame inductee, during a 1987 practice session at the Sun Bowl. In the National Football League Record Book, Maynard ranks first with fifty career games with 100 or more yards receiving, second with eighty-eight career touchdowns on receptions, and second with 11,834 career yards for receptions. He also ranks at the top with 10,289 career reception yards in the American Football League regular season statistics and first with eighty-four touchdowns on receptions. He played for the New York Giants (NFL), New York Titans (AF), and New York Jets (AFL).
Ted Banks, UTEP’s head track coach from 1973 to 1982, poses with some of the trophies marking seventeen NCAA titles earned during his tenure. He also led track teams to twenty-seven Western Athletic Conference titles.

Two brothers who were longtime baseball coaches at UTEP, Andy and Syd Cohen, were both inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame, Syd in 1962 and Andy in 1985. Here they appear with friends at a university party in their honor. Andy is seated; from left, standing, are John Phelan, Judge Morris Galatzan, Dick Azar, and Syd Cohen. Andy was second baseman for the New York Giants and Syd was the pitcher for the Washington Senators who gave up the last home run Babe Ruth hit in the American League. In 1985 the El Paso Jewish Community Center announced plans for a sports complex to be named after the Cohen brothers. Andy was volunteer coach for the UTEP track for sixteen years, with Syd helping out some of that time.
Departmental status was granted the Computer Science Program by the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, in 1983, when approval also was given for a master’s degree program in computer science. At that time students used two major locations for computer terminals, one of them this one in the Classroom Building and the other in Liberal Arts. In fall of 1982 there were 657 declared majors in the field.
During the observance of Hispanic Heritage Week in 1984, a ceremony was held to name the third floor meeting hall in the Union the Tomas Rivera Conference Center. The late Dr. Rivera was executive vice president of UTEP in 1978 and 1979 and later served as chancellor of the University of California at Riverside.

The world's largest commercially operational solar pond was a joint venture started in 1984 by Bruce Foods Corp., UTEP's Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department, the United States Bureau of Reclamation, and El Paso Electric Co. The team was headed by Professors Robert Reid and Andrew Swift. The project, first of its kind, was located in northeast El Paso and converted deep water in a storage pond for commercial use by the food processing plant owned by Bruce Foods.
Joy Riley, who served as administrative assistant to five UTEP presidents, retired in 1985 after twenty-one years of service. Dr. Joseph Ray hired her when she read back to him a sample of his shorthand. She also worked with Joseph R. Smiley, Milton Leech, Arleigh B. Templeton, and Haskell Monroe.

As a graduate student in 1984, Victor Rodriguez redesigned this assembly machine for adapters used in containers for gases such as oxygen or nitrogen. He took on the project for Ohio Medical Products, a division of Air Co Inc., the first member of the Manufacturing Engineering Consortium of UT El Paso. As a result of his work, the machine’s production rate was increased about forty percent. When he completed his master’s degree, Rodriguez was employed by Ohio Medical.
By 1985 the community had grown closer to the university, as this aerial indicates. The southern part of the campus now has the library and College of Business Administration, with the Engineering Science Complex just above the latter. The Education Building is distinctive for its tower and the television satellite dish below it. Beyond it are the Memorial Gym and Special Events Center.
John Gerald Barry was the first president of the College of Mines, serving from September 1, 1931, to May 15, 1934.

Dossie Marion Wiggins became the second president of the College of Mines on September 1, 1935. He left August 31, 1948, to become president of Texas Tech.

Wilson Homer Elkins was president when the name was changed to Texas Western College. He served from January 1, 1949, until August 31, 1954, when he became president of the University of Maryland.

Dysart Edgar Holcomb served as president from June 15, 1955, until August 31, 1958, when he returned to the field of industrial research.
Joseph Royall Smiley served two terms as president, the first from September 1, 1958, to July 31, 1960, when the school was Texas Western, then heading The University of Texas at El Paso from June 12, 1969, to December 22, 1972. Between the two terms he had been president of UT Austin and the University of Colorado. He remained on the faculty when he stepped down as president the second time.

Joseph Malchus Ray was president from August 15, 1960, to September 1, 1968. He continued to serve on the faculty as H. Y. Benedict Professor until his retirement.

Arleigh B. Templeton began his presidency on December 23, 1971, and served until July 13, 1980, when he moved to San Antonio.

Haskell M. Monroe, Jr., was president of UT El Paso from July 14, 1980, to June 30, 1987. He left to become chancellor of the University of Missouri at Columbia.
Diana Natalicio, former dean of Liberal Arts and vice president for academic affairs, became president on February 11, 1988. She was both the first woman president and the first to have served on the faculty and as an administrator of UTEP before being elevated to the presidency.

The college established a photo gallery honoring past presidents in the Administration Building about 1962. Holding their portraits are, from left, C. A. Puckett, Eugene M. Thomas, Anton H. Berkman, all of whom served as acting presidents, and Joseph M. Ray, who was president at that time.