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UTEI Takes a Giant Step Toward Tier One

At the end of each session of the Texas Legislature, we assess the impact of new legislation on UTEP, the students we serve, and the region whose human and economic development we seek to foster. I am very pleased to report that this legislative session may well be remembered as representing a critical turning point in transforming higher education in Texas, and at UTEP in particular.

The most exciting specific development was the passage of legislation designed to elevate UTEP and six other institutions to national research (Tier One) university status. UTEP’s significant progress in research and doctoral education during the past 20 years had already earned us designation by the Texas Higher-Education Coordinating Board as an “Emerging Tier One University.” The 81st Legislature moved us a step closer to this Tier One goal by creating a framework of state-funded incentives to reward UTEP and the other six institutions for the progress we make in continuing to move toward it. We thank the members of the El Paso delegation for their support of this important legislation, and especially acknowledge the leadership of Sen. Judith Zaffirini of Laredo and Rep. Dan Branch of Dallas, who chaired the Senate and House committees on higher education.

Specifically, the bill will award state matching funds to UTEP and other Emerging Tier One universities for success in securing competitive research grants and philanthropic gifts that support research and doctoral program growth and productivity on our campuses. Gifts to UTEP of $100,000 or more from generous donors, who designate them for support of research and doctoral education, will be matched from a pool of $50 million in state funding appropriated for this purpose. With such support, UTEP will be able to recruit and retain additional highly competitive faculty and doctoral students who will generate more research proposals and funding, and accelerate our momentum toward becoming a national research or Tier One university.

There were other important actions taken by the 81st Texas Legislature, such as a $186 million increase in support of talented, low-income students through the TEXAS Grants program, but there is no doubt that passage of Tier One legislation will have the greatest long-term impact on Texas higher education generally—and on UTEP’s place in it. Through this legislative action, the commitment to transforming Texas higher education has truly begun.

This bold commitment to higher education by the Texas Legislature comes at a time when many other state legislatures, from Arizona to California to Florida, have responded to the severe economic downturns they face by dramatically reducing investments in their public universities. By contrast, Texas is building on its ambitious “Closing the Gaps” student participation and success goals by turning its attention to increasing the number of universities across the state whose heightened level of research and graduate education will assure Texas’ competitiveness and quality of life in the global economy of the 21st century. And with continued hard work and support of our alumni and friends, UTEP will be one of those universities!

Diana Natalicio
UTEI President

L.R: UTEP President Diana Natalicio and UTEP Head Women’s Basketball Coach Keitha Adams
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NSF Awards $1 Million Grant

The University of Texas at El Paso has received a grant of nearly $1 million from the National Science Foundation to help minority students pursue doctoral degrees in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. The award will fund UTEP’s Bridge to the Doctorate Initiative, which is under the umbrella of the University of Texas System Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Program. This is the second consecutive year the University has received the grant, which will provide 12 minority STEM students—UTEP graduate students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics—with scholarships to pursue their doctorates. Each student will also receive a stipend of $32,000 to help with research projects. The grant’s primary investigator is alumna Ben Flores, Ph.D., an electrical and computer engineering professor at UTEP. Helmut Knaust, Ph.D., an associate professor of mathematical sciences at UTEP, is co-principal investigator.

Kauffman Foundation Campus Initiative

UTEP Project Captures Oral History of El Paso’s Hispanic Entrepreneurs

The University of Texas at El Paso collected the stories of 38 business leaders with ties to the Paso del Norte region, including 13 former Miners who have built successful companies over the past 50 years.

The interviews, designed to showcase the business leaders as role models for future generations, were part of the Kauffman Foundation Campus Initiative, which focuses on enhancing the region’s economy and establishing innovative enterprises through entrepreneurship.

The ambitious project, unveiled this spring, is part of “how to succeed in business” and part social commentary.

Project organizers hope these testimonials will inspire future business leaders by highlighting the role Hispanic entrepreneurs had in the economic development of the area.

“I think of many voices, and they need to be captured,” said Homezo Galicia, a Chicano Studies lecturer at UTEP and an El Paso business owner who, along with about a dozen University students, helped interview many of the subjects.

The task was led by Insema Coronado, Ph.D., associate provost, and Kristine Navarro-McElhaney, director of UTEP’s Institute of Oral History.

Many of the individuals share traits such as modest backgrounds, a passion to learn, and a willingness to build their companies on a foundation of hard work, integrity and helping others.

El Paso businessman Tanny Berg, whose interview is part of the project, said being a good entrepreneur is more than taking advantage of business opportunities.

“The first issue is to recognize them, the second is to act on them,” said Berg, a 1970 UTEP accounting graduate. “And the third, in my opinion, is to share.”

Several entrepreneurs shared stories of having their dreams of attending college dismissed by their teachers, and of banks that frowned on loans to people of color.

Entrepreneur Richard Castro took those kinds of affronts as a challenge.

Castro, a native of Del Rio, Texas, hopped-scotched several professions before finding his niche as a top McDonald’s franchisee in West Texas. He relished proving the naysayers wrong.

“The lesson is that you can achieve your goals through persistence, a good work ethic and the right attitude,” he said.

Organizers expect the conversations to be available in the special collections department of the University Library and on the Web.
Singhal Recognized as Distinguished Scholar

For the second year in a row, UTEP Professor of Communication Arvind Singhal, Ph.D., has been recognized with an award for distinguished scholarship by the Social Science Research Council and the International Communication Association.

Designed to encourage collaboration among researchers and other members of the media, the prize is awarded to individuals who foster such efforts through innovative strategies in the communications field.

"The research award celebrates the generation of new knowledge that comes out of collaborative research and writing," Singhal said.

Singhal, who arrived at the University in 2007, is the Samuel Shirley and Edna Holt Marston Endowed Professor and Director of Research and Outreach for the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies at UTEP.

He is the author of eight books on communication strategy. Throughout the past 20 years, he has worked in more than 50 countries with more than 200 organizations, including the United Nations and the World Bank.

Singhal received his master's and Ph.D. in communication theory and research from the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California. He holds a master’s in radio, TV and film from Bowling Green State University, Ohio, and a bachelor’s in mechanical engineering from the University of Delhi, India.

Garza Honored for Innovative Teaching Strategies

Kristine M. Garza, a UTEP associate professor of biological sciences, was named a National Academies Education Mentor in the Life Sciences for participating in the 2008 National Academies Summer Institute on Undergraduate Education in Biology.

The institute called for faculty from 22 research universities to develop innovative teaching strategies to enhance undergraduate biology education.

Garza earned her bachelor's in biology from St. Mary's University in 1991 and her Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Virginia in 1998. She joined UTEP in 2000 after completing her postdoctoral fellowship at the Ontario Cancer Institute.

The National Academies brings together committees of scientific and technological experts who address critical national issues and give advice to the federal government and the public.

The academies include the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Medicine, and the National Research Council.

Murr to Receive the 2009 Albert Easton White Distinguished Teacher Award

Lawrence Murr, Ph.D., longtime chairman of UTEP's Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, has been selected to receive the 2009 Albert Easton White Distinguished Teacher Award.

The Board of Trustees at Ohio-based ASM International honored Murr for his "selfless dedication to the formation of generations of students through teaching, research, mentoring, academic administration and leadership in the profession," according to his selection notice.

Murr has taught for more than 45 years, the last 20 at The University of Texas at El Paso.

"I've been expecting this for several years," Murr joked.

He referred to a teacher evaluation note card submitted by a student he taught at the University of Southern California in the late 1960s. It read: "Unique approach to scientific learning."

"While he takes teaching seriously, he is willing to do what it takes to get his ideas across.

Murr, an energetic man raised in Pennsylvania, has been known to jump on his desk, roll on the floor, and put on masks to simulate different phenomena.

"It's fun," he said. "It's what I do."

The award recognizes the outstanding quality of his research and the extraordinary commitment he has to the success of his students, said Carlos Ferregut, Ph.D., associate dean of the College of Engineering.

"He lives for his students and his research. They have been his passion," he said.

Murr and his wife of 50 years, Patricia, plan to accept the award during the ASM Awards Dinner the week of Oct. 25 in Pittsburgh.

The award, established in 1960, is named after the first president of the American Society of Metals, Albert E. White, a former Army colonel who also was an associate professor of metallurgy at the University of Michigan.

It recognizes teachers with long and devoted service records who also have significant accomplishments in materials science and engineering, and an unusual ability to inspire and impart enthusiasm to students.
A family waits for them to come home. Waits days, months and years to hear their voices, to see their smiles, to feel their touch ... But they never do.

This tragedy befell thousands of people deemed a threat by dictatorships across Latin America during the last part of the 20th century. Resistance fighters, political activists and their families and friends were kidnapped, tortured and killed by the military juntas. Their bodies were disposed of to shield governments from blame and accountability.

Known as Los Desaparecidos, or The Disappeared, they are the focus of a traveling contemporary art exhibit by the same name hosted by the Sanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts at The University of Texas at El Paso.

Curated by Laurel Reuter, founding director of the North Dakota Museum of Art, the show features works by South American artists, many of whom were personally affected by the disappearance of loved ones.

The exhibition spans campus facilities, encompassing the Rubin Center, the Centennial Museum and the Union Exhibition Gallery. It doesn’t stop there, however. A film series, concurrent exhibits at other Borderlands museums, and special fall semester classes and lectures make The Disappeared one of the most ambitious programming efforts by the Rubin Center since it opened in 2004.

“The exhibition addresses a painful topic that is difficult to talk about,” said Rubin Center Director Kate Bonansinga. “Sometimes art is the best way to convey the message—it transcends words and other forms of communication.”

Portraits of the victims—often black-and-white I.D. photos—inspired many of the works. At the Centennial Museum entrance stands a sculpture created by Nicolás Guagnini, whose father was abducted in Argentina in 1977. Painted on a group of white posts arranged in a cube, the face of Guagnini’s father appears and disappears as the viewer moves around the piece (see photo left). It is named 30,000, after the number of Argentinians said to have died in the Dirty War, conducted by the military junta from 1976 to 1983.

Identity, an installation at the Union Exhibition Gallery, consists of an uninterrupted row of photographs of abducted couples, accompanied by a mirror representing their missing children. It’s a collaboration between Argentinean artists and a group of women searching for grandchildren born to parents in captivity.

“The mirror as a symbol of self-reflection comes through well in that piece,” said Bonansinga. “We are forced to confront the fact that we are free, at liberty to make our own decisions. But the people in the photographs didn’t have that luxury.”

Other works are equally powerful. Benecio’s Grimaces, by Venezuelan artist Sara Maneiro, consists of dental X-rays that blend into a terra-cotta landscape. Displayed at the Centennial Museum, the images evoke the discovery of mass graves of civilians killed in the Caracazo protests and rioting in February 1989 triggered by Venezuelan president Carlos Andrés Pérez’s economic policies.

Another provocative piece on display at the Rubin Center is Arturo Ducas’ Untitled, a Chilean flag constructed out of human femurs. Ducas said he collected the bones from medical schools to create a memorial to the thousands of Chileans who disappeared or died after a military coup d’état overturned President Salvador Allende in 1973.

“My intention in making this work was beyond being political or moralizing or shocking,” Ducas wrote in his description of Untitled. “It was to create an emblem that would sharply resolve into an image of those moments that were so painful for our country.”

No less haunting are the riderless bicycles in Fernando Traverso’s collection of works honoring fellow members of the resistance movement who disappeared in his hometown of Rosario, Argentina during the Dirty War. An abandoned bicycle often was the first sign that a friend had been taken away by the military junta.

Traverso latched upon the silhouette of bicycles as a metaphor for absence, painting 350 bicycles—matching the number of residents who had disappeared—on walls throughout the city of Rosario.

Traverso knew 29 of the missing and honored them with 29 silk banners, each featuring a white bicycle silhouette created with a photographic process.

“The bicycles look like apparitions or ghosts, evoking someone that once was or no longer is,” Bonansinga said. The banners are part of the Rubin Center’s display.

Traverso visited UTEP and the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez in May to make spray-painted bicycle banners with students, part of a project to create 30,000 banners honoring all the Argentineans lost in the war.

The exhibit ties the messages of The Disappeared with the current crisis of drug cartel-related violence and kidnapping in Mexico.

In September, UTEP Professor of Anthropology Howard Campbell, Ph.D., whose academic interests include the study of drug trafficking and politics and culture, will moderate the panel discussion “Disappeared on the Border: Local Voices,” which will explore disappearances in Juárez.

“In the ‘70s, we could keep our distance from the phenomenon of the disappeared, because it was so far away,” said Campbell. “But now it is happening close to home. I hope this exhibit will raise consciousness about what is happening here on the border.”

The Disappeared exhibition runs through Sept. 11 at UTEP. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.utep.edu/arts and click on the Rubin Center link.
Engineering Professor Flores Honored by President Obama

A UTEP professor was one of 22 honorees named recently by President Barack Obama for efforts to mentor minorities studying science and engineering.

Ben Flores, Ph.D., professor of electrical and computer engineering, will join the other recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring this fall at a White House reception.

Flores was selected for the time, encouragement and expertise he has offered to hundreds of UTEP students since 1990. He leads several University and statewide programs that promote the ideals of minorities in the workplace with the hope that the next generation of scientists and engineers will better reflect the nation’s diversity.

“These awards represent a heartfelt salute of appreciation to a remarkable group of individuals who have devoted their lives and careers to helping others, and in doing so have helped us all,” President Obama said July 9 in Washington.

The selection, which is done through the National Science Foundation, includes $10,000 the winners can use to pursue their mentoring efforts.

Flores plans to use his money to develop a program where undergraduate math, science and engineering majors will help teachers in the Canutillo Independent School District create projects that will motivate students to go to college and consider scientific careers.

“This is a great honor for me,” Flores said, adding how grateful he was that UTEP President Diana Natalicio nominated him. “I was very happy that … my work is now being recognized at the highest level.”

The professor said that mentoring engineers is crucial to help students hone their academic and professional skills and prepare them for the workforce. He lauded UTEP for the considerable investment it has made to create a social and academic support system for Hispanic science and engineering students.

His efforts at UTEP and throughout The University of Texas System have helped hundreds, if not thousands, of students to complete their science or engineering degrees during the past 15 years, said Richard Schoephoerster, Ph.D., dean of the College of Engineering.

“Ben is a tireless proponent of science and engineering education, and in increasing the diversity of the workforce in these fields at all levels. (We are) very fortunate to have him in our ranks,” Schoephoerster said.

April Babbit, a design engineer with Lockheed Martin Corp., said Flores acted as a mentor, counselor, inspiration, and source of fortitude and confidence as she worked to earn her bachelor’s in electrical engineering in 2003.

“For Dr. Flores, the title of professor is only the beginning,” she said.

Hector Ochoa, Ph.D., assistant professor of electrical engineering at The University of Texas at Tyler, recalled Flores supporting his efforts to earn his master’s in 2003 and doctorate four years later.

“(Flores) always was there to help me with any problem—personal or academic. Now I’m a professor, but I still call him with questions about research, how to handle my students, and how to do administrative work. Although he is no longer my professor, I know he is my friend and I always can count on him,” Ochoa said.

Flores specializes in retention strategies for undergraduate and graduate students who study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). He directs The University of Texas System Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation and the STEM Talent Expansion Program.
UTEK Prepares Students for Intelligence Careers

This fall, engineering students from UTEP will prepare for intelligence and national security careers through a new cooperative education program created in partnership with the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) and the University of Southern California Information Sciences Institute.

The co-op program will help train talented undergraduate and graduate students in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and other fields for jobs with various United States agencies such as the FBI, CIA and Department of Homeland Security.

During the year-long program, participants will receive a paid internship in which they will spend the first six months studying specialized coursework and the second six months interning with intelligence community agencies. Students are expected to gain valuable experience that will help them transition into the intelligence workforce after earning their degree.

By recruiting participants from UTEP, which has a predominantly Hispanic student population, the program seeks to build diversity in the intelligence community workforce.

Miner Passport Office

Thousands of border residents streamed through UTEP’s Office of International Programs during the summer to get their passport applications processed. Lines form every weekday morning for the 29 available slots.

The University has been serving the public’s need for passport books or cards since November 2007, but saw the spike as the June deadline approached for the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

The public begins to arrive around 4 a.m., with individuals positioning themselves outside the program’s second-floor offices within Union Building East. Posted signs alert people that only 29 applications will be processed per day. The office opens at 8 a.m., and people register for a 15-minute appointment from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

The public appreciates how easy UTEP has made the process, said Victoria Aviles, the office’s administrative assistant and passport agent.

“The appointment means they don’t have to spend hours of their time waiting around. When it’s their time, they are in and out. It’s very efficient,” she said.

The passports cost $75 for adults and $60 for children. The photos cost an additional $10.
When a facility houses residents like Tolstoy, Steinbeck and the Brontë sisters, the structure should be grand. And that is precisely what the new UTEP Bookstore is – a store worthy of the great authors it features.

The bookstore, which opened June 1, dwarfs the old store, formerly located in the Union Building East.

Warm and inviting, with tall ceilings and seating areas sprinkled throughout the floor space, the facility is two stories high, with the first floor devoted to apparel, computer software and UTEP memorabilia, along with general-interest books, snacks and magazines.

The second floor is reserved for student textbooks—shelves upon shelves of them—and by the time students line up to get their books for the fall semester, there will be 21 cash registers in operation to ensure a quick checkout.

The facility also features an Einstein Bros. Bagels eatery in the lobby, giving the environment a more relaxed, casual ambience than the old bookstore offered.

“We’re very proud of the store,” Annabelle Padilla, director of the bookstore, said. “I think it’s really beautiful.”

Padilla said you could fit the old bookstore into the new one, with plenty of room to spare, and it is the extra space that seems to captivate students when they walk in for the first time.

“I like it,” Esther Rivera, a junior education major, said. "It’s so much bigger. That should help when students come in for their books at the start of each semester.”

Dwayne Wisniewski, director of food services at UTEP, was more emphatic.

“Wow—that’s what I think students will say when they see it for the first time,” said Wisniewski, who will oversee the operation of the Einstein Bros. Bagels for UTEP.

The bookstore, built at a cost of approximately $5.5 million, is 28,000 square feet, compared with 19,000 square feet for the old bookstore.

“The new store seems even bigger than it is, and I think that’s because it was beautifully designed, with the comfort of the customer in mind,” said Cindy Villa, vice president for business affairs at UTEP. “The old store had a lot of awkward spaces that weren’t usable for anything but storage.

“To be very honest, we were constrained by the old facility. The floor space was so inadequate that there were stacks of textbooks on the floor next to the shelves.”

The new store also will appeal to a customer base beyond the student population, as demonstrated by a recent display set up near the entrance —Watchmen books and action figures, based on the popular movie and graphic novel.

“I think the improved access will be a hit with the community, not just with students,” said Victor Pacheco, assistant vice president for business affairs at UTEP.

The new bookstore is located on University Avenue and Sun Bowl Drive, and visitors will not have to drive past security stations as they did with the old bookstore.

“We’re right off I-10 and right at the front
by Robert L. Seltzer

doors of the campus, so to speak," Pacheco said.

A parking garage is next door, and visitors may
get their parking tickets validated with a purchase
at either the bookstore or the bagel shop.

"It's a win-win, for the students and the com-

munity," Pacheco said.

As for the old bookstore, it will undergo its
own metamorphosis, Villas said. Most of the space
will be turned into a student lounge, with the rest
of the area to be converted into a new student
health center. The renovations are budgeted at ap-
proximately $3.6 million.

"When you look at the new bookstore and
the remodeling of the old bookstore, it's all part
of the dramatic growth at UTEP," Villas said. "It's
very exciting."

The bookstore is open from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fri-
day; and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Persons wishing to contact the bookstore
may call 915-747-5594 or visit the Web site at
utepbkstr.com.
Thanks to the generosity of UTEP donors Paul L. Foster and Jeff and Sharon Stevens, the Foster • Stevens Basketball Center opened in April 2009. Foster is a UT System regent and the chairman and chief executive officer of Western Refining, Inc., and Jeff Stevens is president and chief operating officer of the company.

The building is located at Mesa Street and Glory Road, immediately adjacent to the Don Haskins Center and the University’s new ticket facility. The lobby of the complex features memorabilia touting the 1966 Texas Western College national championship basketball team.

THE $14.3 MILLION, 43,000-SQUARE-FOOT COMPLEX FEATURES:

- Two regulation practice courts
- Strength and conditioning center
- Sports medicine center
- Team meeting rooms
- Academic/film rooms
- Locker rooms
- Coaches’ offices
- Reception lobby and display area
BASKETBALL CENTER

1 Pictured L-R: Donor Jeff Stevens, UTEP Athletic Director Bob Stull and UT System Regent and donor Paul L. Foster
2 New basketball practice court (one of two regulation practice courts)
3 Exterior view of the Foster-Stevens Basketball Center
4 The strength and conditioning center
5 Players' locker room
6 Team meeting room
7 Display area in the lobby highlighting UTEP's basketball history
Like the true Miner she is, UTEP President Diana Natalicio grabbed a shovel to help break ground on a mammoth project that represents a major partnership between the University and the City of El Paso.

UTEP and City officials recently attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Glory Road Transfer Center and Parking Garage at 100 East Glory Road, across from UTEP’s Foster • Stevens Basketball Center.

The project, a cooperative venture between the University and the City-operated Sun Metro bus line, is scheduled for completion in late 2010. City officials said.

The facility, to be built on land that currently serves as a University parking lot, will be completed at a cost of $14.7 million, most of it provided by federal grants and stimulus funds. Jane Shang, deputy city manager, told guests who attended the ceremony.

About $900,000 will come from city funds.

“What a value,” Shang said.

Natalicio toured the project, which would encourage motorists to leave their automobiles at home in favor of mass transit as an effective tool to cut down pollution in the region.

“I know Miner colors are orange, white and blue, but as you can see, I’m also green,” the President said, a reference to the boost the environment will receive from the terminal.

Natalicio was wearing a light green jacket.

“Welcome to a piece of the UTEP campus,” the President said in her opening remarks.

That simple phrase embodied the heart of the partnership between the University and the City, because UTEP provided the land for the facility through a ground-lease arrangement.

“This has been long awaited, and it is a very special partnership,” she said.

The 7,500-square foot facility will contain public restrooms, ticket vending machines and other amenities, including free Wi-Fi.

The garage will feature space for 440 vehicles, which should cut down traffic congestion in the busy section of North Mesa, Shang said.

“This is good news both for our students and our neighbors,” Natalicio said.

She also said the facility, to be designed in the Bhutanese style consistent with the rest of the campus, will boast one significant distinction.

“It will create what is sure to be the world’s largest Bhutanese public transit terminal,” she said, smiling.
SWIMMING AND
FITNESS CENTER
EXPANSION TO
BREAK GROUND

UTESP STUDENT REFERENDUM
APPROVES $32 MILLION, 87,427-
SQUARE-FOOT ADDITION

by David Peregrino and Daniel Perez

ucked in the foothills off of Sun Bowl Drive, the UTEP Swimming and Fitness Center is a
welcome retreat for students, faculty and staff
in need of a good cardio and weightlifting
workout or a refreshing swim in the indoor pool.
And things are going to get even better soon,
thanks to a highly anticipated $32 million expansion
of the facility, expected to get under way this fall.
The existing Swimming and Fitness Center
opened in 1996. The expansion project will renovate
and grow the center from 47,150 square feet to more
than 134,500 square feet in size.
Architectural renderings featured on the Recre-
tional Sports Department's Website illustrate some
striking features of the two-story addition. They
include an indoor three-lane jogging circuit, one-eighth
of a mile long, a rock-climbing wall, a two-court gym-
nasium and a large area for cardio and weight train-
ing equipment. A multi-activity court will be used for
sports such as indoor soccer. In the existing facility, the
locker rooms will be renovated and the weight room
will be transformed into three group-exercise rooms.
"It will be a one-stop shop, a true student recre-
ation complex," said Ruben Espinoza, associate direc-
tor of Recreational Sports.
The construction is expected to be complete by
spring 2012. The expansion will be funded entirely
through an increase in the student recreation fee, which
UTESP students approved in a 2006 referendum.
"Students recognize that we've outgrown the exist-
ing facilities," said Richard Padilla, Ed.D., vice presi-
dent of student affairs. "Student recreation and living
healthy lifestyles are important to them, so they asked
us to work with them to get the referendum going."
UTESP Student Government Association President
Alex Munoz said students typically don't want to see
higher fees, but the referendum showed that the UTEP
community understood the need for improved recre-
tional and extracurricular opportunities on campus.
"If you look at Tier One institutions, you'll see
that most of them have outstanding recreational fa-
cilities," Munoz said. "UTESP is trying to keep on
par with them, and this is going to give our students
more things to do, more reasons to stay on campus and
enjoy the Miner experience."
The expanded fitness center will be a crown jewel
for Recreational Sports, which also offers many other
activities and venues for good, healthy fun. The UTEP
community can take a variety of fitness classes and
participate in intramural or club sports, including flag
football, fencing and Ultimate Frisbee. The depart-
ment also operates Memorial Gym on campus, where
students can play basketball, racquetball and even con-
sole video games.
Junior civil engineering major Melissa Sanchez
said she has shot baskets at Memorial Gym and used
the pool and workout equipment at the Swimming
and Fitness Center since she was a freshman.
"Recreational Sports) provides a lot for students," she said. "It's up to them to get involved."
The department also rents equipment for such
outdoor activities as camping, white-water rafting and
skiing, and schedules regular "Outdoor Adventure"
trips to regional destinations such as White Sands Na-
tional Monument, Carlsbad Caverns, Big Bend Na-
tional Park and Ski Apache.
General membership is free to registered UTEP
students. Classes, team sports and trips are affordably
priced.
Opportunities to create healthy habits for a life-
time and memorable experiences in the great outdoors
await those who take advantage of everything Recre-
tional Sports has to offer, Espinoza said.
"We want the students to open their eyes," he said. "There's a whole big world out there. We show them
the door and hope they walk through."
Every year, The University of Texas at El Paso honors a group of men and women whose achievements stand out as monuments to dedication, integrity and hard work. They are the finest among us. They are the Distinguished Alumni.

We do not cite them solely for their accomplishments, however. We recognize them because they inspire others, the current generation of students who will follow their path, guided by their bold examples. Setting the bar high is hard, and reaching it is even harder, but neither can be done without mentors.

This year, the University has selected four Distinguished Alumni who will be celebrated during Homecoming in October. Please join us in honoring those who have honored us through their achievement and example.

2009

Stories by
Robert L. Seltzer
and David Peregrino

UTEP Alumni
Association
For many people, résumés are no more substantial than the paper on which they are printed—documents that we file and ignore until it is time to hunt for a job.

Not so for Victor Arias Jr., whose résumé is a testament to his character and diligence.

If you look at his record, it looks like 10 résumés compressed into one. A senior client partner for Korn/Ferry International, the largest executive search and recruitment firm in the world, Arias has served on enough boards, panels and committees to qualify him as a management expert.

Arias received his bachelor's in business administration degree in manage- ment from UTEP in 1978. After earning his master's in business administration degree in finance and accounting from Stanford University in 1982, he went on to become the first Hispanic graduate of the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

He also was appointed by then-President George W. Bush to the White House Commission on Fellows, designed to provide gifted and motivated Americans with first-hand experience in the governing process.

“I credit my upbringing,” Arias said. “I grew up from very humble beginnings. My father held three jobs. And my mother was a very bright woman. She had several college scholarship offers, but that wasn’t done in those days. You had to help the family.”

Arias is married to Sandra E. “Sandy” Arias (B.S.N. ’81), who received last year’s Gold Nugget Award from the School of Nursing. They have three children: Crista, Jacob and Victor.

He has supported various University scholarships as well as the College of Business Administration.

“I grew up knowing I had to give back,” said Arias, a Lifetime Member of the UTEP Alumni Association and a member of the UTEP Development Board and the Centennial Campaign Leadership Council.

Arias also credits his work as an equipment manager with the football team for teaching him the value of persistence.

“I think we won six games in four years,” he said. “But I saw how hard the football players worked on the field and in the classrooms. There didn’t seem to be too much pride in the school, and that’s why I appreciate so much the sense of pride on the campus today, and for that I credit (UTEP President) Diana Natalicio.”

After three decades of caring for patients and being an advocate for minority medical issues, Willarda V. Edwards, M.D., is in a position to make great progress in creating health equity for all Americans.

Edwards, who earned her bachelor's degree in biology from The University of Texas at El Paso in 1972, became the new president of the National Medical Association (NMA) in July.

A doctor of internal medicine with a practice in Baltimore, Md., Edwards plans to raise awareness of minority health disparities during her one-year term, while striving to increase the number of minorities in health care.

From the time she got her first taste of health care working as a nurse's aide at then Thomason Hospital (now University Medical Center) while a student at Bel Air High School, Edwards knew she would play a role in changing health care. It began when she enrolled at UTEP in 1969 with her sights set on a medical degree. Or maybe she knew long before then.

“My mother bought toy doctor medical kits for my brothers,” she recalled. “She said I fought with them to get the doctor’s bag.”

The University, which provided her with a multi-cultural background, was her launch pad to the University of Maryland School of Medicine, where she earned her M.D. in 1977. She paid for her education by serving in the Navy, working for four years at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, where she was chief of the Internal Medicine Department.

Edwards entered private practice in 1984, embarking on a remarkable journey of public service, including positions with organizations such as the NMA, the American Medical Association (AMA) and the Health Advocacy Division of the NAACP. Edwards also recently served as president and chief operating officer of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.


“We can plant a seed for someone here today," she told the audience, wrapping up her Millennium Lecture on campus last February. "I truly believe there are some future doctors and nurses here today. "

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

2009 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Victor Arias Jr.
Testament to Diligence

Willarda V. Edwards, M.D.
Good Medicine
Vernon G. Hunt
Rooted in Tradition

As a boy growing up in East Texas during the 1920s, Vernon G. Hunt learned the value of the land—and how the land could provide for the people who live on it.

For many youngsters of that era, that meant farming the soil, raising the crops that helped provide for themselves and their families.

Young Vernon, however, was focused on another natural resource—oil—and his interest set him on a career path that would help lead him to remarkable success.

Hunt, who died in 2001, is being recognized posthumously and will be honored alongside other recipients during Homecoming in October.

He joined the Corps of Engineers in 1943, earning the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Distinguished Service Cross during his service.

After serving in the military, he graduated from Texas Western College (now UTEP) with a bachelor’s in geology in 1950, going on to work as a geologist for Stanolind Oil and Gas Co.

Becoming an independent geologist and consultant in 1956, he explored—and discovered—oil and gas in Texas, Arkansas and Montana, enjoying so much success that he received the Pioneer Award from the East Texas Geological Society.

He held memberships in the American Institute of Professional Geologists, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Society of Mining Engineers, the Former Students Association of Texas A&M University, the Chancellor’s Council of The University of Texas System, and the President’s Associates of The University of Texas at El Paso.

Hunt and his wife established the Vernon G. and Joy Hunt Endowed Scholarship Fund in Geology at UTEP, and have contributed to numerous other University endowments and scholarship funds.

“We are privileged to help students who want to pursue a continued education,” said Joy Hunt, a member of the University’s President’s Associates.

“I hear from these students every year, and have met a few of them.”

She said the students are “wonderful.”

“We all miss Vernon very much, although he left us with many good memories,” she said.

Memories are what create legacies, and Vernon Hunt left a legacy that UTEP is proud to recognize.

Victor M. Mendez
Highway to Success

As director of the Arizona Department of Transportation, Victor Mendez oversaw a project that was completed six years ahead of schedule.

Think about that for a second.

No matter the city or state in which we happened to reside at the time, we all have seen road projects that seem to take longer to complete than the Great Pyramids of Egypt.

And yet Mendez supervised the construction of almost 150 miles of road in the Phoenix area, some of it involving loops to ease the enormous traffic problems in the Arizona city.

Scheduled for completion in 2014, it was finished in 2008.

How did he do it?

“We created innovative partnerships with contractors,” he said.

“And we created innovative ways of securing financing early to get the work started.”

In a country hammered by economic problems, innovation and efficiency are key, and that is why President Barack Obama selected Mendez to head the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

“We consider Victor Mendez an outstanding choice for this key leadership role ...” John Horsley, executive director of the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials, said in a statement. “He brings an in-depth knowl-
The University of Texas at El Paso and the UTEP Alumni Association are proud to present the 2009 Gold Nugget Award recipients. These outstanding alumni are recognized by each of the University's colleges and schools for their achievements and dedication.

stories by Vanessa Aguilar
Maulette Wingo's desire to help children succeed academically has served as the motivation for her own achievements. With only a high school diploma in hand, Wingo began her teaching career by working as a tutor at the Lee & Beulah Moor Children's Home, a child placement agency in El Paso. She realized it would take a college degree to make a difference.

Wingo credits her UTEP education for her professional successes. "The education I received from UTEP is the cement of my foundation," Wingo said.

While teaching in the public school system, Wingo volunteered as a tutor for children in her community. As demand increased, she started her own tutoring business. In an effort to share her hands-on experiences, she wrote the book, "Learning Doesn't Have to Be Complicated: A Parent's Survival Guide for the School Years."

Wingo, founder and president of Roadmap Publishing, serves as a lecturer and advocate for children, speaking at various staff training and community events at the Center Against Family Violence, the Center for Children, La Fe Clinic and the Lee & Beulah Moor Children's Home.

"My desire to help children and parents reach their potential has taken me on an amazing journey," she said. "Through the love and support of my husband, daughters, family, friends, parents and numerous students, I remain devoted to changing lives—one family at a time."

Her husband, Bob Wingo (B.B.A., Marketing, '73), president and CEO of Sanders/Wingo Advertising Inc., was the recipient of the 2002 Gold Nugget Award from the College of Business Administration.

Oscar E. Venegas was inspired to study engineering when he heard from professionals in the field during high school career days. "I found it intriguing and so I decided to take a drafting class. I later realized I enjoyed it and was good at it, too," he said.

Venegas began competing in and winning drafting contests. After high school, he looked to UTEP for his degree in civil engineering and the education and experience needed to succeed. His UTEP education not only helped him get his foot in the door with his first job, but it also helped him work with and compete against other graduates from around the nation.

"Early in my career, I worked with graduates from around the country and found that many of them relied on me and the knowledge and skills I obtained while working toward my degree at UTEP," he recalled.

Today, Venegas serves as president of Venegas Engineering Management and Construction, LP (VEMAC) in El Paso and works with his son, David, also a UTEP civil engineering graduate, who serves as vice president of VEMAC.

Venegas is married to UTEP graduate Martha E. Venegas (B.B.A., Accounting, '80). They have a daughter, Mary.

Venegas' company has been involved in several UTEP projects, including the construction of the Larry K. Durham Sports Center, improvements to Sun Bowl Stadium, and the transformation of Seamon Hall into the Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts.

Personally, Venegas continues his relationship with UTEP by serving as an advisor to the Department of Civil Engineering.

"I look forward to being a part of UTEP's continued growth," he said.

Sandy Hatfield Clubb's journey to success began at the age of 19. She was a self-proclaimed "lost young woman" traveling from Maryland to West Texas in search of "some meaning to life."

Her grandmother encouraged her to enroll at UTEP, and paid her first semester's tuition.

"She literally enrolled me into UTEP and only asked that in return I work hard," Hatfield Clubb said. That she did. After her first semester, she had earned a 4.0 GPA. She earned a bachelor's in business administration in 1987, but not before offering a teaching and research assistantship in the College of Education's kinesiology and physical education departments. She later earned a master's in education with a specialization in kinesiology.

Hatfield Clubb said the opportunity changed her career aspirations and "opened up a newly found passion" for working in physical education. She used her business and education backgrounds in collegiate athletics.

She began her career as a management intern in the office of athletics at Arizona State University, where she worked for 16 years and last served as senior associate athletic director. During her tenure at ASU, Hatfield Clubb created a life skills program for student-athletes, which gained national recognition as a Program of Excellence by the Division 1A Athletic Directors Association.

In 2006, she was appointed director of athletics at Drake University, becoming the first woman to run a Division 1 program in Iowa.

"Attending UTEP fundamentally changed my life and exposed my passion for working with student-athletes," she said.

Alfredo Corchado Jimenez chose to attend UTEP to fulfill his lifelong dream of becoming an investigative journalist and served as a foreign correspondent for a major media outlet.

"I cannot imagine a better education anywhere else," he said. "UTEPE provided a binational laboratory perfect for developing the skills needed to be a successful foreign correspondent. As a journalist, it has helped me specialize in my field, providing me with an edge over my competitors."

Corchado Jimenez has dedicated his life to bridging the gap between the United States and Mexico. For more than 15 years, he has served as the Mexico Bureau Chief for The Dallas Morning News.

He was the lead reporter for The Dallas Morning News during the 2000 presidential election in Mexico, and the first to interview President Vicente Fox following his historic win.

His work covering Mexico, U.S.-Mexico relations, immigration, border violence and other border issues has earned him numerous accolades and recognitions. Among them is the prestigious Maria Moors Cabot Prize for outstanding reporting in Latin America from Columbia University in New York in 2007.

He was named a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 2009.

Corchado Jimenez remains close to UTEP.

"The dedicated professors at UTEP helped me understand that my success wasn't just about me, but about future generations of student journalists," said Corchado Jimenez, who regularly visits his alma mater to speak with students and connect with professors.

"I am honored that UTEP has allowed me the opportunity to share my experience and knowledge with students."
Army Col. Barbara Bruno took a practical approach to deciding her career path.

“When I was thinking about school and what I wanted to study, I looked for degrees that would be in demand,” said Bruno, who earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing from UTEP in 1974.

It was at UTEP that nursing evolved from a job to a passion.

“My clinical experiences taught me what it took to be a nurse,” Bruno said. Looking to do more, she joined the Army and earned three master’s degrees—in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College, in nursing from the University of Kansas, and in systems management from the University of Southern California.

“I was looking for a deeper purpose. I knew that if I wanted to be in a position to effect change, I would need to continue my education, and the Army was willing to pay for it. It was a win-win,” said Bruno, who this summer retired as deputy chief of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps after 27 years of military service.

Bruno served in various clinical nursing and leadership positions, earning the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters.

In a proclamation to President George W. Bush, Hawaii Senator Daniel Inouye described Bruno’s accomplishments as “an eloquent testimony to her talent, dedication, loyalty and determination to see that the best possible nursing care is always available to our soldiers, their family members and our deserving retirees.”

Bruno said she would recommend UTEP to aspiring nurses who want to make a difference in the health of those who are serving their country.

“I had the honor of working with a remarkable team to care for soldiers while growing professionally and traveling around the world,” she said. “It was an amazing experience.”

Cindy A. Stout looked to UTEP to pursue her graduate studies in nursing and jumpstart her career. She is giving back tenfold, supporting and promoting the nursing field and the University’s School of Nursing.

As chief nursing officer at Del Sol Medical Center, she has created a working environment where nurses can flourish.

Her hard work and dedication earned Del Sol Medical Center the Pathway to Excellence designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, a designation that has been awarded to only 70 organizations nationwide.

Stout continues to take an interest in promoting the University and its efforts to provide the best education to future nurses.

She led the initiative to open a UTEP/Del Sol Simulation Lab for nursing and allied health students.

She has been a nursing advocate and mentor, offering guidance to graduate students in UTEP’s Master’s of Science in Nursing program, and frequently encourages and assists staff members who are interested in pursuing degrees.

“I am proud of my degree from UTEP,” said Stout, who earned her bachelor’s in nursing from the University of Incarnate Word in San Antonio and her M.S.N., with a concentration in nursing administration, from UTEP.

Stout’s husband, Ronnie C. Stout (M.S.N., Nursing Administration, ’93) also earned his nursing degree from UTEP. Their children are Melody, Nicholas and Summer.

“My experience at UTEP was invaluable. It allowed me the opportunity to share experiences, philosophies and management techniques with colleagues around the city,” Stout said. “This provided me with leadership skills that I have been able to apply throughout my career.”

James W. Handschy began his career at the El Paso Natural Gas Company while earning his bachelor’s degree in geological sciences at UTEP.

“I had the opportunity to take what I learned in the classroom and apply it in the field,” Handschy said. “I received an outstanding fundamental education, which helped prepare me for my future in the petroleum industry.”

After completing his doctorate in geology and geophysics from Rice University, Handschy joined the Shell Exploration and Production Company, where he worked on exploration, production and research projects around the world for 10 years. He later joined Phillips Petroleum Co., last serving as chief geologist for worldwide exploration and production.

In 2002, he served as manager of global geology for ConocoPhillips Upstream and now serves as global chief geologist with ConocoPhillips.

Throughout his distinguished career, Handschy has been a leader in the petroleum industry, actively working to support forums for sharing knowledge. In addition to publishing numerous papers in international geological journals and books, Handschy has served as a reviewer for the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), the Geological Society of America and the American Geophysical Union. He also has served as editor of a special volume of the AAPG Bulletin.

Handschy shares his knowledge with current UTEP students by participating in colloquia for the UTEP Department of Geological Sciences.

“The opportunity to learn from rocks in the field, as well as from experienced faculty members, makes UTEP an outstanding school for geoscience education,” he said.
It's Time to Plan Your Return to UTEP for Homecoming 2009!

With a full slate of fun activities to reunite friends from years past, Homecoming week is a great opportunity to get a first-hand look at the exciting changes on the UTEP campus.

A stunning new UTEP Bookstore, complete with an Einstein Bros. Bagels eatery, is now open on Sun Bowl Drive. Across campus, along North Mesa Street stands the new state-of-the-art Foster • Stevens Basketball Center. And the campus is bustling with construction activity for the new College of Health Sciences and School of Nursing building, and the new Chemistry and Computer Science building.

Great things are happening at our University, and Homecoming 2009 is the time to celebrate all the reasons why we're proud to say, "I Pick UTEP!"

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT US

ON THE WEB
www.homecoming.utep.edu

In the late 1970s, the UTEP Music Department wrote a fight song with the melody of country and western singer Marty Robbins' El Paso, a No. 1 hit on the pop charts in the 1960s. With Robbins' blessing, the catchy tune has since been a staple in Miner sports.
**UTEP HOME COMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2009**

**Sunday, Sept. 27**
SGA Homecoming Pageant
5:30 p.m. Magoffin Auditorium

**Wednesday, Sept. 30**
Miner Morning Tailgate TV Show
5 a.m. Larry K. Durham Center, North Parking Lot

Open House:
The History of UTEP
10 a.m.–noon. Heritage House

Lip Sync Competition
11 a.m.–1 p.m. Union Plaza Stage

Department of English Reception
1:30–3:30 p.m. Hudspeth Hall Foyer

College of Health Sciences/School of Nursing Alumni and Friends Awards Celebration
4:30–6:30 p.m. 1101 N. Campbell St., Morgan-Roderick Auditorium

**Thursday, Oct. 1**
Open House:
The History of UTEP
10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Heritage House

College of Liberal Arts Gold Nugget Reception
4 p.m. Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts

College of Business Administration Gold Nugget Reception
4:30–6 p.m. College of Business Administration Lobby

Department of Philosophy David Hall Lecture Series
6–8 p.m. Miners Hall, Room 201

Float Making Party
6 p.m.–midnight. Parking Lot P-9

Wind Symphony Concert
7:30 p.m. Recital Hall

**Friday, Oct. 2**
College of Science Gold Nugget Breakfast
8:30–10 a.m. Geology Reading Room

College of Education Gold Nugget Breakfast
9–11 a.m. Union East, Templeton Suite

Open House:
The History of UTEP
10 a.m.–noon. Heritage House

Civil Engineering Luncheon
11:30 a.m. College of Engineering Lawn

Parade
Noon
The parade will begin from the P-9 parking lot across from Memorial Gym. The route will be: Randles to University to University, ending at Wiggins and University.

Pep Rally
Immediately following the parade. Memorial Triangle

Graduate School Open House
2–4 p.m. Academic Services Building, Room 223

UTEP Black Alumni Network Meet and Greet
4:30 p.m. Hilton Garden Inn

Miner Varsity Club Pre-game Tailgate
3–6:30 p.m. Glory Field

Open House:
The History of UTEP
10–11:45 a.m. Heritage House

College of Education Pre-game Party
Noon. Heritage House

Miner Varsity Club Pre-game Tailgate
3–6:30 p.m. Glory Field

Graduate School Tailgate Party
4–6 p.m. Academic Services Building Patio

UTEP Alumni Association Pre-game Party
4–6:30 p.m. Alumni Village on Glory Field

University College Tailgate Party
2 p.m. Behind Kelly Hall on the Patio

**Saturday, Oct. 3**
College of Engineering Gold Nugget Breakfast
8 a.m. El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center

Department of Political Science Welcome Back Event
9–11 a.m. Benedict Hall, Room 205

College of Science Brunch
9:30–11:30 a.m. Bell Hall Lawn

Department of Communication Homecoming Brunch
10 a.m. Cotton Memorial, Room 207

**CLASS OF 1959**
Golden Grad Reunion Schedule of Events

**Thursday, October 1, 2009**
REGISTRATION, PETER AND MARGARET DE WETTER CENTER
9–10:30 a.m.
HERITAGE HOUSE TOUR
11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
LUNCH AT LARRY K. DURHAM SPORTS CENTER
1–2:30 p.m.
DINNER AND DANCE AT ARDOVINO’S DESERT CROSSING
7–10 p.m.

**Friday, October 2, 2009**
OPEN HOUSE, PETER AND MARGARET DE WETTER CENTER
8:30 a.m.–Noon
HOME COMING PARADE
Noon
ALUMNI LUNCH
1:15 p.m.

**Saturday, October 3, 2009**
HERITAGE HOUSE TOURS
10 a.m.–Noon
GOLDEN GRAD LUNCHEON
TOMAS RIVERA CONFERENCE CENTER
Noon–2 p.m.
PRE-GAME PARTY AT GLORY FIELD
4–6:30 p.m.
FOOTBALL GAME
UTEP VS. HOUSTON
7:05 p.m.
The Hoover
If homes have character, it is because of the people who live there. The stately residence on Cincinnati Avenue in Kern Place is no different. Its current resident is UTEP President Diana Natalicio.
In a neighborhood of historic homes, the Hoover House, named for the family that donated it to the University, is perhaps the most striking of all. The grounds alone boast 20 types of trees and 60 varieties of flowers. While it would be easy to label the house a museum, it would also be incorrect. The past breathes through every nook and cranny, but the present is here as well.

“All of us at UTEP are proud that the beautiful Hoover House is part of our campus, thanks to the generosity of the Hoover family,” President Diana Natalicio said. “It serves as a wonderful setting for many UTEP events throughout the year, and we greatly enjoy welcoming the many guest members of the UTEP family, friends and supporters of the University, and visitors from across the world—who join us on these very special occasions.”

The Hoover House has hosted dozens of dignitaries, from former Gov. Ann Richards to former First Lady Laura Bush. And then there are the students themselves, who are always welcomed by Natalicio personally.

One of those students is Alex Muñoz, a senior who is the president of the Student Government Association. “The first time I went to the Hoover House was as vice president of the SGA last year,” recalled Muñoz, who has a double major in finance and accounting. “It was a great experience. Dr. Natalicio was so nice, so welcoming. The house really represents what UTEP is, a place where a lot of great minds have gathered, people who care about the mission of UTEP.”

Guests to the home are always surprised by Natalicio’s charming collection of baseball memorabilia, which is displayed in the walnut-paneled library. A St. Louis native who developed a passion for the Cardinals, Natalicio has collected souvenirs ranging from baseball cards to bobbleheads over the years.

Natalicio has thrown out the first pitch at Cohen Stadium, home of the El Paso Diablos, which opened in 1990 to the cheers of an enthusiastic crowd. “Dr. Natalicio has said that, if she weren’t President of UTEP, the one job she would want is baseball commissioner,” said Hoover House Manager Luz Anchondo.

Anchondo has been the house manager since Natalicio became UTEP President.

“I love it like it’s my own house,” she said. “That’s why I’ve been here so long, and Dr. Natalicio is very supportive.”
The home, the long-time residence of Robert and Louisiana Hoover, was donated to UTEP by Mrs. Hoover in 1965, five years after her husband's death.

The foyer (top) exudes a quiet sophistication that strikes visitors the moment they enter the house. The living room (middle) is bright and airy, with a pleasant and comfortable ambience, while the library (below) is warm and inviting.
The home was built in 1917, the plot of land having been purchased four years earlier for $1,385. It was designed for Richard Dudley, a banker in downtown El Paso. The property rose in value once the house was completed, increasing to $12,000.

Dudley would go on to serve as mayor of El Paso in the 1920s, according to the Online Handbook of Texas. He died a month after winning re-election to his second term in 1925. He became such a significant figure that Dudley Field—the old ballpark where the El Paso Sun Kings, the farm team for the then California Angels, used to play—was named after him. Nobody could have guessed, more than eight decades ago, that the baseball connection would blossom with the current resident of the home.

El Paso was a different town back then. In 1917, Kern Place represented the outer fringes of the city, and the Hoover House was the first home built in the area. Today, watering holes are abundant on Cincinnati Avenue—and beyond—but during Prohibition, liquor was illegal, and people who tried to quench their thirst with something stronger than root beer or sarsaparilla faced legal penalties, including incarceration.

Legend has it that a trap door, located at that time under the massive table in the dining room, once lead to the basement below. It would have been the perfect hiding place for bottles of illicit beverages.

If a form of Prohibition ever returns to this country, the residents of the Hoover House will be out of luck. The trap door was removed years ago, and a cooling system was installed in the area where bottles of liquor may have been stacked.

The Hoovers—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thompson Hoover—acquired the home in 1943. A native of Houston, Mr. Hoover founded a cotton business in El Paso. He died in 1960 and, five years later, his widow moved to a smaller home, donating what would become known as the Hoover House to the University (see sidebar for more on the Hoover family).

"The children and grandchildren come to visit the house occasionally," Anchondo said. "It's heartwarming. You can see the great memories they have of the house."

The stairway (opposite page) leads to the portrait of the original owner, Richard Dudley, who had the home built for his family in 1917. The sun room (top), once an open porch, was enclosed to accommodate the many guests who visit the Hoover House. An archival photograph (bottom) shows what is now known as the Hoover House during the early years (circa 1919).

Before it became a University icon, it was a house, a home. And Louann Hoover appreciated it for its beauty and warmth. "I was 15 when we moved there," she recalled. "It was so big. I could have all my friends over. We had lots of parties there."

The house was gifted to The University of Texas at El Paso by her mother, Louisiana, in 1965. Since that time it has been home to five UTEP presidents, including the current resident, Dr. Diana Natalicio.

But if houses are made of brick and mortar, memories are even stronger, and the former resident cherishes her recollections of the home that once belonged to her family.

"We moved into it during World War II," she said. "We had lived about a block away, in Kern Place, and the new house was much bigger, of course. We always had lots of company, and we had so much fun there."

After she and her two brothers got married, they would let the children stay with their grandparents on the weekends. It was a treat for the youngsters—and a challenge for the grandparents, although they never complained. At one point, a total of 12 grandchildren trooped into the house every Saturday and Sunday.

"It looked like a summer camp, with all those kids," said Feuille, laughing.

Now that her children have children, the grandkids have gone to visit the Hoover House.

"Some live in the area, some outside," she said. "Dr. Natalicio has been so kind and welcoming to the family."

An enthusiastic supporter of the University and the community, Feuille received the Gold Nugget Award from the UTEP School of Nursing last year, an honor that recognized her devotion to the nursing profession.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in nursing from UTEP in 1974, she worked as a pediatric nurse at Providence Memorial Hospital, winding up her career as a nurse in the El Paso Independent School District.

"When my mother donated the house to the University, I was happy," she said. "Dr. Natalicio uses it for a lot of functions for the University and the community, and I'm just so pleased. I think that's wonderful."
The fascinating thing about sports is that the events we cherish, the memories we treasure, become even more vivid and spectacular as time marches on.

So we remember the great UT student-athletes, thrilling the campus, the city, the nation and, sometimes, the world:

- Bob Beamon defied gravity in the long jump during the 1968 Olympics, becoming the first athlete to record a leap of more than 28 feet.
- Nate Archibald—aka "Tiny"—dribbled through thicket of defenders in the late 1960s and early 1970s, twisting and turning as if the court were his own personal slalom course.
- Barron Wortham punished carriers in the 1990s, a tack
Hello, Miner fans!

We are very excited about this special issue of the UTEP Magazine highlighting our athletic program. Inside you'll find historical information for all of our sports, career highlights of some of the top student-athletes who have passed through UTEP, as well as capsules of our first-rate athletic facilities.

I hope this magazine gives you a taste of the proud history of UTEP Athletics while building anticipation for the many great achievements to come. I know I speak for everyone on our staff when I express how fortunate we are to be part of such an outstanding University and athletic program with the best fans in the world.

We are really looking forward to the 2009-10 athletic year. We have high expectations for all of our sports, and I encourage you to support all 16 of our teams and our fine student-athletes. UTEP really is El Paso’s team, and your presence in the stands is such a critical component of our success!

Thank you for everything that you have done for UTEP Athletics, and enjoy the magazine!

Sincerely,

Bob Stull
Director of Athletics
UTEP
T he sport has been such a critical component of UTEP Athletics that it’s hard to imagine the men’s basketball program was mired in mediocrity for many years before coach Don Haskins’ arrival in 1961.

The initial Miner squad was formed in 1914, composed primarily of players from the football team. Tommy Dwyer doubled as the school’s football and basketball coach. Basketball was a rugged sport in those early days, so rugged that it was sometimes compared to football. There was pushing, shoving and elbowing. Broken noses were not uncommon, and the Liberty Hall floor, where the team played, was usually dotted with blood.

The Miners were physical, but not particularly good. During the first 46 years of the team’s existence, it enjoyed only 12 winning seasons and captured three conference titles. The first conference crown came during the 1940-41 season, when UTEP—then known as the College of Mines and Metallurgy—posted a 14-9 mark and knocked off Arizona State, 63-46, to clinch the Border Conference title at 250-seat Holliday Hall.

One of the team’s stars was Lee Floyd, the father of future UTEP Assistant Head Coach Tim Floyd. UTEP also presided over the Border Conference standings during the 1956-57 and 1958-59 campaigns.

When Haskins arrived two years later, however, Miner basketball became a whole new ballgame. In 38 seasons heading the program, Haskins directed UTEP to an astounding 719 victories, none bigger than the historic 1966 national title victory over Kentucky.

Jim Barnes was the first of numerous stars to don the Miner uniform under Haskins. Barnes averaged an eye-popping 29.2 points and 19.2 rebounds his senior year (1965-66) en route to being selected by New York as the first player in the NBA Draft. The Miners appeared in the NCAA Tournament 14 times under Haskins, including an amazing run of seven consecutive trips to “The Big Dance” from 1984-90.

With future NBA stars Antonio Davis and Tim Hardaway leading the way, UTEP was the seventh-winningest team in college basketball during the ’80s, posting a 227-82 record. Haskins’ final NCAA Tournament appearance (1992) produced a shocking upset of top-seeded Kansas in the second round and a berth in the Sweet 16.

Four coaches have taken the helm of the UTEP basketball program since Haskins retired in 1999. In 2004, following a six-win campaign the year before, Billy Gillispie engineered an NCAA record turnaround, directing the Miners to 24 wins and their first NCAA Tournament bid in 12 years.

With the team’s nucleus returning the following year, Doc Sadler supervised a 27-victory slate and return trip to the NCAAs. John Calipari disciple Tony Barbee has been the caretaker of the program since 2006, and the Miners have made tremendous strides under his direction. Barbee’s third Miner team racked up 23 wins in 2009 and reached the finals of the postseason College Basketball Invitational led by Stefon Jackson, the school’s—and Conference USA’s—all-time leading scorer.
DON HASKINS

What happens in sports usually stays in sports, deep within the narrow confines of the football field, the baseball diamond, the boxing ring.

Every once in a while, however, society witnesses something special, something magical.

One such moment came on March 19, 1966, a day that transcended every sport section in the country.

When Texas Western College, now UTEP, defeated Kentucky for the NCAA basketball championship, it was one of those shimmering moments when athletic interests with history.

The players—and their head coach—waded from the box scores to the history books.

Texas Western defeated Kentucky, 72-65, but the important numbers were not on the scoreboard, the figure we all remember—the figure that changed sports and the country in which sports are played—was five.

The five young men who started for the Miners that evening were African-American, the first time a university had won the NCAA title with five black starters.

A breakthrough athletic performance during the height of the Civil Rights era, it remains one of the single most glorious moments in sports history—hence the title of the 2006 film, Glory Road.

Yet the man who engineered the victory—Head Coach Don Haskins—did not have glory or history in mind when he started the five African-Americans.

It was a noble thing he did, a thing lesser men may never have contemplated, but he did not do it to change history or achieve glory; he did not care that those five young men were black anymore than he cared that the basketball was orange.

He started them because they were the five best players on his team, period, which was—and is—the grandest motivation he could have had.

In using skill as an instructing stick, he told the country that race did not matter, that the old Jim Crow ways were obsolete.

Like most great men, Haskins was complicated; gruff one minute, warm the next, but one aspect of his character remained constant—his fierce but dignified commitment to fairness and excellence.

It was what The Bear was all about.
The UTEP women's basketball program, established prior to the 1974-75 season, was initially operated by the intramurals department.

The first head coach was Carol Ammerman, who accepted the job at a salary of $80 per month. Ammerman recorded a pair of winning seasons in her four years at the helm.

A challenging stretch ensued as Wayne Thornton (one year), Janet Woods (seven years), Ken Weeks (one year) and Craig Roden (three years) all tried unsuccessfully to duplicate Ammerman's achievements. Only Roden managed to post a winning season (16-14 in 1988-89) during the 12 years.

The fortunes of the program started to turn once Sandra Rushing arrived on campus. Rushing put the pieces in place for the future, establishing a booster club, engineering the team's move for home games from Memorial Gym to the Don Haskins Center (then known as the Special Events Center) and creating her own television show. She also was successful on the court, rattling off a school-record eight straight years with at least 10 triumphs. Included in the run was a then program-best 18 victories in 1992-93.

Rushing stepped down after the 2000-01 campaign, but not before having compiled 123 wins.

Keitha Adams arrived in 2001-02, quickly getting the ball rolling. She has hit double digits in victories each year since 2002-03, but her legacy will be known for much more. Adams led UTEP to back-to-back 20-win seasons in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

During the 2007-08 campaign, the Miners were ranked nationally in the final six weeks, won the program's first conference title by becoming the first Conference USA women's team to go undefeated in league play, and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Overall, UTEP has registered a school-best three straight winning seasons. The Miners have the best record of any team since joining C-USA in 2005. Adams has mentored four of the six members of UTEP's 1,000-point club, including two-time C-USA Player of the Year Jareica Hughes.
UTEK football and success haven’t been synonymous historically, but Head Coach Mike Price and his staff have been working hard to restore a winning tradition in the Sun City.

Price’s first two Miner teams—in 2004 and 2005—each registered eight victories and made bowl appearances. For the first time in program annals, UTEP earned spots in both the Associated Press and ESPN/USA Today top-25 national polls in 2004. Price has coached UTEP to 30 wins since his arrival in 2004, the Miners’ winningest five-year period since the 1950s. UTEP has annually ranked among the nation’s elite offensive teams under Price.

UTEK is seventh in the country in passing offense, 21st in scoring offense and 32nd in total offense since 2004. Jordan Palmer shattered all the Miners’ passing records in 2006, and Trevor Vittatoe is the latest in a long line of rifle-armed quarterbacks to play for Price. Before passing the torch to the former national coach of the year, UTEP enjoyed just three winning seasons in 33 years. Two of those campaigns, however, were doozies. In 1988, coach Bob Stull orchestrated the Miners’ lone 10-win season. The team dominated nearly every opponent before running into Southern Miss and a little-known signal-caller named Brett Favre in a rainy Independence Bowl.

After making his mark on the gridiron, Stull has turned around the athletic department’s fortunes as the face of the program since 1998. The 2000 Miners were the talk of the Western Athletic Conference, setting a school record with seven straight wins following a 1-2 start on their way to an 8-4 standing. Coach Gary Nord coaxed a Humanitarian Bowl appearance out of the Miners behind efficient quarterback Rocky Perez, who threw for 26 touchdowns and only six interceptions.

With UTEP football struggling by and large in the 1970s, ’80s and ’90s, people may forget that the Miners were pretty darned good in the ’50s and ’60s. Half of UTEP’s 12 all-time bowl appearances occurred during that period. The Miners compiled six winning seasons in the ’50s, then put up record-setting offensive numbers in the mid-’60s, led by quarterback Billy Stevens. UTEP averaged a school-standard 35.9 points per game in 1967. The Miners recorded three Sun Bowl wins in the ’50s, including a 47-20 demolition of Florida State in 1955.

Among the stars of those 1950s Miner teams was future NFL Hall of Famer Don Maynard.

The first Miner squad logged two wins and three losses under coach Tommy Dwyer in 1914. Shortly after the Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy opened its doors, John W. Kidd, the dean of engineering, put up $800, a large sum at the time, to start a team. He sent out a call for volunteers, and although the school’s first enrollment consisted of only 28 students—all men—14 of them showed up. It has been reported that even before the first exam was given in the classroom, football players were scrimmaging on the rocky, dirt lots surrounding the school.
Along with the UTEP track and field program, Miner cross country squads have elevated the UTEP name to an unmatched level of excellence.

The UTEP cross country program alone has won seven NCAA team titles and three individual national titles and produced 58 All-Americans, 22 individual conference champions and 17 conference championships. Its history dates to the late 1960s, with an astounding feat of top-three national finishes from 1969 to 1981, including national crowns from 1978 to 1981 that led to three consecutive NCAA triple crowns.

Since 1982, the men's squad has captured three top-20 national finishes and taken first or second place 11 times at the conference championships.

While most of the hardware was attained during the Ted Banks era (1972-81), in 2003 UTEP hired Olympic gold medalist Paul Ereng to breathe new life into the program and bring it back to national prominence. Ereng has since produced seven All-Americans, two top-15 national finishes, three conference champions and three consecutive Conference USA titles.

The Miners have not finished lower than the top three in the conference since Ereng took the reins of the program, earning him three C-USA Coach of the Year honors, while his athletes have picked up multiple Athlete of the Year, Newcomer of the Year and Outstanding Senior of the Year accolades.
TED BANKS

One of the most successful coaches in NCAA history, Banks propelled the UTEP track and field and cross country programs into inter-
national powerhouses.

He led the Miners to 17 NCAA titles (five outdoor, six indoor, six cross country) from 1972-
81, including 10 consecutive national titles from the 1979 outdoor season to the 1981 indoor season, earning him three straight triple crowns.

Banks coached 189 NCAA All-Americans and 47 NCAA individual champions, guiding UTEP to 23 Western Athletic Conference titles during his tenure. His 1981 squad won UTEP’s seventh cross country title with a record-low score of 17 points.

A UTEP Athletics Hall of Fame and UTEP Track and Field Hall of Fame honoree, Banks was inducted into the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association National Hall of Fame in December 2000.
Picture a golfer hacking away in a sand trap. That will give you a good idea of the obstacles the UTEP golf program faced in 1981, when Ed Swartz took over as athletic director for the University. One of his first tasks was to start a men’s golf program. Lee Trevino, a Mexican-American icon, helped out by creating a $100,000 endowment to fund a golf scholarship, the first of which was awarded to Steve Valdez, an El Paso native who attended Gadsden High School in Anthony, N.M. Despite the endowment, the program faced financial difficulties. Crickett Musch, the head coach, established the Lee Trevino UTEP Golf Pro Am to raise money for equipment, uniforms and travel.

The hard work paid off. In the fall of 1982, the Miners boasted a full complement of scholarship players for the first time, one of whom was Rick Todd, the first All-American for the team. He would be joined by seven other Miners who earned the same honor, including Paul Stankowski and J.P. Hayes, currently on the PGA Tour.

For Todd, his success as a golfer was a sign of things to come. The current head coach of the team, Todd has guided his players to successful seasons, including 2003, when the team finished just one stroke shy of qualifying for the NCAA championships. The team participated in the tournament six times during the 1980s and 1990s.

With the UTEP men achieving so much success in the 1980s, including a runner-up showing at the NCAA championships in 1988, it was a natural for the women to hit the scene in the 1990s. The lady Miners took to the links for the first time during the 1993-94 season under Tim Norris, who doubled as coach of the men and the women at the time. Norris spent one season at the helm before turning the program over to Jere Pelletier, a PGA professional working in Albuquerque, N.M. Pelletier has coached the Miners for the last 15 years, taking the program from its infancy to contention for Conference USA titles. UTEP has finished in the top five at the conference tournament seven times under Pelletier.

The lady Miners enjoyed their best league showing in 2007, tying for third place behind Gerina Mendoza, the C-USA individual champion and Player of the Year. She posted a school-record 72.8 stroke average that year, appearing in the NCAA Championships as an individual. She finished first at four tournaments during her collegiate career, another school standard. Pelletier has led UTEP to seven team tournament titles and coached nine All-Conference players. Another of his star pupils was Kristen MacLaren, a three-time tournament winner who participated in the NCAA Championships her senior year in 2000.
The UTEP rifle team is a little-known success story. UTEP’s rifle program started in the early 1920s, when a group of students formed the El Paso Gun Club, opening its inaugural campaign competing against Oklahoma A&M, Arizona, Idaho and New Mexico Military Institute.

The squad won six of seven matches in its first season. The most prolific years came in the 1950s when the all-male squad posted a record of 20-1 to open the decade. But it was during the 1952-53 season that the Miners captured the first-ever national championship for UTEP, 13 years prior to the men’s 1966 NCAA basketball title.

The squad of Col. Evans Crowell, John Reed Edwin, P.J. Wright, Bill Killian, Arthur Najara and Frank Tyra, coached by Sgt. A. Gallaus, took the 4th Army Area title, the William Randolph Hearst Army ROTC Championship and Hearst National Defense Trophy. The program became co-ed in the 1980s. Tony Hammett took over the squad in 1986 to help catapult the Miners back into national prominence.

It was under his guidance that Soma Dutta captured the 1991 NCAA Individual Smallbore title, becoming the second woman ever to win the NCAA smallbore rifle championship. Since becoming an all-female squad during the 1994-95 season, the Miners, under current head coach George Brenzovich, have participated in four of the last five NCAA Championships.

The Miners, who capped the 2008-09 season ranked ninth nationally, are once again on the brink of a national title. Thirteen shooters have been named NRA All-Americans since 1990, including seven with multiple honors. Since its launch in the early part of the 20th century, the sport advanced into the modern era when it moved away from paper targets in 2007 to an electronic scoring system, giving the sport more accurate results.
In 1995, UTEP Athletic Department officials announced the addition of women’s soccer as the 15th intercollegiate sport.

Veronica O’Brien, introduced as the first coach in 1996, assembled a squad of 19 players—including 10 from El Paso—for the 1996 campaign. The Miners finished 4-12-2 that year, but things would improve quickly.

Kevin Cross was brought in as UTEP’s top assistant coach in May 1997, and he helped O’Brien’s team double its win total the next season (9-10-1). O’Brien’s most successful season was in 1998 when UTEP went 13-6-1, earning a share of the Western Athletic Conference’s Mountain Division Co-Championship. O’Brien was tabbed the division’s Coach of the Year while freshman Laura Glasspoole secured the division’s Player of the Year Award.

Following an eight-win season in 1999 and a nine-triumph tally in 2000, Cross was picked to take over the program. After a challenging 2001 campaign, Cross’ efforts have resulted in the Golden Era of UTEP women’s soccer.

The Miners have posted seven straight winning seasons, tying for 14th in the country for wins during that period (101).

UTEP has racked up the triumphs with up-tempo play, as it is ranked eighth nationally for goals scored since 2002 with 388. The top season in UTEP history was in 2005, UTEP raced out of the gates at 14-0-1 on the way to finishing the season with a program-best and Conference USA standard-tying record of 20-4-1. The Miners earned an at-large appearance in the NCAA tournament, making some noise by stunning Texas on the road, 3-2, in overtime.

Cross’ squad has been the standard bearer for C-USA since joining the conference in 2005, with the Miners boasting the top record of any league team in that time frame.

University Field, which underwent a $100,000 renovation in July 2006, has become one of the toughest places to play in the country. The Miners are 61-7-3 at home since 2002, leading C-USA in attendance each of the past three years. 

KEVIN CROSS

Soccer

Miners
The youngest of the UTEP athletics programs, the softball team has made steady improvement in its rise to conference and national prominence.

Under the direction of husband and wife James and Kathleen Rodriguez, the softball team has grown steadily. Hired on Jan. 8, 2003, the pair wasted no time, announcing the first recruiting class on April 22. In their first games on Feb. 15, 2004, the Miners made history with a doubleheader, no-hitter sweep of Sul Ross State. After winning just eight games in its inaugural slate, UTEP showed success in 2005 when the program captured its first all-conference selection in Ashley Bennett. It has averaged at least two all-league players since.

The Miners earned their first all-league winning season in 2007 with a 28-23 (.549) finish. The 2008 squad followed with its first 30-win campaign (30-24), a victory over seventh-ranked Arizona and an appearance in the semifinals of the Conference USA Softball Championship.

The 2009 slate ended in much the same fashion, with a series of firsts. Camilla Carrera was awarded C-USA's top prize—Player of the Year. Freshman Chelsea Troupe stormed onto the scene, etching her name in rookie record books en route to the C-USA Freshman of the Year trophy. The Miners defeated the defending national champions for the second consecutive season (Arizona, 2008; Arizona State, 2009), and three players were named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Midwest Region team (Carrera, Troupe and Stacie Townsend). The Miners bulldozed their way to the title game.

The Miners continue to show dominance, ranking among the best in the nation offensively for the last three seasons, a sign that there is no end in sight to their success.
Undeniably the most successful program in school history, the track and field teams have made UTEP a world-renowned name in sports.

A synonym for athletic excellence, Miner track and field athletes have racked up 13 NCAA Championships, 107 NCAA champions, 495 All-Americans, more than 600 conference champions and 33 conference championships since the program’s inaugural season in 1960. With 13 of the University’s 25 total NCAA Championships, the track and field teams have pushed UTEP into the top 10 NCAA schools with the most championships won in male sports.

Through its nearly 50 years, the program has recorded 28 top-five finishes in the national meet under two of the best track and field minds in the world, Ted Banks and Bob Kitchens.

Following Banks’ retirement in 1981, UTEP went through three coaches before hiring Kitchens from Mississippi State in 1988. Kitchens was honored seven times by the Western Athletic Conference as the Coach of the Year and has received the award from Conference USA three times.

Combined, Banks and Kitchens have sent more than 100 athletes to represent UTEP at the Olympics, with Miners winning 15 Olympic medals.
The UTEP tennis program has been a part of Miner athletics since the 1983-84 season. Louie Alvarez, an assistant pro at the El Paso Tennis Club, was hired in August 1983 as the first head coach. He built the roster through open tryouts, using his contacts in the region to bring in players from Juárez. Alvarez also was charged with raising $12,000 to fund the program. He created the "Try Harder" committee, which held various events and projects to reach the goal with grassroots fund-raising strategies. The Miners were 2-8 that year, but the program’s long-term security was assured due to his efforts.

UTEPE soared to nine wins in 1985, taking home the program’s best finish in league play (third). Alvarez departed UTEP at year’s end to take a lucrative teaching pro position at one of the top country clubs in the nation.

After his departure, a revolving door for coaches emerged, with six different individuals directing the Miners over the next seven seasons. York Strother arrived for the 1992-93 season, providing the steady leadership UTEP desperately needed. Strother transformed the Miners from a struggling program to one that achieved national recognition. He recruited higher-quality players, such as Andrea Petrovic, UTEP’s first-ever nationally ranked player, and Tanja Magoc, the only Miner to compete at the NCAA tournament.

UTEPE also achieved its only national rankings as a team in 1995, 1998 and 1999. The Miners faced 77 nationally ranked teams during Strother’s era. Alisha Woodroof followed Strother, but held the post for only two years before giving way to Jamie Campbell in 2003. Campbell has overseen the winningest four-year stretch at the school.

The Miners capped the 2009 campaign by setting school standards for best winning percentage (.696), longest win streak (seven) and best home mark (9-1) while equaling the overall record for triumphs (16).
Women's volleyball, added to the UTEP Athletics Department in 1974, has become a major component of the El Paso community.

The Miners saw quick success on the court as the inaugural squad posted a record of 9-7 under Head Coach Kevin Sherlin. UTEP went 11-8 during its second season before announcing the hiring of Norm Brandl in 1976.

Still in its early stages, the Miners posted a .564 winning percentage in the 1970s and carried the momentum to the most successful decade in UTEP volleyball history, the 1980s. Brandl led the Miners to seven winning seasons that included 200 wins and the Oil Country Athletic Conference Championship in 1984. The 13-1 conference record, the best league finish for a Miner volleyball team, earned Brandl the Oil Country Coach of the Year Award. The 1982 squad posted a record of 30-18, still the most wins by a UTEP volleyball team. Three years later, the Miners posted a school record .719 winning percentage with a 23-9 overall record.

After Brandl retired in 1998, Revis Ward-Daggett took the reins of the program. Ward-Daggett was named the Western Athletic Conference Coach of the Year after taking a depleted 5-24 team to a 16-win season in 2000.

In 2002, Scott Swanson was selected as the program's fifth head coach. Swanson took the program to new heights, recording a 21-10, 10-6 season in 2005. That year, Kari Stacy became UTEP's first ever AVCA All-Region All-American Honorable Mention.

Ken Murphy has served as head coach of the Miners since 2007.
Named after the legendary UTEP men's basketball coach, the Don Haskins Center is among the top basketball facilities in the Southwest and Conference USA.

Built in 1976, the Haskins Center features a Robbins Bio-Channel Star maple floor, installed in the summer of 2002. The game-day environment was enhanced in recent years with the addition of new scoreboards and video replay boards. The cozy 12,000-seat arena, now home to the UTEP basketball and volleyball teams, has a capacity of 9,420 fans.

The arena was the site of a milestone win during the 1997-98 season, as coach Haskins notched his 700th career victory versus SMU. The women's basketball team boasts an all-time mark of 162-103 (.607) at the arena, aided by two separate unbeaten streaks of at least 12 games in the past two years.

There was something special about Sun Bowl Stadium when it opened on Sept. 21, 1963. On the first play, the Miners ran back for a touchdown against North Texas State University. The Miners went on to score a 34-7 victory over the Eagles.

The home of UTEP soccer since 1996, University Field has been the site of many historic events. The Miners have chalked up 87 of their 147 all-time victories in the national championships. The Miners have also hosted 115 players who have been invited to the field in its 12-year history.

The Larry K. Durham Sports Center opened its doors in August 2002. Named for a successful businessman and former Miner football standout, the 65,000-square-foot building, situated adjacent to the Sun Bowl, features an 11,420-square-foot strength and conditioning center, a 4,736-square-foot sports medicine center and a student-athletes' lounge/computer center, which are used by all Miner sports except men's and women's basketball.

The UTEP Sports Medicine Center features taping and treatment areas, one hot and one cold whirlpool in the Hydro Therapy Center, and X-ray and optical services.

The Durham Center is also home to the football coaches' offices, locker room and equipment room. The Hall of Champions, located on the second floor, honors UTEP athletic heritage and is used for University and Department of Intercollegiate Athletics receptions and functions.

A reception room with seating both inside and outside is an ideal place to watch the game.

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MINER PODCAST

Search for "UTEP Athletics Podcasts" in your iTunes application, or download podcasts directly at:

www.utepathletics.com/podcasts

UTEP Rifle Range

Dedicated in 1980, the Military Sciences Building is the home of the UTEP Rifle Range. The range is equipped with eight rifle lanes featuring electronic targets that give shooters the ability to monitor their shots.

Included in the rifle range is a viewing area that allows fans to keep an eye on each individual shooter and team scoring with results posted on display monitors.
Built in the early 1930s, Kidd Field has been home to numerous All-Americans, national champions, national record holders and Olympians. Named after UTEP (then Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy) professor and athletic booster John W. Kidd, the facility was shared with the UTEP football team until 1962, when it became sole home to the track and field team.

The track features an eight-lane, 400-meter track, the same surface used for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. The track was made possible by donations from Wayne and Russ Vandenburg of EPT Management and Mark Fry.

A state-of-the-art Dacronics video board was added in January 2006. The 9-by-15-foot LED display places fans right in the action on the track, providing graphics and video elements that display real-time highlights during a meet. The facility also houses boxes and jumps areas, making Kidd Field one of the top track-only complexes in the country.

The home of the 1996 NCAA Basketball Champions, Memorial Gym has housed the UTEP volleyball team since the program’s inception in 1974. With capacity at 5,200, Memorial Gym is consistently at the top of the Conference USA standings in attendance, making it one of the best venues in the league.

Memorial Gym contains two classrooms, a kickboxing, judo, and karate dojo (training room), an auxiliary gym (the size of two full volleyball courts) and the main gym floor that is the size of four volleyball courts. In addition, Memorial Gym houses six full-size racquetball courts, the Exercise Physiology Lab, and the equipment room for Kinesiology and Physical Education activity classes.

At a cost of $10.8 million, the Helen of Troy Softball Complex has become one of the premier venues not only in Conference USA, but across the country.

Just over four years old, the multi-purpose complex houses UTEP’s softball and soccer programs. It is equipped with sizable locker rooms for softball and soccer teams, a locker room and offices for coaches of both programs, showers and restrooms, two lounge/video areas, a conference room, a meeting room, reception space and storage. The softball field measures 200 feet down the left and right field lines and 220 feet to center. The facility includes a VIP seating area, lights, a scoreboard, three batting cages and two bullpens. Helen of Troy Field also is equipped with 157 chair-backed seats, as well as 450 bleacher seats, for a total seating capacity of 607.

New University Ticket Center

The University Ticket Center is an official Tickemaster Outlet for all UTEP Athletics events. The new facility is located on Mesa Street and Glory Road, near the Don Haskins Center, and the Foster-Stevens Basketball Center.

Hours of operation: M-F: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun: Closed

UTEP ATHLETICS EXPANDS PRESENCE ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK

In an effort to build upon an already strong relationship with its fan base, the UTEP Athletics Department is making several additions to its social networking services. Miner fans now can receive up-to-the-minute alerts about their favorite teams or head coaches by following them on Twitter. It is very important to each head coach that they can interact with fans, while being involved and committed to the El Paso community.

Each individual who follows any of the UTEP Athletics Twitter accounts will receive a free “I TWEET PETE” T-shirt. The T-shirt can be used for discounts throughout the season, such as free admission into contests.

Simply e-mail your Twitter name, mailing address and requested T-shirt size to djyeale@miners.utep.edu to receive a shirt in the mail.

Additionally, Miner fans can receive all the latest news through Facebook.

Sign up to friend Paydirt Pete (UTEP’s Paydirt Pete) and join the official fan page under “UTEP Athletics.”

If more than 3,000 fans have signed up on the UTEP Athletics page before the Miner football team opens the season vs. Buffalo on Sept. 5, then 10 Facebook followers will be recognized during the game. One of the 10 fans will win a pair of 2009-10 UTEP men’s basketball season tickets. The other nine also will go home with a prize from UTEP Athletics.

More promotions exclusive to Facebook and Twitter users will be announced throughout the year.

TWEET NOW

Football @utepfootball
Men’s Basketball @tonybarbee
Women’s Basketball @utepbasketball
Softball @utepsoftball
Soccer @utepsoccer
Volleyball @utepvolleyball
Women’s Golf @utepwomensgolf
Tennis @utep Tennis
Game and Student Promotions @paydirtpete
General Press Releases and Information @utepathletics

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MINER ATHLETIC CLUB

The Miner Athletic Club consists of more than 2,500 alumni, donors and fans who have united to provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for nearly 300 UTEP student-athletes with the dream of obtaining their degrees while competing at the highest level of intercollegiate athletics.

The mission is to raise funds that help offset the cost of the $4 million in student-athlete scholarships, in addition to providing support for sport-specific fund-raising needs. The club raises scholarship funds through annual membership, special events, and an annual fundraising campaign (Team Fund Drive), endowments and gifts, as well as through donor portions of premium season ticket sales in football and men's basketball.

Financial contributions are critical as they directly support UTEP student-athletes in their quest for excellence in academics, athletics and service to the El Paso community.

The biggest challenge in continuing to build a successful, broad-based athletics program is providing funding that equals other Conference USA members.

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics receives no financial assistance from the state of Texas. Support of Miner Athletics helps to ensure the funds for needed athletic scholarships and facility upgrades.

The Miner Athletic Club values the financial and in-kind contributions made by individual and corporate donors and volunteers. The Miner Athletic Club strives to identify, recognize, motivate, and celebrate these donors and volunteers through recognition events, benefit packages and awards throughout the year.

The Office of Athletic Development collaborates with all other offices within the Athletic Department in continuously promoting, supporting and celebrating UTEP Athletics and the quality young men and women who are proud to wear the Orange and Blue. Student-athlete accomplishments in the classroom and on the field of competition are positively impacted by the passion and generosity of all donors and friends of the Athletics Department.

Funding the cost of student-athlete scholarships is one of the primary goals of the Athletics Department. With operating and scholarship costs of athletics departments continually on the rise, the fundraising component of the Athletics Department has become crucial to providing revenue that will be used to offset these costs.

The UTEP Athletics Department and student-athletes who proudly represent the University and El Paso community acknowledge the generosity and commitment of Miner Athletic Club members. To maintain our status as one of the nation's premier academic and athletic institutions, the club must continue to increase its membership within the El Paso community, the state and across the nation. The club is striving to reach 5,000 members. To attain this number, the "Drive for 5" campaign is requesting that all Miner alumni and fans join the Miner Athletic Club, as well as asking current members to recruit one new member. By approaching business acquaintances, friends or family members about joining, the club can reach its goal. Many have not joined simply because they have not been asked.

Through continued support, UTEP Athletics can keep touching the lives of many Miner alumni and fans to mold the future of our greatest asset—student-athletes.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MINER ATHLETIC CLUB, CALL 915-747-8759 OR VISIT www.minerathleticclub.com

Funds for needed athletic scholarships and facility upgrades.

KIDS CLUB

At any given UTEP sporting event, some of the most enthusiastic fans are the younger spectators.

Since 2005, the UTEP Miner Kids Club has allowed future Miners in the community to attend games, interact with their favorite athletes and participate in sports clinics throughout the year, all while having fun.

"These kids learn that if they do well in school, work hard and stay disciplined, then they can also play a sport in college," said Emily Hobel, director of marketing and promotions with UTEP Athletics. "They really look up to the student-athletes."

The group of about 150 members had the opportunity to participate in "Kids Take Over the Ballpark," where the youngsters got a unique experience running behind-the-scenes aspects of a UTEP softball game. They made the PA announcements, picked the music, helped sell programs, led crowd cheers and handed out giveaways.

The UTEP Miner Kids Club is open to all El Paso area children in the 8th grade and younger. The annual membership fee of $20 includes a gift pack, free entry into most games in various sports and exclusive events for Kids Club members. Parents can register their children at www.utepathletics.com/kidsclub.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT UTEP Athletics 915-747-5387

Pete’s Pass is back for the 2009-10 season!

One pass gives you admission to every regular season home game for women's basketball, soccer, volleyball, softball, tennis, and track and field.

Be there for the excitement as the women's basketball team makes a run at greatness in the Don Haskins Center. Witness every thrilling play as the soccer team challenges for another NCAA Tournament berth on University Field. Catch the 2009 Conference USA Tournament runner-up softball team in action at the spectacular Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

Cheer on the always-exciting Miner Tennis Team. Watch the Track and Field athletes compete at Kidd Field as the team builds for the NCAA Championship. And don't miss the fast-paced fun as the volleyball team makes its mark in C-USA in Memorial Gym.

PURCHASE A PETE'S PASS FOR ONLY $35 AT UTEP's Season Ticket Office or by calling 915-747-6150.

One pass gives you admission to every regular season home game for women's basketball, soccer, volleyball, softball, tennis, and track and field.

Be there for the excitement as the women's basketball team makes a run at greatness in the Don Haskins Center. Witness every thrilling play as the soccer team challenges for another NCAA Tournament berth on University Field. Catch the 2009 Conference USA Tournament runner-up softball team in action at the spectacular Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

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They jump, sweat and run. They dive, tumble and lunge. They are athletes in the purest sense of the term, for they excel at physical activities, their bodies primed to perform feats that many of us can only imagine.

But these athletes do not score touchdowns, shoot baskets or heave shot puts. Instead, they support those who do. They are the UTEP cheerleaders, and they are as central to the sporting events as the players themselves. They are part of the excitement, part of the frenzy that is the glory of college athletics. It is our turn to cheer for them.

Imagine going to a dance hall some night, only to see the venue turn into a football field … or a basketball court. You will have a pretty good idea of what it is like to see the UTEP Goldiggers in action. It would be easy to call them poetry in motion, but since sport events often turn into joyously raucous affairs, it might be more appropriate to label them poetry in continuance. Either way, the UTEP Goldiggers, like the cheerleading squads they complement, serve to create excitement for UTEP students, alumni and friends. Dancing to support the various Miner teams, they have stepped their way into our hearts.
They Are the Champions

1. Olapade Adekunle
   - Track and field, 1980-82; Adekunle followed two NCAA outdoor championship titles in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes in 1980 with an Olympic silver medal. He was a member of the 1980 track and field hall of fame. He won 11 NCAA championships as a miner.

2. Nate "Tiny" Archibald
   - Men's basketball, 1968-70; Tiny led the Hawkeyes to the 1969 title before winning a long and prolific NBA career. He spent 13 seasons in the league, averaging 18.6 points and 7.4 assists. His toughness earned him recognition as one of the 50 greatest players in NBA history.

3. Jim Barnes
   - Men's basketball, 1960-63; Barnes topped the Big Ten in the 1960 draft. He was named all-Big Ten three times. In his senior season, he averaged 22.5 points and 13.7 rebounds—both school records—as a senior at the University of Iowa.

4. Bob Beamon
   - Track and field, 1967-69; Beamon left a legacy few can match by winning two national championships while at the University of Iowa. His jump of 29 feet, 2 inches was the longest in the world for 23 years.

5. Charlie Brown
   - Men's basketball, 1968-69; Brown broke racial barriers as the first Black athlete to compete at a major university. He was named All-American five times and earned All-American honors three times.

6. Bert Cameron
   - Track and field, 1960-63; A three-time NCAA Indoor Champion in the 8000-meter run, Cameron captured a silver medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics as part of the 1500-meter relay team while at Notre Dame.

7. Fred Carr
   - Football, 1965-67; Probably the best overall athlete in UTEP history. He was equally tough in the NFL playing for the Packers. He was named all-Pro three times and the Pro Bowl MVP in 1967. Carr led the Packers to a pair of Super Bowls and was known for his consistency.

8. Keith Connor
   - Track and field, 1970-72; Connor was a three-time Olympian in the 1972 and 1976 Olympic Games. He earned a silver medal in the 100-meter dash in 1972 and a bronze medal in the 200-meter dash in 1976.

9. Charmaine Crooks
   - Track and field, 1993-96; Crooks was a three-time All-American as a hurdler, a triple jumper, and a sprinter. She won gold medals at the 1994, 1995, and 1996 NCAA outdoor championships.

10. Antonio Davis
    - Men's basketball, 1987-90; Davis led the Huskies to a national title in 1987 and was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four. He was also named the most outstanding player of the Final Four in 1989.

11. Aaron Egbele
    - Track and field, 2001-03; Egbele went from a walk-on at the 2001 National Championships to the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. He was named the most outstanding male athlete of the 2004 Olympics.

12. Jim Forbes
    - Men's basketball, 1972-74; Forbes was a three-time All-American and the only UTEP basketball player to participate in the Olympics. He was a member of the U.S. Olympic team at the 1972 Summer Games in Munich.

13. Tim Hardaway
    - Men's basketball, 1985-89; Perhaps the most improves player during his time at UTEP, Hardaway was a three-time NBA All-Star.

14. J.P. Hayes
    - Men's golf, 1964-67; Hayes has won more than $7 million as a member of the PGA Tour and still competes professionally. He also led the team in the 1967 NCAA outdoor championships.

15. Halimat Ismaila
    - Track and field, 2000-03; She won the bronze medal as part of Nigeria's 4x400-meter relay at the 2003 World Championships in athletics.

16. Chris Jacke
    - Football, 1986-88; Enjoying an all-American season for the Miners in 1988. Jacke was the first Miner to win the Heisman Trophy, finishing fourth in 1988.

17. Greg Joy
    - Track and field, 1975-77; Joy won a silver medal at the 1976 Olympics in the 10,000 meter race.

18. Seth Joyner
    - Football, 1980-83; Joyner led UTEP as an undersized walk-on before spending hours in the weight room and morphing into a 6-foot-6, 250-pound tackle.

19. Don Maynard
    - Football, 1954-56; Maynard enjoyed a solid career before becoming one of the greatest receivers in NFL history. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1998.

20. Michael Musyoki
    - Track and field and cross-country, 1978-81; A three-time NCAA champion and eighth-time all-American, Musyoki enjoyed a successful career.
AN ILLUSTRIOUS PROFESSIONAL CAREER AS A DISTANCE RUNNER, HE WON THE BRONZE MEDAL IN THE 5,000 METERS AT THE 1984 OLYMPICS. THE SIX-TIME TWO CHAMPION RANKS SECOND ALL-TIME IN UTEP’S OUTDOOR 5,000 METERS.

21. SULEIMAN NYAMBUI

22. OLUDAMOLA OSAYOMI

23. NOLAN RICHARDSON
MEN’S BASKETBALL, 1980-83. ENJOYING AN OUTSTANDING PLAYING CAREER AT UTEP, RICHARDSON IS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS COACHING ESPIQUET, THE 8-10 NATIVE IS THE ONLY COACH TO LEAD TEAMS TO JUNIOR COLLEGE, NJIT AND NCAA TITLES. RICHARDSON WON THE NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIP IN 1991 WHILE AT WESTERN TEXAS JUNIOR COLLEGE. HE DIRECTED THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA TO THE 1985 NJIT CHAMPIONSHIP AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS TO THE 1954 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP.

24. RIA STALMAN

25. PAUL STANKOWSKI

26. BILLY STEVENS
FOOTBALL, 1965-67. FOR OVER 30 YEARS, HE HELD SCHOOL RECORDS FOR MOST SEASON (35) AND CAREER PASSES (540), CAREER PASSING YARDS (6,464) AND CAREER TOUCHDOWNS (51). HIS 90-YARD TOUCHDOWN PASS TO BOB WALLACE WITH NO TIME LEFT AGAINST UTSA IN 1969 AS A SOPHOMORE REMAINS THE SCHOOL’S LONGEST COMPLETION. HE THREW FOR 1000 YARDS IN HIS FIRST COLLEGE GAME, AN NCAA OPENING GAME RECORD.

27. OBADÈLE THOMPSON

28. TONY TOLBERT

29. KIM TURNER
TRACK AND FIELD, 1960-64. ONE OF THE TWO UTEP NATIONAL CHAMPIONS IN HURDLES, SHE CAPPED THE 1964 SEASON WITH A BRONZE MEDAL AT THE 1964 OLYMPIC GAMES. SHE WAS A SEVEN-TIME ALL-AMERICAN AND STILL HOLDS THE UTEP WOMEN’S INDOOR 60-METER HURDLES AND OUTDOOR 100-METER HURDLES RECORDS.

30. BOB WALLACE

31. CHARLIE WEST

32. JESSE WHITTEN
FOOTBALL, 1952-55. WHITTEN CONSIDERED ONE OF THE BEST ALL-AROUND ATHLETES EVEN AT UTEP RUSHED FOR 1,395 YARDS, PASSED FOR 1,391 YARDS, CAUGHT 18 PASSING INTERCEPTED NINE PASSES, RETURNED 22 POINTS FOR 236 YARDS AND RETURNED 22 KICKOFFS FOR 375 YARDS. HE ALSO SCORED 18 TOUCHDOWNS AND KICKED 44 EXTRA POINTS BEFORE TAKING HIS TALENTS TO THE NFL WHERE HE WAS A TWO-TIME ALL-PRO DEFENSIVE BACK FOR THE GREEN BAY PACKERS.

UTEP joined Conference USA for the 2005-06 athletic year following a long-standing affiliation with the Western Athletic Conference. Fifteen of UTEP’s 16 collegiate sports have C-USA affiliation with the exception being rifle, which competes as an independent.

C-USA is home to 12 nationally prominent tradition-rich members—East Carolina, Houston, Marshall, Memphis, Rice, Southern Methodist University, Southern Mississippi, Tulane, Tulsa, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Central Florida and UTEP. C-USA sponsors competition in 13 sports for men and 10 for women.

C-USA was formed in 1996 and quickly emerged as one of the nation’s top conferences. The League’s charter members included Charlotte, Cincinnati, DePaul, Houston, Louisville, Marquette, Memphis, Saint Louis, Southern Miss, Tulane, USM and University of South Florida. The League’s headquarters were established in Chattanooga, and after nine years, relocated to the current offices in Frisco, Texas. Brittton Branch was named Commissioner in October 2002. Subsequent Mike Stuff, the League’s first Commissioner.

The Battle of 110

IT WAS NATURAL FOR A RIVALRY TO DEVELOP BETWEEN UTEP AND NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY (NMSU), DUE TO THEIR PROXIMITY ALONG THE 110-MILE TRAVEL TIME.

THE MEXICANS MET FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FOOTBALL IN 1914, WHEN UTEP WAS KNOWN AS THE TEXAS STATE COLLEGE OF MINES AND METALLURGY AND NEW MEXICO STATE WAS NEW MEXICO A&M.

UTEP AND NMSU HAVE FACED EACH OTHER ON THE FIELD NEARLY EVERY YEAR SINCE. THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION WAS A THREE-YEAR BREAK FROM 1942-45 DURING WORLD WAR II. UTEP AND NEW MEXICO STATE HAVE SQUARED OFF 26 TIMES IN FOOTBALL, 119 TIMES IN MEN’S BASKETBALL AND ON 72 OCCASIONS IN WOMEN’S BASKETBALL.


THE WINNER OF THE UTEP-NMSU FOOTBALL GAME RECEIVES A TROPHY BELONGING TO THE TEAM THAT COMES FROM A TRAVELING TROPHY FOR THE WINNER OF THE GAME. 110

UTEP Magazine
Dear Alumni,

In my first message as president, I would like to express my honor in representing the UTEP Alumni Association. It is an exciting time to be part of the UTEP Alumni Association as we continue to build momentum toward our goal of 5,000 members by 2010.

To achieve this goal, it is imperative that every UTEP alumnus takes action and joins the UTEP Alumni Association today. By becoming a member, you help us “Build the Miner Nation” of alumni, faculty, staff, proud parents and friends of the University. Membership not only shows your pride and support for the University, but it also entitles you to great campus, local and even nationwide benefits.

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank Henry Quintana (B.A., Broadcasting, ’75; M.A., Communication, ’94) for his leadership as president this past year. The strides taken during his term have helped build the foundation of the Miner Nation. I would also like to thank our outgoing board members, Gerry Licon (B.S.C.E., ’86; M.S.C.E., ’99), vice president for ways and means; and Gilbert De La Rosa (B.S., Criminal Justice, ’74), member-at-large, for their six years of dedicated service. These gentlemen have been valuable assets in advancing the UTEP Alumni Association.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent the UTEP alumni, and I look forward to meeting you throughout the year.

Go Miners!

Richard O. Martinez ’79
President
UTEP Alumni Association
Originally built for the Gamma Gamma chapter of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, the Peter and Margaret de Wet Center continues to be a "home away from home" for UTEP Alumni, the UTEP Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Relations staff. For more than 30 years, the "lodge" has stood as a unique, charming building on campus by retaining the look and feel of regional architecture nestled among the Bhutanese structures flourishing on campus today.

The UTEP Alumni Association is proud to welcome its new officers and board members:

- President - Richard O. Martinez '79
- President-Elect - Mary Helen Padilla '97
- Treasurer - Joe Villanueva '92
- Secretary - Dr. Sandra Bracam '02, '05
- VP for Membership - Irma Rascon '93
- VP for Public Relations - Kerl Moe '93 '93
- VP for Ways & Means - Samantha Chavez Wood '07

The following were elected for their first term as board members:

- David Veloz '96
- Jorge Vielodent '96

The following were elected for their second three-year term:

- Dr. Sandra Braham
- Col. (Ret.) Raul A. Garibay '52, '86
- Kerl Moe
- Mary Helen Padilla

They will be joining current board members:

- Hector Almeida '73
- Amanda Bernal-Ramos '03
- Joe Cárdenas '74
- Chris Charron '95
- Diane De Hoyos '94
- Dr. Carlos Gutierrez '71
- Dr. Ruhi Martinez '73
- Leticia Mstein '90
- Henry Quintana '75, '94

To learn more about the UTEP Alumni Association please visit www.utepalumni.org

The UTEP Alumni Association, a group expected to grow to 5,000 members by 2010, is a vibrant organization that connects the past with the present, forming a link between current students and their predecessors on campus.

The association consists of card-carrying members dedicated to supporting and promoting the University.

Membership dues help provide scholarships, while at the same time supporting valuable programs such as the Distinguished Alumni Awards, the UTEP Student Alumni Association and the Top Ten Senior Awards.
Game arrives in unexpected ways, as 1972 University of Texas at El Paso graduate Edward G. "Ed" Hochuli has discovered.

It wasn't enough to be a highly successful attorney and respected referee for the National Football League—Hochuli was lifted to celebrity status thanks in part to the muscles he packs on his arms.

Hochuli, a linebacker on the UTEP football team for four seasons, chuckles when he thinks about the furor over his physique that has led to a number of articles and workout photos in magazines and newspapers, and several fan Web sites, including "What Would Ed Hochuli Do?" And then, of course, there's the nickname: "Hochules."

"All this attention started when (CBS sports-caster) Phil Simms circled my arms and commented on the size of them during a game," said Hochuli, whose 19-year career in the NFL has included officiating two Super Bowl games. "I am just astounded and very flattered that people have that kind of interest. It's really been something."

An avid weightlifter and runner, Hochuli said keeping fit has always been a priority in his life. But it is his accomplishments outside of the gym that were in the spotlight during a visit to the UTEP campus in April. Hochuli presented the talk "Fielding the Calls: Stadium Play vs. Courtroom Strategy" and spoke with numerous political science and criminal justice students about his unique dual career as a trial lawyer and NFL official.

Hochuli, who earned a J.D. from the University of Arizona College of Law in 1976, has been a partner in the Phoenix law firm of Jones, Skelton & Hochuli, P.L.C. since its founding in 1983. He has tried more than 150 civil jury trials, and his recognitions in the field include being named to the Best Lawyers in America list every year since 2003, and the Southwest Super Lawyers list in 2007.

During his visit to UTEP, Hochuli discussed the challenges of making tough calls in both the courtroom and on the field. He received some recent notoriety for his error in the September 2008 game between the Denver Broncos and San Diego Chargers. Late in the close game, Denver quarterback Jay Cutler fumbled the ball away to San Diego, but Hochuli called it an incomplete pass. Denver kept the ball and went on to win 39-38.

The wrath of thousands of Chargers fans and a fiery media storm descended on Hochuli. Rather than laying low, Hochuli admitted his mistake and even replied to hundreds of outraged e-mails that came his way. His humble and honest response to a tough situation won over detractors and fans alike.

"We all fail, we all make mistakes," Hochuli said. "You learn from your mistakes and then you move on. If you don't do that, then you don't continue to improve."

Hochuli has moved on, and is looking forward to another season of being part of the game he loves. As always, he's doing the cardio and working the celebrated muscles that keep him running strong alongside some of the best professional athletes in the world.

"For three hours on Sunday afternoons it's like having mainline adrenaline running through your veins," said Hochuli, describing the thrill of officiating in the NFL.
Former UTEP and NFL star Brian Young remembers what it was like to be in high school and dream about playing at the next level.

He returned to El Paso in July to oversee the third annual Brian Young Pro Camp to help another generation of gridiron dreamers achieve their goals.

But Young, who earned his degree in criminal justice in 2000 with a minor in philosophy, pointed out that his camp also stresses the importance of academics, leadership and healthy lifestyles.

"The on-field drills are fun, but I think the other stuff is the most important," he said of the free camp that was held July 10-11 at the Sun Bowl. "They can see what we go through and taste what will be expected of them at the next level."

Young was named All-WAC first-team twice and earned the WAC Defensive Player of the Year Award in 1999 before being drafted by the St. Louis Rams in 2000. His four years there included playing in the 2002 Super Bowl. He spent the next four seasons with the New Orleans Saints before injuries forced his retirement earlier this year.

The 165 players in his camp, most of whom will enter the 11th and 12th grades in the fall, participated in offensive and defensive position drills and learned weight training techniques from several NFL players, including former Miner receiver Lee Mayes (Pittsburgh Steelers), and several other former Miner standouts.

While Chris Wells, CEO of El Paso-based athletic training company Super Phenom, suggested ways players could reach their full athletic potential, he said the camp's emphasis on how to lead a successful life is what sets it apart.

After lunch, participants heard motivational talks from the former players and discussed nutrition, healthy habits, how to search for scholarships and the importance of preparing for college, including the SAT/ACT.

"We don't just prepare them for their next four years of life," Wells said. "We prepare them for the next 60 years."

Only a small percentage of high school players get to play at the Division I level, and even fewer with the pros.

James Allen, a linebacker/tight end at El Paso's Austin High School, said the camp's tips have helped him on and off the field.

The senior-to-be sees himself playing at the Division I level in 2010, followed by a career in the NFL. However, he took to heart Young's talk about the long odds against making it in pro football. Allen, a three-letter athlete, shared his Plan B without missing a beat.

"Major League Baseball," he said. 😊
Behind the scenes, the big plays, the roaring crowds and the superstar athletes, countless designers and publicists work to help turn professional sports into leading national brands.

So when the NFL sought a more contemporary look recently, the league recruited a team of graphic artists to help redesign the logo. UTEP alumnus Jose Antonio Contreras was on board.

"I was introduced to the NFL project by a colleague of mine," Contreras said. "It was a large project that was contracted to many designers."

During the 2008 NFL Draft, Commissioner Roger Goodell introduced the new official logo and pointed out the changes, including a different font and a darker hue of blue on the shield.

In addition, the number of stars on the logo dropped from 25 to eight, representing each division in the league.

Collaborating with the other designers from his New York studio, Contreras and company were called in to replace the logo on NFL merchandise.

"We had to reaply the new logo on existing materials," he explained.

Contreras contributed greatly to the project with his design of the style guide for the new logo—a booklet, entitled Identity Guidelines, that details the changes to the logo as well as the appropriate uses, color schemes and other important information about the brand.

"It was used by anyone dealing with the NFL: sponsors, affiliates and media," he said.

The ambitious artist began his tenure at UTEP in 1997, keeping busy with his studies and spending long days, and even nights, at the art department.

"The workload was very hard at times for everybody, so it was perfectly normal to see a lot of activity in that building at 2 or 3 a.m.," he recalled.

Along with his school assignments, Contreras had some of his first freelancing jobs designing posters for the UTEP Dinner Theatre. Thanks to his professors, Contreras was able to land internship positions in Washington and New York.

"My design instructor and mentor, Antonio Castro, was incredibly generous in pushing me, not just to be a better designer, but to have high professional aims," he said.

Even with the long hours and hard work, Contreras described his experience as a Miner as ‘great’ and cites his education as a key to his professional development.

After graduating in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in graphic design, Contreras moved to New York to begin his design career. Starting out was not easy, but with patience and perseverance—and many phone calls—he was able to land his first job after several weeks.

"After that, little by little, things fell into place," he said.

Since then, Contreras has established himself as a successful freelance designer, working with clients such as the Metropolitan Opera and the Public Theater in New York, College Sports Television (CSTV), the NFL and ESPN.

He recently completed cover artwork for a book by Marvin Newman titled Yankee Colors, a collection of some of the first color photos taken of the New York baseball club.®
At 6-foot-8 and 180 pounds, Wayne Campbell may have boasted more height than heft, but his spindly legs carried him to greatness on the basketball court.

An integral part of four Miner teams in the 1980s, Campbell helped UTEP to three regular season championships in the Western Athletic Conference, finishing his career ranked third in school history for career field goal percentage (.550).

Those accomplishments, capped by NCAA tournament appearances in 1986, 1987 and 1988, were nothing compared to the lofty heights he has reached in the business world.

Campbell works for Southwest Airlines, and he loves it.

"I've been with the company 19 years," Campbell said during a telephone interview. "When you've been with a company that long, you gotta like it. That's my theory. If you don't like it, get out of it. I started out saying I'd give it six months to a year; Nineteen years later, I'm still here."

When he interviewed with the company all those years ago, he applied for employment as an agent, but something happened on his way to the entry-level position. It may have been his vibrancy, his intelligence or his obvious aptitude for business; whatever it was, the interviewer was impressed. So it was goodbye, entry-level job; hello, management position.

"During the interview, I got offered a job as a supervisor," he said. "I was in charge of the ground operation, making sure aircraft was on time, taking care of the customer, supervising the whole operation."

Now in charge of provisioning—overseeing the refreshments offered on board, including what he calls the 'world famous' Southwest peanuts—he has worked for the company in three cities, including two years in El Paso.

"I keep in touch with a lot of people in El Paso," Campbell, who has spent the last 12 years in San Jose, said. "I think El Paso will always be in my blood."

He credits his experience as a student-athlete at UTEP with preparing him for the hard work ahead at Southwest.

"I guess one man who helped me a lot is Don Haskins—the Bear," he said. "I was 17 years old. He prepared us not only to be athletes. He prepared us for manhood. It wasn't just about playing basketball. And, of course, there was my upbringing. My father put a roof over my head and taught me about responsibilities. Haskins just continued that education."

That education has helped catapult him to success at Southwest; he was recently named the Star of the Month, the equivalent of "employee of the month."

"What satisfies me is seeing our customers satisfied," he said.

During down time, he coaches a Little League team, which includes his 12-year-old son, Landon Hernell.

Campbell also sings tenor for an oldies group, The Sounds of Rhythm, which plays at parties, anniversaries and festivals in the Bay Area and Southern California. The group focuses on doo-wop and the Motown sound.

"We bring back yesterday's music," he said.

Campbell appreciates the past, but he also has his eye to the future—and to the sky. 

Wayne Campbell in his playing days at UTEP
Joe Gomez is passionate about El Paso and UTEP. A one-man cheering squad for the Miners, he also has acquired a museum-caliber collection of memorabilia from the Texas Western College (now UTEP) dream team that won the 1966 NCAA basketball crown.

The director of business development for Venegas Engineering Management and Construction (VEMAC) in El Paso, Gomez recently donated a larger than life (much like its subject) oil painting of the legendary UTEP Men's Basketball Coach Don Haskins, which now hangs in the arena that bears Haskins' name, as well as other items that are on display in the new Foster-Stevens Basketball Complex.

While his hobby does not define Gomez, it is certainly a passion that has grown over the last 43 years.

It started in 1966, the magical year that changed El Paso—and the country—forever.

Texas Western defeated Kentucky, 72-65, for the NCAA basketball title—the first time a team had won with five black starters.

It was one of those rare instances in which a game transcends the sports section, because the triumph for the team was an even more significant triumph for the country, removing one more barrier in the march toward civil rights.

That team made history, and Gomez assumed the role of its unofficial chronicler. He has done an amazing job.

A freshman majoring in history when the team captured the championship in College Park, Md., Gomez was watching the game with friends near the campus, and he reacted with the same joy and awe that thousands of others were feeling.

"I was watching the game in a fraternity house on a black and white television with tin foil on the rabbit ears (antenna)," Gomez, who graduated in 1970, said. "And when we went to the campus, everyone was celebrating. There were bonfires in the quadrangle (the area where the Geology Building now stands). It was crazy.

"I was friends with Bobby Joe Hill and Willie Cager," Gomez said. "And I knew that this was more than a game. I knew this small school had made a big difference."

So Gomez, filled with this sense of history in the making, started collecting memorabilia—programs, newspapers, photos, city proclamations, even wire service articles, anything that had to do with that team.

There is the headline in The Prospector, the student newspaper, proclaiming: "We're the Greatest;" the box of Wheaties, marketed in 2005, that commemorates the historic achievement almost 40 years earlier; a moving collection of photographs that depict the path to the title; and the wire service story that referred to Don Haskins as Jack Hawkins, a blunder that led to a correction later that evening.

It was an incredible night. And that is why the history major would devote so much of his time and energy to the events he lived through. March 19, 1966, will always be part of his inner calendar.

"It was special," he said.
WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE HELPED UTEP ATHLETICS PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS, FACILITIES AND TRAINING EQUIPMENT TO UTEP'S STUDENT-ATHLETES OF YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry K. Durham: Larry K. Durham was a four-year letterman for the Miner football team, and its leading rusher in 1962 and 1963. He made history by going 54 yards, on the first play from scrimmage, to score the first touchdown in Sun Bowl Stadium. This 1963 christening of the crown jewel of UTEP (then Texas Western College) athletic facilities was only as auspicious a contribution to the stadium’s future as the challenge gift Larry and his wife Patricia pledged 56 years later for the adjacent 65,000-square-foot Larry K. Durham Sports Center. The construction of the Durham Center sparked a renaissance for UTEP’s aging athletic facilities that continues to this day. Instrumental in supporting all facets of UTEP’s mission, Larry has served on the UTEP Development Board since 2006 and currently is a member of the Centennial Campaign Leadership Council. A 1966 graduate of the University, Larry was honored with the Silver Anniversary Award from the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics in 2002 and the University’s Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2001.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Foster: As the chairman and CEO of Western Refining Inc., Paul Foster is known for leading the redevelopment of El Paso’s historic downtown. Foster, along with his colleague, Jeff Stevens, also took the lead in enhancing UTEP’s basketball program through a gift to help create the Foster • Stevens Basketball Center. This state-of-the-art basketball complex at Mesa Street and Glory Road puts the Miners’ facilities on par with the best programs in the nation. Additionally, Paul and Alexandria Foster’s material and substantial donations to the Rebounders, First Down and Miner Athletic clubs have been indispensable to ongoing operations in the athletics community. Jeff and I have had a hand in funding the Foster • Stevens Basketball Center at the University of Texas at El Paso, so we are always moved by the stories of our former student-athletes. The Rubins are both 1965 graduates of UTEP and have made known their deep personal investment in the University through a leadership gift to UTEP’s Centennial Campaign. Mr. and Mrs. Foster are among the most significant benefactors in the history of UTEP and have been instrumental in helping the University advance UTEP as a member of the College of Business Administration Advisory Council and as a regent of The University of Texas System.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. “Paco” Jordan III: Paco Jordan’s construction and contracting businesses have been a fixture in El Paso for four decades. The chairman of Jordan Construction and his wife, Kay, have made securing the future of the UTEP Intercollegiate Athletics Program a priority through deferred gifts as well as through support of the new Foster • Stevens Basketball Center. These gifts, combined with consistent support of the Miner Athletic Club, the First Down Club and the Rebounders Club, have made the Jordans an integral part of the Miners’ success over the last decade. Jordan also has served on the University’s Development Board since 1997.

Dr. and Mrs. Michael A. “Mike” Maros Jr.: Through their substantial contributions to the Larry K. Durham Sports Center and the Foster • Stevens Basketball Center, UTEP alumni Valerie Maros and her late husband, Dr. Mike Maros, have been cornerstones of the athletics program. A local oncologist who died in 2003, Mike also operated a pecan-growing operation, MBM Farms, in Fabens, Texas. Valerie Maros, the owner of MBM Farms, provided UTEP with its first facility named after a beloved pet. The Valerie and Buddy Maros Men’s Basketball Reception Suite in the Foster • Stevens Basketball Center commemorates the high esteem in which she holds her 18-year-old cat.

Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Richardson Jr: Nolan Richardson is one of the most celebrated former UTEP student-athletes of all time. Before becoming a National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame coach, the only coach ever to lead teams to junior college, NIT and NCAA titles, Nolan scored more than 1,000 points during his Miner career. He graduated in 1965. Nolan and his wife, Rose, have made known their deep personal investment in the lives of UTEP student-athletes through the creation of and contributions to several scholarship funds honoring both their family and friends. Honored as the University’s Distinguished Alumnus in 1994, Nolan was inducted into the UTEP Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005. He was head basketball coach at the University of Tulsa and the University of Arkansas, where he won a national championship in 1994. He most recently coached the Mexican National Team.

Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan W. “Jon” Rogersons: Through their sponsorship of the Larry K. Durham Sports Center, the Hall of Champions and the Foster • Stevens Basketball Center, the Miners’ regional and national success continued in the 1990s. The Rogersons have also been a part of the Miner Athletic Club and the First Down Club. Jon has served on the UTEP Development Board since 2006 and currently is a member of the Centennial Campaign Leadership Council. Jon received the Father’s Club Distinguished Alumni Award in 1994 and has served on the University’s Board of Regents. The Rogersons have been key to the construction of the Foster • Stevens Basketball Center, which will open in fall 2022. The Rogersons’ generosity has helped advance UTEP as a member of the College of Business Administration Advisory Council and as a regent of The University of Texas System.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell A. “Russ” Vanbuzend: A commanding leader as a Texas Western College (now UTEP) football player, Russ Vanbuzand has gone on to lead TVO North America, as its founder and CEO, to become one of the premier real estate services companies in the nation. No surprise, then, that Russ should now be chairman of UTEP’s Centennial Campaign Leadership Council and one of UTEP’s foremost supporters. Spanning nearly 20 years and a broad swathe of academic and athletic programming, Russ and his wife Marty’s commitment to UTEP culminated last year with their campaign leadership pledge. Russ and Marty have had a hand in funding the Foster • Stevens Basketball Center, the Larry K. Durham Sports Center, the Miner Athletic Academic Center and, together with Russ’s brother Wayne and Wayne’s wife, Sheila, the resurfacing of the track at Kidd Field. A 1970 graduate of the College of Education, Russ received the athletic department’s inaugural Silver Anniversary Award in 1999 and the University’s Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2002.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Vanbuzand: Wayne Vanbuzand, the pioneering UTEP Track and Field coach and UTEP Athletics Hall of Fame inductee, has continued to build on the legacy of his 1969 National Championship through long-term and consistent giving to a broad spectrum of UTEP athletics programs. Through his company, TVO Group, and its affiliates, Wayne and his wife, Sheila, are part of the steady-running engine that keeps the Miners moving forward. Most notably, Wayne, along with his brother Russ and Russ’s wife Marty, helped to elevate UTEP’s Kidd Field to world-class status by supporting the resurfacing of the track in 2000, making it the envy of track and field programs across the nation.
'50s
Bert E. Williams (B.S. '50), former mayor of El Paso, was recognized in April by the League of United Latin Americans Citizens (LULAC). Project Amistad, for his work to eradicate discrimination in the city.

'60s
Carol Eastman (B.A. '60, M.Ed. '76), an El Paso photographer, displayed her work in April at the State Capitol in Austin. The exhibit focused on young people on the border.
Brenda Ray Flynn Low (B.A. '66, M.A. '69) is a professor of English at the Dandalk, Md., Campus of the University of Texas at El Paso. She was honored as the 2008 Outstanding Community College of Dallas County Professor by the Dandalk Chamber of Commerce in April 2008.

'70s
Marc S. Bombard was named December manager of the Round Rock (Texas) Express, a Class AAA affiliate of the Houston Astros baseball team and a member of the Pacific Coast League.

'80s
Susan S. Eisen, chief executive officer and chief designer for Susan Eisen Fine Jewelry & Watches, was named by the U.S. Small Business Administration, El Paso District, as Small Business Person of the Year in May.

'90s
Albert A. Ernst (B.A. '96) is an immigration enforcement agent with U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement. He resides in Flower Mound, Texas.

'00s
Violeta Chávez (B.S. '03), a 2003 graduate of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, is a Ph.D. in microbiology. José "Checo" Colón-Gaud (B.S. '01) received a three-year Minority Postdoctoral Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation in July. He will conduct his research at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus.
Michael L. Burt (B.S.M.E. '97) invented an electronic stabilization system for small aircraft.
In Memoriam

Charles Weldon Yates
(B.S.'64) Dallas, Texas, Feb. 28, 2008.

Michael R. Bents
(B.S.'76) Salt Lake City, Utah, July 5, 2008.

James E. Rodgers

Guadalupe “Lupe”

Joan Marie Gregory
(B.A.'54) Ketchum, Okla., Nov. 29, 2008.

William F. “Bill”

Louis R. Gandara

Roy Lamonte Leach

John Paul Hartmeyer (*)

William S. Morrissey

Robert S. Gallraith

William N. “Bill”
Howell (*) Spring Creek, Nev., Jan. 11, 2009.

Harry L. “Monty”
Montague (B.S.M.L.'39)
Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 11, 2009.

Roy M. Coleman (*)

Dr. Yunanan Mootoor

Samuel Robledo

Robert F. “Bob”
McDermott (B.S.C.E.'56)

Anne Elizabeth Taylor

Lynn F. “Frances” Von
Clousewitz (B.A.'35)

C. Col. Wendell E.
Cumley (B.S.Ed.'72)

Georgie Elizabeth (*)

J. Russell Cotton (B.A.

Grays J. Johnson (B.A.

Hiram E. Sharp III

Ruben Martinez Jr.

Nelson Iry (B.A.'57)

Guada Eileen Merritt

Clifton Eugene

Karolyn Kay Buckles
(B.S.Ed.'86) Sterling, Colo., March 1, 2009.

Eugene M. Rohling

Sgt. Maj. Allen Myers

Stephen F. Preslar

Paddy L. “Pat” Sanders

Charles Howard Coffin

Staff Sgt. William
Clayton “Bill” Lamb III

Ruben Salcido (B.S.'57)

Ricardo “Dicky”
Estrada (B.S.Ed.'75)

Bernardo A. Sierra Jr.

Gustavo H. Garcia

Herbert M. Given (*)

Benjamin Lourstaunau

William Edward “Weelo”

Donald B. “Don” Daily

Master Sgt. Frank

Maj. William Stevenson
Sr. (*) Houston, Texas, March 13, 2009.

Francisco “Frank”

Rosa K. Ney (B.S.Ed.'71)

Evan Hawywood Antone
(B.A.'51, M.A.'64)
Hartlingen, Texas, March 25, 2009.

Lilia Teresa Calderon

Lt. Col. Salvador “Sal”
Ramos (B.S.E.E. '62)
Brownsville, Texas, March 26, 2009.

Jose Gabriel Maras Sr.

Gloria M. Amaya (B.A.

Ora J. Clarkson (B.S.Ed.

Ruth H. Fackler

George M. Bernhardt
(B.A.'37) San Antonio, Texas, April 1, 2009.

Thomas D. “Tom” Henry
(B.S.E.E. '65, M.S.E.E. ’71)

Susan Cone Irvin

Victor K. Sizemore

Marvin Diamond (M.S.

Angel M. Ramirez

David Charles Zulawski

Keith A. Jackson (B.B.A.
'87) El Paso, April 9, 2009.

Lidia Corley Burke
(B.S.Ed.'65) Dallas, Texas, April 10, 2009.

Angelia E. Corkan

Fernando Garcia

Lawrence D. O’Leary
(B.B.A.'54) Austin, Texas, April 12, 2009.

James R. “Jim” Myers

Louis Garbrecht Jr. (*)
Draper, Utah, April 17, 2009.

Leroy Williams

Ruth L. Nations
(B.A.'49) Dallas, Texas, April 23, 2009.

Manuel Salvador
“Manny” Anchondo (*)

Jones Hardemon (*)

Lana Stead (B.A.'68)

Louis A. “Louie” Flores
(+) Mcallen, Texas, May 1, 2009.

Lois A. Stromberg

Paul YimWui Quon (*)

Luis S. Salazar (B.S.'84)

Benito Aguileria (*)

Lt. Col. Francis M.

Dr. John P. Dyal (*)

Jose F. “Joe” Romo Jr.

John E. Mattos (*)

(*) Denotes attendance at UTep.
Compiled by Alfonso Acosta

Jorge A. Descamps, Ed.D.

Jorge A. Descamps, professor of education at The University of Texas at El Paso, died July 30, 2009.

Jorge is survived by his wife, Elena Aguirre, his daughters Maria Pape (Kevin) and Elena Uraga (José Maria) and his grandchildren Olivia and London Pape. He also is survived by his aunts of Josefina and Caridad, his brother Eduardo (Charline), his sister Josefina and his dear friend Dora.

Born in Havana, Cuba, in 1938, he attended Colegio LaSalle Varadilla, Colegio Jesusa Belén and the Jesuit Seminary El Calvario. After leaving Cuba, and eventually the Jesuit Order, he obtained a master’s in Spanish literature from the University of Puerto Rico and his Ed.D. from the University of Florida.

He served The University of Texas at El Paso for 34 years in various administrative capacities, but he was, first and foremost, a teacher, a mentor and a friend to scores of students, colleagues and co-workers.

Please consider sending donations payable to UTep and indicate they are for the "Jorge Descamps Endowment" and mail them to:

The University of Texas at El Paso
Office of Institutional Advancement
Kelly Hall, 7th Floor
500 West University Ave.
El Paso, TX 79968

FALL 2009 64
La Mascota
Paydirt Pete

by David Peregrino

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the naming of the UTEP Miners’ sports mascot. The grizzled, pick-wielding Miner had been around for a few seasons before he officially earned his moniker, “Paydirt Pete,” in 1974 naming contest won by physics professor Michael H. Blue, Ph.D.

“I remember those good ol’ days,” said Paydirt Pete, his massive biceps flexing as he raised his hefty pick onto his shoulder. “In 1974, we did our computer work in Bell Hall on an IBM System/360 Model 50, feeding it stacks of punch cards. And that was the first year of the campus streaking fad—one guy ran around wearing only shoes and a ski mask. Boy, that was something else!”

Over his 35 years, Paydirt Pete has seen the campus change dramatically. And he’s changed as well, kicking off his career as a bowlegged, bearded, sun-beaten denizen of the desert. Later, in the ‘80s, he softened his look a bit, sporting a cherubic face and friendly smile. But fans teased him mercilessly, calling him “Sweet Pete.”

“We all go through a phase like that when we’re young’uns, I suppose,” Pete said. “I thought bringing out my sensitive side would help get the attention of the ladies.”

Pete said he’s happy in his current incarnation, bulked up and sporting a Magnum P.I. ‘stache.

“When I step on the court or on the field, everyone knows that Paydirt Pete is a force to be reckoned with,” he said. “Go Miners!”