NOVA
QUARTERLY
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

FORGING THE FUTURE

WINTER • 1994
In this issue, NOVA Quarterly focuses on two important celebrations. September 1994 kicked off a year-long celebration of UTEP’s 80th birthday, while December marks the 10th anniversary of the grand opening of the new University Library building.

In her fall 1994 convocation address, President Diana Natalicio pointed out that the 80th anniversary is a celebration not only of the growth this institution has seen since it opened as the State School of Mines and Metallurgy in 1914, but of UTEP’s emergence as a leader in addressing the human and economic development needs of this region and as a national model for success in educating non-traditional students as well.

UTEP has grown tremendously in the past 80 years, from a small dusty campus with just a few buildings and 27 students to over 17,000 students, 76 buildings and plans for a $15-million classroom building with the latest in computer-assisted learning technology. (See page 17 for Dr. Natalicio’s convocation speech.)

The celebration of the 10th anniversary of the University Library building also focuses on the growth the library has seen since its opening on December 15, 1984. The library has grown not only in the number of books and research materials it houses, but also in the advanced information technology it makes available to the university community. (See page 2.)

As UTEP grows with the establishment of more research centers and programs, and with increased attention to science and technology, the needs of the people of this region continue to be a primary focus of this institution’s concern and efforts.

The Border Biomedical Research Center is a prime example of this. Established with support from the National Institutes of Health, the BBRC is performing health-related research that is desperately needed in this border region. Research into the effects of pollution and hazardous waste on the health of border residents and the genetic traits of diabetes found in Hispanic populations are examples of the types of research that will have a tremendous impact on the border.

UTEP is increasingly becoming known as an important research resource for environmental issues. With several grants from the Environmental Protection Agency and other agencies, including AmeriCorps national service project grants, UTEP, in collaboration with other community agencies on both sides of the border, is doing research that will have far-reaching effects on this area’s problems of water conservation and pollution, air quality and hazardous waste management.

These celebrations invite us to look back with pride at our accomplishments and to look toward the future with our dreams. As we move into the 21st century, UTEP remains committed to serving the people of this community. This commitment to the community will continue to grow with the university. It is this shared bond that makes UTEP strong.

—Kathleen Rogers
ON THE COVER

Adaptation of the poster design commemorating UTEP's 80th anniversary. Concept by David Flores. Design by John Downey, photography by David Flores and Franklin Muñoz.

Above right photo: The Alumni Association's third annual Season of Lights celebration Nov. 29 drew more than 850 community members to UTEP. The 100,000 tiny white lights illuminated the campus each evening through New Year's. Photograph by David Flores.

FEATURES

Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future: Library Anniversary Marks Ten Years of Progress
By Marilyn Haddrell

"Each Time We Push People Down, We All Fall with Them"
Concentration Camp Survivor Devotes Life to Serving Others
By Christian Clarke

The University of Texas at El Paso Convocation Address—Fall 1994
Delivered by President Diana Natalicio

DEPARTMENTS

Faculty Profile
Alumnews
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Highlights
The University Library
How was knowledge conveyed at the beginning of human existence?

We imagine rapt faces in the flickering light of a campfire, with a story-teller gesturing dramatically at his telling of a successful hunt.

These first spoken words were probably accompanied by crude pictures etched on rocks and cave walls. More sophisticated symbols for language evolved through the ages, captured on clay tablets, papyrus, hides and parchment. Eventually scholars became keepers of sacred knowledge. And libraries were born.
"The library is the spiritual center of a university," said Dr. Richard Padilla, vice president for student affairs, who spoke at opening ceremonies Oct. 3 commemorating the 10th anniversary of the UTEP Library building. "It's what reaching for new knowledge is about."

Dr. Padilla's words echoed within the spacious, three-story atrium at the entrance of the building, which opened a decade ago as one of UTEP's most imposing landmarks. The building, with its architectural link to ancient monasteries, set the stage for the theme of this fall's anniversary events: "Celebrating the Past, Preparing for the Future."

"The library of the University of Texas at El Paso is one of the most significant cultural and architectural treasures of El Paso," said Sam Moore, an El Paso resident who volunteers his time to help support library activities. "Everybody should come here to visit and use the facilities."

Visitors will find that computer technology now is helping transform the University Library from strictly a storehouse of bound volumes and periodicals to a gateway to electronically stored data throughout the world.

"I figure I spend five days out of the week here, anywhere from 20 to 25 hours a week," said UTEP senior Jesus Arenas, a microbiology major. "I use the computer center for research. Their interlibrary loan program is very helpful. And since I don't have a PC [personal computer] at home, typing out papers here is helpful."

The $28.8-million library provides comfortable seating areas, tables and individual study cubicles for students conducting research, along with 29 private group-study rooms. The building looms six stories high, its corners shaped in four sloping towers that imitate the architectural style of the country of Bhutan, now also the trademark architecture of the UTEP campus. Some of the jutting structures within the kingdom of Bhutan are monasteries high in the cloud-shrouded mountains of the Himalayas. The sanctuaries provide Buddhist monks and other learned persons a lofty environment in which to dedicate their lives to a search for enlightenment.

"The changing politics and cultures of society sometimes try to alter what is [accepted as] knowledge to match the current thinking," Dr. Padilla said at the opening ceremony. "One of the things that universities are dedicated to doing—and that this library is dedicated to doing—is preserving knowledge in its own form: uncensored, unadulterated, un-nuanced to match any particular political belief of one given time period. That is the beauty of the library that calls us together today."

Cesar Caballero has worked for the library since he joined the staff as a student assistant in 1970. He served as interim director of the library from September 1993 to mid-November of this year, and now has resumed his former duties as associate director for public services.

"We have grown considerably in the past 10 years," Caballero said. "We have become a major library at a university that has major significance in this region."

Throughout this fall, the library has hosted anniversary events including tours, an electronic library teleconference, exhibits of special materials, lectures and demonstrations of new databases and document delivery services. The 10th anniversary celebration will culminate with a reception Dec. 15 honoring those who were instrumental in planning the new library building 10 years ago, including Haskell Monroe,..."
expanding the library’s on-line computer systems and facilitating staff training in the use of these systems in her Northern Iowa position. She believes libraries are a logical resource for helping to bridge the gap between those who feel comfortable with information technology and those who have not yet made the transition.

“Don’t think anyone should be left out of the intellectual dialogue because of technology,” Larsen said. “The whole issue of access to electronic information is an important one, and libraries will continue to play a big role by giving access to everyone.

“Libraries have a responsibility to ease the way for people to use machines and networks, and librarians have an important role here. Often they can do a lot to introduce faculty and students to resources such as the Internet.”

While Larsen has extensive experience in library information technology, she doesn’t anticipate technology taking the place of printed materials. “The printed book is going to be with us for a long time. Until you can take a computer to bed with you in comfort, books, which are highly mobile, will be with us,” Larsen said.

Larsen spent the 1992-93 academic year as a Fulbright lecturer in library and information science in Bucharest, Romania, where she taught at the University of Bucharest and consulted with librarians from across the country. She holds a master’s degree in library science from the University of Kentucky, Lexington, and a master’s in business administration from Portland (Oregon) State University.

“We all look forward to the new perspective that Patricia Larsen brings to the UTEP Library,” President Natalicio said.
history collection, an oral history collection and other archives and manuscripts.

The Judaica collection contains more than 2,500 volumes dealing with Jewish life and culture. It was established in 1969 from the collection of the late Dr. Vincent M. Ravel, an El Paso physician and book collector.

Caballero mentioned the significance of these historical collections in his address at the October ceremony beginning the 10th anniversary celebration.

"We chose the theme of 'Celebrating the Past, Preparing for the Future' in terms of what we have done here, and what we are trying to do," Caballero said. "We celebrate what this signifies for the city of El Paso and the surrounding area. We have valuable historical collections and the infrastructure, the computers, the databases that will move this library into the future in making information available to those who need it."

Despite the technological advances providing computer access to information, Caballero said in a later interview that he believes books held comfortably in hand will always be an important part of libraries.

Meanwhile, librarians — including those at UTEP — are striving to blend traditional approaches with modern demands by updating methods of disseminating information. Library users sitting at personal computers already can access indexes of books, periodicals and other materials available through computer files. As reference materials, news items and other information are logged into electronic files, those materials also are becoming available on-line, a development that eases user access and library storage problems at the same time.

Libraries worldwide are linking up, allowing computer access to information shared through cooperative networks.

Recently, the University Library began participating in Tex-Share, funded in 1993 by the Texas Legislature, which expands access to information among the state's universities and health science centers. The program allows electronic transfer of information over the Internet, a worldwide communications system.

"This new program emphasizes access to library materials rather than acquisition of library materials," said Texas Commissioner of Higher Education Kenneth H. Ashworth. "This is an example of what institutions can accomplish by working together and wisely using technology."

Newest developments in personal computers also enable a user to access written words in an electronic encyclopedia and watch colorful illustrations, television-style. Birds will twitter on screen and hurricanes will roar across the ocean. Biographies of notable historical characters, such as former U.S. presidents, might include speeches delivered in their own voice.

New technology is both challenging and exciting for modern librarians, says UTEP Library Director Patricia Larsen, who recently joined the staff.

"Typically or traditionally, the library has been viewed as a repository or
place you went to get books, journals or information you needed," Larsen said. "Usually, you found it within that library, or obtained it through the interlibrary loan, usually in the form of a printed page, phonograph record or a video. Now, libraries are moving into a stage where they have to continue to house a number of those items. But more and more, they are becoming a gateway to information regardless of where it might be located in the world."

One familiar role for the librarian remains — and that’s helping students and visitors gain access to these seemingly limitless stores of information.

"A lot of what we’re still dealing with is people who are not comfortable with computers," Larsen said.

But computers are here to stay, and library users must learn to cope with change, says Mike Kolitsky, UTEP’s assistant vice president for instructional technology.

"The library really is at the center of the information revolution," Kolitsky said. "In many institutions, including ours, it’s the focal point for re-evaluating and redirecting what we think of as the virtual library: where you sit at a kiosk or computer station and get information. It doesn’t matter where it comes from. You’re grabbing it from various stations, including our own, for scholarly purposes and for learning."

Kolitsky foresees the day when a student equipped with a small portable computer could be sitting in the middle of the wilderness, yet able to access information almost anywhere in the world.

"What we’re beginning to see is that computing services and library services are beginning to merge," Kolitsky said. "I think it’s an exciting time. Here, at this library, we have an ancient image on the outside, and a futuristic, high tech view on the inside. That’s exactly how I see this campus."

Looking Back

Between 1914 and 1918, the university’s first library could be found only in tattered mining journals and technical papers stacked at Fort Bliss, which housed the old State School of Mines and Metallurgy—UTEP’s original name. The school’s 27 students in 1914 depended on the El Paso Carnegie Library for outside reference materials.

In the early 1920s, the university library was relocated to a site a half mile northwest of the county courthouse. At that time, the library shared quarters with administrative offices and classrooms in the college’s main building, built in the Bhutanese style inspired by the April 1914 issue of National Geographic, featuring the Himalayan kingdom.

In 1936, the library moved to the third floor of Kelly Hall. University archives quote the reminiscences of one student who recalled that time period when the library contained two outdated encyclopedias, about 16,000 volumes and a distilled water dispenser that bubbled noisily in the otherwise hushed atmosphere.

In 1938, the library again shared quarters with administrative offices in a new building at the northwest corner of College and Wiggins. In 1956, the library took over the entire building, which was expanded three years later. In 1967, construction began on yet another addition to the building, which opened in the fall of 1968. When the library moved into its newest quarters a decade ago, it housed more than 600,000 books and bound periodicals. That number now has more than doubled.
Each Time We Push People Down, We All Fall with Them

Concentration Camp Survivor Devotes Life to Serving Others

by Christian Clarke

Dr. Larry Gladstone holds a photo of himself and fellow prisoners in a labor camp in the Ukraine in 1943. Gladstone is unsure how his high-school classmate, who gave him the picture years later, came across the rare photograph.
As the Allies battled through the brutal winter of 1943 to liberate the Nazi-occupied territories, Jewish laborers were being worked until they dropped dead or were shot because their feet had frozen.

Dr. Larry Gladstone was spared the machine gun fire of the Nazis because of a pair of felt shoes that did not freeze as quickly as did the leather shoes of others.

More than 50 years later, Gladstone, a UTEP alumnus and long-time El Paso physician, still vividly recalls the atrocities that he and other Jews suffered as the SS (Hitler's Schutzstaffel, or protective guard) drove them like cattle from Transylvania to the Ukraine to escape the advancing Russian army.

"They expected us to work until we dropped dead," Gladstone said. "As the Russians approached, the SS kept dragging us west with them to build anti-tank ditches and trenches."

The group was transported to Mauthausen, one of the largest Nazi concentration camps during the war. "It was a labor camp, but it was also an annihilation camp where people unable to work were gassed and killed," Gladstone said.

As the Russians once again advanced, the group was moved to Linz, the birthplace of Hitler and Eichmann, and Gladstone was put in the Gunzkirchen Concentration Camp where he came close to dying of starvation.

Before the camp was liberated in May 1945, Gladstone managed to escape and hide in a stable with some cattle. "I was unconscious. I do not know how I managed to survive without food and medicine," he said. "When I heard the American planes flying over the stable, I could barely lift my head."

Gladstone had typhus and body lice when he and the other prisoners were taken to Luftwaffe Air Base to be examined and deloused. "The brutality of the SS was incomprehensible," Gladstone said, leaning back into his chair and pausing for a moment.

Gladstone came to the U.S. after working in a repatriation camp and studying at Charles University in Prague for a year. He had lost more than 30 family members to the ovens of Auschwitz, but used the American Red Cross to locate the rest of his family throughout the world. He began his search in his native land of Czechoslovakia and expanded the search across the Atlantic to the United States.

Members of his family had moved to the U.S. at the turn of the century, and Gladstone found a group of his mother's relatives living in El Paso. He moved to the city in 1946 and enrolled at UTEP as a pre-med student.

"When I first came to UTEP, I could hardly speak any English so I audited a summer English class. By September, I was able to take math and science courses that were taught completely in English," Gladstone said. "Without my education at UTEP, I would still be selling shoes or furniture."

During the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia, the doors of education were closed to Jews because the Nazis had set quotas on the number of Jews allowed to enter universities. Gladstone was one of the Jews denied entrance into college at that time. He says his education at UTEP gave him the foundation to build a successful life as a doctor.

Gladstone's mother died from cancer when he was 16 years old, and he dreamed of helping others who suffered as she had. He graduated in 1952 from the Southwest Medical School in Dallas, specializing in internal medicine. Four years later, he joined the Army as a captain and was given a two-year assignment at William Beaumont Army Medical Center.

"It amazes me when I consider that I went from working as a slave laborer to becoming an officer in the U.S. Army," Gladstone said.

In 1958, Gladstone started his own practice in El Paso as an internist with Walter Feinberg, a colleague from medical school. He retired this summer after serving as associate medical director at Providence Memorial Hospital for a year.

Gladstone, who has dedicated his life to serving others, is one of a handful of concentration camp survivors living in El Paso. He acknowledges the universal nature of prejudice and the oppression of Jews and other minority groups that stems from it, but cautions people to understand the ramifications of their unwarranted hatred.

"There will always be prejudices against a person who looks different," Gladstone said. "As humans, we have an instinctive desire to put ourselves above somebody else, but we need to learn that each time we push people down, we all fall with them."
Mention the name Gary Mann to students, faculty or administrators in the College of Business Administration, and you might begin to wonder if a new equation has been added to the basic code of knowledge in the field of accounting: Dr. Mann = Unwaveringly High Standards.

Mann, who is chairman of the accounting department, is described by students as a faculty member who will always go the extra mile for them, by colleagues as a collaborator who can be counted on to do his fair share and more, and by administrators as a model among administrators for his willingness and ability to get the job done — always efficiently, always effectively, always fairly.

“One of the things I’ve heard about Gary Mann’s graduate classes from his students is that as soon as he gets the class list, before classes have even begun, he mails students a homework assignment,” said Frank Hoy, dean of the College of Business Administration.

“The students understand why he’s demanding,” Hoy added. “They’re in a global economy, and they need to understand this material to succeed.”

Mann readily admits to having high expectations of his students. “My teaching philosophy is to expect the most from students,” he said. “If you don’t set high standards, you’ve shorted the students.”

Associate Professor Mann discovered his interest in accounting during his twenties while on his second tour of duty with the Army in Korea. He mailed away for a correspondence course in accounting and found he enjoyed the subject. The faded orange 1955 textbook for that first course, called simply Accounting Principles, sits in an honored spot today at the top of his office bookshelf.

But Mann didn’t leave the Army for accounting. In fact, he continued his military career for 25 years. Upon retiring from the service in 1978, he decided to try an accounting class at UTEP. He stayed through an M.B.A., then moved on to Texas Tech for his doctorate in managerial accounting.

He and Mo Adam Mahmood, professor of information and decision sciences, frequently collaborate on projects that explore organizational performance in relation to information technology investment. “Dr. Mann is one of the best scholars in the college. He has very high standards and he works very hard,” Mahmood said.

Former controllership student Lee Cannell, who now teaches accounting at El Paso Community College, particularly appreciates the real-world emphasis of Mann’s teaching, his research and his community service.

“Dr. Mann is on the Accounting Advisory Committee at EPCC, which is critical for us as a community college,” Cannell said.

As a teacher herself now, Cannell vividly recalls Mann’s teaching style. “He does not spoon feed the student,” she said. “The structure of his class is geared to force students to take the information to a level to be able to discuss it with their peers, which is much more demanding than just studying for a test.”

During the past year, Mann has taken on two new challenges. He was chosen from among the candidates of a national search to become the first El Paso Community Professor of Accounting, a position created through an endowment raised by the El Paso accounting community. And he has set to work to put into place the processes required as part of the College of Business Administration’s current reaccreditation process to evaluate the accounting department’s operations and plan for ongoing improvements.

Everyone who knows Gary Mann knows he’ll do an excellent job at his new endeavors. And if they know him well, they know he’ll have a great time doing so.

“I like getting these processes in place,” is Mann’s modest appraisal of his latest undertakings.

His friend and colleague Mo Mahmood gives a little fuller picture of Gary Mann: “This guy is really an asset to this college and this university. He’s a fine human being.”

Mann returned to UTEP’s accounting department in January 1986, this time as a colleague of the faculty members who had recently been his professors. Mann’s wife, Margaret, is a native El Pasoan, and the move worked perfectly for the pair.

“I prefer this desert environment, so UTEP was a natural choice,” Mann said. “But also, this campus is a great, pleasant place to be.”

From all accounts, Mann spends more than enough time on campus to make such an assessment. He names research as one of the things he most likes to do outside of work. “I like to do a lot of walking and reading, but primarily it’s research. There’s a lot of return in research. It’s satisfying to get work published, to keep the pipeline of work going out.”

Mann has a strong interest in controllership, a subject that looks at organizations’ primary position of financial control. In 1988-89, he conducted a major study involving 98 universities and 3,200 controllers to help determine relevant content for controllership courses.
A WINTER WONDERLAND: UTEP’S SEASON OF LIGHTS

The UTEP Alumni Association sponsored its third annual Season of Lights on November 29 as its holiday gift to UTEP and the community. Over 100,000 tiny white lights transformed the UTEP campus into a winter wonderland. The warm glow of spectators’ burning candles joined the thousands of lights in illuminating the center of campus. The UTEP music department, the Wiggs Middle School choir and the Brotherhood of Centurion Chapel at Fort Bliss added holiday music to the festivities.

The Season of Lights display will remain lit throughout the holiday season until New Year’s Day.

CHAPTER NEWS

North Texas

Eighteen alumni in Dallas recently participated in 30 college fairs held at high schools in and around the Dallas area. Hats off to these hard-working recruiters who received 1,008 inquiries!

Los Angeles/Orange County

Members of the Los Angeles/Orange County Chapter of the UTEP Alumni Association are planning a trip to Southern California in January for the second consecutive year. They are traveling to San Diego to cheer the Miner basketball team to victory as they take on San Diego State Jan. 7. The group will travel to San Diego on a chartered bus. Area alumni interested in attending and reserving a seat should contact:

- John Solis, Chapter President, (310) 334-8269, or
- Ernie Federico, Chapter Vice President, (310) 496-3500.

Houston

Like their Dallas counterparts, alumni in Houston had planned to take part in high school-sponsored college recruitment fairs. However, due to the recent flooding in Houston, several of the fairs were cancelled and will be rescheduled for a later date. Alumni in Houston are also in the process of establishing an alumni chapter. Area alumni interested in assisting in the formation of this chapter should contact Dean Allcorn at (713) 960-1907.

San Antonio

A new chapter of the UTEP Alumni Association is forming in San Antonio. To express your interest or for more information, contact Ralph Murillo at (210) 229-5924.

CALIFORNIA HERE WE COME

President Diana Natalicio, alumni coordinator Marcia Cohen and other UTEP representatives will be traveling to California at the beginning of the new year to host alumni rallies. The first rally is scheduled to be held Jan. 4 in San Francisco, followed by a Los Angeles visit on Jan. 5 and a San Diego stop on Jan. 7. More details will follow in a flier to be sent to all alumni living in California.

For additional information on the L.A. rally, call Martha Woefle, L.A. Chapter secretary, at (714) 827-0586. For information on the other two rallies, call the UTEP Alumni Office, (915) 747-5533.
Hundreds of TCM, TWC and UTEP alumni came home in late October to participate in the many festive activities of Homecoming 1994. This year’s Homecoming theme was “On The Home Front,” commemorating the 50th Anniversary of World War II. Some of the week’s highlights included:

- A high tea for Golden Grads and honored classes. The Alumni Lodge was transformed into an Allied Tea Room, and honored guests were served tea by “the ladies of the allied nations of World War II.”

- Golden Grad Luncheon. Members of the Class of ’44 who attended the luncheon and received their Golden Grad certificates were Dr. Pablo Ayub, Betty Lewis Evans, Ellis Ruth Gerwels, Ann Burchell Higgins, Jean Heininger Miculka, and Aileen Marston Stembridge. Mrs. Miculka served as the master of ceremonies for this special luncheon, while Mrs. Stembridge and Dr. Ayub served as class representatives. Also in attendance were Horace (Bevo) Bevan, class of ’29, and Royal Jackman, class of ’30. Mr. Jackman presented President Natalicio with a 1940 TCM hat and lantern which will be displayed at Heritage House, UTEP’s new campus home for Miner memorabilia.

- ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program) Cadets. Special guests at Homecoming were Dale Washburn, Dale Kline, Phil Clark, and Otis Shull, members of the Army Specialized Training Unit, College of Mines and Metallurgy, Service Unit No. 3892. This special unit at TCM was one of many around the country where selected Army men received specialized training during World War II. The ASTP was organized by the War Department to meet a shortage of trained officers.

- Three cheers, three beers, Texas Miner Engineers! Leonard Chant, class of ’37 yell leader, and his wife, Cathy, traveled from California to attend their 19th Homecoming.

- Homecoming USO Dance. Faculty, friends and alumni danced the night away against a backdrop of Big Band music provided by The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra.

- Homecoming Fireworks. A spectacular array of fireworks “ooed and aahed” the crowd at the Homecoming Beach Party.

- Chapter Alumni. Taking part in the Homecoming celebration were members of the North Texas and Los Angeles chapters: Bob Jimenez, North Texas Chapter president, and his wife Shirley; Mary Lou Spitler, North Texas trea-
surer, and her husband Marion; Lou Moreno, Los Angeles Chapter treasurer; and Martha Woelfle, Los Angeles secretary.

- Distinguished Alumnus and Gold Nugget Recipients. Nolan Richardson received the 1994 Distinguished Alumnus Award at the "Medal of Honor" reception. Also honored were the colleges' 1994 Gold Nugget recipients: Carlos Villa, College of Business Administration; Catalina Esperanza Garcia, College of Science; Enrique Baray, College of Liberal Arts; Arturo Morales Dominguez, College of Engineering; and Deborah Lorang Card, College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Clockwise from top right:
Jean Johnston of the Development Office in a vintage World War II jeep in front of the Alumni Lodge, which was converted to a USO headquarters for Homecoming.
Distinguished Alumnus Nolan Richardson and Paydirt Pete.
Fort Bliss flag bearers march in the Homecoming Parade.
Dr. Natalicio enjoys trading stories with 1941 mining engineering grads Pollard "Barstow" Rodgers, right, and Salvador Trevino, left, and their wives.
CLASS NOTES

30S ▼

George A. Dunaway (B.S. '31), a retired geological engineering consultant, is currently managing his own oil, gas and other interests in the Cushing, Oklahoma, area.

Glynn Sparks Elliott (B.A. '38) retired several years ago from teaching physical education at a public school in Portland, Ore. She now spends her time traveling, participating in flower shows and studying Japanese flower arrangement.

50S ▼

Danny Fraser, Lt. Col. (B.A. '51), retired from St. Augustine High School in Illinois on July 31, 1994, where he had served as a senior Army ROTC instructor since 1976. In recognition of his long and dedicated service to the high school’s junior ROTC program, the school’s junior ROTC hall was named Fraser Hall. He is married to the former Pat Daley of El Paso and has three children: Susan Franklin, Tish McMahen and Danny Fraser.


Yolanda Chavez Abner (B.B. '58; M.Ed. '75), former dean of student services at El Paso Community College, was recently selected as the executive director of Radford School.

Ed Lent (B.A. '59) is currently employed with DeBruyn, Maldonado Advertising Agency. He has recently published a book titled Reflections, a collection of 64 poems he has written over the past 40 years.

60S ▼

Roger G. Parks (B.S.Ed. '64; M.Ed. '68) was appointed superintendent of the Gadsden School District, Anthony, N.M., on April 1, 1994.

Miguel Ignacio Tinzere (B.A. '69; M.Ed. '74) was named Texas Elementary School Teacher of the Year. He teaches 5th and 6th grade bilingual education at Miguel Ignacio Tinajero (B.A. '69; M.Ed. '74) was recently appointed dean of the college and a professor of history from 1961.

Anthony, N.M., on April 1, 1994.

Yolanda Chavez Abner (B.B. '58; M.Ed. '75), former dean of student services at El Paso Community College, was recently selected as the executive director of Radford School.

Ramona Elementary School in the Ysleta Independent School District.

W. C. Jameson (B.S. '69) assumed the Presidency of Western Writers of America, Inc., in June during the organization’s 41st annual convention in Billings, Mont. Jameson, a professor at the University of Central Arkansas, is an award-winning columnist and author of 15 books, the latest of which, The Gualalume Mountains: Island in the Desert, was recently released by UTEP’s Texas Western Press.

Jack Evans, Ph.D. (M.A. '63), was one of six individuals selected to receive a 1984 alma mater award sponsored by the Alumni Association of Eastern New Mexico University. Dr. Evans has been president of Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas, since 1967. Before being named president, he served as dean of the college and a professor of history from 1961 through 1967.

70S ▼

Gregg Tyler (B.A. '71) is currently pursuing a degree in electrical engineering.

Shelby Fred O’Neal, Ph.D. (B.A. '72; M.Ed. '76), is the clinical director and supervisory psychologist of the William Beaumont Army Medical Center’s (WBAMC) Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Program. He is also a charter member of WBAMC’s executive committee of the Department of Mental Health.

Robert L. Giron (B.A. '73) has been promoted to professor of English and ESL at Montgomery College in Takoma Park, Md. He is also the chairman of the Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Philosophy.

Christopher Schatzman (B.A. '74; M.A. '77) graduated magna cum laude last May from the University of New Mexico’s Law School. He is currently employed with the Albuquerque law firm of Sager, Corran, Sturgis & Tepper.

Bill Loving (B.A. '79) is an assistant professor of journalism and adjunct assistant professor of law at the University of Oklahoma. He joined the faculty in 1991.

OBITUARIES


Marian Harrison Saffold (B.A.' 42) March 9, 1994. After graduation from TCM, she entered the Carmelite Convent in Dallas. As Sister Genevieve of the Holy Face she served as a Catholic nun for fifty years and taught at Cadwellader Elementary School and Radford School for girls in El Paso. She is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, five nephews, a niece and eight great nieces and nephews.

Suzanne Pfifer Patterson (B.S.Ed. '67; M.A. '74) March 19, 1994. She lived in El Paso for twenty years and worked as a speech therapist for many years at Carlos Rivera Elementary. She also worked for ten years as a speech pathologist in the Leander ISD near Austin. She was active in the Methodist Church and the American and Texas Speech-Language-and-Hearing Associations, and she was a Chi Omega alumna. Survivors include her husband, Dale, a son and daughter, two sisters and her parents.

Emma Lee Smith Peden (B.A. '36) May 9, 1994. As a student at TCM, she was active in many organizations. She was president of the College Players, vice president of the Women’s Glee Club, a member of Alpha Psi Omega, Round Table Conference, and Student Executive Council. She resided in Dallas, Texas, where she was a retired elementary school music teacher. Preceded in death by her husband, Jowell L. Peden, she is survived by a son, Jowell Peden, Jr., a daughter, Emily Jo Momary, and five grandchildren.

J. William Poppell, M.D. (B.A. '38), June 4, 1994. He served in the U.S. Air Force as Chief of Medicine at Station Hospital in Wiesbaden, Germany, and as a physician to the U.N. Truce Commission in Palestine. He was a visiting professor of medicine at University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and director of research at Centro de Educación Médica e Investigaciones Clinicas in Buenos Aires for several years. Following his return to the U.S., he was chief of cardiopulmonary physiology at the National Jewish Hospital and Research Center in Denver, Colo. In 1971, he became director of pulmonary medicine at Scott and White Memorial Hospital in Temple, Texas. He retired in 1985. He is survived by his wife, Helen, a son and two daughters and three grandchildren.

Margaret (Peggy) Baker (B.A. '89) August 9, 1994 in Georgetown, Texas. She was a member of the UTEP Alumni Association and a volunteer at the Centennial Museum between 1988 and 1994.

Jean Mary Orme-Johnson (B.A. '34) August 1994. She is preceded in death by her sister Mary Goodwin (B.A.'32).


Andrew Allen Chitwood, Jr. (B.A. '66; M.A. '73) August 26, 1994. He was a graduate of Austin High School and received a Ph.D. from Baylor University. He was employed as a computer analyst for Honeywell Information Systems in Dallas. He is survived by his wife, Ludi Lee; son, Andrew Allen (III); his parents and two brothers.

Lewis M. Swann (B.A. '77) August 27, 1994. He was a resident of El Paso since 1966 and a member of American Legion Post #58 and Holy Trinity Catholic Church. He is survived by his wife, Hannelore, two daughters and two sons, and five grandchildren.

Carlos McIntosh (B.S.Ed. '67; M.A. '74) September 6, 1994. A resident of El Paso for 39 years, he graduated from Austin High School and was a teacher at Montwood High School. Survivors include his wife, Betty, and three children.

Lupe Rey Ramirez (B.A. '51) September 11, 1994. Lifelong resident of El Paso, he graduated from Bowie High School, served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, was a member of the Masonic Lodge #1137, and taught at Bowie High School for 31 years. Survivors include his wife, Mary Reza, two sons, a daughter-in-law and three grandchildren.

Walter Patrick Cross (B.S. '64) September 21, 1994. A lifelong resident of El Paso, he was a principal for 20 years in the Ysleta Independent School District. He belonged to Phi Delta Kappa Educational Fraternity, Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity, and Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association. Survivors include his wife, Virginia, and a son and daughter.

Madge Dee Newth (B.S.Ed. '64) September 22, 1994. She was a member of the Christian Science Church and a teacher for many years at Newman School. Survivors include her daughter and son, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Peyton H. Deane Jr. (B.B.A. '49) September 25, 1994. A resident of El Paso since the early 1920s, he was a state probation officer and a customs broker. Following his retirement he was self-employed as a dealer of Southwest and Hispanic artifacts and furniture. He is survived by his daughter, two sons and six grandchildren.

Maurine Skinner (B.A. '38) October 4, 1994. She was a retired school teacher after 40 years of service in the Ysleta and Canutillo School Districts.


Longtime resident of El Paso and supporter of UTEP athletics, he was president of DeWitt and Reearc Realtors. He was past president of the El Paso Board of Realtors, served asstate director of the Texas Association and Supervisors Association. Survivors include his wife, Francis.

Dean V. Rittman, M.D. (B.S. '71) October 23, 1994, in Lubbock, Texas. A former longtime resident of El Paso, he pioneered the heart institute and organ transplant unit of Methodist Hospital of Lubbock. He is survived by his wife, Ellen, two sons, a daughter and his parents.
They came to UTEP years ago to teach, to research and to grow as scholars. Now, as they reach the latter part of their careers, three very different professors from three departments have come together under the umbrella of a single guiding desire: to help UTEP continue its development as an institution of excellence.

Professors C. Sharp Cook, physics; Z. Anthony Kruszewski, political science; and William H. Timmons, history, have chosen to endow professorships in their respective departments with the common goal of attracting outstanding faculty whose work will lead to UTEP's being recognized as a major research center. Each made this timeless gift as a way to meet individual goals as well:

- The Dr. C. Sharp Cook Physics Professorship Fund was established by Dr. Cook and his wife, Marian, in 1987 when they realized that UTEP had just one endowed professorship while U.T. Austin had literally hundreds.

  "We wanted to get the ball rolling with the giving of professorships to the university, and I think we did that," Dr. Cook said.

  The Cooks felt that with the state supplying a smaller and smaller percentage of the budgets at public universities each year, it was time they jumped in and did something to help.

  "You need something to attract good people," Dr. Cook said. "I hope this professorship helps the physics department improve and improves the academic position of the university."

- The Kruszewski Family Endowed Professorship in Political Science was established in 1992 by Dr. Kruszewski and his wife, June, who is a UTEP alumna. The Kruszewskis created the endowment from Dr. Kruszewski's retirement fund, an approach to endowments that the Kruszewskis hope others can follow.

  "I think this is extremely important as an example," Dr. Kruszewski said. "[UTEP] can have a new source of revenue, which is so necessary these days."

  Dr. Kruszewski also had deeply personal reasons for establishing the professorship in political science.

  "When passing through this stage of life, like an actor passing across the stage, we want to leave some trace of ourselves and our work, my work of over a quarter
century,” Dr. Kruszewski said. “I also wanted to help my department, which has been good to me.

“Another reason, equally important and also sentimental, I wanted to honor my parents, my brother and my sister-in-law. Everything I have in my mind, my mother gave to me. She died in a Nazi concentration camp when I was 16. She was able to give me inspiration and direction,” Dr. Kruszewski said.

• Dr. Timmons and his wife, Laura, made an initial contribution to the Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Timmons Professorship of Borderlands History in 1990, and a campaign has been launched for contributions from colleagues, friends, students and alumni to complete the funding of the endowment.

“I came here in 1949, and over the years, I became impressed with the history of this very special area called the borderlands,” Dr. Timmons said. “It seemed to me that a special professorship was needed here because the area hasn’t been researched as thoroughly as it needed to be.”

Dr. Timmons hopes this professorship will help establish UTEP as a major research center for borderlands studies.

“I’ve been here a long time, and I could see this institution was moving forward with very definite goals in terms of excellence,” he said. “If your objective is excellence, you’ve got to have funding from other sources in addition to state funding. You have to have outside financial support and professorships.”

By creating endowed professorships in their departments, these three UTEP professors have become partners in UTEP’s long-term development as an institution of excellence.

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Eighty years ago this month, in September of 1914, the institution now known as the University of Texas at El Paso opened its doors as the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy. Despite the considerable instability in this border region occasioned by the revolution underway in Mexico, community leaders committed themselves to long-range goals such as the development of a county hospital, the construction of Elephant Butte Dam, and the establishment of this university. Twenty-seven students formed the first class of future mining engineers who would become industry leaders both in the Southwestern United States and in Mexico.

Eighty years later, this university is obviously larger in size—enrollment this fall is 17,178—and more comprehensive, offering 55 bachelor’s, 53 master’s, and four doctoral degree programs. It is important to recognize, however, that the mutuality of interests that initially bonded this university to the community that surrounds it continues to be one of the greatest sources of institutional strength and a critical factor in defining our institutional mission. In fact, I think it is fair to say that the increased success that UTEP has enjoyed during the past several years can be directly attributed to its growing awareness of and responsiveness to the human and economic development needs of this region.

At the same time, UTEP has become a national model for success in educating “non-traditional” students. The profile of UTEP’s student body—64 percent Hispanic, 53 percent female, a majority of whom are first in their families to attend college, and most of whom are employed either part or full time—represents the future constituency of higher education in this country, and other universities are increasingly looking to UTEP to provide leadership in helping them meet the challenges of the new student demographics.

UTEP is also a national leader in creating educational opportunities for Mexican students. With approximately 1,200 Mexican students, UTEP enrolls nearly 15 percent of all Mexicans who attend colleges and universities in the United States. What is astonishing about this figure is not that UTEP’s Mexican enrollment is so high—after all, our location and our history both work in our favor—but that the aggregate national figure of nearly 8,000 is so small when compared with enrollments from countries such as China, Japan, Taiwan and India.

The visibility of Mexican students at UTEP has also increased recently, thanks to their growing participation in university activities and organizations and to the fine efforts of Debbie Agthe, Rigoberto Delgado, Ben Birchfield, and others in the International Programs Office. Personifying enhanced Mexican student involvement at UTEP is José de la Rosa, who was recently elected president of the Student Association, the first Mexican student to serve as leader of UTEP’s student body. As ties between the United States and Mexico grow closer, and as a mutuality of interests draws El Paso and Juarez together, UTEP’s role in educating Mexican students will become increasingly important to us and to the region we serve.

The shifting relationship between the U.S. and Mexico is but one of the many major forces of change which are impacting UTEP and other colleges and universities. Just as UTEP was founded 80 years ago during a period of con
considerable uncertainty, we are today pursuing an extraordinarily ambitious institutional agenda during a tumultuous period in the history of U.S. higher education. Public confidence in higher education has declined, as evidenced by increasingly strident criticism in Congress and in the media, and stagnant or declining appropriations from state legislatures. As states struggle to meet increasing criminal justice and human service needs, reductions in support of higher education are justified on the basis of dissatisfaction with performance—ranging from students' TAAS and SAT scores, to faculty workloads, to curricula that are out of touch with society's needs—and there are demands for greater and greater evidence of accountability.

In Texas, for example, increases in appropriations for higher education have lagged far behind other categories of state funding; adjusted for inflation, such appropriations have increased only 3 percent during the past 10 years, while funding for public safety and prisons has increased 159 percent during the same period. In 1985, state appropriations to UTEP accounted for 58 percent of the total institutional budget; today, UTEP receives only 38 percent of its funds from the state. Faculty salaries in Texas rank last when compared with those in the 10 largest U.S. states.

One strategy to raise higher education revenues has been to shift costs to students through increased tuition and fees. Tuition set by the Texas Legislature has risen by $2 per credit hour each year for resident students and is adjusted to reflect the actual cost of instruction for nonresidents, which for 1994-95 is $171 per credit hour. Fees, which are institutionally determined, have also been increased. In 1985, tuition and fees accounted for only 8 percent of UTEP's total Education and General budget; today they represent 19 percent. However tempting it may be to the Legislature to increase tuition, and however pressed we may be to increase fees, it is abundantly clear that the growing cost of higher education and recent changes in federal financial aid programs have combined to place a university education out of the reach of many students at a time when more and more young people will need this education to lead productive and satisfying lives. Now, within this context of turmoil in higher education, UTEP has distinguished itself by successfully pursuing an extraordinarily ambitious agenda during the past several years. In fact, it could be argued that it is precisely because we have been aggressive in seeking new opportunities, and, particularly, new sources of support, that we have managed to shield ourselves from many of the serious problems that now plague other universities. Like those who founded this institution 80 years ago, we have dared to dream of a bigger and better future at UTEP while others hunker down to weather the current storm, and in the process we have achieved both significant progress in reaching our goals, and national visibility for the success of our efforts.

Such success is not achieved without the leadership of the vice presidents and deans, and the strong and abiding commitment of large numbers of faculty and staff members who, through their dedication to UTEP and the students we serve, help us to seek continuous improvement in all that we do. To all of them, we express our appreciation for a job well done. Success depends too on support from our many friends who understand the importance of our mission and enthusiastically share our aspirations for the future: alumni, members of the El Paso and Juarez communities, our many generous donors, foundations, and government agencies. We have articulated our dreams to them, and they have responded unfailingly.

The 73rd Texas Legislature was particularly responsive to UTEP's dreams last year with its special funding of the South Texas/Border Initiatives. This special commitment of $33 million has enabled us to construct and renovate facilities, to accelerate the development of new degree programs, particularly at the doctoral level, and to strengthen existing programs, both graduate and undergraduate, and related student support services. $23 million of the $33 million came in the form of tuition revenue bond funding for facilities. The largest project is a $15-million undergraduate classroom building featuring the latest teaching/learning technology. Preliminary plans for this building were enthusiastically approved by the U.T. System Board of Regents and endorsed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board this summer, and construction is expected to begin in early 1995 on the site of the present swimming pool and tennis courts.

The remaining $8 million in tuition revenue bond funding from the South Texas/Border Initiatives will be used to upgrade several other facilities on the campus. Old Main, which houses sociology and anthropology, was originally built in 1917 and is more than ready for the complete renovation it will undergo this year. Other facilities scheduled to be renovated with the help of South Texas/Border Initiatives funding include Physical Science, Liberal Arts,
The South Texas/Border Initiatives funding for facilities is particularly important to UTEP at this time because of the severe reductions in Permanent University Fund support for repair and renovation of facilities and for equipment and library materials. The PUF has traditionally been a major source of capital funds for UTEP and other U.T. System institutions—in fact, most facilities on this campus were constructed or renovated with PUF support—but declines in both oil prices and interest rates have reduced the fund's revenue to an alarmingly low level. Relief will be sought during the next session of the Legislature, especially in the areas of instructional equipment and library materials.

In addition to the $23 million in tuition revenue bond support for capital improvements, the South Texas/Border Initiatives provided approximately $9 million for program development and enhancement, particularly at the doctoral level. Historic impediments to doctoral program development at UTEP have clearly had a negative impact on overall institutional development, and it is imperative that we seize upon what may be once-in-a-lifetime opportunities presented by the South Texas/Border Initiatives to accelerate the establishment of doctoral programs in selected areas of institutional strength and regional importance. UTEP now offers four doctoral programs, three of which—in electrical engineering, materials science and engineering, and psychology—were initiated within the past three years. STBI funding has been committed to enhancing our capacity to offer these programs, and considerable progress has been made.

The first two students to complete the electrical engineering doctorate graduated this year, and enrollments in the materials science and engineering doctoral program have exceeded projections. Of particular importance is the demographic profile of students in the first year of the materials science and engineering doctoral program: of the 22 students enrolled, 10 are Hispanic and six are women, a remarkable achievement when compared with enrollments in engineering and science doctoral programs throughout the country. Special credit for this successful effort in attracting non-traditional doctoral students to this program goes to Larry Murr, who is both totally committed to a goal of diversity in graduate education and tireless in his efforts to achieve it.

The newest of our doctoral programs, psychology, has made great strides during its first year, attracting a large number of highly qualified applicants, recruiting talented new faculty, and implementing a unique curriculum which responds to the needs and capitalizes on the assets of UTEP's bicultural setting. The psychology faculty, under the able leadership of Harmon Hosch, are to be congratulated on the solid foundation they have laid for this important new program.

Proposals for four additional doctoral programs will soon be transmitted to the U.T. System: history, with emphasis on the U.S.-Mexico border region; educational administration; biological science; and environmental science and engineering. Faculty members in these areas have dedicated considerable time and expertise to the preparation of these proposals, and we hope to be able to implement these programs within the next year, thereby doubling UTEP's doctoral program inventory. The special contributions of Janet Omundson, Julie Sanford and Florence Dick in preparing these proposals for U.T. System and Coordinating Board review are gratefully acknowledged. In addition, we applaud Carlos Villa's appointment to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, which assures us of an informed and effective voice when UTEP's programs are considered for authorization by that body.

UTEP also continued its efforts to create additional opportunities for students interested in health care professions. Thanks to a large grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, a new master's degree in community health with a family nurse practitioner option will be offered beginning this year. Under the very able leadership of Dean Pat Castiglia, four clinics established at school-based sites in El Paso County with support from the Kellogg Foundation's Community Partnerships program, have successfully demonstrated how UTEP can extend the reach of its health professions education programs in service to this community. We thank our partners—the Texas Tech Health Science Center in El Paso, and the Socorro, Fabens, Clint, and San Elizario Districts—who have helped us address the health care needs of previously underserved populations in El Paso County, and we welcome Letty Paez to a leadership role in this important initiative.

Partnerships abound in health professions education at UTEP. A collaborative master's degree in public health with the U.T. Houston Health Science Center graduated its first three students in May. Occupational therapy will graduate its first class in December of this year, and physical therapy next year, both in cooperation with the

Dr. Judith Goggin (left) with psychology doctoral student Dora Lozano in the neuropsychology laboratory.
UTEP also serves as a resource to community members of all ages who come to the campus to participate in a broad range of activities and events. Enrollments in non-credit courses offered by continuing and professional education increased by 20 percent during the past year. The Center for Lifelong Learning, whose founding director—Herbert Schwartz—was honored last year, has become a national model for similar efforts at other universities. Special summer programs offered by continuing education and by individual colleges and programs brought 10,000 El Paso-area youngsters to the UTEP campus this summer to participate in science and engineering institutes, art classes, and physical activities.

If we ignore our struggles on the football field—a strategy I find soothing!—UTEP's athletics program enjoyed considerable success last year. Worthy of special mention is the improved academic performance of our student athletes. We can also be proud of UTEP's track teams which, under the able direction of Bob Kitchens, finished in third place in the NCAA Indoor and second in the NCAA Outdoor Championships this year. Thanks to John Thompson's excellent efforts, there is new turf in the Sun Bowl and increased efficiency in athletic department operations. Talented coaches and players, strong leadership, and new opportunities presented by the expansion of the Western Athletic Conference into Texas all bode well for intercollegiate athletics at UTEP.

Communicating UTEP's message, internally and externally, is equally critical. This message is communicated in a variety of ways, including the success of our students in national competitions; the success of our alumni in graduate/professional schools and in the workplace; the publications and presentations of our faculty and staff; our participation in national boards, panels, and organizations; the performance of our athletic teams; and the quality of our publications. Texas Western Press is an obvious asset, and its recent releases, including Bill Wright's beautiful book on the Tiguas and John West's biography of Jose Cisneros, should be a source of pride to all of us. Thanks to Jack Bristol and Marcia Daudistel for their good work during a critical transition in the Press's development.

News and Publications deserves recognition too for the consistently high quality of their efforts, including the award-winning NOVA magazine.

One of the ways in which we can measure the successful impact of UTEP's message is the increased support that comes to us from alumni and friends of the university. By that measure, we were enormously successful during the past year. Alumni gifts increased by 23 percent, corporate gifts by 65 percent, and foundation gifts and grants by 102 percent. Over $2.8 million was committed to UTEP through wills, trusts, and life insurance, adding to the stability and quality of UTEP's future; and 25 new endowment funds will support in perpetuity scholarships, professorships and program excellence. The leadership provided by Jan Cavin and the abiding commitment of our many support organizations—the UTEP Development Board, the President's Associates, the Matrix Society, the Alumni Association, and the Miner Foundation—have been the key to our success, and we extend our thanks to them for all that they have done and will do to promote UTEP's future development.

Remarkable progress has also been made in Alumni Affairs, thanks to the superb efforts of Marcia Cohen.
achievements of UTEP alumni are, after all, the best measure of our institutional effectiveness, and by this measure alone we can be very proud of the quality of our academic programs. Automation of records will enable us to develop closer ties with our alumni, as will new Alumni Association chapters—in Dallas, in Juarez, and in Southern California—and more frequent, more visible and more popular alumni events on campus.

Another measure of our success is the continuing growth of UTEP's grant and contract activity. Data provided by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board indicate that in fiscal year 1993, UTEP's $12.8 million in research expenditures moved this institution into sixth place in Texas, ahead of both the University of Texas at Arlington and the University of North Texas. This is an especially satisfying achievement when you consider that both of those institutions have long offered a substantial number of doctoral programs which have traditionally been associated with successful grant activity.

During fiscal year 1994, 276 proposals were submitted, seeking $79.5 million in grant funds, and 249 grants were awarded for a total of $32.4 million, a 45 percent increase over last year. We can all take enormous pride in these achievements, and we especially acknowledge the outstanding efforts of Julie Sanford and her staff in the Office of Sponsored Projects and the many faculty and staff members who have committed their time and talents to writing proposals and administering grant awards. Special congratulations to deans Arturo Pacheco and Carl Jackson and the faculties in education and liberal arts for the significant growth in grant/contract activity in those colleges.

Grant funds contribute in a variety of ways to UTEP's success in achieving its goals. First, they support our collaborative efforts to prepare precollegiate youth for increased success in higher education and in the workplace. A recent $15-million grant from the National Science Foundation will, for example, greatly reinforce the outstanding efforts of the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, under the able direction of Susana Navarro, to transform how mathematics and science are taught to all young people in this region. Second, grant funds support the improvement of undergraduate education at UTEP. The Howard Hughes Medical Institute awarded UTEP's biological sciences department $850,000 to provide a comprehensive mentoring program for entering biology students, as well as research opportunities for sophomore, junior, and senior-level students. Third, at the graduate level grant funding has provided support to increase the number of graduate programs and student enrollment in them. For example, 28 graduate students are receiving support from the Patricia Roberts Harris fellowship program funded by the Department of Education. In the competition last year, UTEP received the second-largest number of fellowships awarded to universities in the entire U.S. Fourth and finally, grants support basic and applied research, and UTEP has become increasingly competitive in securing investigator-initiated grant funding.

Of enormous importance to UTEP's development during the past several years has been the establishment and enhancement of research centers, stimulated by grant funding. The Materials Research Institute, which serves as the home of the new interdisciplinary doctoral program in materials science and engineering, has benefited greatly from the NSF-funded Materials Research Center of Excellence grant. The Border Biomedical Research Center, which creates a research base for the proposed new doctoral program in biological sciences, was established with support from the National Institutes of Health. The Center for Environmental Resource Management has been the recipient of funding from a variety of sources, including the Ford Foundation, the Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

When summarizing events of the previous year, it is easy to focus on headline-grabbing events and other major milestones, the events that caught our attention at the time and which are already well documented in Horizons, NOVA, and other publications. Less salient but ultimately of potentially greater importance are the many achievements which, in the aggregate, make this university better, more efficient, more accountable, and more responsive to the needs of those we serve. Such achievements are particularly noteworthy when limited state appropriations restrict our ability to invest resources in improvement strategies and when external accountability requirements—many of which appear to be unrelated or even contrary to actual institutional improvement—strain our human resources to their limits.

UTEP faculty and staff have made a commitment to the continuous improvement of all that we do. We recognize the importance of setting goals for improvement, monitoring progress in meeting those goals, and assessing the outcomes of our efforts. A year ago, I announced the establishment of the Center for Institutional Evaluation, Research, and Planning. During the past year, Dr. Sally Andrade, the Center's director, has involved a large number of UTEP faculty and staff in a broad-based effort to cre-
ate mechanisms for effective institutional assessment and planning, and the groundwork that has been laid will be critical, not only to satisfying the requirements of reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, but also to our commitment to individual and collective accountability and continuous improvement. SACS reaccreditation will require the special dedication of time and talent of a large number of UTEP faculty and staff, and we are grateful to all who have agreed to participate, and especially to Jon Amastae who will serve as chair of this ambitious two-year effort.

One significant measure of institutional effectiveness is the success of graduates in securing professional positions or admission to highly competitive graduate and professional schools. Although factors such as faculty credentials and students’ pre-collegiate preparation are obviously important, this and every other institution’s success must ultimately be determined by the quality of its graduates. Data from career services and from the colleges reveal that UTEP graduates perform extraordinarily well on licensure and other professional examinations, in graduate and professional schools, and in the workplace.

Another measure of institutional effectiveness is the capacity to respond to growth and change within the context of severe financial constraints. Efforts to automate financial services and document processing, to extend electronic mail and other telecommunications services to all campus departments, to continue the automation of purchasing functions, and to create distance learning and teleconference options for both academic programs and administrative applications, all reflect UTEP’s commitment to do more with less and to become increasingly efficient in all campus operations.

Staff training and development is a major component of any successful organization, and UTEP is committed to developing more comprehensive training opportunities for faculty and staff. Faculty members have responded enthusiastically to Mike Kolitsky’s guidance in applying technology to their teaching; such training will enable them to capitalize on the technology featured in the new classroom building, a facility in which students and faculty will learn together.

A highly competitive staff scholarship program helps support enrollment in credit courses, thanks to the generosity of faculty and staff members who contributed to the UTEP Partners Scholarship Endowment, which we hope will grow in the years ahead. A commitment has also been made to expand the staff training offered through Human Resources and other UTEP departments. Communication with and among staff members will be enhanced through the establishment of a Staff Council whose soon-to-be-elected membership will likely take a special interest in training and staff development issues.

Greater institutional effectiveness is sometimes achieved through reorganization. A new administrative unit, enrollment services, was established last year to serve students’ needs more effectively by increasing the coordination of operations in admission and evaluation, financial aid, recruitment and scholarships, and the registrar’s office. Expansion of Touch-tone Registration telephone lines has not only enabled more students to register by telephone, but has also facilitated add/drop transactions, thereby eliminating the long lines and short tempers in the Academic Services Building at the beginning of each semester. A recently completed space inventory update will improve utilization of classrooms and laboratories and provide greater class scheduling flexibility. Although there is still considerable work to be done, enrollment services has proven its value as an administrative unit, and Robert Stakes and all staff members involved in this transitional year are to be commended for their fine efforts.

Another major reorganizational effort is under way in the College of Education where Dean Pacheco and faculty and staff members are working to restructure teacher preparation to meet the challenges of the simultaneous renewal of schools and teacher education programs advocated by John Goodlad’s National Network for Educational Renewal, with which UTEP is proud to be affiliated. This ambitious restructuring effort has brought resources and recognition to the college, and strong support for the goals of the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence. Teacher education must clearly be an issue of importance to the entire UTEP community, especially when we stop to consider that the products of our efforts represent the majority of teachers in the districts from which UTEP draws 86 percent of its student body. Criticism of the preparation of entering students and demands for strengthening UTEP’s admission requirements may be emotionally satisfying, but real progress will be made only when we recognize that all players in this continuous loop must be part of the solution. If our goal is indeed to create educational opportunities for residents of this region, we

Through the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, UTEP works with El Paso school districts to improve the educational experiences of El Paso’s schoolchildren.
must work with the College of Education to prepare the best possible teachers who, in turn, will send us far better-prepared students; and we must collaborate closely with area school districts to develop admission requirements which seek not to serve as mere barriers but instead, to maximize student success at UTEP.

Still another test of institutional effectiveness is our success in maintaining and improving all campus facilities within ever-more-constrained budgets. Although major new building construction and renovation projects may capture our attention, day-to-day efforts at continuous improvement should not be forgotten. Juan Ontiveros’ extraordinarily fine leadership in Facilities Services has resulted in many improvements in campus buildings and grounds, enhanced staff training opportunities and incentives, and a full organizational commitment to Total Quality Management. In addition to completing major remodeling projects such as the computer center's new quarters in the Union Building, the Library Technology Center—which serves 9,000 students per month—and the Border Biomedical Research Center facility in Bell Hall, Facilities Services has worked steadily to implement our plan to provide increased disabled access to campus buildings.

Equally important is the good work of the environmental health and safety group led by Jim Marsh, which has made major improvements in research and teaching laboratories in science and engineering by installing special equipment and identifying, stabilizing and removing hazardous chemicals, and has created a safer environment for all who come to the UTEP campus. In the end, institutional effectiveness depends most on the quality and commitment of people within the organization, and during its 80-year history, UTEP has been fortunate to be able to count on the talents and dedication of outstanding individuals who understand our mission and work passionately to carry it out. I have already mentioned a number of individuals who have made a real difference at UTep during the past year, and each such attempt always omits many whose names should be mentioned too...though time will prevent that from happening. My special thanks to all of those UTEP faculty and staff members to whom we presented service awards today. Your commitment to UTEP and your sustained efforts are what has made this institution the great one that it has become.

Like any dynamic organization, UTEP continues to see veteran faculty and staff members retire—as many fine employees did this past year—only to be replaced by eager new faces who bring new talents and new perspectives to the mix. We are especially pleased to welcome Richard Padilla, Vice President for Student Affairs, who brings a wealth of experience with him; Henry Ingle and Mike Kolitsky, who have already provided strong leadership in UTEP’s technology development; Arturo Candelaria, who will strengthen our human resources efforts; and Rena Seifts in financial services. We also reiterate our warm welcome to all of the new faculty and professional staff who have become members of the UTEP community this fall. Ours is an exciting challenge with almost unlimited opportunities. We are pleased that you have chosen to join with us in pursuing them.

Eighty years ago, a few people shared a vision of higher education in El Paso. Although there were doubtless those who considered them mere dreamers, they proceeded to establish the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy. They would certainly be proud—and perhaps even a little surprised!—at the fine, comprehensive university that stands as their legacy today. More recently, we have shared a dream of increased doctoral program offerings and enhanced research activity at UTEP and of growing national recognition for our special institutional commitment to both excellence and access. We can take pride in knowing that we are well on our way to achieving these dreams, too.

I have often said that universities are places where dreams come true...each of our 17,178 students brings dreams and aspirations to this campus and we, the faculty and staff, play major roles in making those dreams a reality. It is clear that universities themselves must have dreams, too, and UTEP’s future is bright indeed because we have dared to dream. We have risked articulating our vision—even when the odds did not appear to be in our favor—and we have believed passionately in our dreams and worked tirelessly to achieve them. These are collective, not solitary, efforts, and as we celebrate our 80th birthday this year, let us all recognize our shared values, our interdependencies, and the mutuality of our interests. None of us does anything alone, and UTEP’s greatness rests on the commitment we have all made to our shared dream.

So, to all of you in today’s audience—staff, faculty, students, and friends—we extend our most sincere appreciation for all that you have done and will continue to do to make this university the best that it can be. Together we have made great progress during the past several years, and together we will continue to foster UTEP’s future development. Our 80-year history is a proud one, and with your talent, your energy, and your commitment to UTEP, the next 80 years will be even better.

Diana Natalicio
President
The University of Texas at El Paso
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