UTEP ATHLETICS
Special section, pgs. 14-17
• The move to C-USA
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• Season wrap-ups

MOVIN' ON UP
Construction projects on target

UTEP Homecoming 2004
Preview of events – mark your calendars!

UTEP Research on the Rise
The University of Texas at El Paso is well positioned to become a top-tier research institution. That’s a fact that UTEP’s friends and supporters have recognized for some time. Now a report by an independent panel of experts confirms our belief.

In a report prepared for The University of Texas System by the Washington Advisory Group, WAG consultants note that UTEP has already achieved national “research prominence,” adding that we’ve had “remarkable success” in expanding research programs and attracting federal research funding over the past 15 years.

The report notes that only two UT System academic institutions appear on a list of the top 200 U.S. research universities, based on federal research expenditures. One is UTEP. The other is UT Austin.

The WAG study examined research capacity and the potential for expansion at UT System components in El Paso, Arlington, Dallas and San Antonio. The final report provides us with an in-depth assessment of where UTEP stands today and what we need to do to continue moving toward our goal of becoming a top-tier research institution.

We are very pleased by the report’s praise of UTEP’s strong research agenda and increased number of doctoral programs. It is essential that UTEP continue to build on this momentum, because research drives the expansion of our academic programs, helps us to compete successfully for external funding, and enables us to recruit outstanding scholars to our faculty.

The WAG report also gives UTEP high marks for our “positive impact on the social and economic environment” of our region, citing as examples our national reputation for excellence in U.S.-Mexico border research, our success in preparing students to enter technology-based professions, and the diversity of our research programs.

In this issue of NOVA, we look at UTEP’s wide range of research activities, and the role they play in helping build a better, brighter future for our region. Today, faculty and student researchers — often working in collaboration with colleagues from Mexico — are looking at ways to reduce pollution, provide easier access to quality health care, and develop commercial applications for new technologies.

UTEP’s research is not limited to the sciences, nor is it confined to our laboratories. Earlier this year, we were pleased to announce that UTEP is one of only 11 universities in the nation to receive a five-year, $5 million “Teachers for a New Era” research grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The grant will provide UTEP with the research tools to become a national model for teacher education programs at urban universities, especially those serving a Hispanic-majority student population.

The WAG report reaffirms our vision that UTEP can be a model of excellence while offering access to higher education for students who have been historically underserved, calling our twin goals of access and excellence “nontraditional, but exciting.”

In the next few months, we will begin work on a long-range plan to ensure that UTEP will continue to meet the needs of the El Paso region in the 21st century.

We will call upon our friends and supporters to help us establish the Centennial Commission, comprising representatives from UTEP and the community. We will look to the Commission for guidance in how we can best serve the needs of our students, and this region, in the years to come.

We know that the road ahead will not always be an easy one. But, it is UTEP’s tradition of success that inspires our confidence in the future. We invite you to join us as we prepare for a new and exciting chapter in the history of this great university.

Diana Natalicio
UTEP President
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UTEP’s new class ring connects the past and the future. Also, mark your calendars for Homecoming 2004 activities October 11-16!
Building the Future

Construction projects on target

by Erica Martinez

Renovated and freshly painted, the walls of Seamon Hall are ready for art.

Built in 1927 and most recently used as a storage facility, the building now sports a new look and a new name: The Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts.

The center, to be inaugurated in September, includes three exhibition galleries, two large classrooms and studio space for students. The $2.25 million in renovations were completed in May.

The center is only one of several major construction projects taking shape around campus.

The Biosciences and Academic Services buildings and engineering expansion, totaling $45 million, are on schedule.

The frame of the engineering and science facility was recently covered by about 420 concrete panels—each weighing about 6,000 pounds. The first phase is to be completed in September. Completion of the new Academic Services Building is more than six months away, but one can almost hear students’ voices bustling around the offices of the registrar, admissions, scholarships, financial aid and graduate school.

The Biosciences Building, a rigid, concrete structure, will provide more laboratory space, allowing the university to expand its capacity for biomedical and health-related research. Scheduled completion is July 2005.

Additional student housing and a parking garage are in planning, said Greg McNicol, associate vice president of finance and administration.

Construction of Phase II of Miner Village student housing will begin next year on part of the former Rudolph Chevrolet property on Sun Bowl Drive. It should be completed in 2006.

Designs for UTEP’s first parking garage are also in the works, with construction slated to begin in April 2005. The five-level garage east of the Union Building would accommodate about 550 cars and a bookstore and should be completed in 2006.

In a joint project with the city’s Sun Metro public transportation system, a transit terminal and parking garage will be built on university property at Mesa Street and Baltimore Drive. The 550-space garage will accommodate university students and Kern Place patrons. Construction should begin later this year.

UTEP’s Campus Master Plan also includes plans for a parking garage on the university’s south-end—across from the new Academic Services Building.

The projects will help accommodate growing academic programs and a booming student population, which reached a record 18,542 in fall 2003.
90th anniversary marked with Memories and Momentum

by Cindy Ramirez

Through laughter and some tears, UTEP alumni in El Paso and across the nation are celebrating the university’s 90th anniversary with memories and momentum.

From the dedication of the university’s Mining Heritage Park, to a Wear Orange Day and the unveiling of a Sun Metro city bus wrapped completely in a UTEP advertisement, the university is commemorating its birthday in grand style.

But the party’s not over.

On Sept. 23, a special student event will mark the day in 1914 when 27 students first attended classes at the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy. This October, Homecoming, too, will be a celebration of our anniversary.

Alumni across the nation are joining the festivities, sharing their memories of UTEP through letters, e-mails and phone calls.

Henry Quintana Jr., who graduated from UTEP in 1975, recalls his most memorable days at UTEP were when “streakers” invaded campus.

He especially remembers “Grandpa,” and elderly gentleman who sang in his church choir: “To my surprise and amazement, this was the same gentleman that I saw that afternoon riding on top of a car completely naked, carrying a strategically placed brief case.”

Others remember professors who inspired and befriended them.

Stanley J. Bass, a 1970 UTEP grad, pays tribute to Dr. John Creighton, a world history professor who died in 1982: “He was a wonderful man: totally unpretentious and kind, and very easy to befriend.”

Many more fell in love at UTEP.

Tom D. and Gerry Laird Porter, both 1951 graduates who married during Easter break that year, met at the Christmas Dance in 1947.

“Now we are proud to be Golden Grads of 53 years!” they write. “We look forward to many more years of growth and improvements at our great UTEP!”

www.utep.edu/90thanniversary
With soldiers' lives and the survivability of multi-million dollar spacecraft at stake, it's no surprise the Department of Defense and NASA are eager to know what happens to metal when a projectile slams into it at super-high speeds.

The surprise then—to university outsiders, at least—is that one of the researchers adding to this important body of knowledge is a University of Texas at El Paso freshman.

Christina Piña, a 2003 graduate of Andress High School in Northeast El Paso, is part of a metallurgical engineering team analyzing impact craters in stainless steel.

"I like it because (metallurgical engineering) is sort of a cross between chemistry and physics," says Piña, who was drawn to UTEP because of the research opportunities for undergraduates.

This issue of Nova Quarterly honors students like Piña and the faculty and staff at UTEP who are propelling the university toward its goal of becoming the next public top-tier research university in Texas.

For the past decade and a half, UTEP has made significant strides toward joining UT Austin and Texas A&M among the ranks of the nation's flagship research universities.

It's an exclusive membership that requires world-class faculty, the latest in research equipment and facilities, and research spending that typically exceeds $100 million a year.

UTEP has added several Ph.D. programs and boosted its research spending from $3.9 million in 1989 to $32.9 million in 2003, according to the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects.

This growth means UTEP could reach top-tier status in about 15 years, according to a Washington Advisory Group report issued in May. The report was commissioned by the University of Texas System to examine research capacity and the potential for expansion at the El Paso, Arlington, Dallas and San Antonio campuses.

The report praised UTEP’s use of federal minority set-aside funding to jump-start research and its expansion of doctoral programs.

The strategy has positioned UTEP to compete against big research schools for money that doesn’t fall under that minority set-aside umbrella. An example of this is the recent $3.85 million grant from the National...
the challenges of taking the university to tier-one status.

"We have to invest, we have to build the credibility with those who make decisions about awarding grants," says Natalicio. "You can't do that overnight. It takes time."

Natalicio says UTEP's best weapon in the competition against other universities for research grants is the campus visit.

The average person, if asked what kind of research UTEP does, probably "wouldn't have a clue," Natalicio says. Hence, there's tremendous value in bringing in outsiders for tours of classrooms, laboratories and the university's numerous research centers.

"We have to show them the size of the facilities, the size of the campus, to make them believers," Natalicio says.

Itzia Cruz-Campa, who is completing her master's degree in chemistry at UTEP, says astonished reactions were the norm when she recently presented her work on a drug-delivery system at the American Chemical Society conference in Anaheim, Calif.

The system uses magnetic properties to deliver drugs to targeted areas in the body.

"They are always surprised to see this kind of work being done here," says Cruz-Campa, who plans to remain at UTEP to begin work on her Ph.D. in chemistry.

"I have seen the program and it is really good," Cruz-Campa says. "I am interested in continuing the kind of work I am doing now."

The National Institutes of Health has awarded the University of Texas at El Paso $3.85 million to help create a state-of-the-art Animal Resource Facility and research laboratories within the new Biosciences Building now under construction.

The 11,000-square-foot facility, laboratories and offices within the five-story building will give UTEP scientists much-needed space to conduct research, says College of Science Dean Thomas Brady.

"We will have space in the new building for 25 or 26 research groups," says Brady.

Brady expects some of these researchers to begin occupying the new labs and offices after the building is completed in late spring of next year.

Among the labs the NIH grant will fund is a Biological Safety Level 3 laboratory, which will allow scientists to conduct research on disease-causing organisms that are of concern to the U.S.-Mexico border, such as Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

Brady said the NIH funding did not come from federal minority-serving institutions programs, which UTEP historically has applied for to create research facilities. This time, UTEP had to compete with many of the nation's top-tier research schools to land the prestigious NIH award.

Brady calls the construction of this building dedicated solely to research a "milestone" for UTEP.

"We need facilities like this to become a major research institution," says Brady. "With these first-class facilities, we'll be able to attract both students and researchers to the university."

\[GRAPH\]

\[TABLE\]
It's a biologist's dream.

Endless, undisturbed acres free of the locked gates and wire fences that have turned the vast Chihuahuan Desert into an inaccessible checkerboard of private and public land.

The University of Texas at El Paso is delivering this researchers' dream with the 38,000-acre living laboratory known as the Indio Mountains Research Station.

"There's really nothing else like it," says UTEP biology professor and director of the station Jerry Johnson. He recently hosted a group of 30 UTEP and EPCC undergraduate students at the vast facility some 116 miles east of El Paso near Van Horn.

For years, Indio Ranch, as this little-known UTEP asset is commonly called, has been the locale for a wide variety of animal and plant research. UTEP anthropology researchers have been drawn to the ranch to study evidence of the ancient indigenous hunters and gatherers who traveled and lived in the region.

What makes Indio Ranch unique is its acre after acre of contiguous land protected from the human activity and urban encroachment that is making this kind of research opportunity more and more rare.

Secluded research station

"This is very pristine Chihuahuan Desert landscape," says Johnson, as he took in the breathtaking views offered by the surrounding Indio and Eagle mountains.

Hector Riveroll, a UTEP biology Ph.D. candidate, says the remoteness of the ranch has allowed him to collect data on reptiles year after year without worry of new human activity that could disrupt his research.

That kind of study longevity draws the awe and envy of his peers at other universities, he says.

"They always say, 'It's really great that you have data over five years,'" Riveroll says.

Riveroll, who has been studying the species of rattlesnakes and lizards who make their home in and around Indio Ranch, introduced some 116 miles east of El Paso near Van Horn, as this little-known UTEP asset is commonly called, has been the locale for a wide variety of animal and plant research. UTEP anthropology researchers have been drawn to the ranch to study evidence of the ancient indigenous hunters and gatherers who traveled and lived in the region.

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RESEARCH at a GLANCE

UTEP scientists are measuring levels of arsenic and heavy metal concentrations—lead, copper and zinc, for example—to determine what health risks exist in El Paso.

long pair of tweezers and lifted the scorpion by its tail.

When hit with the light, the scorpions—for reasons still debated—glow a rich blue.

Esposito says scorpions have stung her several times.

"The ones here are not anything to worry about," Esposito says, explaining that a jab from the stinger at the end of a scorpion’s segmented tail feels "like a wasp sting."

Rattler round-up

A ranch resident with a much more powerful sting, or bite, actually, is the rattlesnake.

Ph.D. students Justin Hobert and Riveroll have been studying the variety of rattler species making their home at Indio Ranch.

On this trip, they collected a pink-hued rock rattlesnake, a western diamondback and a black-tail rattler.

While carefully demonstrating how to use a long-handled set of pincers to nab a snake, Riveroll explained to the surrounding students that the sound of a rattle meant the snake was just making its presence known.

"If you hear a rattle, just walk away. He wants to be left alone."

As the black-tail rattler slithered to a hiding spot beneath a creosote bush, Riveroll says, "I worry about the ones that don’t rattle. Those are the ones that are saying, 'I don’t need to rattle. I’m bad!'"  

Cotton’s Legacy

The origin of Indio Ranch is a notable chapter in the history of UTEP, which celebrates its 90th anniversary this year.

UTEP students and faculty have the 38,000-acre Indio Mountains Research Facility thanks to a gift from the estate of Boston industrialist Frank B. Cotton, who died in 1907.

Cotton, who spent six months in El Paso in 1881 on what he reportedly considered the "greatest adventure" of his life, bought ranch land in Hudspeth, Culberson and El Paso counties.

In the 1930s, his estate gave a portion of his land holdings to create a Texas educational endowment. The land trust was transferred to the nearest state school, the Texas College of Mines, now UTEP.

In 1987, former UTEP President Haskell Monroe proposed the Cotton lands be used for research and instruction in biological and geological sciences.

In 1991, UTEP President Diana Natalicio approved the organization and mission statement for the Indio Mountains Research Station.

Sources: Dr. Jerry D. Johnson; and UTEP: A Pictorial History of the University of Texas at El Paso, by Nancy Hamilton.
With a click and a whir, the rotund little fellow enters a corridor it has never seen before.

As a roomful of UTEP students watch intently, the bucket-sized machine looks left and right, seeming to hesitate before exploring further.

"Tiene miedo (It's scared)," someone says in Spanish.

Laughter erupts from the 30 young men and women in Ray Bell's robotics class, easing the tension of the difficult robot-programming exercise.

Early in this spring semester's robotics class, Bell, a computer science lecturer, challenged his students to program their robots to find their way through a maze.

Packed with a variety of sensors, the little robots attempt to negotiate their way to the proverbial block of cheese—in this case a light source (a flashlight attached to the labyrinth's wall).

"It's difficult because the students don't know what the maze is going to look like," Bell says. "With an unknown maze, it is an unknown problem."

One robot, nicknamed Ayanami after a heroine of Japanese anime, eventually beeped and bumped its way to the flashlight with a little hands-on nudging by team member Roxanne Martinez.

"It's challenging, but at the same time a lot of fun," says Martinez, a senior computer science major.

Bell says robotics classes continue to be in high demand among advanced computer science students.

The students share five Trilobot educational robots, which the department purchased last year for about $2,000 apiece.

Looking over the 30 students in the robotics lab in CS Classroom 118, Bell says, "(The class) always fills up. Everybody likes to play with robots."

Bell says some of the student enthusiasts formed a robotics club last year, with a goal of building their own robot.

Using Java and C computer languages, the robotics club students also have created a program they've dubbed "TriloBoss."

TriloBoss' point-and-click commands let neophytes easily instruct the bots to move and perform grasping and lifting tasks with their grippers.

Bell says the robotics club plans to take the Trilobots to area schools to introduce youngsters to the fascinating world of robotics and computer science.

Martinez says she hopes UTEP will be able to offer more opportunities in robotics education.

Given the United States' emphasis on worker productivity, Martinez anticipates there will be a future in robotics systems design, manufacturing and maintenance.

"I'd love a job in robotics," Martinez says.
Living on the doorstep of Juarez nightlife is leading to disturbingly high rates of binge drinking and drunk driving among El Paso’s high school students, a new UTEP study reports.

Students who drink in Mexico are six times more likely to binge drink, five times more likely to drink and drive and three times more likely to ride with a driver who’s been drinking, says lead researcher Sharon E. Thompson, an assistant professor in the College of Health Sciences.

“The results are very startling,” Thompson says. The data “indicate the need for more research and culturally-appropriate prevention programs that address alcohol consumption in Mexico, particularly in terms of students driving back home.”

Almost three-fourths of student drinkers say they obtain most or all of their alcohol from Mexico, where the drinking age is 18.

Crossing the bridge to party in Juarez has long been considered a rite of passage for many El Paso youth.

Darlene Ortega, a Bel Air High School senior active in underage drinking prevention programs, says she was an occasional social drinker, but stopped after witnessing the destructiveness of alcohol abuse.

While conducting research for Operation BRIDGE, a Rio Grande Safe Communities Coalition program designed to reduce the number of border-crossing underage drinkers, Ortega saw first hand the dangers of binge drinking in Juarez.

“It was really sad. I saw a lot of the girls coming back alone. I saw a couple of girls coming back that couldn’t even walk,” Ortega recalls. “And I saw some guys who had gotten beaten up over there.”

RGSCC partners are addressing the problem with several programs, including “Shattered Dreams,” a simulation of an alcohol-related car crash that kills high school students.

To collect data for the drinking habits study, lead researcher Sharon E. Thompson’s team needed to survey more than 1,300 students from 16 El Paso high schools in 2001.

That’s when Myriam Leyva, then an undergraduate eager to participate in research, volunteered to help administer the survey.

Thompson believes that the high school students related well to Leyva, a 1998 graduate of El Paso High School. This was important in developing a bond of comfort and trust with the students that made for a successful survey, and ultimately a successful study, Thompson says.

“I just approached my professors and asked them how I could take a more active role in some of the research that was going on,” Leyva recalls. “They welcomed it, of course.”

Leyva was selected as a UTEP Top Ten Senior in 2003. Leyva, 24, is now in her first year of a master’s program in public health. Her undergraduate experience has paved the way for more research projects, including a study of acanthosis nigricans—an indicator of diabetes—in El Paso communities.

“I love learning,” says Leyva, who says she wants to pursue an education to the Ph.D. level. Regardless of where her education takes her, border health issues will pull her to El Paso.

“I will definitely try and make a difference here.”
The rhythm of life is in sync for a team of UTEP students who are using their talents in the biomedical field. For their senior-year project, electrical engineering majors Zoe Aguirre, Vianney Alonso and Galia Gamboa took on the challenge of developing a cardiotachometer—a device that monitors a human’s beating heart and transmits the heart-rate data to a computer.

The timing is good for the young women, who are poised to either enter the workforce or continue their studies at UTEP’s graduate school. Their project has turned them on to biomedical engineering, just as UTEP begins to establish itself as a major part of an evolving health-research complex in El Paso.

A cornerstone of this will be the five-story Biosciences Building now under construction next to the University Library. As El Paso attracts more health professionals and researchers, the city’s economic engine is expected to rev up, helping create more job opportunities for talented UTEP students.

A biomedical engineering career “is definitely something I would be interested in,” says Aguirre, who plans to pursue a master’s degree in electrical engineering at UTEP.

Aguirre’s team displayed their cardiotachometer project at UTEP’s Model Institutions for Excellence Student Research Expo in April. To underscore their interest in the medical field, the women donned matching monogrammed nurses’ uniforms for their presentation.

The cardiotachometer was a challenging project to develop from scratch, the women said. The process begins with electrodes that pick up the electrical signals generated by a beating heart. The signals are amplified and filtered. The pulsing of the heart then triggers a module called a multivibrator. A microprocessor counts the beats and calculates real-time and average heart rates.

When we were looking for a senior project, we wanted to do something related to human health, something to make people’s lives better.”

RESEARCH at a GLANCE

Senior Mechanical Engineering major Jun-Young Park and fellow student researchers are studying the effectiveness of water-purification methods in El Paso’s colonias. This summer, they will investigate the effectiveness of a new countertop purification device that holds promise for residents who are not connected to municipal water systems.
A University of Texas at El Paso researcher has some ideas why we constantly test the tensile strength of our waistbands. Department of Psychology Chair John M. de Castro recently published two studies that shed light on some causes of overeating.

One study investigated how the time of day affects calorie intake; the other examined how much we eat while watching TV.

In the time-of-day study, de Castro found that people who ate more calories in the morning would tend to consume less calories overall for the day. The reverse was true for calories taken in later in the day—those meals didn’t satisfy as much, says de Castro, who came to UTEP from Georgia State University last year.

"Over the course of the day, people tend to be less satisfied (less full) from their meals," he says. Further study is needed, but de Castro speculates that our biological clocks, ticking in daily rhythm with sunlight, may explain why breakfast satisfies more than dinner.

"People can be eating at times when their physiology expects them to be sleeping," de Castro says. "This is strictly a hypothesis, but it indicates obesity could be due in part to artificial light."

In the other study, de Castro found TV watching anathema to weight watching. Led by Nanette Stroebele, de Castro’s doctoral student at Georgia State University, the researchers found people ate more—almost one extra meal—on days when they ate while watching TV.

Though the study didn’t address why TV encourages overeating, de Castro speculates that food commercials could be a culprit. Also, people don’t usually think about what or how much they eat when entranced by the tube, he says.

A University of Texas at El Paso researcher has some ideas why we constantly test the tensile strength of our waistbands. Department of Psychology Chair John M. de Castro recently published two studies that shed light on some causes of overeating.

One study investigated how the time of day affects calorie intake; the other examined how much we eat while watching TV.

In the time-of-day study, de Castro found that people who ate more calories in the morning would tend to consume less calories overall for the day. The reverse was true for calories taken in later in the day—those meals didn’t satisfy as much, says de Castro, who came to UTEP from Georgia State University last year.

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HONOR THY PARENTS
DONOR GIVES LIBRARY, ATHLETICS GIFTS IN HIS PARENTS' NAME

by Megan E. Baeza

When he was younger, El Paso businessman Thad A. Steele Jr. had no idea he was shooting hoops with history.

He'd reaped the benefits of his father’s everlasting support of Miner athletics: Former basketball coach Don Haskins gave Steele a practice ball from the 1966 NCAA championship game.

“At the time I was a kid and didn’t realize I was holding a piece of history,” Steele says of the ball he wishes he still had.

Steele, now president of T&T Staffing in El Paso, is giving back to the university that long held his family’s loyalty – and its own history.

He has set up a library endowment in honor of his mother, Maxine Bray Steele, and a football scholarship in memory of his father, Thad A. Steele Sr.

“My parents were introduced by former Texas Western College President Wilson Elkins,” Steele says. They fell in love and were married in what was then the president’s home in 1950.

His father was a star football, basketball and baseball player for the College of Mines before graduating in 1932 with a bachelor’s degree in education. He earned the nickname “Stellar” Steele, served as captain of the Miner football team and was an All-Border Conference center for three years.

His father’s lifelong ties to athletics inspired Steele Jr. to create the scholarship.

“It was because of Dad’s love of football and coaching with Mike [Brumbelow],” he says.

Steele Sr. joined the Navy in 1942 as a lieutenant with Brumbelow, who would go on to be the Miner head football coach and athletics director in the 1950s.

After leaving the Navy as a lieutenant commander, he made his home in El Paso and created a legacy of service to his community and UTEP.

Steele Sr. served multiple terms as president of the Ex-Students’ Association and was named Outstanding Ex in 1968. He helped organize the Touchdown Club and served as a president of the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. He was a 50-year member of the Masonic Lodge and a member of the Scottish Rite Bodies and the El Maida Shrine Temple. He died in 1990.

Maxine Bray Steele came to El Paso in 1949 as dean of women at Texas Western College, where she served until 1951. She was appointed acting dean in 1953-54 and 1957-58. She continued her service to UTEP as a founding member of the Women's Estate Planning Conference and as a member of the Women’s Auxiliary. She died in 1988.

“UTEP is a big part of my family’s life,” says Steele, whose sisters Martha Tita Williams and Dorothy Broderson are UTEP graduates. “I feel that the success of my company is enabling me to give back to the university that gave so much to my family. It’s what I can do.”
Awards and Accolades

Staff Report

The momentum continues at UTEP, which has recently received the following awards and accolades:

- **The Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center** opened in April. The center is a collaborative between UTEP and the University of Texas at Houston Health Science Center funded by a $4.1 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities. It will provide mentoring and training for health researchers focused on Hispanic health disparities.

- **Sierra Providence Health Network and the Tenet Healthcare Foundation** awarded UTEP's School of Nursing a $460,000 grant to assist in the development of an accelerated bachelor's in nursing degree, as well as student and faculty retention and success programs.

- **The Texas Instruments Foundation** awarded UTEP $1 million for semiconductor fabrication and wireless communications laboratories.

- **The State Farm Foundation** donated $75,000 to UTEP's College of Business Administration for the creation of an innovative Student Investment Center in the College of Business.

- **The Paso del Norte Health Foundation** has awarded UTEP's Center for Environmental Resource Management $250,000 for a program that will address the environmental health challenges of colonia residents. The "Healthy Home Environments for the Paso del Norte Region" program use community partnerships and home environmental-review visits to address the water, solid-waste, sanitation and pesticide issues faced by thousands of colonia residents in El Paso and Juárez.

- **UTEP ranked second** among the top 25 institutions with most Hispanic women enrolled, according to a report by The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education magazine.

UTEP News Online

The latest news about UTEP is just a click away in the revamped Horizons Online News at www.utep.edu/horizons.

The Web site for UTEP campus news was launched in May by University Communications.

The site includes top news and features, faculty and staff profiles, student success stories, Miner Moments slide shows, Que Pasa? news briefs, campus photos, links to UTEP-related stories in local and national media, and more.

Formerly a monthly newsletter, Horizons Online News will now be updated regularly as events and news happen around and about the campus.

Add Horizons Online News to your "favorites" list today!

Laughter and tears overcame the more than 1,300 students who graduated during UTEP's 2004 spring commencement May 8.

Salute to Service

Staff Report

The 2004 Honors Convocation, the university's annual springtime salute to service, honored faculty, staff and students for their achievements.

Among the honorees were professors who attained emeritus status and faculty and staff who received Distinguished Achievement Awards, one of the university's highest honors.

**Professors Emeriti:**
- James Michael Gray - Associate Professor, Mathematical Sciences
- Dilmus D. James - Professor, Economics and Finance
- David V. LeMone - Professor, Geological Sciences

**Distinguished Achievement Awards:**
- University of Texas at El Paso Faculty Achievement Award for Research: **Russel R. Chianelli** - Professor, Chemistry
- Chancellor's Council Outstanding Teaching Award: **Patricia A. Nava** - Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Distinguished Service to Students: **Maggie Ortega** - Administrative Secretary, Student Government Association

**Lawrence J. Johnson** - Associate Professor, English and Western Cultural Heritage
- Distinguished Service to the University: **Michael L. Spence** - Don Haskins Center

**Arturo P. Perez** - Professor, Languages and Linguistics
**Sally M. Segal** - Associate Professor, Art
**Walter F. Taylor** - Professor, English

Recipients of UTEP's Distinguished Achievement Awards with university President Diana Natalicio.

Photo by Laura Trejo
For 36 years, the Miners have been part of the Western Athletic Conference family, winning 20 national championships and 53 conference team titles. Starting next summer, UTEP will move into a new league: Conference USA.

The move promises to elevate UTEP to a whole new playing field — with the potential to become a major player in what is emerging as one of the nation’s top conferences.

Miners to leave WAC for Conference USA

by Megan E. Baeza and Cindy Ramirez

By next summer, UTEP athletics will have a new home. The university will move to Conference USA starting July 1, 2005, after 36 years in the Western Athletic Conference — creating a buzz of excitement about what lies ahead for Miner sports.

“We look forward to continuing to compete in the Dallas and Houston areas, where there are large concentrations of UTEP alumni who have enjoyed following our teams,” says UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

UTEP will join current WAC members Rice, SMU and Tulsa in the 12-member conference. The Miners will participate in the league’s Western Division with Houston, Rice, SMU, Tulane and Tulsa. The Eastern Division will feature Central Florida, Marshall, Memphis, the University of Southern Mississippi and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

UTEP has won 20 national championships as a WAC member. The Miners have claimed 53 conference team titles.

University officials — and fans — hope the move to Conference USA will bring athletics a rebirth and help grow those championship titles.

The promise of great games and the potential for increased national exposure, too, may put university athletics on a whole new level.

“It took a lot to leave,” UTEP Director of Athletics Bob Stull says of the WAC. “But we feel it was in our best interest at this time to point ourselves east instead of west.”

But even before the move to C-USA, Miner fans had been reinvigorated by the hiring of Mike Price as head football coach and, after more than a decade, the basketball team’s return to the NCAA tournament. Track and field, too, continues its winning streak, placing second in the 2004 WAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships this spring.

Conference board members said the historic 1966 NCAA basketball championship combined with tournament play this spring helped convince them it was time to offer UTEP membership in the league.

UTEP’s ability to draw large numbers to its football and basketball games was another plus. On the road to the NCAA, eight home basketball games sold out.

“They’re a terrific asset to the league,” says C-USA Commissioner Britton Banowsky. Banowsky said structural improvements to the
Conference USA will help tighten its geography and group similar institutions together. And possibly a football championship game.

“It will be very exciting to see this league grow and develop,” he says.

Conference USA began in 1995 in Chicago. Since its inception, the league has fielded 34 NCAA tournament teams in men’s basketball, including one Final Four team and three Elite Eight teams; 22 bowl teams in football; and 34 NCAA Tournament teams in women’s basketball.

“This is a great move for the UTEP athletic department,” says women’s basketball head coach Keitha Green. “Year in and year out, they have several teams in the NCAA tournament. It’s going to be an exciting challenge for our program and the athletic department.”

Conference USA sponsors 18 sports — baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, tennis and track and field (indoor and outdoor) for men; and basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, track and field (indoor and outdoor) and volleyball for women.

Fifteen of UTEP’s 16 intercollegiate teams will compete under the Conference USA banner. The exception is riflery, which will continue to compete as an independent.

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Play By Play

by Megan E. Baeza and Cindy Ramirez

Head Football Coach Mike Price has thrown out the team’s old playbook.

The Miners spent spring training learning new offensive and defensive plays — and discipline.

“They’re relearning everything from how they stretch to how they snap the ball,” Price says. “They’re going to learn it pretty quickly.”

Price has wiped the slate clean. Players must compete for all positions, having to prove themselves before they can play in the fall. The quarterback job is no exception.

“Now I know for sure that I’m not ready to make a decision about our starting quarterback,” says Price following the annual Spring Game in the Sun Bowl in April. He says a quarterback will likely be named “within a couple of weeks of the first game.”

And although UTEP’s 2004 football season doesn’t open until Sept. 2, anticipation is already brewing.

Season tickets are selling steadily — earlier and faster than the past few years — as fans look forward to a promising season under Price.

Price, the 1997 national coach of the year, was hired by UTEP in December 2003. He was the football coach at Washington State University from 1989-2002.

Senior running back Howard Jackson is looking forward to the end results.

“We’re trying to get better as a team, and we will with Coach Price,” he says. “We needed this — we weren’t very disciplined at all. It’s going to be tough, but we needed this.”

For Price, the 2004 season can’t come soon enough.

“I’m as excited as I have been at any time in my life,” he says. “This is a great place to be.”

Hot Tickets

Season tickets are on sale starting at $66 for adults and $39 for children. Family packages and upgrades are available.

Individual tickets will go on sale in August and begin at $12 for adults and $7 for children for general admission.

Information: Miner Athletic Club Season Ticket Hotline, 915/747-6150 or University Ticket Center, 915/747-5234.

2004 Miner Football Schedule

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<td>WEBER STATE</td>
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<td>NMSU</td>
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<td>@ Fresno State*</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 27</td>
<td>@ Tulsa*</td>
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* Western Athletic Conference game

w w w. u t e p a t h l e t i c s . c o m / f o o t b a l l

Photos by Javier Vicencio and Laura Trejo

SUMMER 2004 • 15
New coaching staff, fans, ready for another Sensational Season

by Megan E. Baeza

Doc Sadler hopes the Miners’ return to the NCAA tournament last season is more momentum than memories.

"Every waking minute and every sleeping minute, I’m going to do everything I can to continue this ride," says Sadler, who was named head basketball coach in March.

Sadler replaces Billy Gillispie, who resigned to become head coach at Texas A&M University. Gillispie turned the Miners’ 6-24 record of last year into an impressive 24-7 at the end of regular season play this year. The Miners were co-champions in the Western Athletic Conference and for the first time in 12 years were invited to the NCAA tournament. UTEP lost to Maryland 86-83 in the first round of tournament play in Denver, but won the hearts of fans hungry for more.

“I don’t think we’ll skip a beat under Doc’s leadership,” says legendary UTEP basketball coach Don Haskins, who led the 1966 NCAA championship team. “My support is totally with Doc.”

Sadler and his new coaching staff — assistants Randall Dickey and Ed Custodio — hope to keep the team in high gear.

“As an assistant coach, it is always a dream to have the opportunity to run your own program,” says Sadler, who served as an assistant coach for the Miners under Gillispie in the 2003-04 season. “Never did I dream the opportunity would come at the only school in the state of Texas to have won a national championship.”

Sadler earned his bachelor of science degree from the University of Arkansas in 1982 and a master’s degree in education from Northeastern State University in 1991. He and his wife, Tonya, have two children.

Dickey most recently was an assistant coach at Washington State for four seasons. His duties with the Cougars included coaching, scouting and game plan implementation. The Cougars’ 2000 junior college class was ranked fifth in the country.

“UTEP is coming off a sensational year. I’m excited to help build on the groundwork that has been laid,” Dickey says. “The El Paso community is warm and friendly and loves UTEP basketball, and I’m thrilled to be a part of it.”

A native of The Bronx, N.Y., Custodio served as an assistant coach at St. Francis College (1998-02) and Long Island University (2002-03). He was involved in all facets of the basketball operation, including coaching, practice planning, recruiting, academic monitoring, scouting reports and other administrative duties.


Hi-flying: Jason Williams goes for a lay-up as John Toft stands guard during the NCAA tournament in Denver this spring.

So close: Former UTEP head basketball Coach Billie Gillispie reacts in the last minutes of the NCAA game against Maryland. The Miners lost a heartbreaker 86-83.
Poised With Promise

Miner athletics buzzing with excitement, success

by Megan E. Baeza

From the basketball court to the fields of soccer and softball, Miner athletics are on hiatus from competition for the summer.

While some teams had successful seasons, others had rocky records. But in the summer silence, excitement simmers for next year, as all 12 Miner athletic teams are poised to show off new recruits and seasoned veterans.

HOT HOOPS

Marta Dydek, a junior standing 6'6'', drives forward against an NMSU defender. The team finished their 10-18 season in March. Two players, Ingrid Goslin and Noni Wharemate, received Academic All-WAC awards.

KICKIN' IT

Freshman midfielder Leslie Platz blocks an opponent during a home game. The soccer team finished its season with an 11-8-0 record and has signed four talented players for 2004-05. Soccer opens on Aug. 27 against Texas State University.

ROCKY SEASON

Softball began its run at UTEP with a rocky start and a 8-46 season — though its prospects are looking up. In September, the $1.8 million Helen of Troy Softball Complex will be completed. It will house offices and locker rooms for the softball and soccer teams. The 900-seat facility will include a VIP seating area, three batting cages and two bullpens.

Above, junior thrower Correy Harrison spins the discus at an outdoor meet this spring. UTEP track and field athletes are regularly awarded for their achievements on and off the field — including WAC players of the week and NCAA All-American honors. The Miners placed second in the 2004 WAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships in May. At left is junior sprinter Alisha Leverett.
Senior Success

Staff Report

The Top Ten Seniors Awards are presented each spring to students who have combined academic success with a proven commitment to the community. They represent the best and brightest graduates of the university and are measured not by class ranking, but by what they've accomplished and what awaits them in their careers and personal lives.

GARCIA

Lorena Garcia learned the value of service to community through participation in numerous community and outreach programs, including UTEP organizations such as the Golden Key Honor Society and Eta Sigma Gamma.

"These experiences have given me a sense of satisfaction knowing that I am able to make a difference in someone's life," she says. Garcia graduated with a bachelor of science degree in health science, a minor in community health and a 4.0 GPA.

In addition to a place on the Dean's List for four years and receiving the presidential scholarship since 1999, Garcia won the Golden Key Honor Society Outstanding Academic Achievement Award in 2000.

GOMEZ

"Hard work has accounted for Emmanuel Gomez's success, including his December 2003 graduation with a combined B.B.A. and master of accountancy," Gomez says. "I am just as qualified as any other person around the country."

Gomez, 22, graduated with a 3.61 GPA, making the Dean's List four semesters while in the rigorous accounting program.

He was active in the Student Government Association and was elected president in 2002-03.

MENA

Myrna Alehehi Menj juggled school life, personal life and community service—and didn't drop the ball once. She carried a 4.0 grade point average into her senior year, and graduated in December with a B.B.A. and master of accountancy combined degree.

As a teaching assistant and president of the UTEP chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, a professional accounting and business information honors fraternity, Menj says she's built "a strong foundation on which I plan to build a successful career in accounting."

While at UTEP, Menj added numerous honors and awards to her impressive resume, including the Presidential Excellence Scholarship, the YWCA Community Service Award, and the Reading is Fundamental Service Award from the Lydia Patterson Institute.

MERRITT

Jo Lynn Merritt says UTEP supplied her with more than the right education to enter medical school. "Without the education and training I received from UTEP and MPI, I would have not had the opportunities that have aided my success," Merritt says.

Graduating with a B.S. in microbiology in May, the 22-year-old has been accepted into the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. Merritt participated in UTEP's Medical Professions Institute and Early Medical School Acceptance Program while earning a 3.58 GPA. Merritt earned many honors and awards while working towards her degree, including Woman of UTEP 2002-2003 and the Del Sol Medical Center Volunteer Auxiliary Scholarship.

RAMIREZ

Luis Ramirez has mastered and built rockets with middle school students—and launched his interests in engineering and his goal to work for NASA.

After interning at Johnson Space Center in Houston throughout college, the 23-year-old is headed to NASA's Mission Control to work as a flight controller—a step closer to entering the Astronaut Program.

While earning his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, Ramirez maintained a 3.9 GPA and was a member of the Engineering Students Leadership Council, Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, Golden Key International Honor Society and others.

He was a recipient of the NASA-Texas Space Grant Consortium Scholarship, NASA Space Station Engineering Scholarship and Gates Millennium Scholarship, and has been recognized on the National and UTEP's Engineering deans' lists.

RODRIGUEZ

Aaron Rodriguez swam his way to success at UTEP—giving every stroke his greatest effort.

An avid swimmer since the age of 4, the 22-year-old Rodriguez applied the same dedication to his political science degree. With a 3.87 GPA, Rodriguez has been recognized on the National Academic, and UTEP's College of Liberal Arts and Engineering Deans' Lists.

A member of the UTEP Water Polo Club, he also served as president of Alpha Chi National Honor Scholarship and was co-founder of UTEP's Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity and Psi Sigma Alpha political science honor society.

Rodriguez worked as a high school liaison for the Center for Law and Border Studies and was part of the Law School Preparation Institute. He will attend the University of Arizona-James E. Rogers College of Law.

SAAD

Danya Saad knows how to keep busy. The 21-year-old graduated in three years with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and a 3.88 GPA. Saad carved out time to participate in various clubs and organizations, including Students in Physical and Occupational Therapy, Student Government Association, Golden Key International Honor Society and Kinesiology Club.

She is currently a research assistant at UTEP, and has offered numerous volunteer hours to several organizations.

The 2003 UTEP Woman of Valor, member of the Dean's List and National Dean's List, Saad says, "I feel that I am now prepared to face any challenge, whether they arise academically, professionally or personally."

YU

Lorraine Yu completed her undergraduate career at UTEP at the top—as president of this year's nursing class and of the Texas Nursing Student Association.

Other honors include both a spot on the Dean's List and a Presidential Scholarship.

"I have learned ethics and morals that could only have been bestowed on me at UTEP," she says. "I believe I will be a better health care provider and person because of it."

Yu graduated with a bachelor of science in nursing degree and a 3.83 GPA.

ZUBIA

Suizette Milagros Zubia served her family and community for 14 years before deciding to pursue a higher education.

The life experience that came with the wait has paid off: She earned her bachelor's degree in education with a 3.81 GPA.

A transfer student from El Paso Community College, Zubia is a faithful donor with United Blood Services, a Sunday School teacher, Neighborhood Watch captain, and a volunteer with the Socorro district and Keep El Paso Beautiful.

She has been honored for contributions and service by organizations, including Kappa Delta Pi and Bilingual Education Student Organization.

Zubia received a Wolslager Foundation Scholarship, is on the National Dean's and Presidential Dean's lists, and is in the Student Leadership Institute, Golden Key Honor Society and Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society.
Fellowship of the Ring
Class emblem encircles past, future
by Donna Dennis
The shiny gold ring Dario Arroyo wore for the first time was more than a piece of jewelry. It signified the end of
his long journey, and the beginning of a new tradition.
"I'm the first in my family to graduate and to get an official ring so this is a really big accomplishment," says Arroyo, a kinesiology major who dressed in coat and tie during UTEP's first ring ceremony April 23.
The ceremony is the university's newest tradition, and marked the introduction of UTEP's first official class ring to alumni and students.
Custom designed, the ring displays symbols unique to the university — the University Seal, the Texas flag, the "M" on the mountain, the Bhutanese architecture, the founding year, Paydirt Pete and the UTEP pick logo.
For Arroyo, slipping the ring on his finger marked the end of endless studying. "It's not easy, but it's not impossible," he says. Only alumni and students who have at least 90 credit hours can purchase the ring.
UTEP President Diana Natalicio says Arroyo and others who have ordered the ring since its unveiling in November are today's leaders — much like the pioneers of the past who started the School of Mines in 1914. "You are pioneers. You are the first," Natalicio says to the ring recipients, reminding them the university is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.

Mark Your Calendars!
UTEP HOMEcoming 2004
October 11-16
All events are free unless otherwise noted.
• Parade — 12:20 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15, University Avenue
• Pep Rally — 1:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15, Undergraduate Learning Center. 747-5670 or ewetherly@utep.edu
• Football Game — 7:05 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, at the Sun Bowl vs. Hawaii Warriors. UTEP Ticket Office, 747-5234.

Alumni Association
For information on alumni events and fees, contact 915/747-8600, toll free at 866/GO-MINERS, via e-mail at alumni@utep.edu or www.utep.edu/alumni
• Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Event: 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15, Don Haskins Center
• Golden Grads Luncheon Honoring the Class of 1954: 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, Tomás Rivera Conference Center, Union Building East, Third Floor
• Reunion Reception: Honoring the Classes of 1979, 1994 and 1999: 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, de Wetter Center

For information on specific college events, contact:
• Business Administration: Shari Schwartz at 747-7728 or sschwartz@utep.edu
• Education: Julie Cooper at 747-5572 or jcooper@utep.edu
• Engineering: Leticia Diaz Rios at 747-5460 or lrios@eng.utep.edu
• Health Sciences: Merced Sierra at 747-7268 or msierra@utep.edu
• Liberal Arts: Dean's Office at 747-5566 or libarts@utep.edu
• Science: Dean's Office at 747-5596 or science@utep.edu

Please consult the following schedule for details. All events are free unless otherwise noted.

• Parade-12:20p.m.
• Pep Rally - 1:15 p.m.
• Football Game-7:05p.m.
• Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Event: 6:30 p.m.
• Golden Grads Luncheon Honoring the Class of 1954: 11:30 a.m.
• Reunion Reception: Honoring the Classes of 1979, 1994 and 1999: 3 p.m.
• Alumni Association Pre-Game Party: 5-6:30 p.m.

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For information on alumni events and fees, contact 915/747-8600, toll free at 866/GO-MINERS, via e-mail at alumni@utep.edu or www.utep.edu/alumni
• Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Event: 6:30 p.m.
• Golden Grads Luncheon Honoring the Class of 1954: 11:30 a.m.
• Reunion Reception: Honoring the Classes of 1979, 1994 and 1999: 3 p.m.

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http://www.balfour.com/ORP/default.aspx?id=926

Tea Party: UTEP alumni gather at Leach Grove after a Sorority Reunion Tea April 24.
**UTEP alumnos key to Al Día newspaper**

By Erica Martinez

Being well educated, bilingual and bicultural are vital qualifications for today’s journalists, says Alfredo Carbajal, a 2000 UTEP graduate and managing editor of the Dallas Spanish-language newspaper *Al Día*.

Carbajal—along with a handful of other UTEP graduates working at the newspaper— are part of the fast-growing segment of Spanish-language media.

*Al Día*, a product of Dallas Morning News, is responding to the burgeoning Hispanic population in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, which makes up 22 percent of the population, or 1.3 million people.

“The number of Spanish-language papers are growing in all major markets,” says Carbajal.

The Spanish paper was launched in September 2003 and has a daily circulation of 40,000.

Along with Carbajal, UTEP alumni and news editor Mauro Diaz (B.A. ’99), news wire editor Jorge Chavez (B.A. ’00); assistant city editor Julian Resendiz (B.A. ’87), advertising designer Karla Garcia (B.A. ’01); Mexico Bureau reporter Alfredo Corchado (B.A. ’87) and Dallas Morning News news editor Alma Lozoya (B.A. ’91) were part of launching *Al Día*.

The National Association of Hispanic Publications reports an estimated 344 daily and weekly Spanish-language papers were published in the United States in 2003, compared to 166 in 1990.

In conjunction with UTEP’s Department of Communication, the university’s Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies seeks to educate bilingual and bicultural professionals in a variety of media and communication fields.

The center established the Ruben Salazar Spanish Language Media Program in October. The program allows undergraduate students to take bilingual classes in print and electronic media.

**50s**

Neil E. Weinbrenne (B.B.A. ’58), a retired lawyer, received a master’s degree in history from New Mexico State University in 2003.

**60s**

Stanton L. “Skip” Camp (B.A. ’66) is the chief pilot for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Huntsville.

Patricia L. Palafoux (B.A. ’66) is a hearing examiner, certified by the Texas Commissioner of Education, for local school district employment hearings. She also is a hearing officer for the El Paso City Civil Service Commission.

Joe H. Smith (B.S. ’66) celebrated the 30th anniversary of his Houston-based petroleum exploration service company, Petrophysics, Inc., in May 2004.

Dorcas Wilkinson (B.S.Ed. ’62; M.Ed. ’69) is the Beta Sigma Phi sorority First Lady for 2004. She was selected for the honor in recognition of her work with children in El Paso.

**70s**

Mary C. Alverson (B.S. ’73) was a procurement supervisor for Harris Corporation until 2003 when she moved to Jacksonville, Fla.

James M. “Jimmy” Day Jr. (B.B.A. ’72), chief executive officer of DPR Investments in San Antonio, Texas, gave the commencement address at Our Lady of the Lake University in December 2003.

James K. “Jim” Hunt Jr. (B.B.A. ’72) is the founding managing partner of Bison Capital Asset Management, LLC, in Los Angeles.

William B. McAleb (B.S.M.E.T. ’78) is head of the oil and gas practice at R.W. Beck, Inc., a Denver engineering firm that provides services to public and private sectors in the areas of energy, water resources and telecommunications.

Lorraine O’Donnell (B.S.Ed. ’75; M.Ed. ’85) is a visiting associate professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Foundations at UTEP’s College of Education.

Ronald Sanez (B.S. ’79) won the Diamond Award as the outstanding design consultant at Thomasville Home Furnishings in El Paso.

Auston M. Wilson III (B.S.Ed. ’73), who is retired from the U.S. Army, is a full-time artist working in El Paso.

**80s**

David A. Montoya (B.S. ’86) is the assistant inspector general for investigations in the Office of Inspector General at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

George L. McLendon (B.S. ’72) is dean of arts and sciences at Duke University.

Angelica M. Perez (B.I.S. ’95) is an examiner with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. In 2003, she received a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., and is currently working there on her electrical engineering master’s degree.

Frank G. Perez (B.A. ’93; M.A. ’97), an assistant professor at UTEP and a research fellow at the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies, received the German-American Fulbright Commission Junior Researcher Award.

Benny Joe “BJ” Tomlinson Jr. (B.S.M.E. ’90; M.S.M.E. ’97) is operations manager for the High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

Tiffany Cynor (B.B.A. ’03) received the Employee Recognition Award for her work on a software development project at JDW Insurance Company in El Paso, where she is a lead application developer.

Susan E. Dils (B.A. ’00; M.A. ’02) is studying for a bachelor of science degree in secondary education at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

Ernest Fernandez (B.B.A. ’01), an application development manager with JDW Insurance Company in El Paso, received the Employee Recognition Award for his contributions to a software development project.

**90s**

Jeanette Campbell Dooley Cole (B.A. ’33) Jan. 9, 2004. Cole, a resident of Arizona, had been an elementary school teacher at both Aoy and Burleson elementary schools in El Paso.

Robert A. Estes (B.S.M.I. ’34) Nov. 9, 2003. Estes was a resident of Midland, Texas.


**00s**
ALUMNOTES

J.D. Lambeth (B.A. '40) March 20, 2004. Lambeth worked for the U.S. State Department at the consulate in Mexico. He later became co-owner of Southwestern Venetian Blind Co. and then co-owner of L&L Builders.


Peter Terwey Jr. (B.A. '43) Feb. 22, 2004. Terwey, a resident of San Antonio, Texas, served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, achieving the rank of first lieutenant. He was a mathematician at NASA, and a professor at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas; Davidson College in North Carolina; and Trinity University in San Antonio.


Andrew Franklyn “Frank” Linville Jr. (B.S. '53) Jan. 19, 2004. A resident of Dallas, Linville worked as a radar technician at Fort Bliss, Texas, and in Little Creek, Va. As a geophysicist, he was employed at Texas Instruments for 21 years and, later, retired from Mobile Research and Development Corp. after 15 years of service.


Louis Matthew Cornett (B.A. '56) Jan. 6, 2004. Cornett, a resident of Oxnard, Calif., served during World War II with the U.S. Marine Corps, was a U.S. Air Force veteran of the Korean War, and also worked for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. He retired in 1982 as an elementary school teacher.

Vincent Earl Pivarnick (B.A. '58) Dec. 30, 2003. Pivarnick, who served in the U.S. Air Force, was a lifelong El Pasoan. His career included employment with the U.S. Post Office; 35 years in the insurance industry, culminating in a position as regional supervisor with State Farm Insurance.


Compiled by Shannon Kanorr and Howard Rigg

Southwest treasure added quality to life

by Erica Martinez

In a standing room-only memorial service, more than 300 family members and friends celebrated the life of longtime El Paso journalist and actress Robbie Myrick Villalobos (B.A. '83).

She died Feb. 18, 2004, at the age of 50 of complications from non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. Myrick began her career with the El Paso Times and later worked with the El Paso Herald-Post as a reporter and editor for about 20 years. She also worked with the Juarez newspaper El Diario and at El Paso Inc.

She was a founding member of Teatro Los Pobres; business manager of the Festival Association for the Performing Arts; and co-founder of ¡Viva! El Paso. Myrick performed with Siglo de Oro Drama Festival during its early years, and was a third reader in the touring version of the “Vagina Monologues” in El Paso.

“She was very talented and she passed that on to whom she worked with,” says longtime friend Rosa Guerrero. “She was a treasure to El Paso.”

From 1996-99, Myrick hosted KTEP’s State of the Arts Show and co-hosted the cable TV show Border Journalists. In 1997, she developed another show, Accent on the Arts, which she co-hosted with friend Randy Limbird.

“If the quality of our love is measured by the quality of our love, then Robbie lived a full measure of life, despite it lasting just 50 years,” Limbird said at her memorial.

In 2001, Myrick was inducted into the El Paso Commission for Women Hall of Fame.

Heartbeat of a fan
Alumnus dedicated life to medicine, Miner athletics

Staff Report

An ardent sports enthusiast, UTEP alumnus Dr. Michael A. Maros didn’t live to see one of his contributions to Miner athletics.

Maros passed away the day before UTEP’s 2003 Homecoming game against Louisiana Tech, which the Miners played in new orange uniforms provided by Maros.

“Were saving them for a special game,” says then-head football coach Gary Nord.

Maros, who earned his bachelor’s degree from UTEP in 1971, died Oct. 10, 2003, in El Paso at the age of 54. An oncologist and pecan farmer, he was a committed supporter and benefactor of UTEP athletics.

Maros earned an M.D. from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and completed his rotating internship at R.E. Thomason General Hospital in El Paso. He fulfilled his internship residency at Brackenridge Hospital in Austin, and his medical oncology fellowship at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

In 1980, he opened his private oncology practice in El Paso, which he operated until 1996 when he took over as general manager of his parents’ Mike Maros Farms in Fabens, Texas.

Maros also was a stockholder and served on the board of directors for the Fabens Long Staple Gin, the West Texas Pecan Growers Association, the Western Pecan Growers Association, the Texas Pecan Growing Association and the Sun Valley Pecan Co.

Maros volunteered as the football team doctor for El Paso’s Bel Air High School and was a longtime friend of UTEP Intercollegiate Athletics. His generous contributions included a leadership gift to help finance the construction of the Larry K. Durham Sports Center, and funding to purchase the orange football uniforms.

Myrick Villalobos

MYRICK VILLALOBOS

SUMMER 2004 • 21
# 2004 Miner Football Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2</td>
<td>@ Arizona State</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>WEBER STATE</td>
<td>7:05 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>BOISE STATE*</td>
<td>7:05 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 2</td>
<td>NMSU</td>
<td>7:05 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 9</td>
<td>@ Fresno State*</td>
<td>8 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>HAWAI I* (Homecoming)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 23</td>
<td>@ Louisiana Tech*</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
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<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>@ San Jose State*</td>
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<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>RICE*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 20</td>
<td>SMU*</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 27</td>
<td>@ Tulsa*</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
</tr>
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*Indicates Western Athletic Conference game

*DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE*