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Curtain Call
UTEPE Performers Take Center Stage

WAC CHAMPS!
Miners dance in NCAA Tourney

HI-TECH LINKS
New optics connect UTEP to the world

MINING GOLD
Researchers find gold, more, in common plants
This issue of NOVA Quarterly focuses well-deserved attention on UTEP's performing arts. Recent developments in music, theater and dance programs have brought pride to UTEP and joy to all of us who appreciate their many contributions to the quality of life in this region.

One of the most important factors in the exciting progress that has been achieved in the performing arts during the past several years has been new departmental leadership: in Music, Lowell Graham; and in Theater, Dance and Film Studies, Mimi Gladstein. These department chairs have brought energy and expertise to their assignments, and their extensive prior experience has enabled them to move swiftly to effect significant changes on many fronts.

Among those changes have been facilities improvements, in both the Fox Fine Arts Center and other campus venues. Magoffin Auditorium and Recital Hall have been refurbished, and a bright new lobby greets patrons of the Studio Theatre. The entire complex appears to have awakened from a long sleep, with sparkling new finishes and fixtures.

All of this progress is the result of teamwork, which may be more essential to success in the performing arts than in other areas of the campus. Faculty, both veterans who have made a sustained commitment of time and expertise to our programs, and new faculty and staff members who bring their talent and fresh perspectives to the UTEP campus and the El Paso-Juárez community, set the quality standards for all that we do.

It’s clear too that faculty members do their best work when they have the privilege of interacting with highly talented students who both learn from and challenge them. On that score, UTEP is especially fortunate to have an unusually rich mix of creative and motivated students whose bicultural backgrounds bring new dimensions to the performing arts.

All of these assets come together in UTEP’s performing arts programs. If you haven’t already had occasion to participate in the many productions or performances that they offer us throughout the year, I hope that you will do so. There’s something to match everyone’s interests and tastes.

I invite you to join me and other appreciative members of the UTEP and El Paso-Juárez communities as we applaud the outstanding work of our talented students and faculty in theater arts, music and dance.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Diana Natalicio
UTEP President
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by Laura Cruz

Studying at one of the nation’s top law schools seemed to be an impossible dream for Denise Sanchez.

“I didn’t know how to go about it,” says Sanchez.

UTEP’s Law School Preparation Institute helped put her on the front steps of several law schools across the nation.

“Without the program, I don’t think I would have found my way into law school,” says Sanchez, 26, who hopes to attend law school in New York this fall.

The institute is a part of UTEP’s Center for Law and Border Studies, where Sanchez works as a research assistant.

Established in 1998 to help prepare students like Sanchez enter law school, the LSPI received the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Star Award in December 2004. The award recognizes higher education programs that make exceptional contributions toward the goals of Closing the Gaps by 2015, the Texas higher education plan.

The state’s plan targets gaps in participation, success, excellence and research that can sometimes separate diverse student groups from their higher education goals.

“Receiving the award helps to create awareness throughout the community about our program, especially among students who are looking for certain opportunities,” says Shelli Soto, director of the Center for Law and Border Studies.

“It brings confirmation that the efforts of the faculty involved, the hard work of the students and the commitment from UTEP are valued and recognized for moving toward the state’s goal.”

The institute’s two-month summer program had been nominated for the prestigious award three consecutive years. This time, the LSPI was among nine winners chosen from 51 applicants.

Soto says the institute is substantially increasing the number of UTEP students who qualify for admission to top law schools. But it also prepares them to succeed in that rarefied atmosphere — improving their analytical thinking, their logical reasoning skills, and familiarizing them with legal analysis expected in law school.

LSPI students prepare to take the Law School Admissions Test, and work on a rigorous research and writing component. At the end of the program, students present their research as an oral argument to a panel of judges at the Texas 8th District Court of Appeals.

Soto says about 20 UTEP students are admitted to at least one of the nation’s top 50 law schools each year.

“The Star Award to the Law School Preparation Institute is well deserved recognition of the fine work that has been done to create opportunities for UTEP students who have an interest in attending law school,” says UTEP President Diana Natalicio. “Like so many other innovative programs at UTEP, the LSPI was developed and nurtured by dedicated faculty and staff who are committed to provide enhanced educational programs for our students.”

www.law.utep.edu
The common plants around us usually don't get a second thought. Alfalfa is cow feed, mesquite flavors the barbecue, and oats are for breakfast. But University of Texas at El Paso researchers, led by chemistry professor Jorge Gardea-Torresdey, have discovered a veritable gold mine of beneficial uses for the humble flora.

Gardea-Torresdey and his group have found that wheat, oats and alfalfa can extract microscopic particles of gold from the soil. And they've found that mesquite plants could help clean toxic waste sites by taking up chromium and other heavy metals.

Gardea-Torresdey is excited about the research, which holds potential for commercial and environmental applications. "Someone recently told me: 'What you're doing is beautiful ... using plants to solve problems like this,'" Gardea-Torresdey says.

For example, gold nanoparticles (billionths of a meter wide) harvested from the plants can be an environmentally friendly source of materials for use in the electronic and medical industries, Gardea-Torresdey says.

And mesquite could be a star in the emerging science of phytoremediation—the use of plants to clean contaminated soil. Gardea-Torresdey's group discovered that mesquite has the ability to transform toxic chromium into its non-toxic form as it draws the element from the soil.

And if that isn't enough, mesquite is a hard-working miner, as plants go. Mesquite can take up about 1 percent of its weight in chromium, making it a "hyperaccumulator," Gardea-Torresdey says.

Gardea-Torresdey's studies have drawn worldwide attention. In 2004, he received what is considered the highest honor in his field, the American Microchemical Society's Benedetti-Pichler award. These days, his research group is looking for ways to improve plants' uptake of metals, which will help make the metal-harvesting technique economically feasible on a large scale.

One of Gardea-Torresdey's researchers is Veronica Armendariz, 25, who has been studying the formation of gold nanoparticles in oat and wheat. She expects to finish her master's degree in chemistry in December. "I am really happy to have earned my master's degree here," Armendariz says. "I am fascinated by this kind of research."

Gardea-Torresdey is collaborating with other phytomining experts with field trials of plants in New Zealand and Brazil. Earth scientist Christopher Anderson of New Zealand's Massey University recently visited Gardea-Torresdey and his graduate researchers at their laboratory in the Physical Science Building.

"We've been discussing working on some joint projects in the future," says Anderson, who has been using canola, mustard and other plants to extract gold from the ground.

Gardea-Torresdey says the use of plants is not limited to removing metals from soil.

"We are going to begin investigating whether plants can be used as 'biomonitors'—to monitor air quality, for example."
Whether the spotlight is in a high school gym or a prestigious theater, UTEP music, dance and theater students are pleasing audiences across the nation. And behind the scenes, UTEP students are working on scripts, building sets, sewing costumes and operating light and sound equipment. No matter where their stage is, these talented performing artists are ready for their

**Curtain Call**

*photos by J.R. Hernandez*

**The art of music**

*by Donna Dennis Muñoz*

Tucked into every corner of the Fox Fine Arts building are perseverance, passion, talent and success. The building is home to UTEP’s music department, where students polish their musical talents through academic programs, performance ensembles and community outreach.

“I can express what I feel through music and through singing,” says Bianca Lizette Vargas, a senior music education major. “The most wonderful thing about music is that you can touch people, their emotions and sometimes even change their lives.”

Beyond the classroom, these musicians and vocalists share their talents as members of the Jazz Lab Band, Marching Miners, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Chorale and Chorus, the UTEP Jazz Singers or the UTEP Symphony Orchestra.

Pandemonium, a group of 30-plus steel drum players directed by professor Larry White, is among the most popular ensembles. The internationally recognized group, formed at UTEP in September 1996, has taken its unique sounds around the world.
The instruments originated on the Caribbean island of Trinidad in the 1940s. Today they bring the university fame for more than the music that emerges from them. UTEP is the only school in the country that takes the drums into the classroom: Engineering students research the technology behind the construction and sound of the steel drums. "I enjoy researching the drum in my engineering classes and playing on it as a member of Pandemonium," says UTEP junior Daniel Bujanda.

Bujanda is one of almost 260 students registered in the music department, which has seen a 28 percent enrollment increase since it was revamped two years ago. Under the leadership of Chairman Lowell E. Graham, who joined UTEP in 2002, the academic curriculum has been updated. One of the newest programs is Music Theatre, which allows students to earn a bachelor's degree with a concentration in music or theater. More degrees are in the works, including Commercial Music, which will prepare students for the business aspect of the music industry.

Another key to success is strong faculty who serve as mentors and role models for students. Graham, a former commander and conductor of the U.S. Air Force Band, praises the strengths of veteran faculty as well as newcomers. Newcomer Zuill Bailey, a cello professor and director of El Paso Pro-Musica, has encouraged world-class musicians to share their knowledge, skills and passion with area students. The master musicians provide seminars for advanced music students.

In turn, UTEP students and faculty spread music education at area schools, retirement homes and community programs. "If we as musicians don’t get out to meet the community and educate students, then this is a dying art," says Dena Kay Jones, piano area coordinator and assistant professor of applied lessons for piano study. "It shouldn’t be confined solely to a practice room or classroom. It has to be much more than that." □

http://www.utep.edu/music/

"Young people help keep you young. I enjoy seeing a student grow as a musician and as a person."

Hugh Cardon, director of Vocal Studies
Education: Bachelor’s and master’s degrees from UTEP; doctor of musical arts from the University of Oregon
Experience: Leading authority on 20th Century Mexican Art Songs; former member of U.S. Army Band; studied voice in Milan, Rome and Nuremberg; performed 25 leading tenor roles in major operas; retires in August 2005 after teaching at UTEP 41 years

"What I enjoy most is working with young people who have the same ambitions that I had when I attended UTEP 25 years ago."

John Siqueiros, lecturer, Classical Guitar
Education: Bachelor’s degree in guitar performance from UTEP; master of arts in guitar performance from the University of California, San Diego
Experience: 30 years teaching experience, including the University of California, San Diego; New Mexico State University and Houston’s Jr. High School for the Performing and Visual Arts

"I love that I use my skills on a daily basis, and I love to see students make enormous amounts of progress from entry level to graduation."

Elisa Fraser Wilson, assistant professor of voice and music theater, director of the University Jazz Singers and Music Theatre Company
Education: Degrees in music education and performance, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Wichita State University; doctoral degree in choral conducting and literature, University of Illinois
Experience: Taught high school choral music in Champaign, Ill.; directed summer musical theater programs and community youth choirs; individual voice instruction
With each graceful movement, Josey Pickett's body movement tells a powerful story. “Dance, or any of the performing arts, is a good way to express the human condition and emotion,” the 21-year-old says. “Through dance, I'm able to experience everything. It takes me places I've never imagined.”

Since the age of 4, Pickett has expressed her joys and woes through dance. Today, as one of more than 30 dance majors at UTEP, she has blossomed with a program that has grown dramatically over the last several years. Each year the dance program, its courses and resulting performances take a "jeté" — or step — toward better developing students' talents.

"When I first arrived in 1998, the dance program was a very good, small ballet performance program," says Myron Nadel, College of Liberal Arts associate dean and head of the dance program. “There were only eight students majoring in dance. There were plenty of people in classes, but few majors.”

Ballet, jazz and tap are among a variety of dance forms students perfect on their way to earning a bachelor's in dance performance or a bachelor's in dance with a certification in teaching. Dance students also study choreography. But more importantly, students learn to love the body's motion, says Ingebor Heuser, director of UTEP's ballet division. Heuser choreographs UTEP's annual "Nutcracker Ballet," a popular sell-out performance that's become a regional holiday staple. "To dance is to live," Heuser says. "When a body moves within the hemisphere, it is rich. You feel you own the world."

Lisa Smith, dance program director at UTEP, calls the sensation "visceral."

“I take a student as a freshman and in four years, they are something completely different.”

Ingebor Heuser, ballet professor

Education: Ballet of the Deutsche Oper in Berlin, Berlin Film Academy, East German National Academy
Experience: Soloist for the Ballet of the Deutsche Oper appearing in six German and Italian movies; pedagogue for the National Ballet School in Rome; ballet director at Texas Western College

“Dance is a way for a young person to express him or herself. It’s away for a community to express itself.”

Myron Howard Nadel, associate dean, College of Liberal Arts
Education: The Juilliard School, Columbia Teacher’s College
Experience: New Mexico State Dance Theater; Empire State Ballet in Buffalo, N.Y.; The Hovik Ballet in Oslo, Norway; Dance Company of Sydney in Sydney, Australia

“Acting has dialogue and music has vocals. As a dancer, you’re asked to do all of it with your body.”

Lisa Smith, lecturer and dance program director
Education: Texas Christian University, University of Texas at Austin; University of Texas at El Paso
Experience: Austin Civic Ballet (now Ballet Austin); Ballet of the Stadttheatre St. Gallen, Switzerland; founder and director of the Texas National Dance Theater
"It’s a connection to ourselves as physical and interpretive beings," she says. "It brings a certain self awareness that is hard to find."

Smith says El Pasans are especially lucky when it comes to developing a love for dance. "Most cities don’t have as much dance in the public schools as we do in El Paso," she says. "When I moved here I was dumbfounded to learn that all the high schools in the three major school districts have a dance curriculum."

UTEP student Alejandro Gonzalez found his inspiration for dance in high school and now hopes to teach the art to other teenagers. "I want to expose other young adults to dance," says the 24-year-old Gonzalez, who is minoring in dance. "As an art form, it’s different because it’s more athletic yet there is artistic integrity involved."
As the curtain slowly opens, shadows appear on the dimly lit stage. The audience of teenagers breaks into laughter as stage lights illuminate three young men wearing tube tops and wigs. They are the “Fantanos”—a hairier (and funnier) version of the singers from the popular Fanta soft drink commercials. “College, college, don’t you want to go to college?” they sing, changing the lyrics to fit their mission: Motivating middle and high school students to attend college.

The actors are part of UTEP’s Go Theatre Team, one of 14 teams across the state that promotes the College for Texas Campaign sponsored by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Through funny sketches, dance, music and humorous or heart-wrenching monologues, the teams work to communicate one message: “Education. Go Get It.”

“UTEP provides an important component of El Paso’s cultural scene.”

— Yvonne Carranza, UTEP alumnus, Go Theatre director

“Our show is a rollercoaster of emotions. During our performances, we can make audiences cry and laugh within the same hour,” says Go Theatre director Yvonne Carranza, a UTEP alumnus. Go Theatre is one of many programs in UTEP’s Department of Theatre, Dance and Film that provides students the chance to showcase and refine their performance skills. The department enrolls some 85 students majoring in theater, dance and music theater; about 40 more have chosen minors in theater, dance and film studies.

“UTEP provides an important component of El Paso’s cultural scene,” says Mimi Gladstein, chair of the Department of Theatre, Dance and Film. “From community theater to productions that have won us national acclaim, these students are providing some of the best shows around.”

The UTEP Dinner Theatre, a self-supporting community group under the department’s umbrella, regularly sells out performances, including “Chicago,”

“I enjoy my job most when I witness people doing or thinking about something that they never imagined they would do.”

Beverly Redman, assistant professor, Theater
Education: UC Irvine, Georgetown University, St. Mary’s College of Maryland
Experience: Instructor of Dramatic Literature Series at UC Irvine; lecturer at Loyola Marymount University

“I love the art form because it is a live interaction between playwright, performers and audience that encourages us to share emotions and ideas about our very existence.”

Chuck Gorden, assistant professor, Directing/Playwriting
Education: University of Oklahoma, Park College in Kansas City
Experience: Professional actor, director, and playwright; artistic director for Actors Ensemble and Gypsy Theatre; head of the MFA Directing Program, University of Arkansas

“I enjoy introducing students to theatre and scene design; I feel good about my job when I see a student get involved and excited about theater.”

Chris Beineman, assistant professor, Scene Design/Technical Director
Education: University of Georgia, McMurry University
Experience: Teaching Assistant for the University of Georgia
"Evita" and "The Music Man." A children's theater program has brought more than 9,000 area grade-school students into shows like "Charlotte's Web" and "Alice in Wonderland" the past two years. Over the past three years, more than 9,000 high school students have enjoyed performances of "Romeo and Juliet," "Amadeus" and "Grapes of Wrath."

Many performances have won regional and national acclaim, a testament to the passion behind the work.

UTEP student Rebecca Rivas, for example, was selected as the best actress in the American College Theatre Festival in Washington, D.C., last year. UTEP theater students were invited to take "Danny and the Deep Blue Sea," produced by professor Joel Murray, to the festival.

UTEP's Go Theater has also won acclaim from state organizers as the model team for other university groups. The impact of the troupe has gone beyond a memorable stage performance.

"During the performance, there is a section of monologues where each student shares his or her story with the audience," Carranza says. "Team members are willing to open up and talk about how they overcame problems such as financial problems, drug problems, and language and cultural problems."
Before the curtain rises
by David Peregrino

The audience never sees the countless hours of work that happen behind the scenes at UTEP’s Theatre, Dance and Film Department. Scripts must be written, sets must be built, actors and dancers must rehearse and ushers and ticket-takers must be trained. A love for performing and producing helps students through the exhausting days and nights. The reward comes at the end, when the audience stands on its feet and applauds another outstanding performance.

Three assistant professors of theater gather at the Wise Family Theater to work on the “Grapes of Wrath” set. David Stoughton works his magic beneath the hood of the Joad family truck as director Chuck Gorden and Chris Beinemann, far right, look on. Beinemann says the design process begins with a meeting with the director, and set concepts proceed to sketches and models before they are built.

House Manager Michael Stewart stands ready to greet audience members at “Anton in Show Business.” A senior musical theater major, Stewart learns the skills of managing a theater with a required course in his curriculum. One of Stewart’s duties is to train ushers, who often are eager to volunteer because they get to see shows for free.
Rebecca “Becky” Rivas styles her hair for her role as the diva starlet Holly in the all-women production of the Jane Martin play “Anton in Show Business” in January. Rivas, who graduated from the UTEP theater program in December, said the timing was right for “Anton” because there are many talented actresses in the department. “Working with all these women was really rewarding,” Rivas says. “We built friendships… and that’s what this show is about.”

There’s plenty of grunt work to be done before the glamour of the stage comes to life. Stage manager Adrian Delira mops the floor before a performance of “Anton in Show Business.” A senior theater major, Delira takes pride in a pristine Studio Theater stage and a performance that goes off without a hitch. From acting to managing to designing, theater students will wear many hats as they work toward their degrees.

Carpentry skills come in handy for assistant professor Chris Beineman, who works on a set piece for “Grapes of Wrath.” Hanging by sturdy aircraft cable above him are set pieces that stagehands will “fly” using a weight and pulley system.
Champions!
Miner men win WAC, go to big dance
by David Peregrino

The end was bittersweet, but the 2004-05 men's basketball season was a delight for thousands of fans who watched a talented and charismatic team bring home 27 wins and the first Western Athletic Conference tournament championship since 1990.

The thrilling season ended with a 60-54 loss to Utah in the first round of the NCAA tournament in Tucson.

Thousands of UTEP fans made the trip to Tucson, filling the University of Arizona's McKale Center with Miner orange. "I felt as though we were at home," says Omar Thomas, who thanks the fans for their support.

Finishing 27-8, Coach Doc Sadler is now the winningest first-year coach in UTEP history. After the disappointing NCAA loss, Sadler was philosophical about the experience. "Only one team is going to leave this tournament completely happy," he says. "But I am pretty happy."

The game was the last for seniors Thomas, Filiberto Rivera and Thomas Gehrke. Rivera's final season as a Miner was spectacular. Late in the season, as the rest of the country began to take notice of the 6-foot-2-inch guard from Carolina, Puerto Rico, sports pundits hailed Rivera as one of the best point guards in the country.

Rivera dished out 229 assists this season, shattering Tim Hardaway's single-season assist record of 183. And fans will never forget the Feb. 25 home game against Louisiana Tech when Rivera had a school-record 18 assists with nary a turnover. The 18 assists tied for the most by any player this year.

Thomas was amazing as well, earning the nickname of "The Scoring Machine" with an arsenal of jump shots and powerful, yet graceful moves from the paint. With 1,211 points, Thomas became the 12th-ranked scorer in UTEP history. Thomas scored in double figures in 34 of 35 games this season. And Thomas was automatic from the free-throw line: four times this season, Thomas was 100 percent at the line in games where he made at least 11 free throws.

Delivering a conference tournament title to El Paso, Rivera, Thomas and the rest of the Miners successfully closed the curtain on the university's storied 38 years of history in the WAC.

On July 1, UTEP will become a member of Conference USA.
Miner football ready for C-USA

The 2005 Miner football schedule under Conference USA features six home games, two nationally televised match-ups, and the return of some old rivals.

"I'm excited about the schedule," UTEP coach Mike Price says. "It is set up in a way that gives us the opportunity to be successful. It's a very competitive schedule."

Two Miner games will be televised on ESPN: UTEP's Conference USA debut on Friday, Sept. 16 versus Houston in the Sun Bowl and at Tulane on Friday, Oct. 14.

The Miners, 8-4 in 2004, will face both New Mexico and New Mexico State in the same season for the first time since 1999.

UTEP's eight-game Conference USA schedule features six home games, including a match up against Marshall for the Homecoming game Oct. 22.

Track and field wins WAC championship

The men's track and field team won the Western Athletic Conference indoor championship in February — its 16th championship crown and the last under the WAC.

"The kids did exactly what we asked of them," says head coach Bob Kitchens, who was named the WAC Men's Coach of the Year. "They did a great job.

"We took home most of the hardware and that says a lot about our coaches," Kitchens says. "The coaches did an excellent job of preparing our team. I am proud of everyone on my staff and all of our athletes."

UTEP leaves the WAC for Conference USA this spring.

Sports in Short

Two earn All-American honors

Runner Adriana Pirtea and high jumper Mickael Hanany earned All-American honors at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in March.

Pirtea, who was running her final race as a collegian, took the silver in the 3,000-meter run.

Hanany cleared 7-2 1/2 (2.20) in the high jump to take fifth overall.

Freshman records school's first triple-double

Freshman Shalana Taylor recorded the first triple-double in UTEP basketball history for either men or women during UTEP's 71-50 defeat of Hawaii in the final home game of the season at the Don Haskins Center in February.

The 5-foot-4 inch guard from Flint, Mich. finished with 12 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists while leading the Miners to just their second win in 16 meetings against Hawaii.

Taylor was named to the WAC All-Freshman team in March.

The Miner women finished the season with a 12-17 record.

Soccer scores successful season

UTEP's Heather Clark was named to the 2004 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America Women's Soccer First Team, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

A senior defender from Alamogordo, N.M., Clark carries a 4.0 grade point average in education.

The UTEP soccer team ended its season with a 13-5-1 record after being eliminated from the WAC Tournament by Rice University last fall.

No-hitter highlights softball complex debut

Junior Megan Barber pitched a no-hitter in the Miner softball team's 8-0 and 9-1 sweep of Howard Payne at Helen of Troy Field in February.

These were the first games played at the new $1.8 million Helen of Troy Softball Complex, which features a 900-seat stadium, a VIP seating area, three batting cages, and a beautiful view of the Franklin Mountains.

Construction workers are putting the final touches on the complex, which will have a grand opening in the near future, athletics officials say.

The stadium was made possible thanks to the generosity of Helen of Troy CEO Gerald Rubin and his wife Stanlee, both UTEP graduates.

Aiming for success

The UTEP Rifle Team finished eighth in small bore competition at the NCAA National Rifle Championships in Colorado in March.

"The enthusiasm was awesome," says head coach George Brenzovich. "We had the youngest team there and are already planning for next season."

It was the Miner's first trip to nationals since becoming an all-women's program during the 1994-95 season.

UTEP's top shooter Leah Wilcox placed eighth in the finals and earned All-American honors.

Rachel Glenn and Anna Crabtree were named Academic All-Americans or their scholastic achievements.
Fanatics: UTEP fans made up the majority of the 27,235 who attended the bowl game.

Touchdown scramble: Sophomore running back Josh Chamois scrambled for a one-yard touchdown to put the Miners up 14-3 in the first quarter. Chamois' TD was his sixth score on 14 carries this season.

He'll be back: Quarterback Jordan Palmer, center, set UTEP bowl records for passing yardage (328), passing attempts (42) and total offense (325) in Houston. Palmer ended the season with 2,818 yards and 26 touchdowns. And the good news for Miner fans: Palmer is only a sophomore.

by David Peregrino

First-year head coach Mike Price and his Miners delivered fans an unforgettable 2004 football season.

Turning around a program that was 2-11 in 2003, Price led the team to an 8-4 record and an appearance against Colorado in the EV1.net Houston Bowl on Dec. 29.

Thousands of Miner faithful traveled to Houston to watch a hard-fought game, which Colorado took 33-28.

"I'm so proud of our Miners," says UTEP junior Jessica Valdez, who traveled on a student bus to Houston for the game. "It was a great game and a great season."

In January, Price was named the Scripps/Football Writers Association of America first-year coach of the year.
Connecting to the Future

by David Peregrino

With an investment in a fiber-optic connection that reaches across the Rio Grande, UTEP recently opened the door to unprecedented research collaboration between universities in the United States and Mexico.

The connection to the high-capacity information pipeline known as Internet2 inaugurated in February allows UTEP students, faculty and researchers to connect to more than 200 U.S. universities and organizations and nearly 80 Mexican universities, including the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez.

The organizations and universities are interconnected through the Internet2 high-performance backbone network and by Mexico’s Corporación Universitaria para el Desarrollo de Internet, A.C. network.

Less than four years ago, UTEP and UACJ connected using a low-capacity wireless link. The new connection to UACJ will provide a link 100 times faster than the original.

This enhanced capacity connection will be used primarily for advanced research and instruction. It will also allow connectivity to Internet2’s network for the transport of super-size data files to create interactive distance learning, digital libraries, virtual laboratories and more across the globe.

Additionally, UTEP plans to work with other Internet2 members to develop new Internet applications and make them accessible to the general public in the future.

The new connection to UACJ will provide a link 100 times faster than the original.

Through Internet2’s network, UTEP researchers have been collaborating with scientists at Stanford University to study how desert plants clean contaminated soil. UTEP librarians use Internet2’s network to share data-intensive collections of historical photos.

But there’s even more to celebrate at UTEP when it comes to high-tech investments that are delivering tangible benefits to students and faculty.

For more than a year, the university has been quietly building one of the largest wireless Internet networks in El Paso. UTEP completed the first part of its wireless Internet initiative last year, connecting about 20 buildings and common areas to the network.

Additionally, faculty and students are taking advantage of the IBM “Top Gun”—UTEP’s newest and most powerful addition to its computer arsenal—to conduct unique research and to leverage sizeable grants.

Internet2 President and CEO Douglas Van Houweling, left, and Carlos Casasus, chief executive officer of the Corporación Universitaria Para el Desarrollo de Internet, A.C., launch UTEP’s high-capacity fiber-optic connection in February.
by Karla Isaca

The beat of Michael Salzman’s heart was the beat of the music he loved.

When the UTEP alumnus best known for the El Paso music store that carried his name died last year, his wife was determined to keep the music playing.

“Music was very good to my husband and it was my duty to support something that he truly believed in,” Wilma Salzman says.

She established the Michael Salzman Excellence Endowment in Piano Performance to benefit UTEP music students.

Establishing the endowment was a bitter-sweet endeavor. Wilma had planned to set up the endowment as a surprise for her husband’s 60th birthday. Michael died in May 2004 — one month before that birthday.

His death moved local musicians, family and friends to contribute to the endowment, which is now providing scholarships for students who share his passion for music.

“This scholarship has motivated me to go on and demonstrate that I can succeed,” says Jacqueline Marin Garcia, a senior music major and the first scholarship recipient from the endowment.

“He was a great supporter of music and I thank him for that,” Marin said following a dinner program and piano recital in February 2005 to honor the Salzmans.

Michael earned a bachelor of music degree from Texas Western College (now UTEP) in 1964 and a master’s degree from Northwestern University in Evanston.

In 1975, he returned to El Paso and served as the vice president of Kurland-Salzman Co., which he helped turn into a local landmark by helping thousands of area children to develop their talent and appreciation for music.

Dena Kay Jones, Ph.D., coordinator of the university’s piano program, says thanks to the generous contribution, Salzman’s passion will always echo in the hearts of UTEP music students.

“Michael Salzman’s legacy will go on forever and the contributions of all who helped will support the efforts of many students.”

www.3.utep.edu/giving
Special thanks to Houston Chapter

The UTEP Alumni Association is grateful to the numerous volunteers from the Houston Chapter of the Alumni Association who helped make our EV1.net Houston Bowl events in December 2004 a success.

The Alumni Association co-sponsored two well-attended events: a pep rally with more than 775 fans, and a game day tailgate with more than 1,700 fans. Three levels of the UTEP side of Reliant Stadium were a swath of orange shirts, punctuated by an occasional orange and blue wig or sombrero.

Holding their heads high, thousands of Miner fans — including a remarkable number of Houston alumni — gave the Miners a standing ovation after the heartbreaking 33 to 28 loss to Colorado.

Homecoming 2005

Homecoming 2005 is slated for Oct. 17-22, so mark your calendars for a week of fun with friends and fellow alumni!

In addition to the Golden Grad Reunion honoring the 50th Anniversary Class of 1955, the Alumni Office this fall will begin two new reunion traditions honoring the 25th and 10th anniversary classes.

The Class of 1980 will be honored at a “retro” reception featuring the 70s and 80s, while the Class of 1995 will be recognized at a “Gen X” reception.

The Alumni Association is also seeking sponsors for this year’s Homecoming events. Sponsors will be recognized in Homecoming promotional materials and in the fall issue of NOVA Quarterly. If your business or organization is interested in supporting Homecoming, please contact the UTEP Alumni Office.

For more Homecoming details, visit the Alumni Office Web site at http://ia.utep.edu/alumnirelations or e-mail alumni@utep.edu

Heritage House

Joe M. Gómez of the UTEP class of 1970 has been elected chairman of the Heritage Commission. He replaces Nancy Hamilton, class of 1949. The Commission thanks Hamilton for her many years of dedicated service.

The Heritage Commission oversees Heritage House, which collects, catalogs and displays UTEP memorabilia.

If you have any old Flowsheets, group photos, uniforms or any other TCM, TWC or UTEP keepsakes you would like to donate, please call Jeannie Johnston at the Alumni Relations Office at 915/747-8600. Financial contributions are welcome and are used to help maintain Heritage House.

Monogram Foods Program

The UTEP Alumni Association has partnered with Monogram Gourmet to offer you UTEP custom packaging for incredible gourmet Sara Lee products. By using the program code UTG04, 20 percent of any gourmet item you purchase will be used to support Alumni Association programs.

For more information or to order, visit www.monogramgourmet.com
A Western Welcome
New provost sets building blocks to success

Richard Jarvis may be new to El Paso, but UTEP’s new provost feels at home in his surroundings.

Born in Nottingham, England, and raised in Barbados, Jarvis immigrated to the United States in 1974 with a Ph.D. in physical geography from Cambridge University.

“I really fell in love with the West. I think it’s a really important place where America is coming together,” he says with a mild English accent.

As UTEP’s provost, Jarvis will be responsible for leading UTEP’s efforts to achieve academic program and research excellence while sustaining a strong commitment to provide higher education access and opportunities to residents of the Paso del Norte region.

Jarvis has served as assistant professor at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo and acting provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs for the SUNY System Administration. In 1994, Jarvis packed up and headed west to serve as chancellor of the University and Community College System of Nevada.

“I often tell people that I think I immigrated twice,” Jarvis says. “I immigrated to the United States in 1974, and in 1994 — 20 years later — to the West. In a lot of ways, the socio-cultural difference in the Northeast to the West is as great as it is across the Atlantic.”

Jarvis served as the founding chancellor of the national online university — the U.S. Open University — and most recently served as chancellor of the Oregon University System. After two years at Oregon, the geography professor found himself at a crossroads. He chose the road that led to UTEP.

“I was very interested in a border setting because I’m an immigrant myself. It’s a very meaningful experience for me,” he says. “There is a sense of ‘can do.’ There’s a sense of pride. We’re building something that is not done yet.”

Kellogg awards UTEP $1.2 million grant

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation awarded UTEP’s Center for Civic Engagement a $1.2 million, three-year grant to develop a new community literacy initiative and expand English as a Second Language programs within El Paso County and Ciudad Juárez.

The Center will partner with the Nonprofit Enterprise Center and Avance on the two initiatives and provide UTEP students with active learning opportunities. The grant will help train UTEP students to teach various topics such as computer literacy, ESL and problem solving. The students will then go out into the community and teach individuals living in underserved neighborhoods.

The Center for Civic Engagement will also use the funds to help strengthen the Nonprofit Enterprise Center as a “one-stop” resource center for nonprofit organizations. The Nonprofit Enterprise Center will provide experienced professionals in the areas of nonprofit management, law, accounting, grant writing and fund raising.

World’s largest book arrives at UTEP


The book’s creator and MIT professor, Michael Hawley, Ph.D., donated the $10,000 book. The 114-page book requires two people to turn one page and is listed as UTEP’s one-millionth volume.

For the latest news and information about UTEP, including photo galleries, feature stories, and more, visit the official university online newsletter Horizons Online News at www.utep.edu/horizons
The Institute for Policy and Economic Development (IPED) at UTEP received a major boost in funding for its economic-development research and programs thanks to a $1 million grant from the Cimarron Foundation.

The Cimarron Foundation, established in 1987 by El Paso’s Hunt family, supports non-profit and charitable initiatives that focus on El Paso and the surrounding area. Woody Hunt is chairman and CEO of the property development and construction company Hunt ELP, Ltd. and its affiliated companies. Hunt also is a vice chairman of the University of Texas System’s Board of Regents.

The grant will allow the institute to develop and sustain the research databases, economic analysis tools and research professionals who will assist the recently established El Paso Regional Economic Development Corporation (REDCO), chambers of commerce and local governments in developing strategies for improving the region’s economy.

UTEP hosts NSB meeting

The board of the nation’s leading science organization met for the first time in El Paso at UTEP in February.

Members of the National Science Board, the independent policy body that oversees the National Science Foundation, toured the El Paso region before their meeting Feb. 8. The board also visited a student research poster session on campus.

The National Science Foundation promotes the progress of science and engineering and provides funding for science and engineering research.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio, who was appointed to the board in 1994, serves as vice chair of the 24-member board.

Texas Gas Service Student Center opens

UTEP business administration students now have a place to call their own: the Texas Gas Service Student Center.

The 4,300-square-foot center offers students equipment for video projects, PowerPoint presentations, and wireless access to the Net with laptop computers.

The center was made possible in part by a $250,000 grant from the charitable foundation of ONEOK Inc., Texas Gas Service’s parent company. UTEP and ONEOK officials dedicated the center last fall.
60s

Michael S. Goldman (B.A. '60) is an associate concertmaster of the El Paso Symphony, and concertmaster of both the Las Cruces Symphony and El Paso Opera.

Carmen G. LaFarelle (B.B.A. '64; M.Ed. '69) is a retired El Paso Independent School District principal who now teaches remedial reading at El Paso Community College and is a member of UTEP's Mother-Daughter Program Advisory Committee.

Keith D. Murray (B.B.A. '65) is the senior vice president for retail lending at First American Bank in Bryan, Texas.

Catherine M. "Kay" Porter (B.S. '62) is a psychotherapist and sport psychologist in Eugene, Ore., and a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee Sport Psychology Registry. A new edition of her sport psychology book, The Mental Athlete, has been published.

70s

Victor Arias Jr. (B.B.A. '78) has joined Heidrick & Struggles International Inc., an executive search firm, as a partner in its Dallas office.

James R. Haley (B.A. '71) is the operations manager for Lester Humphrey Pest Control in Abilene, Texas, overseeing branches in Abilene, San Angelo and Odessa, Texas.

80s

Mary M. Hansen (B.S.Ed. '71) is retired after 30 years with the El Paso Independent School District.

Dr. Lionel M. "Lonnie" Jacques (B.S. '71) has a private dental practice in Houston.

Dr. Guy W. Johnson (B.S. '71) is the secretary of the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and vice chairman of the El Paso City-County Board of Health.

Armando "Rene" Gutierrez (B.S.Ed. '77; M.Ed. '84) is the principal at J.R. Lowell Middle School in San Antonio, Texas.

Lt. Col. Kevin W. Ayer (B.S. '82) retired from the U.S. Air Force after 20 years of service and resides in Dayton, Ohio.

Alejandrina Drew (M.A. '85; M.F.A. '03) is general manager of the Latino Cultural Center in Dallas.

Ricardo Galceran (B.S.C.E. '84; M.B.A. '96) is assistant director of capital improvements for Dallas Water Utilities, where he oversees design, inspection services and the mapping section.

Daniel Olivas (B.S.C.E. '80), a resident of Alexandria, Va., is a program manager for the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington, D.C., where he is responsible for the construction and modernization of air route traffic control centers in the United States and Guam.

Rochelle M. Taylor (B.B.A. '82) is president of the National Youth Sports Corp. in Indianapolis. In 2004, she was named the Black Coaches Association Athletics Administrator of the Year for her work with the NCAA, where she previously was director of professional development.

Maria "Teresa" Quevedo (B.A. '86), evening news anchor at Univision's KMEX-TV in Los Angeles, is the recipient of UTEP's 2004 Hicks-Middagh Award for her outstanding work in the communication field.

90s

James L. McGee (M.A. '98), who retired as a vice president from Dun & Bradstreet, is a part-time history instructor at Colorado Springs Community College and an instructor at the PILLAR retirement learning institute.

Leo Anthony Zambrano (B.B.A. '93), an information technology auditor for the EDS Corp. in Plano, Texas, received a master of science degree in information systems from the University of Texas at Dallas in 2004.

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

If you're a UTEP alumnus, send us news of your professional, civic, academic and military accomplishments, achieved within the past 12 months, along with a color photo. Your news will appear in a future issue of NOVA Quarterly. Please include your name, maiden name if applicable, address, phone number, year of graduation and degree, and your latest news.

Submit items to:

NOVA Quarterly
AlumNotes
1100 N. Stanton, Ste. 201
El Paso, TX 79902
You may also e-mail us your information at alumni@utep.edu

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