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The University of Texas at El Paso University Communications

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What a wonderful time to be a UTEP Miner fan! The excitement began last fall, as football Coach Mike Price led the Miners through a remarkable season, culminating in an invitation to play in the EV1.net Houston Bowl.

Demonstrating that distance is no deterrent to UTEP fan support, thousands of loyal UTEP alumni and friends traveled to Houston to see the game. Whenever the TV cameras cut to the stands, the waving wall of orange shirts, hats, banners, and flags declared that Reliant Stadium was “Miner Country.”

First-year basketball coach Doc Sadler and his talented Miner team kept up the excitement, winning the WAC men’s basketball championship and moving on to the NCAA Tournament in Tucson. Once again, a national television audience saw stands jammed with proud orange-clad Miner fans.

Although UTEP is proud to enjoy a growing national reputation for academic and research excellence, it is often intercollegiate athletics that affords the greatest opportunities for national visibility.

This year, our winning combination of dedicated student-athletes and talented coaching staffs brought UTEP and El Paso a surge of positive media coverage. I enjoyed receiving calls, e-mail messages, and newspaper clips mailed to me from across the country (even from Iraq) by proud UTEP alumni and friends who were energized and delighted by the great publicity.

In this issue of NOVA, we look at how UTEP’s move from the WAC to Conference USA will enable us to build on this momentum. It’s shaping up to be another extraordinary year for the Miners, not only for the highly visible sports of football and men’s basketball, but for our many other nationally competitive teams, including track and field and women’s soccer.

Joining former WAC members Rice, SMU and Tulsa as the newest members of C-USA, we will continue to compete against these traditional rivals and our new conference members. We look forward to strengthening our ties with UTEP’s many alumni in C-USA cities who will now be able to attend UTEP games close to home.

Our Office of Alumni Relations is already planning a Movin’ Miners trip to New Orleans for UTEP’s first-ever conference game against Tulane University. If you’re ready to see a great football game, meet fellow alumni and explore the charms of the Big Easy, contact Alumni Relations at 1-866-GO-Miners or alumni@utep.edu

Our affiliation with C-USA will also give us greater visibility in national media markets. A minimum of five Miner football games will be televised nationally, two on ESPN or ESPN2, and the remainder on College Sports Television. Through an agreement with the six largest U.S. cable providers, CSTV reaches more than 65 million households nationwide...and growing. That’s getting the word out about UTEP!

As we take a summer break from competition, we know that you won’t forget that your support plays a very important role in the success of Miner athletics. Please join us in becoming season ticket holders, wearing your Miner apparel, and cheering on all our teams to victory.

Go Miners!

Diana Natalicio
UTEP President
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From honors convocation to commencement, UTEP celebrates spring’s highest achievements.
by Laura Cruz

The Top Ten Seniors Awards are presented each spring to students who have achieved academic achievement and shown a commitment to the community. Their success is measured not by class ranking, but by what they've accomplished and what awaits them in their careers and personal lives.

FROM THE BOTTOM UP

Juan Carlos Muñoz, like countless immigrants before him, came to the United States with his parents and siblings from Mexico in search of a better life.

Muñoz, a University Banner Bearer for UTEP’s spring 2005 commencement, says he found a better life with the help of the university’s High School Equivalency Program (HEP).

“At first I didn’t want to come because I could only speak Spanish and I would have to start at the very bottom, but my mom convinced me,” says the industrial engineering major. “Now that I think about that … it would have been a shame if I hadn’t.”

With the help of the federally funded program to kick-start his college life, the 25-year-old was able to obtain several scholarships and awards.

Muñoz, who completed his degree at UTEP in three years, is the recipient of a National Science Foundation Scholarship, a Phelps Dodge Foundation Scholarship, a National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering Scholarship and a General Motors Industrial Engineer Co-op.

But none of his accomplishments would have occurred without the initial help of the HEP program, Muñoz says. In turn, he volunteers as a motivational speaker, a math tutor and a recruiter.

“I like helping the HEP students because I was there once,” he says. “Where ever I end up, I’m going to try to continue to help the program.”

ON A MISSION

Sara Choi recalls the first time she saw the plaques of past Top Ten Seniors along the UTEP Student Union’s wall.

“I remember thinking, ‘Wow, they must be remarkable people,’” she says. “I really wanted to be one.”

The 22-year-old fulfilled her dream this spring.

The Top Ten Senior obtained a bachelor’s degree in nursing in four years.

“The priceless experiences I have had at UTEP have been nurturing soil preparing me for a future of continual growth,” she says.

While at UTEP, Choi participated in a mission to China, teaching English to North Korean refugee children. She also served as vice president of the nonprofit organization called Lead, Encourage and Dance and as the outreach/activities coordinator for the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship.

Choi, a recipient of the Rotary Club of El Paso Foundation Scholarship, now turns her energy toward her goal of helping people around the world by becoming a medical missionary.

“I feel a calling to go to other countries and help other people,” says the Andress High School graduate. “Our world is so diverse, and I believe it is essential to embrace other peoples.”
DE LA CRUZ
Once shy and introverted, 23-year-old Alejandra De La Cruz says she has grown out of her shell and become a confident and well-rounded person because of her experiences at UTEP.

A graduate of Hanks High School, De La Cruz earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting and master’s in accountancy under a five-year combined degree plan. De La Cruz, a Shiloff Family Foundation Endowed Scholarship recipient, also served as the vice president of the Beta Alpha Psi, a member of the Accounting Society and was a teaching assistant for the Department of Accounting.

GALVAN
Grisel Galvan, 22, graduated from UTEP confident that she will succeed as a law student and attorney, as well as a community leader and role model.

Galvan, a Presidential Excellence Scholar and a graduate of UTEP’s Law School Preparation Institute, received a bachelor’s degree in history. She’s a graduate of Loretto Academy.

Outside of the classroom, Galvan was involved in numerous organizations, including the Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society, the Alpha Chi National College Honor Scholarship Society and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

MANNEY
Shelby Manney, 23, began her life at UTEP determined to become an engineer. Instead, she discovered an intense passion for literature.

She received a bachelor’s degree in English and American Literature with a minor in music performance. Manney, a graduate of Maxine Silva Magnet High School, is the recipient of a Dr. James K. P. Mortensen Endowed Scholarship in English and American Literature.

In addition to being a member of various organizations – including the UTEP Fencing Team, the Honors Council and Anthropology Club - Manney is a violinist with the UTEP Symphony Orchestra.

MENDEZ
As a Hispanic woman in the male-dominated field of engineering, Christina Mendez defied statistics and is now preparing to begin a career as an engineer with IBM.

Mendez, a Shields Engineering Scholar and vice president of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, graduated with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering.

“My college career has been a fulfilling experience from the Miner games, to the labs, to community service, to the classroom lectures,” says the 22-year-old, a graduate of Montwood High School. “I will carry the knowledge I have gained at UTEP to further my future and to lead me into fascinating directions.”

NEVAREZ
Commitment and determination brought about great success for Gabriel David Nevarez, including his December 2004 graduation with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering.

Nevarez, a 2003 Dwight D. Eisenhower Transportation Scholar and a Southwestern Bell Telephone Scholarship recipient, kept busy as a member of many clubs and organizations, including the Student Government Association, the Engineering Student Leadership Council and the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

Nevarez, 22, is now an engineering associate for DeShazo, Tang & Associates in Dallas.

“I am thankful to an institution that provided the technological and academic preparation that I need to succeed as a professional,” says the Coronado High School graduate.

ORTIZ URIBE
An advocate for women worldwide, 23-year-old Mónica Ortiz Uribe dedicated an immense amount of time and energy to feminist causes in the region.

Ortiz Uribe, who received a bachelor’s degree in history, says UTEP allowed her to make an impact on the world through community service. The Jackie Miller Memorial Scholar said the most significant community work she has done was coordinating a week-long fund raiser for Casa Amiga in Juárez and STARS of El Paso.

“I want to contribute to the further development of the El Paso/Juárez area and build up its recognition as a more noteworthy region in the United States,” says the Maxine Silva Magnet High School grad.

PAYAN
As a member of 10 student campus organizations and an officer of six, Lucia Adriana Payan has become an expert on time management. Moreover, she has learned the importance of leadership and being a team player.

Payan, 21, a member of the Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-med Honor Society and a Student Government Association Senator-At-Large, received a bachelor’s degree in biology. She is a graduate of Maxine Silva Magnet High School.

“I am proud to be a Miner. I have been since the first day of school,” says Payan, who was voted the “Most Spirited” by the Campus Activities Board.

VASQUEZ
Amanda Vasquez began her college life in 2001 at Stafford University, but transferred to UTEP in 2002 in search of intimate knowledge of border studies and greater hands-on learning.

Vasquez, 21, graduated with Departmental, University and Summa Cum Laude Honors in December 2004 with a bachelor’s degree in political science. The Hanks High School graduate is also a recipient of the Woman’s Auxiliary of UTEP Endowment Memorial Scholarship.

Outside the classroom, Vasquez served as president of the UTEP International Relations Society, extemporaneous speaking co-captain for UTEP’s Forensics Program and a coordinator for “Vote Now” under the Center for Civic Engagement.

“I am proud to be a Miner. I have been since the first day of school.”
— Lucia Adriana Payan
Researchers benefit from $169 million in-kind donation of software

by David Peregrina

One by one, they zipped out of the Engineering Building parking lot, behind the wheel of sleek Corvettes and retro-styled Chevy SSRs. After a spin down the freeway and around the neighborhood, they returned, wearing ear-to-ear grins.

Scores of students got the chance to drive some of the hottest cars in the General Motors stable during an April event celebrating the university’s selection as a PACE Institution, a designation that delivered the largest in-kind donation in UTEP history.

PACE—Partners for the Advancement of Collaborative Engineering Education—is a world-wide initiative led by GM, EDS, Sun Microsystems and UGS.

The corporations donated to UTEP computer-aided design and manufacturing software, equipment and training with a commercial value of $169 million.

“Our students will now have access to all the tools that working professionals have when they do design of very complicated devices,” says Professor Louis Everett of UTEP’s Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department.

“And we are not limited to only doing design of automobiles. We can allow our students to use the software to design anything that they desire.”

UTEP welcomed several guests from the PACE companies at the celebration, which also featured tours of the newly expanded Engineering Building. Among the guests was Diane De Hoyos, a GM engineer who earned her master’s degree in manufacturing engineering at UTEP.

The donation gives UTEP scores of software licenses, making cutting-edge design power easily accessible to engineering students.

Students already are using the software for a variety of projects, including designs for a solar powered automobile, a manned Mars rover, and a self-cleaning side-view mirror.

Students test drive the latest auto technology at the GM Drive Experience

Students present research projects, such as this concept Mars Rover, at the PACE award announcement.
Carlos Ramirez, a senior mechanical engineering major, learned the power of the computer-aided design first-hand while interning at GM last summer.

Using Unigraphics for computer modeling, he and a GM engineer found a design problem with a pre-production engine that could have reduced the engine’s durability. “I was able to sit in with a design engineer and help him modify the components using Unigraphics,” Ramirez says. “I was completely astonished by the power of this software and what we had just accomplished. It was remarkable to think that we had fixed a potential problem in thousands of vehicles without even touching the engine.”

After completing his internship, Ramirez says he was thrilled to find the same powerful design and manufacturing tools available at UTEP. “The resources provided by the PACE program have prepared me and my fellow students to succeed in the engineering profession.”

For more information: [www.pacepartners.org](http://www.pacepartners.org)
After bringing home 20 national championships during 37 memorable years in the Western Athletic Conference, UTEP is moving on.

As of July 1, Miner sports are a part of a new-look league with a mix of old rivals and new faces.

Now’s the time to follow our teams as they march across Texas toward points east, opening a new era of Miner athletics.
Expectations high for Miners in new conference

by David Peregrino

There are many unknowns in Conference USA’s revamped 12-team league, but the success of UTEP’s marquee sports has fans and sports pundits expecting great things out of Miner athletics this year.

Looking at the talent UTEP football returns from last year’s 8-4 season and EV1.net Houston Bowl appearance, the editors of Athlon Sports have picked the Miners to win Conference USA and have ranked the team No. 24 in its preseason poll.

And online forums are full of giddy Miner fans who have analyzed the other C-USA teams and boldly predict an 11-0 season.

Head coach Mike Price, now in his second year, chuckles when he hears this kind of talk, and is quick to put things in perspective. “It’s wonderful for our university to get that kind of recognition ... it’s great for our (athletes’) parents and our fans,” says Price. “But I haven’t seen (the ranking) score any touchdowns or make any tackles yet.”

Matt Aguilar, a sports writer for the El Paso Times and 1993 UTEP journalism graduate, says: “On paper, every game seems to be winnable. But it’s improbable. They are playing four teams that were in bowl games last year. It’s not going to be an easy schedule.”

UTEP will be part of C-USA’s West Division, which includes Houston, Tulane and former WAC members Rice, SMU and Tulsa.

Competing in the East Division are East Carolina, Marshall, Memphis, Southern Miss, the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of Central Florida.

Price said he doesn’t have much in the way of a personal or competitive history with the coaches or schools in the new C-USA beyond the states of Texas and Oklahoma.

“It’s all going to be pretty much new to me, too,” Price says. “It’s going to be a real great league. I’m very much impressed with everything that surrounds Conference USA so far.”

Doc Sadler’s basketball team, coming off a 27-8 season that delivered a WAC championship and NCAA appearance, is also expected to be a conference power.

The C-USA future looks promising as well for UTEP’s women’s sports, which fielded a winning soccer team and solid basketball and softball teams this past season. Because C-USA doesn’t sponsor riflery, UTEP’s nationally-ranked all-women’s rifle team will continue to compete as an independent.

Miner fan Mario Lopez, who recently shopped for a UTEP basketball jersey at the University Bookstore, says he’s excited about seeing some new teams at the Don Haskins Center this year.

“It is a shame, though, that Cincinnati and Louisville (who moved to the Big East) won’t be in C-USA,” Lopez, 29, says. “But it’s all good. I think we’re going to have some fun in football and basketball this season.”

With UTEP stomping around Texas and Florida’s big media markets, recruitment of athletes also should get a boost.

“We have a huge alumni base in Texas, and we do the majority of our recruiting in the state,” says UTEP Athletics Director Bob Stull. “Joining Conference USA ... provides us with greater exposure in three highly populated time zones.”

Given the new teams UTEP will face in C-USA, it may be a couple of seasons and a few wild games before new rivalries cement themselves and fan passion soars to Miner Mania levels.

But fortunately the Miners will get some sparks flying when they take on their Rio Grande rivals.

The Miner football team will play both New Mexico State University and 2004 Emerald Bowl veterans University of New Mexico early in the season; and the men’s basketball team will travel up to Albuquerque in November to meet the Lobos in the Pit – the first meeting of the teams since 1999.

The Times’ Aguilar says because New Mexico is a “proven program” when the Lobo football team steps into the Sun Bowl in September, “that is going to be the biggest game of the year.”
EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Location: Greenville, N.C.
Enrollment: 22,767
Nickname: Pirates
School colors: purple and gold
Chancellor: Steven Ballard
Athletics Director: Terry Holland
Football Stadium: Dowdy-Ficklen (48,000)
Basketball Arena: Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum (7,500)
Athletics Web site: www.ecupirates.com
University Web site: www.ecu.edu
- Received Top 10 rankings from the Chronicle of Higher Education for the university's success in research
- Over the past 12 seasons, the football program has participated in six bowl games and twice finished with a Top 25 national ranking

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Location: Houston, Texas
Enrollment: 35,180
Nickname: Cougars
School colors: scarlet and white
President: Dr. G. Jay Gogue
Athletics Director: Dave Maggard
Football Stadium: Robertson Stadium (32,000)
Basketball Arena: Hofheinz Pavilion (8,500)
Athletics Web site: www.uhcougars.com
University Web site: www.uh.edu
- Ranks among the top one percent of the nation's largest universities based on student enrollment and 12th in international student enrollment
- In its athletic history, has produced 648 All-Americans and compiled 17 NCAA team championships and 55 NCAA individual champions

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

Location: Huntington, W. Va.
Enrollment: 16,551
Nickname: Thundering Herd
School colors: green and white
President: Michael J. Farrell (interim)
Athletics Director: Bob Marcum
Football Stadium: Marshall University Stadium (38,016)
Basketball Arena: Cam Henderson Center (9,043)
Athletics Web site: herdzone.com
University Web site: www.marshall.edu
- Football team has been to six consecutive bowl games and won five consecutive bowl games — the longest active streak in the nation
- Since moving to Division 1-A in 1997, has posted one of the top records in college football

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

Location: Memphis, Tenn.
Enrollment: 20,668
Nickname: Tigers
School colors: royal blue and gray
President: Dr. Shirley Raines
Athletics Director: R.C. Johnson
Football Stadium: Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium (62,380)
Basketball Arena: Men – FedExForum (18,400); Women – Elma Roane Field House (3,000)
Athletics Web site: www.gotigersgo.com
University Web site: www.memphis.edu
- Quickly becoming one of the great metropolitan research universities in the country
- Since 1987, has recorded an 89 percent graduation rate for student-athletes
RICE UNIVERSITY

Location: Houston, Texas
Enrollment: 4,785
Nickname: Owls
School colors: blue and gray
President: Dr. David W. Leebron
Athletics Director: Bobby May
Football Stadium: Rice Stadium (70,000)
Basketball Arena: Autry Court (5,000)
Athletics Web site: riceowls.com
University Web site: www.rice.edu

- 2003 NCAA baseball national championship; led all Division I-A universities in 2002 in athlete graduation rates (USA Today/NCAA listing)
- In research, Rice scientists helped develop the first artificial heart; bioengineers are working to provide replacement organs and tissues grown from the human body itself

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Location: Hattiesburg, Miss.
Enrollment: 15,974
Nickname: Golden Eagles
School colors: black and gold
President: Dr. Shelby F. Thames
Athletics Director: Richard Giannini
Football Stadium: M.M. Roberts Stadium (33,000)
Basketball Arena: Reed Green Coliseum (8,095)
Athletics Web site: www.southernmiss.com
University Web site: www.usm.edu

- Doctoral/research-extensive university; ranked as a top 150 Carnegie Foundation and Class 2 Southern Regional Educational Board institution
- Only Conference USA school to win championships in football, men’s basketball, baseball and softball

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY - SMU

Location: Dallas, Texas
Enrollment: 10,038
Nickname: Mustangs
School colors: red and blue
President: Dr. R. Gerald Turner
Athletics Director: Jim Copeland
Football Stadium: Gerald J. Ford Stadium (32,000)
Basketball Arena: Moody Coliseum (8,998)
Athletics Web site: www.smumustangs.com
University Web site: www.smu.edu

- Ranks in the top third of national universities in America’s Best Colleges, U.S. News & World Report
- Finished in the top 45 nationally among 310 programs in the U.S. Sports Academy Cup, by National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics
- Ranked No. 20 nationally in the 2004 NCSA Division I Power rankings of the best overall athletics programs

TULANE UNIVERSITY

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana
Enrollment: 13,214
Nickname: Green Wave
School colors: olive green and sky blue
President: Dr. Scott S. Cowen
Athletics Director: Rick Dickson
Football Stadium: Louisiana Superdome (64,900)
Basketball Arena: Fogelman Arena (3,600)
Athletics Web site: www.tulanegeenwave.com
University Web site: www.tulane.edu

- Among the top 50 national universities in the U.S and ranked 44th in overall quality (2003), U.S. News and World Report
- 79 percent of student athletes graduated in the latest NCAA graduation rate report; placing Tulane 14th among Division I-A universities
UNIVERSITY OF
TULSA

Location: Tulsa, Okla.
Enrollment: 4,174
Nickname: Golden Hurricane
School colors: old gold, royal blue and crimson
President: Dr. Steadman Upham
Athletics Director: Judy MacLeod
Football Stadium: Skelly Stadium (40,385)
Basketball Arena: Donald W. Reynolds Center (8,355)
Athletics Web site: tulsahurricane.com
University Web site: www.utulsa.edu
• Won six national championships, including four in women's golf and two in men's basketball
• Ranked 90th in Top 100, U.S. News & World Report
• Placed 9th in having happiest students and 14th for good community relationships in 2004 The Princeton Review’s Best Colleges listing

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
AT BIRMINGHAM - UAB

Location: Birmingham, Ala.
Enrollment: 16,693
Nickname: Blazers
School colors: green and gold
President: Dr. Carol Garrison
Athletics Director: Watson Brown
Football Stadium: Legion Field (72,000)
Basketball Arena: Bartow Arena (8,500)
Athletics Web site: www.uabsports.com
University Web site: www.uab.edu
• Celebrated its 25th year of athletics during the 2003-04 academic year
• A record 14 clinical programs were ranked in this year’s U.S. News & World Report annual listing of America’s Best Hospitals

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Location: Orlando, Fla.
Enrollment: 42,837
Nickname: Golden Knights
School colors: black and gold
President: Dr. John C. Hitt
Athletics Director: Steve Orsini
Football Stadium: Florida Citrus Bowl (65,438)
Basketball Arena: UCF Arena (5,100)
Athletics Web site: www.ucfathletics.com
University Web site: www.ucf.edu
• Ranks 20th in the nation in the number of bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanics
• Earned 41 NCAA tournament berths in the past 10 years
• 28 players have been drafted or signed to free-agent contracts in the NFL in the past six years

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT EL PASO - UTEP

Location: El Paso, Texas
Enrollment: 18,918
Nickname: Miners
School colors: dark blue and orange with silver accent
President: Dr. Diana Natalicio
Athletics Director: Bob Stull
Football Stadium: Sun Bowl (51,500)
Basketball Arena: Don Haskins Center (12,500)
Athletics Web site: www.utepathletics.com
University Web site: www.utep.edu
• The only doctoral/research-intensive university in the country with a majority Mexican-American student body
• Ranks second in the nation in awarding undergraduate degrees to Hispanics
• Broke color barriers by starting five black players to win the 1966 NCAA basketball championship
Alumni Association Chapters

El Paso Chapter
President Mary Helen Padilla
mpadilla@utep.edu
More than 43,000 UTEP alumni reside in the El Paso area.

Dallas Chapter
President Servando Enríquez
enriqvel@aol.com
More than 5,000 UTEP alumni reside in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Houston Chapter
President Kelly Seegers
kelly.seegers@bakerhughes.com
Nearly 4,000 UTEP alumni reside in the Houston area.

Interested in forming an alumni chapter in your area? Call 1-866-GO-MINERS or e-mail us at alumni@utep.edu
• **Headquartered** in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex, Conference USA recently celebrated its 10th anniversary.

• **C-USA members are:** East Carolina University, University of Houston, Marshall University, University of Memphis, Rice University, University of Southern Mississippi, Southern Methodist University, Tulane University, University of Tulsa, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Central Florida and UTEP.

• **C-USA sponsors 19 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, tennis, track and field (indoor and outdoor), and volleyball for women.

• **The commissioner** of C-USA is Britton Banowsky, who was named to the post in October 2002.

### 2005-06 C-USA CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

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<td>Oct. 29</td>
<td>Hattiesburg, Miss.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Soccer</td>
<td>Nov. 2-6</td>
<td>Houston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Soccer</td>
<td>Nov. 9-13</td>
<td>High Seed of Semifinalists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
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<td>Houston</td>
<td>Rice</td>
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<td>Women’s Swimming and Diving</td>
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<td>Houston</td>
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<td>Indoor Track and Field</td>
<td>Feb. 24-25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Basketball</td>
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<td>Dallas</td>
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<td>Men’s Basketball</td>
<td>March 8-11</td>
<td>Memphis (FedExForum)</td>
<td>Memphis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Tennis</td>
<td>April 20-23</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>SMU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Tennis</td>
<td>April 20-23</td>
<td>Tulsa</td>
<td>Tulsa</td>
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<td>Women’s Golf</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Gulfport, Miss.</td>
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<td>Softball</td>
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<td>Outdoor Track and Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>May 24-28</td>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>Rice</td>
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[www.conferenceusa.com](http://www.conferenceusa.com)
Going Out on Top

It was a memorable spring for Miner sports, which becomes part of Conference USA on July 1. The men’s track and field team grabbed one last championship from the WAC, while football stars sought success in the NFL.

Miners leave as champs

The men’s track and field team won the conference outdoor championships in May, ending its last WAC season with a 25th national ranking by Trackwire.com. The women’s team took fifth place. The men also won the WAC indoor title in February.

With the outdoor win, the Miner track teams leave the WAC with 44 championships: 14 outdoor, 16 indoor and 14 cross country.

Sophomore Mickael Hanany became the first athlete in WAC history to win gold medals in the long, triple and high jump at both the indoor and outdoor championships.

NFL scoops up Miner talent

After a thrilling 8-4 season and a trip to the EV1.net Houston Bowl, four Miners signed with NFL teams and one was invited to a pro minicamp.

*Adrian Ward*, a 5-10, 170-pound defensive back, was picked by the Minnesota Vikings in the seventh round of the NFL Draft.

*Punter Bryce Benekos*, who averaged 44.1 yards per punt each of the last two seasons, signed a free agent contract with the Green Bay Packers.

*Running back Howard Jackson*, UTEP’s all-time leader for all-purpose yards (6,153), signed a free agent contract with the Detroit Lions.

*Linebacker Robert Rodriguez*, WAC Defensive Player of the Year, signed a free agent contract with the Tennessee Titans.

*Linebacker Godwin Akinduro*, who racked up 97 tackles last season, was invited to the Dallas Cowboys’ minicamp.

Softball team doubles its wins

The Miners finished the 2005 season 16-38 (3-15 WAC), doubling the win total of their 8-46 2004 inaugural season.

Third baseman Ashley Bennett was selected for the All-WAC second team.

The improved softballers also played their first games at the new Helen of Troy Softball Complex. Junior Megan Barber made her mark in the debut, pitching a no-hitter against Howard Payne. Later in the season, Barber pitched a no-hitter against the University of Chihuahua.

Rifle team ends season nationally ranked

The all-women’s Rifle Team finished eighth in smallbore at the March NCAA National Rifle Championships in Colorado Springs, ending the season as the No. 10 team in the country.

Shooters Rachel Glenn and Anna Crabtree were named Academic All-Americans.

Riflery is not a Conference USA sport. The team will continue to compete as an independent.

1966 NCAA Championship basketball team honored

The impact of the 1966 NCAA Championship basketball game between Texas Western College (now UTEP) and the University of Kentucky continues to resonate today.

The Associated Black Charities honored the team at the 19th Annual Black History Makers Awards Dinner in New York City in February.

The ABC awards honor outstanding African Americans and those of African descent whose exemplary character, professional achievements and personal service have made an enduring imprint and are a model for others.

As the first NCAA team in history to start five black players in a championship game, the Miners’ defeat of the all-white Kentucky Wildcats paved the way for widespread integration in sports.

Miner teammates recognized were Willie Cager, Harry Flournoy Jr., the late Bobby Joe Hill, David Lattin, Nevil Shed and Willie Worsley.

Coach Don Haskins was honored with a Special Achievement Award.
UTEP’s Bhutan Days 2005 celebration this spring brought the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan to the Chihuahuan desert of El Paso.

Though the two worlds are nearly 10,000 miles apart, they share an architectural style showcased against a mountainous background. Over the years, UTEP has obtained artifacts with ties to the kingdom, including a Bhutanese altar, tapestries and an authentic Bhutanese prayer wheel.

Bhutan Days invites area students and community members to learn about the culture, traditions—and this year—music of that faraway country.

1. Three musicians from Bhutan—Pema Lhamo, Norbu and Dorji—shared their unique musical sounds with 1,500 area students and other community members.

2. Area students decorated and learned to play the lim, or flute, the most popular instrument in Bhutan.

3. With patience and creativity at hand, students created mandalas that signify the infinite possibilities of the human mind.

4. The prayer wheel handcrafted in Bhutan is said to send out messages and blessings of peace.

5. Paydirt Pete meets and greets future Miners during the Bhutan Days event, which this year included information on the university’s programs.

6. UTEP students from Bhutan taught area students how to write and pronounce their names in Bhutanese.

Photos by Laura Trejo and Chad Puerling
On Wall Street
New center trains students for financial world

by Karla V. Iscapa

As the clock ticks, Eduardo Gonzalez’s anxiety grows. He looks at the giant monitors and clocks set to different time zones. He checks the numbers, enters data in his computer and makes a quick cell phone call.

Gonzalez may not yet be a stockbroker, but he’s already experiencing the rush of Wall Street in the classroom. The junior finance major is among the first group of students to benefit from the new Student Financial Services Center in the College of Business Administration.

“This center gives us hands-on experience and the tools to apply everything that we learned in the classroom and in books.”

— UTEP student Eduardo Gonzalez

The glass-walled room brings Wall Street’s tools for stock and bond analysis to UTEP business students.

It features a Rise tracker Display (a scrolling LED stock ticker); three wall mounted HD TVs tuned to news channels; real-time financial data feeds available on two monitors or via laptop; and clocks with market times for El Paso, New York, London, Frankfurt and Tokyo.

The state-of-the-art center was made possible thanks to a $125,000 donation from the State Farm Companies Foundation. Established in 1963 to support not-for-profit organizations, the foundation focuses on higher education through scholarship programs and grants to colleges and universities.

“At State Farm, we believe it is everyone’s responsibility to play a role in educating our future leaders; businesses have a social responsibility to give back to the communities where associates live and work,” says Myron Kyser, coordinator of State Farm Community Citizenship.

“This contribution will be beneficial to the students, employers like State Farm, and the community.”

Students say they’re thankful to the foundation for providing them with the tools that give them a competitive edge in landing a job and succeeding in the field.

“Taking this class will definitely open the doors for us to get jobs, especially if we want to go into a career as a broker or a trader,” says Damariz Valenzuela, who graduated this spring. “Students don’t usually get the experience to work at a financial center unless you do an internship.”

Providing students with real-world experience is a crucial step in helping students succeed, UTEP administrators say.

“It is our mission to offer our students the best and latest tools to prepare them for success anywhere in the world,” says College of Business Administration interim dean Gary Mann. “The Student Financial Services Center gives our students hands-on experience with software, equipment and data straight from Wall Street.”

www.utep.edu/givingto
A new beginning

Thousands of family and friends watched as graduates crossed the stage during UTEP's 2005 spring commencement ceremonies at the Don Haskins Center in May.

The university recognized more than 1,300 students as candidates for degrees. They join the more than 76,500 students who have graduated from UTEP in the past 90 years, and will surely join the ranks of successful alumni who are helping shape the future.

“You are the real proof of the quality of this university,” University President Diana Natalicio told the graduates.

Steffen E. Palko, a 1971 UTEP graduate and president of XTO Energy, served as the commencement speaker.

Palko encouraged graduates to take their newly earned credentials and do anything they set their heart on. Palko, 55, retired from XTO Energy in May to pursue a second career – this time in education.

Saluting service, success

The achievements of UTEP students, staff and faculty were recognized during Honors Convocation in April.

“We honor excellence, and applaud both those students whose achievements have been recognized as outstanding, and the faculty and staff members who have fostered their success,” UTEP President Diana Natalicio says.

Receiving the Distinguished Achievement Awards, the highest honors bestowed upon faculty and staff, were:

- **Faculty Achievement Award for Research**: Timothy P. Roth, chairman and professor of economics.
- **Distinguished Service to the Students Award/Staff**: Estela Reyes, a library assistant who has worked at UTEP 29 years.
- **Distinguished Service to the Students Award/Faculty**: Curtis Tredway, director of the UTEP Marching Miners, conductor of the UTEP symphonic band and associate professor of music education.
- **Distinguished Service to the University Award**: Claudine Ricillo, associate director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects.
- **UTEP's Top 10 Seniors** were also honored. See page 2-3 for their names and success stories.
- **Area high school seniors** who have received prestigious university scholarships were also honored, including recipients of the President’s Leadership Award, Presidential Excellence and Presidential Scholarships, as well as Academic and Merit Scholarships.

The Gran Paseña Award

The highest honor bestowed on friends of the university was presented to Winona G. McKay. McKay has been a member of the UTEP Woman’s Auxiliary for more than 30 years and a supporter of many academic and community programs.

Distinguished success: (From left) Roth, Ricillo, Natalicio, Tredway and Reyes
In their words....
During campus visits this spring, three nationally renowned journalists encouraged UTEP communication students to study hard — and work even harder.

"The secret for success is outworking the next guy, being persistent and never giving up."
- UTEP alumnus and ABC News veteran Sam Donaldson

"You have all the basic tools to move forward. If someone has to fill that position, why can it be you? Make it you!"
- Rolando Santos, executive vice president and general manager of CNN Headline News

"Your bilingualism puts you one step ahead in the field of Spanish-language and bilingual media. How hard you work to stay ahead is up to you."
- former La Opinión editor J. Gerardo López

Two top UT System officials visited UTEP in May to talk about the university's major accomplishments and challenges.

"We're very proud of the outstanding work done here by Dr. (Diana) Natalicio and the university's faculty and staff... We believe UTEP is well on its way to becoming a major research institution."
- UT System Board of Regents Chairman James Huffines

"UTEP has made great strides... We're trying to (make UTEP an) accessible institution while simultaneously serving as a national research institute."
- UT System Chancellor Mark Yudof

UTEP top producer of master Hispanics
UTEP continues to be a leader in Hispanic graduate enrollment, according to The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education.

UTEP ranked second in the nation in percentage of master's degrees awarded to Hispanics; fourth in the nation in Hispanic graduate enrollment; and seventh in the nation in total number of master's degrees awarded to Hispanics.

The April 11, 2005, edition of the magazine ranks the top 25 graduate schools for Hispanics based on 2002-03 enrollment figures from the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics.

UTEP offers more than 70 master's-level degrees and programs and 12 doctoral degrees. About 72 percent of UTEP's 19,000 students are Hispanic.

UTEP is the nation's only doctoral-research university whose student body is predominantly Mexican American.

One-Stop Shop
Student services including Admissions, the Registrar, Financial Aid and Cashier offices moved into UTEP's new Academic Services Building this spring.

The $10 million, two-level 52,000-square-foot building on Schuster Avenue houses one-stop stations and a rotunda with self-service computers for students to enroll, register, pay tuition, obtain financial aid or pay for parking decals.

The older building now houses Student Assessment and Testing, Academic Advising and the Miner Athlete Academic Center.

UTEP's Biosciences Building and Engineering Building Addition are still under construction and expected to open this fall.

For more UTEP news and information, including photo galleries of special events, visit www.utep.edu/horizons
Ring of pride

Wearing their Miner pride around their fingers, 31 seniors participated in the annual Spring Ring Ceremony in April.

The official university rings were presented by UTEP Alumni Association President-elect Richard Gutierrez, outgoing Student Government Association President Ryan Vallejo, and Yolanda R. Ingle, vice president for Institutional Advancement.

The custom-designed rings were first introduced in December 2003. They feature 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 ax logo.

The ring is available to alumni and UTEP seniors who have earned 90 hours with a minimum 2.0 GPA.

License to cheer

Texas alumni and friends can take their Miner Pride on the road by purchasing the UTEP Collegiate License Plate. A portion of the additional $30 registration fee goes to the Texas general revenue fund to provide scholarships for students who demonstrate a need for financial assistance. For more information, visit www.utep.edu/alumni and click on “Projects and Activities.”

Homecoming 2005

Mark your calendar for Homecoming 2005 events, including:

- Oct. 19 – 8th Annual Ron Harvey Memorial Golf Tournament, Fort Bliss Underwood Sunrise Golf Course
- Oct. 21 – Homecoming Parade, noon, University Ave.
- Oct. 21 – Distinguished Alumni Event, 6:30 p.m., Don Haskins Center
- Oct. 22 – Golden Grads Luncheon, noon, Tomás Rivera Conference Center
- Oct. 22 – Alumni Association Pre-Game Party, de Wetter Center
- Oct. 22 – UTEP vs Marshall, 7:05 p.m., Sun Bowl Stadium

This Homecoming will feature the following reunions:

- Anniversary Reunion for the classes of 1980 and 1995
- Golddigger Reunion for all former dancers
- If you are interested in participating in these reunions, or would like to help coordinate a different one, please contact the Alumni Office at 1-866-GO-MINERS, 915-747-8600, or alumni@utep.edu

Bridging borders

The Juárez Chapter of the UTEP Alumni Association this spring held its second scholarship fund raising event, “Prisma de las Artes,” at Cibeles in Juárez in conjunction with the Alumni Association.

About 200 alumni, friends and family enjoyed a performance by UTEP professors and orchestra students.

The chapter awarded its first $500 scholarships to two students, Gerardo Vargas and Mario A. Rodríguez.

The Juárez Chapter president is Angelica Narvaez. For more information on the chapter, contact Narvaez at angelica.narvaez@Cummins.com or the Alumni office at 915/747-8600.
Thomas W. Hope (B.A. ’42) is the owner of Hope Reports, a media market research company in Rochester, N.Y., and president of the Genesee Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. Hope also writes for the Encyclopedia Britannica Yearbook.

Eraldo “Dino” Chiechti (B.A. ’86) is the editor of Hispanic publications for the San Antonio Express-News. In this position, he oversees Conexión, the Express-News’ weekly bilingual publication.

In Memorium


Clingmon “Curtis” Sloan (B.B.A. ’60) San Antonio; Feb. 8, 2005.

Wills Lee Berrier (B.A. ’52) El Paso; Feb. 11, 2005.

Dr. Hector X. Samaniego Sr. (B.A. ’55) San Antonio; Feb. 12, 2005.


Douglas V. Meed (M.A. ’87) Austin, Texas; Feb. 17, 2005.


Andrea Rae Dominguez, El Paso; Feb. 20, 2005.


Erma Lu Sloan (B.A. ’57) San Antonio; March 1, 2005.


Arne M. “Swede” Johnsen (B.A. ’40) El Paso; April 7, 2005.


— Compiled by Shannon Kanorr
Leadership through example

Throughout the El Paso region, the Hunt name has become synonymous with leadership, enterprise and commitment to excellence. Jack Larkin Hunt, the respected businessman and philanthropist who co-founded Hunt Building Co. Ltd., passed away Feb. 14, 2005. He was 84.

Hunt received his degree in business administration from Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy (now UTEP) in 1942, graduating second in his class.

Hunt then began a five-year career in the U.S. Navy, serving in both the European and Pacific theaters, and ultimately achieving the rank of lieutenant commander. The admiral of the Mediterranean Fleet awarded him a commendation for his contributions during World War II.

In 1947, Hunt returned to El Paso and, with his father and brother, opened a small, Lower Valley hardware and construction materials store. Hunt’s drive helped transform the business into a full-service development and construction company. Today, Hunt Building Co. Ltd. is considered the nation’s leader in military housing.

“What we have today at Hunt Building Co. wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for the energy and leadership he showed,” says Jack’s son, Woody Hunt, now the company’s board chairman and member of the UT System Board of Regents.

“In addition to creating a business with continuity and sustainability, he set an example for other area businesses,” he continues. “He proved that you can keep your headquarters in El Paso and successfully compete on a national level.”

Jack Hunt retired as president and CEO of the company in 1977. He later helped found the Rio Grande Food Bank and served as a director for the Hunt family’s Cimarron Foundation, which supports various regional initiatives.

Hunt recognized the importance of creating opportunities for UTEP students to develop their own entrepreneurial skills. Through The Cimarron Foundation, the Jack and Dorothy Hunt Endowment for Entrepreneurship was established to help future business leaders succeed.

Hunt was recognized by UTEP when he and his wife, Dorothy, a 1941 graduate of TCM, received the 1996 College of Business Gold Nugget Award.

In his memory, gifts may be made to UTEP for the Jack and Dorothy Hunt Endowment for Entrepreneurship (c/o UTEP Development Office, Office of Institutional Advancement, 1100 North Stanton, Suite 201, El Paso, TX 79902).

Golfing for student success

In just two years, avid golfer and UTEP alumnus Ronald K. Harvey transformed the Alumni Association’s annual Homecoming golf tournament into a successful scholarship fundraising event.

Harvey, a lifetime El Paso resident, died on Jan. 8, 2005. He was 60. In recognition of his contributions, the Alumni Association renamed the tournament for Harvey.

“He was the heart and soul of the tournament,” Association President Kay Mooy says. “He contributed a great deal of his time and talent to ensure the tournament’s success. He was a man of all talents.”

The first Ron Harvey Memorial Golf Tournament will be held Oct. 19. Proceeds will support the Alumni Association of UTEP Endowed Scholarship.

Harvey was a member of the Alumni Association’s board of directors from 1999 to 2004, serving as vice president in his last year. He also chaired UTEP’s annual back-to-school street festival, Minerpalooza, in 1999.

A 1967 graduate of what was then Texas Western College, Harvey’s bachelor’s degree in metallurgical engineering led to a position as a research engineer at Phelps Dodge. After 10 years there, he transitioned into the construction business, which led to such enterprises as Harvey Homes and Harvey & Pell Construction Corp. Harvey and his wife, Roxane, also owned and operated Commercial Screen Printing for nearly 20 years.

Harvey served on the Candlelighters board of directors, and played a key role in founding El Paso’s Senior All-Star Football Classic, an annual showcase that provides scholarships to the area’s best high school football talent. The El Paso Diablos’ booster club, the Group of 50, presented him with its bronze and gold Over Achiever awards in 1991 and 1992.

“He was the heart and soul of the tournament… He was a man of all talents.”
Sharing a college dream

Randolph Sutherland Murray Jr., an El Paso businessman and civic leader, passed away on March 17, 2005. He was 94.

A native El Pasoan, Murray was a graduate of El Paso High School. He enrolled at Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy (now UTEP) as a mining student, but soon transferred to San Diego State College where he majored in journalism and wrote for the San Diego Union newspaper.

He returned to El Paso in 1933 to help guide his grandfather’s business, George S. Thomson Co. Inc., through the Great Depression. Murray proved a natural leader and, by 1937, was named president of the industrial supply company. He eventually became chairman of the board, and remained with the business until he was 93.

A devoted community member, Murray served in a number of El Paso organizations. He was chairman of the Housing Authority and Southwest National Bank, which later became First City National Bank; president of the El Paso Country Club and the International Club; and he represented El Paso as president of the Petroleum Equipment Institute, a national organization for companies involved in the petroleum marketing and liquid handling equipment industry.

Joann McElroy describes her father as a generous and caring person who contributed to a number of organizations, including the Rescue Mission of El Paso, Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Loretto Academy and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

McElroy says her father regretted not earning a college diploma, and believed strongly that the better youth are educated, the more they contribute to society.

In 1994, Murray and his wife, Lucille, established the Randolph S. Jr., and Lucille M. Murray Endowed Fund for Student Enhancement, which supports UTEP students with scholarships, books, supplies and stipends.

A heart as big as Texas

A former UTEP English professor who had been a favorite among students for his abiding interest in their daily lives passed away May 2, 2005. James M. Day Sr. was 73.

Day received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English from the University of Texas at Austin. He earned his Ph.D. in English from Baylor University in 1967 and joined the UTEP faculty that same year.

On campus, Day was well-known for going the extra mile for his students. His son, Jimmy Day Jr., recalls that his father volunteered his mechanic skills to repair his students’ cars.

Day served as director of the Texas State Library Archives and the UTEP Centennial Museum, and was a member of the El Paso Science Museum Board of Trustees and the UTEP Heritage Commission’s Executive Committee.

Day was honored by the Sons of the Republic of Texas, who bestowed upon him their highest honor: knighthood in the Order of San Jacinto.

Day retired from UTEP as professor emeritus in 1991. He continued to teach part-time at El Paso Community College and became executive administrator of El Paso’s Mary L. Peyton Foundation, which provides aid to indigent El Pasoans.

In honor of his father, Jimmy Day Jr. established the Dr. James M. Day, Sr. Scholarship Fund in Social Work, which assists qualified social work students who have transferred to UTEP from El Paso Community College.

“He was so proud to have helped individuals determined to complete their education,” says Jimmy Day.
Our refinery uses state-of-the-art equipment and highly skilled personnel to produce fuel for the Southwest. And we do so in a way that protects our environment and our community, grows our economy, and helps build our future. That's just part of being a good neighbor. At Western Refining, we believe actions speak louder than words.

El Paso's own Western Refining. We're here, for good.