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GLORY ROAD
OUR HOLLYWOOD STORY
In this issue of NOVA Quarterly, guest columnist George C. Wright, Ph.D., President of Prairie View A&M University and an African-American historian, writes about the lessons learned during and following Texas Western College’s 1966 NCAA basketball championship win, a story now being told in the film “Glory Road.”

Texas Western’s (UTEP’s name until 1967) victory over basketball powerhouse, University of Kentucky on March 19, 1966, is arguably the most historic event in college athletics.

As the 40th anniversary of that game approaches, its significance has not diminished.

The contest pitted UK’s all-white team of media darlings, dubbed “Rupp’s Runts” because no starter was taller than 6 foot 5 inches, against Texas Western’s all-black starting lineup for first time ever in NCAA finals with substitutes who were also African-American. This nationally televised game focused attention on the segregation of college sports and was the launching pad for African-American preeminence in both men’s and women’s sports on both the collegiate and professional levels.

Our familiarity with that season where Texas Western played at the highest level all year competing successfully with nationally ranked programs such as Duke, Kansas and Kentucky, should not overshadow the many lessons from that championship.

Third ranked, Texas Western advanced to the finals to face Kentucky, the No.1 team which had clearly been dominant over the previous 25 years with four championships to prove it. UK had been there before and few experts expected the underdog to prevail that night. The 72 to 65 score does not indicate the dominance of Texas Western, especially their defensive skills and quickness that foreshadowed what basketball would become.

Ironically, I was on the wrong side of this match-up—rooting for UK. While that may seem surprising, I had lived in Lexington all my life, aspiring to play basketball at UK, like virtually all boys my age. I was more inspired by UK than by the color of my skin. Skin color became more critical later on as I realized that southern and Kentucky blacks were playing everywhere, except for universities in the south.

What I didn’t understand then was the tremendous amount of pressure those Texas Western players experienced. For any upstart team, making it to the Final Four alone would cause increased anxiety. It was Texas Western’s first time and they handled the pressure admirably. Many sports writers of that day—and even those who continue to recount the story today—mention their poise under tremendous pressure.

Looking back, we can gain much about the significance of setting a goal and not being deterred, about competing against the odds and winning.

Another important lesson has to do with Don Haskins and these five players that changed the landscape of college athletics. Coach Haskins was not trying to make history; he played the five players who would give him the best opportunity to beat UK. In the process of focusing on the victory, he made history.

It is a powerful lesson about putting your best foot forward under any circumstances.

George C. Wright, PhD
President, Prairie View A&M University
African-American Historian
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“It’s become an epidemic... You can’t even walk down your street. I’m very grateful for this study because it’s sorely needed.”

– Sparks resident Martha Palacios

No walk in the park

Program helps decrease strays, increase walking as exercise
Starved, dehydrated and infested with parasites, two stray Rottweilers stagger down an unpaved road in the Sparks colonia in far East El Paso. Their rib cages and hip bones protrude from their bodies as they search for food in nearby trash cans.

"It's really a bad, bad situation out here," says Jane Poss, UTEP School of Nursing professor, as she searches for stray dogs in this colonia, an impoverished neighborhood of about 5,000 people with few paved streets and little infrastructure. "Last time we were out here, we counted 49 stray dogs in one hour, so you can imagine what it's like to walk around here."

A nurse practitioner, Poss says she works to promote walking as exercise to reduce heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure in communities like Sparks.

"Person after person would tell me they couldn’t walk in their community because of all the stray dogs," Poss says.

Poss is working to reduce the number of stray dogs in these communities and in turn improve residents' exercise habits and health with the help of a two-year grant from UTEP's Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center. Poss was also awarded a $15,000 grant from the Summerlee Foundation in Dallas for her study.

The health disparities center is a joint venture of the U.T. School of Public Health at Houston regional campus in El Paso and UTEP’s College of Health Sciences.

A $4.1 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities funds the center, which opened in October 2003.

Poss' research is one of six new projects funded this fiscal year; seven others were funded last year.

Working with Sparks residents, Poss conducted a telephone survey about their ability to exercise in the neighborhood. Then they started an aggressive spay/neuter program and campaign to educate the community about county animal laws, and are teaching them how to register and care for their pets.

When the campaign ends, Poss will conduct another survey to determine whether reducing the dog population in this colonia changed their exercise habits. It's estimated some 1,000 dogs live in Sparks, though only about 50 are licensed, according to Animal Regulation and Disease Control officials.

Sparks resident Estela Tovar says she was eager to register her 3-month old Dachshund, Steeler, and sign him up for neutering and vaccinations.

"I don't want him to get ill or get rabies from other dogs," Tovar says. "I've seen the free-roaming dogs in the community and they do threaten the children and adults."

Martha Palacios says she's scared for the children.

"It's become an epidemic," she says. "You can't even walk down your street. I'm very grateful for this study because it's sorely needed."

Poss says she hopes the research can be applied in other regions of El Paso.

"If the program is successful, then it can be replicated in other communities and possibly nationwide," she says. "This is important because we need to look at how the environment in people's community impacts their health."
"I was simply playing the best players I had. It was what I had done all year."

— Coach Don Haskins

GLORY ROAD

Our Hollywood Story

by David Peresgrino and Cindy Ramirez

A lot has changed here in our 41 years as Miners. But it's one year in particular, one day in history, that may soon have an entire nation cheering, "Go Miners!"

It was March 19, 1966, that put Texas Western College in the national championship spotlight. For the first time ever in NCAA basketball tournament play, No. 1-ranked all-white University of Kentucky team 27-65 to Coach Don Haskins' Miners. It was March 19, 1966, that put Texas Western in the national spotlight. For the first time ever in NCAA basketball tournament play, No. 1-ranked all-white University of Kentucky team 27-65 to Coach Don Haskins' Miners.

1986 NCAA Champions

Texas Western University in El Paso

This trailblazing event led to the desegregation of college athletic teams in the South.

The story of Texas Western's journey on the road to victory is now being depicted in Walt Disney Pictures/Jerry Bruckheimer Films' "Glory Road." The film is set to open in theaters nationwide on Jan. 13, 2006.

Now it's the Hollywood spotlight that is on Texas Western College, which became the University of Texas at El Paso in 1967. To celebrate our story of triumph reaching the big screen, private benefit and media screenings of the film and several special related events, including the unveiling of a new Wheaties cereal box featuring the 1966 team, were held in El Paso in November. Hundreds of basketball fans, avid moviegoers and UTEP supporters joined the celebrations.

What we also celebrated, however, was the spirit and perseverance of the 1966 champs, who changed the face of collegiate athletics.

Today, the University of Texas at El Paso is changing the face of higher education.

"In the 1960s, racism and the battle of civil rights was a big issue. But we didn't feel much of it here in El Paso, not on campus either."

— Tina Hill, widow of Bobby Joe Hill

www.utep.edu/gloryroad
Miner Movie Mania — 01. Hundreds gathered outside the Don Haskins Center for the dedication of Glory Road, formerly Baltimore Drive. 02. Actor Josh Lucas and producer Jerry Bruckheimer at the Orange Carpet Reception. (photos by Laura Trejo) 03. Don Haskins and Willie Worsley check out the special-edition Wheaties box honoring the TWC champs. (photo by J.R. Hernandez)

GLORY ROAD Winds Through UTEP

Two days of events marked UTEP’s celebration of “Glory Road”—and the coach and 1966 team that inspired the film.

On Monday, Nov. 28, UTEP hosted an Orange Carpet gala at the Larry K. Durham Sports Center to welcome the champs and the actors who brought their story to life on the big screen. The players and their families watched the movie for the first time during special screenings at the Cinemark Theatre on the city’s West Side.

The following day, a special-edition Wheaties box commemorating the 40th anniversary of the championship was revealed to the public inside Memorial Gym. The crowd of hundreds then went outside for a ceremony marking the renaming of Baltimore Drive in front of the Don Haskins Center to Glory Road.

“This box we put together is like no other we’ve ever done. ... These guys were a class act in 1966 and they are a class act today.”

— John Farquhar, associate manager of marketing for General Mills

www.utep.edu/gloryroad

Don Haskins and actor Josh Lucas, who plays Haskins in the film, enjoy a good laugh at the Orange Carpet reception.
"I enjoyed him as a free-spirit, an honest people-person. I have a couple of Bobby Joes in my life and I keep them close."

— actor Derek Luke on learning about TWC player Bobby Joe Hill, who passed away in 2002
Winning Changes Everything

As our story hits the big screen, the 1966 championship will no longer be just a proud piece of El Paso history.

The legacy of the Texas Western College Miners will become known to millions of moviegoers across the nation.

The “Glory Road” buzz is already resonating with civic and social groups, sports enthusiasts and history buffs who understand the story of the ’66 Miners is more than an athletic triumph.

Several groups, including the Associated Black Charities, have honored Coach Don Haskins and the team for championing tolerance and opportunity. The 2006 NCAA Convention in January will pay tribute to the team. From New York to Los Angeles to countless of movie Web sites, media nationwide will recognize our mark in history. Four books, including Haskins’ latest autobiography as told to sportswriter Dan Wetzel, brighten our spotlight.

A permanent exhibit in honor of the team at the Don Haskins Center is in the works.

In March 2006, when we mark the 40th anniversary of our championship, we’ll again celebrate our legacy of blazing trails—on and off the basketball court.

“It’s a story that has to be told.” — producer Jerry Bruckheimer

www.utep.edu/gloryroad

Nevil Shed holds a picture of his teammate Bobby Joe Hill, who passed away in 2002.
"I felt like I had a bear on my back—to prove that I could play such a complex man... I’m more proud of this film than anything I’ve ever done."

— actor Josh Lucas on playing Coach Don Haskins
Back-to-Back Bowls

Winning season earns Miners a berth in the GMAC Bowl

by David Peregrino

The Miner football team wrapped up another exciting, winning season under second-year Coach Mike Price – despite a disappointing loss in a December bowl game. The Miners (8-4, 5-3 C-USA) lost 45-13 against the University of Toledo (9-3, 6-2 MAC) in the GMAC Bowl in Mobile, Ala., Dec. 21.

UTEP has not won a bowl game since 1967. A victory would have helped erase the sting of two disappointing losses at the end of the season that kept the Miners out of the C-USA championship game.

This is only the third time in school history that UTEP has made back-to-back bowl appearances. Last year, the Miners lost to Colorado, 33-28 in the EV1.net Houston Bowl.

Price, as well as fans across El Paso and the nation, says he's looking forward to the next football season and shooting for appearances – and wins – in both a conference championship and a bowl game.

Miner Men Look to Repeat Successful Season

The men's basketball team has several talented new players this season and is looking to make its third NCAA appearance in a row. A tough road lies ahead, because C-USA is home to powerhouses Memphis, UAB and Houston. But UTEP will have experience on its side, with eight seniors on the team, including transfers Edgar Moreno and Tremaine Fuqua, from Texas and Oklahoma State, respectively. A healthy and confident John Tofi is back, stepping up as a leader for the team. Tofi became the 28th Miner to score 1,000 points in his career.

For a season basketball schedule, visit www.utepathletics.com.
UTEP welcomed thousands of new faces this past year, including three promising freshmen who have been sharing their journey and experiences with us.

by Laura S. Ruelas

The fall semester has come and gone. And while winter break may not be long enough for some students, many more are excited about what the spring semester has to offer.

Twin sisters Claudia and Carla Ochoa and Joe Lomeli began their Miner journey last summer. The three students, among the brightest in their high schools, continue to shine and overcome struggles as they head into their third semester at UTEP.

"Each day is a constant tug-o-war between school, work and my obligations to my family, friends and faith," says 19-year-old Lomeli. "My schedule has been really fast paced and a lot harder than I originally anticipated, but it's still working out nonetheless."

Like the majority of UTEP students, Lomeli juggles his studies and a part-time job to help out his family. As a single mother of a 1-year-old boy, Claudia says she's determined to give the coming spring semester her all.

"An education is worth your every effort," she says. These types of obligations often make it difficult for students to make efficient progress toward their degrees. But having a successful first year is key to helping set students on the right track, says Gary Edens, director of Student Success Programs.

"A student's first year in college is critical. At a commuter institution like UTEP, it is especially important to provide entering students with opportunities to make personal connections with faculty, staff and fellow students," Edens says. "It is important that all of us realize the impact and power we have to help them."

Freshmen often find the move from high school to college is not easy, which is why UTEP offers an array of programs that helps them transition successfully into university life.

"It is really different than high school, but a different that I really enjoy and get a challenge from," says Lomeli.

This fall, more than 2,300 new freshmen enrolled at UTEP, which had its fourth consecutive record enrollment of 19,256.

The students say it took some time to adjust to the large number of students on campus and in their classrooms, and some have found their favorite subjects tougher than they had experienced in high school.

Claudia's love for history was tested in more ways than one. "I loved my history course. However, I believe it was the most difficult class I took," she says. She had not received an 'A' on any of her quizzes during the first month of class, something the valedictorian of Fabens High School was not accustomed to.

None of the students has given up. They each registered for 13 credit hours or more for the spring semester and are eager to face their next challenge.

Carla, 18, offers some advice to her fellow freshmen and future Miners.

"Stay focused and don't let your friends distract you. Read and study hard, so you can do well on tests—going to college is a great step toward being a successful person."

Freshmen Joe Lomeli and twin sisters Claudia and Carla Ochoa (from left) are finding their first year of university life a colorful experience.

The Middle Years

Over the years, UTEP has developed numerous award-winning programs to help freshmen adjust to and succeed in university life.

This fall, UTEP President Diana Natalicio announced a new initiative to help University students through their middle years — the end of their first year through graduation — to help them make steady and more efficient progress toward their degrees and increase the number of graduates.

The Student Success in the Middle Years initiative aims to provide students with a strong curricula at an affordable cost and with the most efficient and flexible formats and schedules.

- The initiative is supported by a grant from Lumina Foundation for Education, an Indianapolis-based foundation dedicated to expanding access and success in education beyond high school.
- Research is an important part of the initiative to help the university learn more about financial, health, family and employment issues that impact students' undergraduate years.
- It will examine University policies and procedures — from class schedules and locations to advising, financial aid, food service hours and childcare — that impact students' progress toward completing their degrees.
The milestone of our 90th anniversary provided the extended UTEP family with an outstanding opportunity to review our fascinating institutional history...from our origins as the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy in 1914, to national leadership as an institution that is achieving the balance between access and excellence that will be required for success in 21st Century higher education.

UTEP's 90th birthday commemoration also created a platform for planning our future institutional development, from both internal and external vantage points. To capture the perspectives of our external stakeholders, 100 alumni, supporters and new acquaintances of the University were invited to participate in a Centennial Commission to help us envision UTEP in 2014, our 100th anniversary, and build on the progress that we have achieved during the past 20 years.

The Centennial Commission's report was formally released in November and will help us chart our course toward 2014, ensuring that UTEP's strategic planning and future development are well aligned with the vision of our external stakeholders.

Amid all of this thinking and planning for UTEP's future, faculty, students and staff worked hard during the past year to continue building on our accomplishments, and achieving new and ambitious goals. By nearly all measures, the past year was another exceedingly successful one at UTEP.

Quality Academics and Research

Strategic doctoral program development continues to be a high priority at UTEP, and we now offer doctoral education in all six colleges. Four new programs—in Rhetoric and Composition, Civil Engineering, International Business and Interdisciplinary Health Sciences—admitted their first students last year. A new doctoral program in Computer Science was approved, as was a General Psychology Ph.D.

At the master's level, a new Master of Arts degree in Leadership Studies was developed, approved and offered in coordination with the Captain's Course at Fort Bliss. This innovative program provides the opportunity for military officers to earn a master's degree during the time they are stationed in El Paso, and to do so together with civilian enrollees. During the past year, there have been many indicators of the growing quality and attendant national visibility of programs across the campus.

The College of Engineering, for example, received major national recognition through a $169 million in-kind commitment of cutting-edge technology and training from General Motors, EDS, Sun Microsystems, and UGS through the Partners for the Advancement of Collaborative Engineering Education, a worldwide program that prepares students at selected universities for careers in automotive engineering.

The College has also received numerous recent and highly visible honors. Hispanic Business magazine named UTEP the No. 1 Graduate Engineering Program in the U.S. for Hispanics.

Growing Visibility through Research

UTEP's research activity continued to grow during the past year, thanks to the efforts of faculty and staff members who produced more than 400 competitive proposals.

Those efforts resulted in the award of 256 new grants totaling nearly $40 million. UTEP continues to rank fifth among public universities in Texas in total annual federal
We are creating new trails, rather than walking on well-trodden paths.

entering student program; on the other, excellence through the development of research and doctoral programs.

Although both of these will require continued work, the progress we have achieved now enables us to pay greater attention to the critical challenge of connecting them by improving students’ success in what we will call the “middle years” of their undergraduate experience, the time between the end of their first year of enrollment and graduation.

How do we go about improving undergraduate student success in the “middle years” at UTEP, when most of the models available to us were developed in settings that are markedly different from ours? Once again, we will forge our own path, creating a new model of undergraduate success that responds to today’s students in new and creative ways.

Middle Years Model

Our goal will be to provide students with the best possible curricula at the most affordable cost, presented in the most transparent ways, and delivered in the most efficient and flexible formats, sequences, and schedules.

This new model will enable UTEP students to make steady and more efficient progress toward their degrees. It will likely also lead to an increase in the number of graduates and a reduction in the time to degree, and thereby respond to those for whom these metrics have become the primary measure of student success.

Meanwhile, we will also seek to contribute to the development of alternative metrics which more effectively capture the value added by universities like UTEP that serve largely non-traditional student populations. We are very proud, for example, that such alternative metrics resulted in UTEP’s recognition by the National Survey of Student Engagement, and an article in USA Today, as one of the top 20 universities in the U.S. in fostering student success.

The president of the Faculty Senate Greg Rocha and I will chair this “Student Success in the Middle Years” initiative, with the leadership of Provost Richard Jarvis and a campus-wide team that he has begun to put together.

The first priority task for improving the “middle years” success of undergraduate students at UTEP seems clear: we must develop a more in-depth understanding of our students, the opportunities and challenges they face, and UTEP’s responses to them.

We need to identify more clearly those factors—both external and internal to UTEP—that lead to steady progress toward graduation and those that impede such progress. A grant from Lumina Foundation for Education and the Quality Enhancement Plan associated with SACS re-accreditation provide us with resources and an appropriate context to focus time and expertise on such in-depth research.

This research will enable us to learn
more about the financial, health, family and employment issues that students bring with them to our campus and their effect on the undergraduate educational experience.

It will also include a close examination of institutional policies and procedures—everything from class schedules and locations, to advising and financial aid policies, to the operating hours of food service and childcare—that may accelerate or delay students’ progress toward completing their degrees.

This comprehensive and systematic review of current and proposed policies and procedures will enable us to be more purposeful in evaluating and aligning them with what we learn about our students’ needs.

Also playing a key role in this effort to improve student success in the middle years will be a faculty-driven curriculum review and renewal process involving all departments and colleges on the campus.

We will evaluate curriculum requirements to ensure that the preparation we provide students is purposeful in its design and well informed by our knowledge of them and the career and life demands they will face.

Finally, we can effectively help our students navigate the “middle years” only if we believe in them and in our fundamental responsibility to serve them as well as we possibly can.

Still trail blazing

We are creating new trails, rather than walking on well-trodden paths. To be sure, such trail blazing presents some additional risks, but it is a far more interesting journey, with far greater potential benefits. Thank you for being a part of our efforts to continue reinventing UTEP and, ultimately, U.S. higher education.

We have already seen strong evidence of the impact of our efforts, and working together, we will surely see that impact grow in the years ahead.
Building the Future
Perhaps the most conspicuous of our achievements was the amazing range of major construction projects that were underway during most of the year.

- The new Academic Services Building, supported by the U.T. System Permanent University Fund, opened in spring 2005.
- A new wing was added to the Engineering Building, thanks to support from the Permanent University Fund and the generosity of UTEP alumnus Steve Palko.
- Work was completed on the new Helen of Troy Softball Complex.
- Construction on the new Biology building continues, as does the second phase of the Kelly Hall renovation project, and both should be completed within the next year.
- UTEP entered into a ground lease with a developer to construct a Hilton Garden Inn hotel on the corner of University and Oregon.
- The remote parking at the former Rudolph site on North Mesa was expanded, as was the Miner Metro student shuttle service UTEP has a parking garage in the works, with construction to begin in January 2006 in the parking lot behind Fox Fine Arts.
- Under a partnership with the City of El Paso, UTEP will also create a transit terminal and parking garage across from the Don Haskins Center at Baltimore and Oregon.

We Believe!
UTEP football has broken into the national spotlight in a way that few could have imagined just a couple of years ago.

Coach Mike Price brought his extensive and highly successful coaching experience, his national visibility, and his positive thinking to UTEP, and made believers of us all.

And those football-generated smiles didn’t diminish even slightly during basketball season when Coach Doc Sadler and his team took us to the WAC Championship and the NCAA Tournament. We look forward to another great season this year, the 40th anniversary of our 1966 NCAA Championship.

Adding to the celebration of this special anniversary will be the release of the Disney film, “Glory Road,” which chronicles the amazing story of Coach Haskins’ underdog Texas Western team and its remarkable road to victory.

The past year brought us many other successes in athletics, including winning the WAC outdoor track and field championship, and great seasons in women’s soccer and rifle. With new facilities and new energy, the prognosis for UTEP athletics is definitely healthy.
I am UTEP

From El Paso to Mexico to Bhutan, UTEP students’ backgrounds are as diverse as their aspirations for the future.

The university this fall kicked off a new campaign to showcase the many faces of UTEP who share at least one thing in common: the desire and talent to succeed.

The “I am UTEP” campaign focuses on the university’s diverse student population and features students from all over the world sharing their current endeavors as well as their aspirations.

The ads, which began appearing on local television stations in September, feature a rotating cast of UTEP students and alumni. The ads will also be played on various network and cable television stations during UTEP’s televised football and basketball games.

Bus wraps, print ads and new additions to the UTEP Web site will also include elements of the “I am UTEP” campaign.

To view the campaign, visit www.utep.edu/iamutep

UTEP top engineering school

UTEP has been named the nation’s top engineering graduate school for Hispanics by Hispanic Business magazine.

The magazine’s September 2005 issue ranks the top 10 graduate schools for Hispanics in a variety of disciplines, including engineering.

In selecting UTEP as the top school, Hispanic Business cites the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME), which calls UTEP “a model for other engineering institutions who say that today’s minority young people from low-income families can’t succeed in a rigorous math- or science-based discipline.”

Hispanic Business also used graduate enrollment and number of degrees awarded to determine schools’ rankings. Compared to other ranked schools, UTEP’s numbers were the highest or among the highest in each category, including total engineering school graduate enrollment of 244 and 27.5 percent Hispanic graduate enrollment.

For more information, visit www.utep.edu/engineer

A model star
Program wins prestigious award

UTEP’s Model Institutions for Excellence Initiative received the Texas Higher Education Star Award this October for its success in increasing the number of minority graduates in the fields of science and engineering.

The award was established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to recognize contributions toward closing the educational gaps that challenge the state.

UTEP’s MIE initiative, established in 1995, has helped increase the number of bachelor degrees in science, technology, engineering and math by 50 percent over the last seven years.

To qualify for the Star Award, programs must contribute to the goals established in the Closing the Gaps by 2015 Plan, which include closing the gaps in student participation, student success, excellence and research.
Immeasurable support

Steffen Palko says the value of an education cannot be measured. But UTEP students can count on his recent generous donation of more than $1 million to help them succeed.

Palko’s gift will be used to complete a floor of the new Engineering Building addition and fund the Steve and Betsy Palko Presidential Scholarship Endowment for the College of Engineering.

“I have achieved some success in life and I want to be able to give back to the university that helped me attain it,” says Palko, a 1971 UTEP grad who co-founded XTO Energy Inc.

What enabled me to go to UTEP and finish my degree were scholarships. The importance of financial assistance to a student cannot be measured.

Palko is now retired and is pursuing a doctorate in education.

The nation’s top engineering school for Hispanics, the college consistently ranks as one of the Top 5 schools in the continental U.S. in awarding bachelor’s degrees to Hispanics.

Enrollment breaks record – again

For the fourth year in a row, UTEP registered a record fall enrollment – 19,264 students.

“We are delighted that our enrollment continues to grow, as more students from this region recognize the importance of a university degree,” says Diana Natalicio, university president.

“These students are making an investment in their future and the future of our community, and UTEP is proud to offer them a broad range of outstanding educational opportunities.”

This semester’s enrollment represents a 1.8 percent increase over last fall. When the record-breaking group of students arrived on campus this fall, they were greeted by improved UTEP facilities and services, new academic programs and a host of exciting back-to-school events. Among the changes that greeted students were the addition of two new doctoral programs, three new master’s-level programs and changes to two undergraduate programs.

Open hearts greet hurricane evacuees

As the victims of Hurricane Katrina struggled for survival, the UTEP community opened its hearts and doors to them.

Days after the storm, officials offered admission and in-state tuition to displaced students. Eleven students have since enrolled at UTEP.

“UTEP has been very good, especially because we have no access to our transcripts,” says Dominique Hill, who was a senior at Xavier University of Louisiana when she had to evacuate.

“They’ve been very accommodating.” Many campus organizations, departments and colleges collected money and basic necessities for those affected. A fund drive at UTEP’s first home football game raised over $10,000 for the Red Cross efforts.

Several professors, staff members and students also volunteered to assist the Red Cross at El Paso’s convention center where more than 400 refugees were housed in the storm’s aftermath.

Get connected!

UTEP News Online

For more UTEP news and information, including photo galleries of special events such as Homecoming, football games and more, visit the Horizons Online News, the University’s official news source at www.utep.edu/horizons
SCORING SUCCESS
Star basketball coach honors friends, family
by David Peregrino

Like just about everyone who lived in El Paso’s Segundo Barrio during the 1950s, Rose Richardson knew her grandson was an athletic marvel, able to do just about anything with a football, baseball or basketball.

But on a spring day in 1959, Nolan Richardson recalls, Rose let the neighborhood know she was most proud of his high school diploma.

“We had no car, so we walked for about three miles to Bowie High School for the ceremony,” Richardson remembers with a smile. “Old Mama – my grandmother – made me wear my cap and gown all the way, and she told everybody she saw: ‘This is my grandson and he’s graduating from high school.’”

Rose knew education would be Richardson’s ticket to success. High school led to a star role as a basketball player and a college degree in 1965 from Texas Western College (now UTEP). Next came unprecedented success as a basketball coach: a record of 180 wins and 90 losses in more than 10 years at El Paso’s Bowie High School; a junior college national championship at Western Texas in Snyder, Texas; an NJT championship with the University of Tulsa; and the 1994 NCAA championship as coach at the University of Arkansas.

Throughout his remarkable career, Richardson has never failed to give back to the community that made him the person he is today. He has established four endowed funds at UTEP, each honoring a person close to his heart who has passed away.

The Yvonne Richardson Memorial Scholarship Fund, named after his daughter who died in 1987 at the age of 15 following a two-year struggle with leukemia, was established in 2002.

“Yvonne was a very outgoing, athletic person. She was a cheerleader, she was in gymnastics,” Richardson says, remembering the strong-willed girl who, though weakened by the disease, encouraged her father to continue coaching and winning. “I could hear her voice at the games,” he recalls.

The Mark Haskins Memorial Endowed Fund was established in 2001 by Richardson and friends of UTEP coaching legend Don Haskins and his wife Mary Haskins to honor the Haskins’ son Mark, who died of kidney failure in 1995 at age 42.

As a member of the Texas Western basketball team in 1962, Richardson helped Don Haskins and his family move into the athletes’ dorm when they arrived in El Paso. The players quickly became big-brother figures to Haskins’ little boys, Richardson says. “We grew very close over the years.”

The Haskins fund benefits the UTEP men’s basketball program.

The Bobby Joe Hill Endowment Scholarship Fund was established in 2004 to honor Hill, the starting point guard for the Texas Western team that defeated Kentucky for the 1966 NCAA championship. Hill, who settled in El Paso after his playing days, died in 2002.

Richardson says he helped recruit Hill to Texas Western, and the two built a friendship that lasted for years. “Bobby would call me every Sunday morning, like a ritual. He was the brother I never had.”

The Jim Barnes Endowment Scholarship Fund is Richardson’s most recent endowment to UTEP and honors Richardson’s All-American teammate during the 1962-63 season. Barnes was known as “Bad News” because of the tough time he gave the opposition. He died in 2002.

“I never met a player like him. He was a big guy with the skills of a guard,” Richardson says. “Oh and he was a tremendous dancer. You had to have seen him. Here’s a guy who is 6-foot-8 out on the floor and man, he could really dance.”

Richardson says scholarships and university support are the best ways to preserve the memory of family and friends who have passed on, because they open doors for others who might otherwise not have the opportunity for an education.

So maybe there will be more long walks in caps and gowns, and proud grandmothers at graduates’ sides.

“Education is very important to me and my family,” Richardson says. “Old Mama was my hero.”

“Education is very important to me and my family.”

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Alumni News & Notes

• The Movin' Miners present a coach and rail journey to the Copper Canyon July 29 – Aug. 5, 2006. This trip has three additional days, and will go to colonial El Fuerte near the end of the rail line. Other trips on the new 2006 schedule are: India, March 2-19; Casas Grandes, Mexico, April 28-30; Iceland, May 24-31; Alaska Cruise Tour, June 8-19; Bhutan, September; Colonial Mexico, Nov. 3-17.

• UTEP alumni can now show their Miner Pride with the new UTEP Souvenir License Plate. Proceeds benefit UTEP student scholarships. For more information, log on to www.utep.edu/alumni or call 1-866-GO-MINERS.

• To contact the UTEP Alumni Association, e-mail us at alumni@utep.edu, or call us at 1-866-GO-MINERS or 915/747-8600.

Grand Honors

El Pasans Susan and Ellis Mayfield in September were presented with the highest honor that UTEP bestows on friends of the University: The Gran Paseño and Gran Paseño Awards. Keith Polette, associate professor of English, received the 2005 Chancellor’s Council Outstanding Teaching Award.

The three were honored during the 2005 fall convocation at UTEP. The Mayfields serve on the UTEP Development Board and are known to cheer on the Miners at every home game – and more than a few road games. Neither Mayfield graduated from UTEP, though Ellis attended in the 1930s when it was the College of Mines. Susan says she married into the Miner family.

The couple established the Ellis Mayfield Family Presidential Scholarship, the Ellis and Susan Mayfield Endowed Professorship in the College of Business Administration, and the Anna Grace Mayfield Library Fund. They have also made a deferred gift which deeds to UTEP the house they’ve called home since 1953.

Polette, internationally recognized for his research in the field of children’s and adolescent literacy, was honored as the recipient of the 2005 Chancellor’s Council Outstanding Teaching Award.

The UT System Chancellor’s Council established the award in 1991 to recognize excellence in teaching at the undergraduate level.

MINERS ON THE MOVE

Carlos A. Tovar

Carlos A. Tovar is the graphics director for the Wall Street Journal Europe in Brussels, Belgium. Born in Ciudad Juárez, Tovar earned a bachelor’s degree in graphic design from UTEP in 1995.

What sparked your interest in graphic design?

Both of my parents are architects, so growing up I always had visual stimulus at home. I did not want to follow my parents’ career, but I knew I wanted to be a designer and/or work in a creative environment.

Any UTEP professors influence you?

My metalsmithing professor Rachelle Thiewes always encouraged us to push our limits and to try new things. The first time I went to New York was on a field trip she organized. One year later, I moved there.

You’ve been in Europe for over a year now. Do you miss El Paso?

Working and living in Europe has been a unique and enjoyable experience. Brussels is very diverse and vibrant city. There are still a lot of places I want to visit in Europe and the team that I work with (has people) from Spain, Turkey, Philippines, Brussels and Great Britain, so it’s interesting. There are some things I miss about El Paso: my family, friends, the desert and the food.

If you weren’t a graphic designer, what would you be doing?

I’d work as a cook...though it might take all the fun out of it were it my job. I also like to collect art, so opening a gallery would be a possibility.

Have you visited UTEP since you graduated?

Yes, when I go back to El Paso I always drop by. I’m always amazed by all the new buildings. I’m looking forward to seeing the new galleries that have opened in the art department on my next visit.

-Arta S. Ruelas

Are you a Miner on the Move? If you’re a UTEP grad and would like to be considered for in this column, please send us your name, occupation/title, year of graduation and your daytime phone number and e-mail address. Please include a high-resolution color photo. E-mail us at nova@utep.edu or write us at Nova Quarterly, University Communications/Hertzog Bldg., 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, Texas, 79968.

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Felipe de Ortega y Gasca (B.A. '59) is a visiting lecturer in language and literature at Texas A&M University at Kingsville, and professor emeritus of English at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. He received the 2005 Rudolfo and Patricia Anaya Critica Nueva Award from the University of New Mexico for his contributions to Chicano literacy history and criticism.

Cedric Hustace (B.B.A. '56), retired from Javelin Capital Management as chief of plan and program at the Center at Tinker Air Force Base. Upon his retirement, he received the Outstanding Career Civilian Service Award and letters of commendation from President George W. Bush and Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry.

Barbara Diesner Gormly (B.A. '67), a resident of El Paso, retired as vice president of CIPF Ltd., an investment banking firm in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Gerald G. Jerry Barrett (B.S.E.E. '70), who completed 35 years of service at IBM in June, is a product development team leader for IBM's eServer pSeries UNIX servers in Austin. In May, he achieved his certification as a project management professional through the Project Management Institute.

Cesar Caballero (B.B.A. '72) is the acting librarian at California State University, Los Angeles.

H. Donn de Yampter (B.S.Ed. '78; M.Ed. '79), a resident of Houghton, Mich., is a physical therapist in private practice.

Ramón G. Ray González (B.A. '75) is a professor of English at the University of Minnesota. His two books, "The Religion of Hands: Prose Poems and Flash Fictions" and "Consideration of the Guitar: New and Selected Poems" were recently published.

Keelung Hong (M.S. '70), founder, chair and chief executive officer of TLC Biopharmaceuticals, received the Technology Innovation Award from Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs. Hong is a resident of San Francisco.

Laura A. Martínez (B.B.A. '78), of Kent, Wash., is an operations support manager at IBM Corp. She achieved 25 years of service in February.

Elijo V. Serrano (B.A. '79) is chief financial officer and a director at EGL Inc., a global logistics and transportation company in Houston.

Frederika V. Shem-de Yampert (B.S.N. '79), a resident of Houghton, Mich., is chair and associate professor of nursing at Finlandia University in Hancock, Mich. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in nursing at Texas Woman's University in Denton.

David E. Weich (B.A. '75) is the clerk of court for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Western District of North Carolina in Charlotte. Weich resides in Belmont, N.C.

Victor Ayala Jr. (B.A. '84), a resident of North Brunswick, N.J., is an employee relations manager supporting Global Network Establishment Services at American Express in New York City.

Kevin J. Dobi (B.S.N. '88) completed his family practice residency at Regis University in Denver, Colo., and is finishing his psychiatric residency at Kansas University Medical Center in Kansas City.

Erin McCann Hargrove (B.S. '88; M.S. '91) is a biology instructor at El Paso Community College.

Mark C. Perkins (M.Ed. '81) of Hilltop Lakes, Texas, retired in 2004 as a field agent for Region 5 Education Service Center in Beaumont, Texas.

Diana O. Washington Valdez (B.A. '83; M.A. '00) is a reporter for the El Paso Times. Her book about the rampant murder of young women in Juárez, Mexico, over the past decade, "Cosecha de Mujeres," (Harvest of Women) was published in April.

Cheryl L. Sherry Eichorn (M.Ed. '91) is the principal of Beers Elementary School in Washington, D.C.

Michelle M. Gutierrez (B.A. '93) teaches English and is a cheerleading coach at Chapin High School in El Paso.

Christine Kane-Urrabazo (B.S.N. '99; M.S.N. '03), a registered nurse, is pursuing a Ph.D. in nursing at Texas Woman’s University in Denton.

Raul R. Reyes (B.A. '95; M.A. '97), a resident of Porter, Texas, and a professor of history at Kingwood College in Kingwood, Texas, is the school’s 2005 Professor of the Year.

Yuri Herrera Gutierrez (M.F.A. '03) is pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley.

His M.F.A. thesis was selected as the winner of the Concurso Nacional de Novela Joven de Mexico (National Mexican Prize for Young Novelists).

Sheryl Luna (M.F.A. '02) is a lecturer in the Department of English at Metro State College of Denver. Her first book, "Pity the Drowned Horses," released in April, received the inaugural Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize, given by the University of Notre Dame Institute for Latino Studies.

Rosalina Martinez (B.I.S. '00), the director of Child Youth Services at Fort Benning, Ga., is profiled in the 2005 edition of "Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers."

Ignacio T. Tom Urrabazo (B.B.A. '03) is the president and chief executive officer of Brooke Plantation Homes Inc., a custom home builder in El Paso.
In Memoriam

Maj. Benjamin F. Smith (M.Ed. '64) El Paso; April 12, 2005.
Lawrence E. Lavoie (M.Ed. '70) Atlanta, Ga.; April 16, 2005.

Compiled by Shannon Kanorr

Friends, supporters and leaders
Development Board gets new members

UTEP recently announced three new additions to its Development Board, charged with overseeing all private-fund development for the university.

El Paso businessman Gary Hedrick was named chair of the board, while Larry K. Durham and Richard Fleager were appointed new members.

Hedrick, the President and Chief Executive Officer for El Paso Electric, graduated from UTEP with a bachelor’s of business administration in 1977 and his master’s of business administration in 1982.

Hedrick assumes the role from former Development Board chair Bob Heasley.

Durham graduated from UTEP, then Texas Western College, in 1966 and currently serves at president and CEO of National Express Group.

Durham has long been a staunch supporter of UTEP, giving $5 million to complete the Sports Center which now bears his name.

Fleager graduated from UTEP with a bachelor’s in business administration in 1972 and a master’s in business administration in 1976. Currently the Regional Vice President of Texas Gas Service Company, Fleager serves on the UTEP Centennial Commission.

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The UTEP Bookstore is your official headquarters for TWC apparel and souvenirs, including limited edition jackets. We also carry the '66 LINE by Don Haskins.

Relive the glory days of Texas Western College and the 1966 NCAA basketball championship with retro TWC gear from the UTEP Bookstore.

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1966 TWC Student

Pam Pippen
1966 TWC Cheerleader

Don Haskins
1966 TWC Head Basketball Coach

Willie Cager
1966 TWC Forward