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MISSION ACCOMPLISHED
MINER ASTRONAUT COMPLETES FIRST SPACE TRIP
DARE TO DREAM

On June 8, 2007, the space shuttle Atlantis thundered off the launch pad, and UTEP alumnus John “Danny” Olivas achieved his childhood dream of traveling to space. A Ph.D. in mechanical engineering, Olivas space walked with partner Jim Reilly to install a new segment of the International Space Station that will provide electrical power for invaluable scientific research.

Olivas conducted two spacewalks and repaired a damaged thermal blanket on the exterior of the shuttle.

“The great thing about Danny is he was like a veteran space walker from the moment he got outside,” says Reilly, who participated in shuttle missions in 1998 and 2001.

Olivas thanks all the people of El Paso for their support, saying: “What we do is a result of not one person, but tens of thousands of people who dare to dream big.”

age at which Olivas decided he wanted to become an astronaut  
7

times Olivas applied to the NASA astronaut program  
9

1998  
the year Olivas was accepted into the program

140  
miles is the altitude Atlantis climbed to reach orbit

17.5  
tons is the weight of the segment Atlantis delivered to the International Space Station

7  
hours was the approximate time of each space walk

66  
kilowatts is the power provided by the solar arrays connected by Olivas and Reilly

30  
2,800-square-foot houses could be powered by the arrays, which span 240 feet

4  
short-duration science experiments were completed during the STS-117 mission

2  
experiments investigated health issues associated with spaceflight

14  
Mexican-food entrees were eaten by Olivas during the mission

www.utep.edu/dannyolivas
COVER FEATURE

10 Mission Accomplished
UTEP grad Danny Olivas captivated Miners across the globe by his journey 200 miles above the Earth as part of the space shuttle Atlantis crew.

FEATURES

4 Top of the Class
For these Top Ten Seniors, life’s journey has just begun. They now venture into graduate studies, prepare to enter the nation’s top medical schools, and more.

6 Economic Impact
UTEP continues to grow as a key economic force in the Paso del Norte region, contributing millions to the local economy and more.

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Because even light smokers are at risk for deadly illnesses, these psychology students are helping smokers quit now.

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UTEP tops in the nation for Hispanic students; million-dollar grants advance research; and much more

14 Profiles in Giving
Charles Coy was an engineer by trade – and by heart. How his family commemorates his life by inspiring future engineers.

15 In the Spotlight
Volunteerism and skateboarding – coupled with determination and talent – led these Miners to success.
Where do heavy smokers come from?

Many light smokers graduate to become regular or heavy smokers.

How many cigarettes make a smoker?

Fewer than you may think.

It's the new black.

As early as two weeks after quitting smoking, lungs begin to return to their original capacity... and color

I only smoke when...

I only smoke when I need a break. On the weekends, before a meal, when I need a pick me up.
Maybe you’ve enjoyed a cigarette or two while hanging out with friends at the club, or needed a relaxing smoke after a rough day at work. A cigarette now and then can’t hurt. Or can it?

Even light smokers are at risk for deadly illnesses, says Ted Cooper, supervisor of the Prevention and Treatment in Clinical Health lab in the Department of Psychology at UTEP.

Cooper and his team of researchers in the PATCH lab, as it is known, investigate methods of disease prevention and health promotion, with an eye on issues such as sedentary behavior, diet and tobacco use. Many of their projects focus on Hispanics in the El Paso and Juárez area.

One major initiative of the lab is StopLite, a program aimed at helping light smokers at UTEP and across the Paso del Norte region kick the habit before it turns serious. StopLite is funded by grants totaling $170,500 from A Smoke Free Paso del Norte, an initiative of the Paso del Norte Health Foundation.

“We’re trying to uncover the issues behind this habit, in order to help people quit, get healthy, and ultimately save lives,” says Cooper.

Recent research reveals the dangers of casual smoking. A 2005 study of more than 42,000 adults in Norway over the course of 30 years found that light smokers, defined as people who smoked one to four cigarettes daily, were three times as likely to die from heart disease than were nonsmokers. Men were more than three times as likely to die from lung cancer, and women were five times more likely to succumb to lung cancer.

StopLite uses counseling, behavioral and health therapies, and person-to-person contact to educate participants on the health benefits of quitting.

The smokers participate in an hour-long intervention which includes an assessment of the problem, counseling and education, and a test measuring the level of carbon monoxide in their blood.

A high level of carbon monoxide displaces oxygen in the bloodstream, thickening the blood and making it difficult for the heart to pump blood and oxygen around the body.

“Part of the intervention is to provide feedback to participants about their (carbon monoxide) levels, with hopes that sharing health-related information will help them recognize that smoking has health consequences,” says Cooper.

The group also creates media campaigns to get its message across. With the help of focus groups and student graphic designers, the PATCH team created anti-smoking posters that are placed around campus.

With the help of the UTEP Student Health Center, PATCH signed up 258 students to participate in the cessation program. The students said they smoked to manage their weight, relieve stress and to feel included in social settings.

More than 40 percent of them estimated they smoked at least one cigarette per day, and considered themselves light smokers. Thirty percent said they smoked one to six cigarettes per week, while the rest of the group said they smoked even less per month.

Preliminary results are encouraging: 41 percent of the participants reported decreasing their smoking after one month; and two months later, the number rose to 47 percent.

“I have not been smoking for about three months now and I feel great. I appreciate their help and concern,” said a StopLite participant whose name is being kept confidential.

Amalia Dudzienisky, director of the Student Health Center, is hopeful the continued partnership will raise awareness and help reduce smoking.

“I hope it reiterates the fact that smoking is not healthy, that there are consequences. I’ve seen the results from their efforts and I’m happy that many people have either quit or reduced their intake,” says Dudzienisky.

The PATCH lab offers nearly a dozen undergraduate and graduate students opportunities to participate in research and health promotion programs such as StopLite.

“The lab is a great work environment filled with amazing people,” says graduate student Julie Blow. “We have a great opportunity to shed light on issues that have long been overlooked with the (Hispanic) population. Our field allows us to take already researched issues and develop a new take on things, and help the underserved.”

The reward for the PATCH lab staff is seeing people improve their lives via quality health education. In the case of StopLite, Cooper says it is plain facts, and not scare tactics, that to help people understand the risks of casual smoking.

“A lot of times they just need to be informed, educated, and it turns the light on for them,” says Cooper. “They learn it’s never too late to quit.”

### SMOKING RISKS

- Coronary heart disease, stroke, and peripheral vascular disease
- Strained respiratory quality, such as coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath
- Cancers of the bladder, oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, cervix, kidney, lung, pancreas, and stomach, and causes acute myeloid leukemia
- Women who smoke before or during pregnancy increase their risk for adverse reproductive outcomes such as infertility or having a low-birth-weight baby

### BENEFITS OF QUITTING

- Oxygen level in your blood increases to normal and carbon monoxide level drops to normal
- Reduce the risk of a heart attack
- Body is free of nicotine, allowing bronchial tubes to relax, making it easier to breathe
- Risk of lung cancer decreases
Each spring, the UTEP Alumni Association recognizes its top ten seniors who achieved academic success and shown leadership.

**MICHAEL ARRIAGA**
Age: 21  
Degree: Microbiology  
Next: Medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston  
Notable: Accepted to five medical schools  
High School: Ysleta  
“My time at UTEP has allowed me to work side-by-side with my peers and community leaders to improve the lives of the underprivileged in our area.”

**MICHELLE COCHRANE**
Age: 22  
Degree: Accounting and finance  
Next: Graduate studies in accounting at UTEP  
Notable: UTEP cheerleader  
High School: Maxine Silva Health Magnet  
“The university helped me discover my talent, and I feel as though I found my true calling.”

**JOANNA FAVELA**
Age: 22  
Degree: Accounting  
Next: Master’s in accounting at UTEP  
Notable: Accounting intern in UTEP Provost’s Office  
High School: Eastwood  
“UTEP has stayed on top of changes in the demanding field of accounting and provided me with a modern foundation that is the key to my future.”

**GABRIEL GOMEZ**
Age: 21  
Degree: Microbiology  
Next: Medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  
Notable: Participated in medical mission trips to Mexico  
High School: Franklin  
“I’m leaving UTEP with a mind ready for the future and a heart full of life-changing experiences.”

**GABRIEL MANSOURATY**
Age: 22  
Degree: Microbiology  
Next: Medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston  
Notable: Earned early acceptance into medical school  
High School: Coronado  
“El Paso is my home, and I will return to it and give back all that I can.”

**DANIEL DE LOS SANTOS**
Age: 21  
Degree: Kinesiology  
Next: Medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  
Notable: Miner Maniac of the Year in 2006  
High School: Cathedral  
“I have gained valuable leadership, teamwork and communications skills, all the while increasing my determination and passion to become a great physician.”
Honor the university's Top Ten Seniors, students who have commitment to the community.

ANGELICA MOLIX
Age: 38
Degree: Bilingual education
Next: Will teach in the El Paso area
Notable: Mother of four children
High School: Socorro
"Going back to school after 15 years of life experiences was not easy. I learned that you have to set goals and keep going."

CHRISTOPHER WHALIN
Age: 22
Degree: Philosophy
Next: Master's in philosophy at Columbia University
Notable: Active in Philosophy Club, Tri-City Philosophical Society and Honors Council
High School: Cathedral
"Working as part of a team not only speeds up progress, it creates a diversity of interesting ideas. You learn how to be a leader and a follower from one moment to the next."

PRATISH PARBHOO
Age: 23
Degree: Metallurgical and materials engineering
Next: Veterinary medicine school at Texas A&M
Notable: Eagle Scout; intern for lion conservation program in South Africa this summer
High School: Hanks
"I feel I will succeed in whatever I put my heart into, and I owe much of that to the experiences I gained while attending UTEP."

AARON ROSAS
Age: 21
Degree: Microbiology
Next: Graduate studies in public administration at UTEP
Notable: Also wants to attend medical school
High School: Bel Air
"I'd like to be a pediatric surgeon in El Paso, and eventually work in student affairs at a med school or university."

CLAUDIA ARIAS
Age: 26
Degree: Mechanical engineering
Next: Already working on a master's in engineering at UTEP
Notable: University Banner Bearer at December 2006 commencement
High School: Preparatoria El Chamizal, Juárez
"Extracurricular activities at UTEP helped me earn outside opportunities. I participated in several conferences, research projects and internships."

For more UTEP success stories, visit www.utep.edu/horizons

Photos by J.R. Hernandez
The University of Texas at El Paso, once a small mining and metallurgy college, has grown into a key economic force that contributes millions to the region’s economy.

According to a new study by the Institute for Policy and Economic Development at UTEP, the university generated more than $375 million in local business volume in 2006 – about $50 million more than in 2002.

“We know UTEP plays a large role in this community,” says David Schauer, associate professor of economics and finance and senior policy fellow at IPED. “This study puts number values on the importance of this university.”

The region’s leading think-tank for policy and business development research, the institute conducted the study under the direction of Schauer and executive director Dennis Soden.

Schauer says the local business volume derives from direct purchases of goods and services by the university, employees and students. The multiplier effect is also calculated into the business volume.

In addition to business volume, UTEP impacts – directly and indirectly – household income, employment opportunities, personal incomes, the lending capacity of local institutions and the revenues and expenditures of local government. The impact in all of these areas has increased since the last IPED study in 2002.

By the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UTEP-related local business volume</td>
<td>$375 million</td>
<td>$349 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of local business property committed to UTEP-related business</td>
<td>$131 million</td>
<td>$103 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of local jobs attributed to UTEP’s presence</td>
<td>6,123</td>
<td>4,871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal income of local individuals</td>
<td>$343 million</td>
<td>$228 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTEP operating budget</td>
<td>$265 million</td>
<td>$200 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full and part-time faculty and staff</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>2,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Texas funding for the 2005-06 fiscal year</td>
<td>$92 million</td>
<td>$75.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incremental regional human capital per graduate</td>
<td>$410,000</td>
<td>$364,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incremental regional human capital per UTEP state funding</td>
<td>15.4 to 1</td>
<td>13 to 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incremental national human capital per graduate</td>
<td>$472,000</td>
<td>$419,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incremental national human capital per UTEP state funding</td>
<td>18.9 to 1</td>
<td>15 to 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Today, UTEP employs about 2,900, and creates more than 6,100 jobs due to its presence, the study reports.

Economic development experts say there’s more to UTEP’s contributions to the region than dollars and cents.

“Beyond the very impressive figures, it may be nearly impossible to calculate the additional value the university provides to the community,” says Bob Cook, president of the El Paso Regional Economic Development Corporation. “Because of the quality of graduates that are coming out of UTEP’s programs, the community is able to recruit more industries and businesses, creating high-paying jobs.”

UTEP enrolls nearly 20,000 students who have the potential to boost the region’s economic power after graduation.

According to the IPED study, the average UTEP graduate with a bachelor’s degree can potentially earn $410,000 more over their work life than those with only an associate’s degree. That figure is about $472,000 in higher-earning communities.

UTEP had its largest graduating class in 2005-06, with 2,883 students earning degrees.

“There is more growth expected in the near and long-term future,” Soden says. “You’re already starting to see the growth with the new Bioscience Research Building and parking garage.”

Source: Institute for Policy and Economic Development, the University of Texas at El Paso

Note: The analysis does not consider the impact of visitors attracted to the region by UTEP (such as sporting or ticket events).

For more information about the study or its methodology, visit www.organizations.utep.edu/iped
**HIGHLIGHTS**

**UTEP TOPS IN EDUCATING HISPANICS**

A leading educational magazine ranks UTEP among the top four universities in the nation in awarding undergraduate degrees to Hispanics.

The "Top 100 Schools for Hispanics" in Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education magazine ranks colleges and universities based on the number of degrees awarded to Hispanics in 2005-06. According to the May 7 issue of Hispanic Outlook:

- UTEP awarded 1,555 bachelor's degrees to Hispanics in 2006, ranking the university fourth in the nation. The previous year, the university awarded 1,229 bachelor's to Hispanics, ranking seventh.
- For the second consecutive year, UTEP is ranked sixth in the nation in awarding master's to Hispanics, with 408 students receiving the degrees in 2005-06. The previous year, 385 master's were awarded to Hispanics.

Hispanic Outlook also ranks UTEP among the top universities in awarding bachelor's degrees to Hispanics by academic program in 2005-06, including:

- No. 1 in engineering (168)
- No. 2 in foreign languages (65)
- No. 3 in multi- and inter-disciplinary studies (272)
- No. 3 in health sciences (158)

The previous year, UTEP awarded 98 bachelor's in engineering and ranked third in the field. The university's success in educating Hispanic engineers has also been noted by Hispanic Business magazine, which ranked UTEP as the nation's No. 1 graduate engineering school for Hispanics in both 2005 and 2006.

**TOP NASA OFFICIAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

The Honorable Shana Dale, deputy administrator at NASA, addressed nearly 1,600 graduates during commencement ceremonies in May.

"NASA has shown the world that humans can achieve previously inconceivable feats," she told the crowd of graduates.

"I believe this spirit of persevering and succeeding in the face of hard challenges resides in you, too. It is time for you to embark on your own journey of exploration and discover what life has to offer you and what you have to offer yourself, your community, and your nation."

Nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate, Dale began her duties on Nov. 14, 2005. As deputy administrator, Dale is the first woman to serve as the agency's second in command and oversees the day-to-day work of NASA's functional offices, such as the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Office of General Counsel and Strategic Communications.

**UPWARD BOUND AWARDED NEARLY $3 MILLION**

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded UTEP nearly $3 million for its Upward Bound program, a federal academic initiative that helps prepare low-income students for college.

The program will receive an annual award of about $738,000 for four years, helping more than 140 high school students from the Anthony, Canutillo, El Paso and Ysleta school districts participate in the program. More than 590 students in schools across El Paso County have already participated in UTEP's Upward Bound, one of among 800 such programs nationwide, since 1990.

Upward Bound is open to high school freshmen, sophomores or juniors who have demonstrated a need for academic assistance, come from low-income families, and are first-generation college-bound students.
GRANT HELPS STUDY OF HUMAN DISEASES

A $1.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health will support UTEP researchers studying treatments for a number of human diseases, including West Nile virus, Chagas disease and Giardia infection.

The grant will fund UTEP's long-standing Minority Biomedical Research Support/Support of Continuous Research Excellence (MBRS/SCORE) program, now entering its 37th year at the university.

The four-year grant will fund 11 faculty research projects, many of which focus on infectious diseases of concern to the border community, said biology professor Dr. Renato J. Aguilera, director of the SCORE program at UTEP.

"This program is unique in that these research projects are focused on training underrepresented minorities in the biomedical sciences and health professions," Aguilera says.

UTEP PART OF MULTIMILLION COMPUTING CONSORTIUM

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory has awarded a contract valued at $215 million to a consortium of research groups and universities, including UTEP, to manage the Army's High Performance Computing Research Center.

The consortium also includes High Performance Technologies Inc., NASA Ames Research Center, Stanford University, New Mexico State University and Morgan State University.

The program will focus on several research areas, including lightweight combat systems survivability, computational nanotechnologies and biosciences, battlefield network and information sciences, advanced algorithmic development, and other high-performance computing technologies.

Initial funding of the program will last five years, with an optional renewal for another five years. At least 30 percent of funding is designated for minority-serving institutions in the consortium.

RECORD NUMBER TO ATTEND MEDICAL SCHOOLS

A record number of UTEP graduates will attend medical, dental and veterinarian schools this fall. Twenty-nine Miners have indicated they will attend these professional schools - a 70 percent increase over the previous academic year.

"We have an outstanding group of students at UTEP who are working very hard to be successful candidates for medical and dental schools," says Donna Ekal, program coordinator of the university's Medical Professions Institute.

The Medical Professions Institute (MPI) is dedicated to preparing UTEP students for a successful transition into these schools. Because of the program, an increasing number of UTEP students are applying to, being interviewed by and accepted to graduate medical professions programs.

"It is important for our community to acknowledge and support these students so they may return to El Paso and serve our community needs," Ekal says.

BUSINESS COLLEGE RE-ACCREDITED

The College of Business Administration has earned re-accreditation by AACSB International, a benchmark of excellence awarded to fewer than 10 percent of the world's business schools.

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business granted re-accreditation to the college in Business Administration and Accounting. Accreditation is a process of voluntary, non-governmental review of educational institutions and programs.

The college enrolls some 2,800 students each year in accounting, economics and finance; information and decision sciences; and marketing and management. The college awarded 400 undergraduate and more than 100 graduate degrees in 2005-06.
MINER ON A MISSION

BY DAVID PEREGRINO

FOR TWO WEEKS IN JUNE, EL PASOANS OF ALL AGES WERE CAPTIVATED BY THE FANTASTIC JOURNEY OF NASA ASTRONAUT DANNY OLIVAS, THE 1989 UTEP GRADUATE WHO ROCKETED 200 MILES ABOVE THE EARTH TO BECOME THE FIRST MINER IN SPACE.
Olivas raises his Miner Pick while on his first space walk outside the International Space Station and docked Shuttle Atlantis.
During a 5.8 million-mile trip that had its share of technical challenges, Olivas and his space shuttle Atlantis crewmates successfully completed a mission to add new solar wings to the International Space Station.

Meanwhile, the UTEP community gathered on campus to watch the action unfold live on NASA TV at Miner Mission Control in the Union Building East. Hundreds packed the venue for Atlantis’ June 8 launch from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, and a full house witnessed the shuttle’s perfect landing June 22 at Edwards Air Force in California.

Seeing all the youngsters wide-eyed as the shuttle thundered into space and cheering as Atlantis touched down in the Mojave Desert, there is no doubt Olivas and his fellow astronauts have inspired a new generation of El Pasanos.

In turn, Olivas says he is inspired to know that thousands from his hometown—family, friends and fellow Miners—followed the mission day-by-day and hour-by-hour.

“We really appreciate all the support from the people in El Paso, their support in keeping up with the mission and sending us their thoughts and prayers,” Olivas said during a live television interview aboard the shuttle.

Olivas sent some love of his own back to El Paso by wearing a Miner T-shirt aboard the ISS and docked shuttle. And on day nine, NASA Mission Control roused the crew with a morning wakeup call featuring the UTEP Fight Song.

“Good morning, Atlantis. That song was for Danny,” said NASA flight controller Shane Kimbrough.

“Hey Shane. Good morning. It’s good to hear your voice,” replied Olivas.

“I want to thank the folks at the University of Texas El Paso, and go Miners!”

The fight song was a reflection of the can-do attitude that distinguished shuttle mission STS-117.

The launch was originally scheduled for March, but a hailstorm battered the external fuel tank as Atlantis sat on the launch pad, forcing NASA to send the orbiter back to the Vehicle Assembly Building for repairs.

Lockheed Martin engineers quickly designed and constructed a unique tool dubbed the “Pencil Sharpener” to fix the hail divots on the tank’s foam. The repair approach saved the shuttle program valuable time and got Atlantis back on track for a June launch.

Given wild Florida weather and the mind-boggling complexity of the shuttle’s mechanical and computer systems, it’s rare for a shuttle launch to go off on time. But Atlantis soared to life under a clear evening sky at 7:38 p.m. June 8, hitting the scheduled launch time right on the minute.

Even from a vantage point three miles away, the rockets’ flames were blinding. The sound blast bent blades of grass and sent ripples over surrounding lakes and lagoons. Photographers’ tripods and suitcase-sized camera cases rattled as Atlantis thundered toward space at incomprehensible speed.
“It was an amazing event,” says Professor of Engineering Dr. Steve Stafford, who represented UTEP at the launch. “You could feel the power and the sound … it was an incredible experience.”

Back at Miner Mission Control at UTEP, a crowd of about 500 alternated between pin-drop silence and wild cheers as they waited for the NASA launch announcer’s reassuring words that Atlantis was safely on its way.

The launch was perfect, save for a small tear in a thermal blanket that protected the shuttle’s exterior.

Mission managers tagged Olivas to fix the damaged blanket during his second spacewalk with fellow mission specialist Jim Reilly. On day eight of the mission, the world watched on live television as Olivas tackled the repair, soaring more than 200 miles above the earth at 17,500 miles per hour. Anchored to the shuttle’s robot arm, Olivas secured the tear with surgical staples, pins and steel thread.

“IT’S PERFECT FOR HIM TO BE UP THERE TO DO THAT KIND OF REPAIR,” SAYS STAFFORD, WHO HAD OLIVAS AS A STUDENT IN A SENIOR-LEVEL FAILURE ANALYSIS CLASS.

Stafford has kept in touch with Olivas and proudly watched over the years as his student became a Ph.D., an astronaut candidate, and now a veteran spacewalker.

“Danny is like so many of our students here. If you just provide them the opportunities, there’s no telling where they will go,” Stafford says.

The mission gave Olivas and his fellow astronauts numerous opportunities to use training.
Charles Coy was a stereotypical engineer, from the slide rule in his pocket to the passion in his heart.

“He was the mold of a typical engineer: Slide rule, pocket protector, and thick black framed glasses similar, to the ones that the military issues out,” recalls Ester Coy of her husband, a UTEP graduate who became a successful engineer. He passed away in November 2006 at 64.

“His friends sometimes jokingly called him ‘Mr. Square Root,’” she says.

A graduate of Burges High School in El Paso, Coy enrolled at Texas Western University (now UTEP) in 1962 to become an electrical engineer after serving in the U.S. Navy as an Electronics Technician Communications 3rd Class.

“Because of this experience with electronics and the desire to build or repair anything electrical or mechanical in nature, electrical engineering logically seemed like a good major to further increase his knowledge in the field,” says Coy’s son, Richard Garrett Coy.

Richard says his father loved his alma mater because of the opportunities it provided him. But his affection for UTEP was also more personal: It was there that he met his wife. His children, Richard and Eric Steven Coy, also received their degrees from UTEP.

Ester says she still remembers the day she met her husband at “The Sub,” now the Union Building.

“When we first met he was rather thin and wore clothes that were worn out at both the knees and elbows. However, under all that, he was still very handsome and charming.”

In honor of his memory and his love of engineering, his family and the University have established the Charles I. Coy Excellence Endowment for Electrical Engineering.

The endowment will be used by the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering to improve the academic skills of students pursuing degrees in electrical and computer engineering, with a preference for electrical engineering.

“I believe that my father intended to give back to the university,” says Richard, who received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from UTEP in 1999 and 2005, respectively. “We think it was a great way to pay back his alma mater for the high-quality education he received, which ultimately lead to a very successful career.”

After graduating from UTEP, Coy served at White Sands Missile Range in the Office of Missile Electronics Warfare, where he worked on various anti-aircraft systems, including the HAWK, M247 Sgt. York and the Patriot missile.

In 1974, he earned master’s degree in electrical engineering from New Mexico State University and took a job at the Radar Target Scattering Facility at Holloman Air Force Base. In 1982, he earned a professional engineering license for the State of Texas and accepted a job at the Air Defense Artillery Test Directorate at Fort Bliss.

Coy also participated as a member or officer in various professional organizations, including the Association of Old Crows, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and Texas Society of Professional Engineers.

He retired in 1993 to spend more time with his family and work on his other interests, which included New Mexico real estate development, stock market investments and city politics.

“We will always treasure the fond memories of activities we engaged in with our father,” Richard says. “I think that he would like to see UTEP continue to excel and be among one of the leading academic institutions for engineering, math and science throughout the state as well as the nation.”
MINER ACHIEVEMENTS
Students and faculty in the spotlight

DAVINA HEREDIA
Junior, psychology
Age: 19
Hometown: El Paso; Burges High School
Notables: 2007-08 Houston Endowment scholarship recipient; president, UTEP Chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta; UTEP Student Leadership Institute; chair, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Teens for a Cure

Davina Heredia has always known she wanted to work with children. Deciding what route to take was not so easy. She considered teaching, but soon realized that her desire to help children went beyond the classroom.

“I have always wanted to have a positive influence in young people’s lives, to show them they had potential,” says Heredia. “I decided that being a youth and family therapist would better help me reach my goals.”

Heredia volunteers with various organizations in the community, including the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and the Child Crisis Center.

“Volunteering is a way to give back, to have fun and learn. All these things are part of what I need and want to do, to go toward my future work,” she says.

Heredia recently graduated from the elite UTEP Student Leadership Institute, an initiative of the University College Entering Student Program. The competitive program began in February 2000, and students are nominated by faculty based on talent, drive and focus needed to be a peer leader.

WILLIAM “BILL” ROBERTSON
Assistant professor of education
Education: B.A., Duke University; B.S., Northern Arizona University; M.A., University of Colorado; Ph.D., University of New Mexico
Notables: Creator of Dr. Skateboard’s Action Science educational video series; winner of the Master’s Freestyle World Championship, 2004; Top Developer of Online Science Education, Department of Education, 1999; participated in over 400 demonstrations at venues including NBA half times

Skateboarding is more than a sport for professor of education Bill Robertson. It’s an opportunity to inspire children and prove that when combined with sports, subjects like physical science and math can be fun.

“Science and math are often seen as disconnected from your personal experience,” says Robertson, also known as Dr. Skateboard. “If students can encounter relevant science that is applicable and interesting, then they’ll want to learn more.”

That’s the idea behind his new educational videos, Dr. Skateboard’s Action Science, which combine skateboarding and BMX tricks with physical science concepts. A collaborative between UTEP and the El Paso Independent School District, the video series will be introduced into middle school classes this fall.

Robertson, who learned to skateboard barefoot on a plastic board at 13, reached a lifelong goal of becoming a professional skateboarder in 1988. He continued riding banks, bowls and flat land while working on his undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees. He came to UTEP in 2004.

“UTEP has also challenged me to grow as a scholar and a community member,” he says. “For example, I have made a goal to improve my abilities in Spanish, and I have received help and encouragement from everyone I work with at UTEP.”
MINER FOOTBALL ON THE HORIZON

The 2007 football season will pit the Miners against long-standing rivals and several teams with bowl games under their belts.

“IT's a great schedule, particularly at home,” Head Coach Mike Price says. “We'll have rivalry games in the month of September, either at home or within driving distance for our fans. In October, we'll face some of the best teams in the conference at home.”

“We'll have good weather as we build momentum,” Price says, “and hopefully we’ll be able to do something in the month of November that we haven’t been able to do — finish strong.”

UTEP will open the 2007 slate in the Sun Bowl Sept. 1 against long-time rival New Mexico. Several games will be nationally televised on CSTV, available via satellite on DirecTV’s Total Choice Plus package Channel 610 and Dish Network’s America’s Top 120 package Channel 152.

Ticket information: 915-747-6150 or www.utepathletics.com

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time (MST)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td>New Mexico (CSTV)</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>at Texas Tech, Lubbock</td>
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<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>at New Mexico State</td>
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<td>*East Carolina</td>
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<td>Nov. 3</td>
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<td>at *Tulane, New Orleans</td>
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<td>Nov. 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 24</td>
<td>at *UCF, Orlando</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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* C-USA

Brick by brick

Construction on the new Foster and Stevens Basketball Complex is slated to begin in August.

The two-story complex will have two practice courts, coaches’ offices and a reception area. The 43,000-square-foot basketball practice and office facility is expected to be completed by fall 2008.

The cost of construction of the much-anticipated project is estimated at $13 million.

Two generous gifts of $3 million each have been pledged by UTEP supporters Jeff and Sharon Stevens and Paul L. Foster. Jeff Stevens is Executive Vice President of Marketing for Western Refining, Inc., and Foster is President and CEO of the company.

“We are very grateful for the generosity of Jeff and Sharon Stevens and Paul L. Foster. Their support has enabled us to make our continuing vision of developing first-class athletic facilities at UTEP a reality,” Director of Athletics Bob Stull says. “The complex will enhance the performance of our current student-athletes and coaches, and be a tremendous aid in the recruiting of future student-athletes.”

As part of the project, a 2,800-square-foot Ticket Center will be constructed at the north end of the Don Haskins Center’s east walkway. The Ticket Center has temporarily been moved to the north end of the Sun Bowl Stadium.

Basketball assistant coaches Venezuela

UTEP women’s basketball assistant coach Ewa Laskowska served in the same capacity for the Venezuelan U-17 national team at the South American U-17 championship in Cuenca, Ecuador, in June.

Laskowska was asked to work with the team by Venezuelan Federation President Carmelo Cortez.

“It was a privilege to be invited to join the Venezuelan national team and to coach on the international level,” she says.

For more news and information about UTEP athletics, visit www.utepathletics.com
Scholar athlete awards

A pair of UTEP athletes has been honored by Conference USA as 2006-07 Scholar Athletes of the Year. Melissa Abraham received the distinction for women's soccer, while Mickael Hanany brought home the men's track and field award for the second consecutive year.

The awards are presented to the top student-athletes in each conference-sponsored sport. The award is based on academic achievement (GPA), athletic achievement and service.

Abraham boasts a 4.0 GPA while majoring in kinesiology. The two-time Dean's List member and C-USA Academic Medalist completed her eligibility with the Miners this past fall. Abraham volunteered at the Armijo Center and the Asthma Camp.

Hanany is a biology/chemistry major who carries a 3.20 GPA. He was tagged an Academic All-American by the USTFCCCA in 2006 while being a Dean's List and C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll member the past two years. A 15-time conference champion, Hanany has also been highly involved with service programs at UTEP. He has been a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for three years, while volunteering with the Adopt a Miner program for two years.

Softball ranks nationally

UTEP softball's Ashley Ellis, Simone Holland and Stacie Townsend have earned All-Conference USA honors. Ellis and Holland were named to the second team while Townsend earned a spot on the all-freshman squad.

This marks the second consecutive season the Miners have had three members of its squad named to the C-USA All-Conference team. Former Miners Sarah Ramirez and current Miners Kelly Lombard and Amber Bennett were awarded all-conference honors in 2006.

The Miners concluded 2007 with the winningest season on record, posting 28 victories. UTEP will go down in NCAA history, scoring 17 runs in an inning against Houston, which ties for the second in NCAA annals. The Miners also rank nationally in scoring (10), doubles per game (13), batting average (24), home runs per game (37), fielding percentage (90), win-loss percentage (93), and they rate 28th in slugging percentage and double plays per game.

Okusanya earns postgrad award

Conference USA Commissioner Britton Banowsky has named UTEP's Olatunde Okusanya as one of the 12 recipients of the Postgraduate Scholarship Award.

The conference annually presents the $4,000 Postgraduate Scholarship awards to graduates as selected by the Faculty Athletics Representatives and approved by the Board of Directors.

Okusanya was a four-year letter winner as a sprinter for the Miner track and field team. She was the 2006 C-USA champion in the 400-meter dash and qualified for the NCAA Championships that season. She graduated cum laude from UTEP with a bachelor's in kinesiology with a concentration in exercise science.

She plans to continue her studies in chemistry at UTEP.
JUNE

The El Paso Chapter participated in the Miner Mission Control Launch Party at UTEP June 8 to celebrate the launch of space shuttle Atlantis, which carried Miner John “Danny” Olivas into space. About 500 people attended the event, where a handful of Miners signed up as new members of the association.

The San Antonio Chapter held its annual meeting and fundraising reception. “Walk Down Glory Road” featured Nevil Shed, a member of the 1966 national championship Texas Western College basketball team, who talked about his experiences during that spectacular season. Proceeds from the evening are helping build an endowed scholarship for UTEP students.

MAY

Members of the Austin Chapter celebrated Cinco de Mayo on Lake Travis.

Miner on the Move

I am the Director of Las Palmas Outpatient Services, which includes the LifeCare Center, the Burn and Wound Management Center and the Center for Hyperbaric Medicine. These specialty areas care for patients who are on the road to recovery.

You’ve been instrumental in bringing together the many services people need to recover and lead healthy lives. How did that happen?

I began my career at Las Palmas LifeCare Center, which offers a fitness center and rehab and therapy services.

As director of the LifeCare Center, I began to involve myself in other departments within the Medical Center. Our wellness department was an important link in a “circle of care” that included other services such as surgery, the Diabetes Treatment Center and the Heart Institute. This link created an opportunity for me to bring together services and offer patients the best care possible.

How did your UTEP education prepare you for your unique job?

UTEP graduates often find they have to leave El Paso to find jobs within the field of their degrees. With a little creativity and persistence, Mike Flores (B.S., kinesiology ’98; M.S., kinesiology ’05) found a dream job where he could use his education and stay in El Paso.

Tell me a little about your work.

UTEP’s Kinesiology Program allowed me to understand that fitness is not just about extracurricular activity, but is one specialty important to keeping our society healthy and disease-free. My professors helped me develop an expertise I didn’t realize I could use in a hospital organization.

Your creativity allowed you to carve a niche for yourself in a place that might not have existed before.

It was very important for me to stay in El Paso but I had to develop my own opportunity to fit in. Many people didn’t think a fitness professional, like me, was the right fit for a career in a hospital.

When I first began, our services were very segmented. It made sense to me to bridge the services and establish complete, quality patient care.

New opportunities are often waiting to be revealed by someone with drive and passion. I am certain that future UTEP graduates will have the creativity and drive I did and will find awesome opportunities here in El Paso.
SAVE THE DATE:
Upcoming Alumni Events

OCT. 13 Alumni Pre-Game Party
For more information or a schedule of all Homecoming events, visit www.homecoming.utep.edu

NOV. 4-9 Movin' Miners: Mexico's Copper Canyon
NOV. 27-DEC. 13 Movin' Miners: Southeast Asia Land and Sailing Adventure

AUG. 31 MINERPALOOZA, UTEP's annual back to school party and pep rally. Center of campus, 6 p.m. to midnight

OCT. 8-13 HOMECOMING 2007
OCT. 10 Ron Harvey Golf Tournament
OCT. 11-13 Golden Grads Reunion Weekend
OCT. 12 Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

CATCH ORANGE FEVER
Miner Football is back, and the UTEP Alumni Association will be cheering. Make plans to join fellow alumni at all pre-game parties.

HOME GAMES
Sept. 1 vs. UNM
Sept. 22 vs. Texas Southern
Oct. 6 vs. Tulsa
Oct. 13 vs. East Carolina (Homecoming)

Away Games
Sept. 8 at Texas Tech,* Lubbock, Texas
Sept. 15 at NMSU, Las Cruces, N.M.
Sept. 29 at SMU,* Dallas
Nov. 3 at Rice,* Houston
Nov. 10 at Tulane,* New Orleans, La.
Nov. 24 at UCF, Orlando, Fla.

*Special UTEP alumni fan packages available

Alumni relations has new leader

UTEP has appointed Richard C. Daniel as assistant vice president for Alumni Relations, leading a department responsible for keeping more than 78,000 alumni connected to the growing university.

Daniel says he is excited about the opportunities to grow the Alumni Association and strengthen its ties with current students.

Daniel comes to UTEP after two years as Director of Recruitment and Advisement at South Mountain Community College. He previously held positions in alumni relations at the University of Nevada, Reno and Arizona State University. He also has years of experience in student affairs and admissions and recruitment.

He holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, a master’s in Higher Education Administration and a bachelor’s in exercise science from Arizona State University.

Ring of pride

A handful of Miners were honored with the official UTEP ring during the Alumni Association’s Ring Ceremony in April at the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall.

The ring is designed to exemplify excellence, integrity and leadership. The ring is reserved exclusively for graduates of the University and senior students in good standing. The ring serves as a symbol of academic accomplishment and aims connect current and future alumni to the proud tradition of Miner excellence.

Each ring captures UTEP's uniqueness, featuring the university seal, the Texas flag, the "M" on the mountain, the Bhutanese architecture, and our founding year of 1914, and Paydirt Pete with the UTEP pick logo.
Margaret B. “Mardee” de Wetter (B.A. ’43, M.A. ’46) is an El Paso poet and writer. “Written in the Sand,” an adaptation of her poetry for the stage, was performed at the Plaza Theatre in March.

Catherine Kistenmacher (B.A. ’48) is a 2007 inductee to the El Paso Women’s Hall of Fame in the arts category. She is an artist, a continuing education teacher at UTEP, and president of the El Paso Art Association.

Betty M. MacGuire (B.B.A. ’48) is president of the Lee and Beulah Moor Children’s Home, is a 2007 inductee to the El Paso Women’s Hall of Fame in the civic leadership category.

Cora Norman (B.A. ’49) received the Friendship Award from Jackson [Miss.] 2000, a racial reconciliation organization, for her work to promote improved race relations in Mississippi. Norman, now retired, was the founding executive director of the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Patricia “Pat” McCormick, the first American woman bullfighter and the only woman ever admitted to the bullfighters’ union, was the subject of a tribute evening at the Big Spring, Texas, Heritage Museum. The event included a video documentary produced by local columnist and radio personality Tumbleweed Smith. McCormick resides in Del Rio, Texas.

Yolanda Delgado (B.A. ’65) owns a training and consulting service, Child Care Consulting, in Austin, Texas.

John B. Powers (B.A. ’68) retired from Merck and Co. Inc. after 20 years as a sales manager. Powers lives in Morrison, Colo.

Vernon L. “Vern” Butler (B.A. ’71, M.S. ’74), an educator and administrator in the El Paso area for 36 years, retired from his position as superintendent of the Anthony Independent School District.

Vernell T. Gregg (B.S.Ed. ’71) is a trustee on the board of the Lewisville, [Texas,] Independent School District. A retired educator, Gregg lives in Flower Mound.

J. Manuel Bañales (B.A. ’72), judge of the 105th Judicial District in Corpus Christi, Texas, received an appointment by Gov. Rick Perry to serve as presiding judge of the 5th Judicial Administrative Circuit.

Kurt F. Muse (B.A. ’73) is co-author of “Six Minutes to Freedom,” an account of his imprisonment in Panama by Gen. Manuel Noriega and his rescue by the U.S. Army’s Delta Force. Muse’s rescue was the subject of a February 2007 edition of “Combat Zone” on the Military Channel.

W. Patrick Resen (B.A. ’73) is a transitional deacon for the Diocese of Knoxville in Tennessee. Resen is expected to be ordained into the priesthood in July 2007.

Lt. Col. Joseph P. O’Connor Jr. (M.A. ’74) is an assistant professor of management at UTEP.

Sue A. Shook (B.S.Ed. ’74, M.Ed. ’78, Ed.D. ’00) will be honored by El Paso’s Socorro Independent School District with a school named in her memory. Shook, who died in 2003, retired from the district as assistant superintendent for instruction. Dr. Sue A. Shook Elementary will open in fall 2009 in Horizon City.

Michael E. McKenzie (B.A. ’75) is a broadcaster who hosts the “Music with Michael” radio program on KLAV 1230 AM in Las Vegas. His 2005 broadcast of “The Dick Lane Quartet Tribute” was accepted into the Nevada State Museum’s permanent collection.

Susan B. Horne (B.A. ’78, M.P.A. ’83) is the president and chief executive officer of Lead Virginia, a nonprofit educational program that addresses issues affecting quality of life. She is also the vice mayor of Leesburg, Va.

Richard C. Bailey (B.S. ’83) is the owner of Bailey’s Rocks and Minerals, a geological-items and -supplies shop in Frederick, Md. Bailey lives in Middletown, Md.

Robert J. “Jacob” Cintron (B.S.I.E. ’83, M.B.A. ’96, M.Acc. ’02) is chief executive officer of Del Sol Medical Center in El Paso.

Darleen McClung (B.S. ’85) is director of the Sheriff’s Alcohol Awareness for Everyone program in Davidson County, Tenn. McClung resides in Antioch, Tenn.

Yi-Yin “Ian” Chao (M.S.M.M.E. ’90) is vice president — commercial of Cambridge Display Technology in the United Kingdom.

Richard N. Murg (M.B.A. ’92), of Irvine, Calif., is sales director of Phoenix Data Systems in Anaheim, Calif.

Laurie D. Biddle (B.A. ’94) is an in-house corporate attorney for Hall Financial Group of Frisco, Texas. Biddle lives in Allen, Texas.

Emilian M. “Emil” Moroz (M.S.M.E. ’95) is executive vice president of engineering at DeWind Inc., a subsidiary of Composite Technology Corp. that produces and markets utility-scale wind turbines. Moroz resides in San Diego, Calif.

Carolyn Cooper (B.S.N. ’96), of Chatham, Ill., wrote the feature article in the March 2007 edition of the American Journal of Nursing, “Multiple Chemical Sensitivity in the Clinical Setting.”

Josefina Carmona (B.S. ’00) earned her master’s degree in marriage and family counseling from California State University. Carmona resides in El Paso.

Linda D. Medina (B.I.S. ’01) is the founder and president of the Young Hispanic Professional Austin Association, in Medina was a
finalist in the youth/education category for the 2007 Austin Under 40 awards. In October 2006, online magazine The Latina Voz recognized her as Latina of the Week.

**Cristina Rodda (B.A. ’04)** is weekend anchor on El Paso’s KDBC 4 News.

### In Memoriam

**Robert David Blanco Sr.**

**David Hustace** (B.B.A. ’53)
Austin, Texas; Nov. 25, 2005.

**Charles A. Steen** (B.A. ’43)

**Eugene M. Von Maluski**
(B.A. ’58, M.Ed. ’60)
Mogadore, Ohio; Feb. 2, 2006.

**Matilde Mowad Lyon** (B.A. ’44, M.Ed. ’66)

**Peggy J. Lindsey Jones**
(B.S.Ed. ’65, M.A. ’74)

**Charlotte Walker Furman**
(B.S.Ed. ’60)
Odessa, Texas; Dec. 25, 2006.

**Reginald D. Hayes Jr.**
(B.S.Ed. ’66)

**Harold L. Kelley** (B.A. ’06)

**Lola B. Riley** (B.S.Ed. ’68)

**Ronald F. Neely** (B.B.A. ’75)

**Oneta F. Darby** (M.Ed. ’69)

**Donna L. “Donnie” Thomson**

**Mary H. Daniels Taylor**

**Don Lee Wofford** (B.S.Ed. ’70, M.Ed. ’75)

**Barbara Joy Barnes** (B.A. ’52)

**Paul Van Geison** (B.S.Ed. ’71)

**Jack H. Heinzl, Melbourne**

**Mario Alatorre** (B.B.A. ’74)

**Charles Patrick “Pat” Downer** (M.Ed. ’68)

**Dolores V. “Grammie” Babcock**
(B.A. ’63)

**Lt. Col. Julius “Julie” Spitzberg** (M.Ed. ’69)

**Robert McPhail “Bob” Dillon**
(M.S.C.E. ’70)

**Enrique A. “Kiko” Bustamante** (B.S. ’86)

**Adella S. Niland** (B.A. ’35)

**Edward Provencio** (B.S. ’81)

**Ruben Bustamante** (B.B.A. ’75)

**Larry J. Parks** (B.B.A. ’71)

**Marshal Wren Adams III**
(B.B.A. ’68)

**Lt. Col. Thomas Robert McCabe Sr.** (B.A. ’65)

**Scott Edward Segall** (B.B.A. ’71)

**Roberta Ruth Potts Walker** (B.A. ’47, M.A. ’54)

**Amory Dean Hale** (B.S. ’59)

**Perry R. Ehrenstein** (B.A. ’54)

**Lester R. Weibel** (B.M. ’52)

**Frederick Douglas Crawford Sr.** (B.B.A. ’74)

**Donna V. Freeman Brown**

**Robert M. “Bob” Folk**
(B.S.M.I. ’38)

**Irvin Lockridge Barrington**
(B.A. ’58, M.Ed. ’72)

**Kurt Frederick “Fred” Gibbe** (B.A. ’48, M.A. ’51)

**Sister Josephina Vargas**
(B.A. ’68)

**Carol Jeanne Bozzell McCarty**
(B.A. ’73, M.A. ’78)
Fort Worth, Texas; Feb. 24, 2007.

**Judson C. “Judd” Caruthers**
(M.Ed. ’79)

**George Francis Diaz**
West Palm Beach, Fla.; March 4, 2007.

**James G. “Jim” Braden**
(B.A. ’74)
Capitan, N.M.; March 5, 2007.

**Anthony A. “Tony” Haddad**

**Braulio Vargas, Kermit, Texas; March 12, 2007.**

**Carmen Shirley Bunn Mosher** (B.S.Ed. ’68)

**Michael J. “Mick” Anderson**
(B.A. ’82)
Forney, Texas; March 17, 2007.

**Col. John T. Bracey Sr.**
(B.M. ’50, M.A. ’52)

**Lt. Col. Gloria M. Leon**
(B.S. ’51)

**Capt. William A. Burgett**
(M.Ed. ’65)
El Paso; March 26, 2007.

**Albert Rene Sanchez** (B.A. ’97)
Fabens, Texas; March 26, 2007.

**Mary N. Tippin** (B.A. ’45)
El Paso; April 5, 2007.

—Compiled by David Thomas

### Send us your news:

Got news to share? Send us your name, year of graduation, degree and the information you’d like to share with other Miners. (Please include a daytime phone number.) E-mail us at nova@utep.edu or write us at Nova Quarterly, University Communications, The University of Texas at El Paso, 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968.
Incognito: An Affair of Honor
by Mardee de Wetter

In a rare, untold story of the American Revolutionary War, Margaret B. "Mardee" de Wetter (B.A. '43, M.A. '46) has captured the dramatic and historically accurate account of Gustav Heinrich Johann de Rosenthal, the only Russian known to have taken part in the war. Over 20 years of research coupled with the author's captivating hypothetical passages make this story a fascinating and enjoyable read.

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