Bhutan on the Border
The University of Texas at El Paso evokes the image of an ancient and mysterious Himalayan kingdom. And indeed, the university's architecture has been shaped by just such a place: The Kingdom of Bhutan. Through appreciation of its people and culture, UTEP's special relationship with Bhutan has become not only part of our architectural history and narrative. It is deeply embedded within the hearts of all who learn, teach and visit here.

1914 is the year UTEP was founded as the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy and the year National Geographic magazine featured "Castles in the Air," an article about Bhutan that inspired the university's architecture.

1917 is the year Old Main was built at UTEP – the first building on campus to follow the Bhutanese architectural style.

700,000 residents live in Bhutan, which is located between Tibet and India.

18,147 square miles of subtropical savannahs, forests and part of the Himalayas make up Bhutan.

12 time zones and 10,000 miles separate Bhutan and El Paso.

30 is how many consonants are in the Bhutanese language of Dzongkha, which also has 4 vowels.

140 feet separate athletes and their targets in Bhutan's archery competitions, the country's national sport.

8th century is when traditional Bhutanese dances are said to have begun.

3 categories identify the types of Bhutanese dance: those that push morality; those that purify and protect; and those that celebrate culture and religion.

1967 is the year Bhutan's Royal Academy of Performing Arts first opened.

2008 marks UTEP's third Bhutan Festival (formerly Bhutan Days), celebrating our ties to the country that continues to inspire us today.

For more about Bhutan Festival, see pages 8-11 or visit www.utep.edu/bhutanfest.com.
CENTERPIECE

8 BHUTAN ON THE BORDER
In an unforgettable celebration of dance and culture, UTEP brings a piece of Bhutan to the border.

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Measure of SUCCESS

Students look forward to new chapter of their lives

BY LAURA CRUZ ACOSTA

Claudia

“I feel I'm a completely different person... My world has opened up.”
Claudia Ochoa had one objective when she first enrolled at UTEP in 2005: Earn her undergraduate degree within four years.

With perseverance in her heart and an array of support programs at hand, it took Ochoa only three years to surpass that goal. In grand style, she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in translation this spring.

"I did everything I could to graduate in three years," says the 21-year-old, who is now working on her master's in experimental psychology at UTEP.

Ochoa and her twin sister, Carla Ochoa, are testament that UTEP is changing the face of higher education and setting trends when it comes to educating a non-traditional, mostly Hispanic, student body.

Carla has had to be both a student and a parent while pursuing her dream. She serves as a role model for her 3-year-old son and the students she tutors at Fabens High School. A mathematics major and secondary education minor, Carla is on track to graduate in spring 2009.

"It's been hard to find the time to study and watch him," she says, motioning to her young son as he tugs on her arm. "I study when he's asleep."

Although the Ochoa twins will have graduated within four years upon enrolling, they are among the 70 percent of UTEP graduates who do not count toward the university's four-year graduation rate. Graduation rates only take into account first-time, full-time students at the start of a fall semester. The Ochoas enrolled in the summer of 2005 under the CAMP program for children of migrant workers.

Paul
Earned bachelor's in four years with scholarship support. Gained research experience at UTEP. Now working toward doctorate.

Claudia
Mother and Student.
Now a math tutor at her home high school. Plans to complete bachelor's in mathematics. Role model for her son, students.

Carla
Mother and Student.
Now a math tutor at her home high school. Plans to complete bachelor's in mathematics. Role model for her son, students.
The Top Ten Senior Awards are presented annually by the UTEP Alumni Association to graduating or recently graduated seniors who demonstrate a combination of academic achievement, service and leadership.

"The selection was not only based on academic accomplishments, but also on commitment to the University and the community," says alumnus Henry Quintana, president-elect of the UTEP Alumni Association and chairman of the Top Ten Selection Committee. "They truly represent the spirit that is UTEP."

Grace Ng, 21
Major: Microbiology
Notables: Dean's List 2004-2008; Del Sol Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship; The American Association of University Women Undergraduate Scholarship

"UTEP has been a mountain of opportunity filled with precious stones. The precious stones are my experiences and have shaped me into the person I am today: a well rounded young woman of skill, knowledge, leadership, compassion, and a drive to make a difference in the world."

Mayra Sánchez, 22
Major: Clinical Laboratory
Notables: Emil Von Behring Student Scholarship; Del Sol Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarship; McKee Foundation Scholarship in Health Science

"My goal is to return to El Paso to continue giving back to my community - aiding in the detection of cancer, working with community service organizations and continuing my association with UTEP."

Ian Anchondo, 23
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Notables: National Science Foundation Scholarship; Exxon Mobil intern; NASA Co-op participant; accepted full-time position as a NASA Flight Controller

"My future would not be the same if I had ventured on to another university. At UTEP I have been prepared academically, I have grown socially, and I have gained lifetime friends."

Nicole Martinez
Nicole Martinez got lost on her first day at UTEP. She couldn't find her classroom. She wondered if her face would wind up on a milk carton.

"I didn't even know where Old Main was," the Hanks High School graduate recalls. Martinez, who is the first in her family to attend college, eventually made it to class.

Now a junior, Martinez confidently shows new students around campus as an executive orientation leader for the College of Liberal Arts. What a difference two years makes. Make that two years and participation in the Student Leadership Institute, one of UTEP's Student Success Programs.

"I had never heard about the institute until I was nominated," she says. "But when my professor told me that it was a great opportunity that could help me become a leader on campus, I was hooked. I wanted to be able to go back and help other freshmen."

Martinez hit the ground running.

In addition to her orientation duties, the 20-year-old philosophy major serves as an institute leader, a peer leader, University Honors Council secretary, Mia Desmon Student Sisterhood vice president of external affairs, Society of Leaders vice president and is a member of the Filipino Students Association.

Martinez says she hoped her involvement set a good example for her two younger brothers and to the new students she leads in orientation.

Her advice to incoming students? "Don't get discouraged." After all, getting lost on the first day of classes could lead to great things.
Wendy Chozet, 35
Major: Elementary Education
Notables: Wolslager Scholarship; Dean's List 2006-2007
“UTEP has allowed me to succeed in my academic career which will provide my children, who have been my main inspiration, with the affirmation that it is never too late to accomplish your goals.”

Claudia Melendez-Yañez, 23
Major: Interdisciplinary Studies
Notables: Partnership in Education Scholarship; Frances Etta Lawrence Scholarship in Education; College of Education Dean's List 2004-2008
“UTEP has complemented my parents' advice by teaching me to always concentrate on my future for my present actions will begin to shape it.”

Toni Camacho, 21
Major: English and American Literature
Notables: Presidential Excellence Scholarship; American Board of Trial Advocates Scholarship; Cori A. Harbour Pre-Law Student of the Year Award
“I am very optimistic about the students who will be graduating with me, and I am confident that my fellow students have been successfully prepared for careers which will serve this community.”

Jonna Launainen, 24
Major: Accounting
“I came to UTEP from Finland as a 19-year-old girl who was very far from home and afraid to speak English. At UTEP, the multinational environment made me feel comfortable.”

Jonathan Flores, 22
Major: Interdisciplinary Studies
Notables: National Dean’s List 2004-2007; Dean’s List 2004, 2006, 2007; Ronald McDonald House Charities Hispanic Scholarship
“UTEP has been more than a school to me but a professional community of friends, mentors and a haven for learning.”

Katrina Weber, 21
Major: Environmental Science
Notables: International Polar Year: Research Opportunity in Antarctica for Minorities Scholarship; Bristol-Mayberry Endowed Award for Excellence in Biological Sciences; Women in Science and Engineering Educational Stipend for Outstanding Members
“The knowledge I have gained about climate change through my coursework in Australia, my research in the Molecular Systematics lab, and my field research in Antarctica has given me a strong base on which I can build a successful career.”

James Becvar
For an accomplished chemist such as James Becvar, to help a 13 year old with a science fair project may seem a little silly. But quality time in the lab with his daughter 20 years ago led to some of the longtime chemistry professor’s most important research.
“Laura looked at the periodic table one day and said, ‘Dad, what element is it in garlic that lets out the light?’” recalls Becvar, who was doing research on bioluminescence, the study of light emissions from living organisms.
The question was the basis for research that the father-daughter team later did together and for which they received four U.S. patents. A fifth is pending.
That teenager’s level of insight might surprise you, until you learn more about her father.
The boy from Ohio used a dime store chemistry set to grow crystals and explore photography. His interest in science matured as the space race began. He eagerly worked on hands-on experiments he found through a national education program. He wrapped his teenage mind around the basic principles of physics.
Those early explorations instilled in Becvar a love of science and a dedication to learning by doing. When UTEP hired him in 1978 to teach biochemistry, Becvar sought ways to infuse his courses with those values.
“The students had lots of opportunities to memorize information,” he says, “but not to grapple with the real chemistry behind biological processes.”
Perhaps Becvar’s biggest success in this area was the creation and implementation of the Plus Two strategy that helps students succeed in general chemistry.
In the Plus Two program, one hour of lecture is replaced with a two-hour chemistry workshop presented by peer leaders. They use group exercises and chemical explorations – short, hands-on experiments – to reinforce the topics taught during the chemistry lecture.
The 8-year-old program has flourished. Passing rates have improved to nearly 75 percent from 53 percent. In May, the 65-year-old professor was among 15 statewide to be named a 2008 Piper Professor in recognition of his success.
After 30 years at UTEP, Becvar continues to look for ways to share his love of science exploration with others.
“I’m looking for ways to interest kids in trying to understand ‘What’s going on here,’” he says. “Exploration is the basis of that.”
Ric Vilardell agreed to take on the presidency of the UTEP Parents Association to help families stay informed, connected and involved.

“For a lot of parents, sending a student to college is confusing, and frankly, a bit overwhelming,” says Vilardell, whose son is a junior majoring in music education. “The UTEP Parents Association wants to help them learn the ropes.”

A 2005 UTEP graduate, Vilardell is among a core group of parents who came together in July 2007 to form the association. With support from the Office of Alumni Relations, the organization is reaching out to parents and families of UTEP students.

“Before now, we have missed the connection between parents and students,” says Richard Daniel, assistant vice president for alumni and constituent relations. “We did not engage parents in the life of the university while their student attended UTEP.”

The association has had a busy first year. It has participated in numerous university events to network with other parents.

The association recently conducted its first mini-orientation for parents. It included family testimonials and presentations from several university officials about such topics as financial aid, advising and parking.

“The group was really well-received,” Daniel says. Afterward, he added, parents asked for longer sessions where some topics could be discussed at greater depth.

One of the association’s top priorities is to recruit other enthusiastic parents. One new member joined the group after the first orientation session, and its leaders hope that future sessions yield similar results.

The children of association members have started to see some benefits as well. Though hesitant about her parents’ involvement at first, junior marketing major Stephanie Herrera says she is happy they joined the group.

“I remember thinking ‘Oh man, they’re going to be at school all the time now,’” Herrera says. “But it’s actually been really helpful. If I have a question, I can go to them.”

Herrera, who is a member of the UTEP golf team, is involved in a student focus group for children of association members.

“We meet with Dr. Daniel to give him feedback on campus life and the things our parents should focus on at their meetings.”

Vilardell says there are a lot of parents like Herrera’s who were involved in their child’s education since grade school and want to continue at the university level.

He encourages parents to join and help with this new initiative.

“It’s important to keep in touch with what’s going on with your student as they navigate through the university,” Vilardell says.

Information: 915-747-8600 or 1-866-GO-MINERS.
Gifting the Future

by Laura Cruz Acosta

Sandra Tyler is not a graduate of The University of Texas at El Paso. But the dedicated fan didn’t need to be an alumna to support the Miners with an overwhelming enthusiasm.

"Sandy Tyler never gave less than 100 percent to any person, cause or institution she believed in, and UTEP was no exception," recounts UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "Sandy believed that UTEP's highly skilled graduates are a major asset to this region."

Because of her confidence in the university and its students, Tyler made a commitment to UTEP by establishing a planned gift years before her death in January 2008, leaving some of her estate for the creation of two fellowships. Tyler was 66.

Her planned gift helped establish the Sandy Tyler Endowed Fellowship in Business Administration and the Sandy Tyler Endowed Fellowship in Health Sciences, which provide annual fellowships to students pursuing master’s degrees in those disciplines.

"She loved El Paso and she loved UTEP. Establishing the endowments was her way of giving back to a community she dearly loved," says close friend Cindy Conroy.

Like Tyler, many donors choose planned giving as a means to support the university, including testamentary bequests, life insurance policies, retirement plan designations and charitable lead trusts, among others.

"She was committed to providing an opportunity for others to obtain their college degrees."

—Sandi Kahn Carpenter, friend of Sandra Tyler

More than the generous fellowships, however, Tyler leaves behind her legacy as an energetic, intelligent and thoughtful woman. An avid outdoorswoman, she could often be heard cheering her heart out for UTEP women’s basketball team.

"Sandy’s gift benefits not only future generations of UTEP students, but also the El Paso community she loved and served so well," Natalicio says.

A dynamic community activist and fundraiser, Tyler served on countless boards and committees, including the advisory board of the College of Health Sciences and School of Nursing and the advisory committee for the Mother-Daughter Program.

"She would not hesitate to make something happen," says Conroy. "She would pick up a phone, call a few people and get the wheels in motion. It was fascinating. She had no fear of failure."

Born in Pennsylvania, Tyler entered the workforce in the 1960s by taking a job with Southwestern Bell in Chicago. She climbed the company ladder, often earning the title of “first woman to” in her numerous endeavors. In 1977, Tyler transferred with the company to El Paso and embraced every aspect of the Sun City.

During her 40-year tenure at Southwestern Bell, Tyler helped many of her employees reach their educational goals, often adjusting their schedules to help them manage work and school.

"Sandy was committed to providing an opportunity for others to obtain their college degrees," says close friend Sandi Kahn Carpenter. "I know she personally helped some of her employees’ children go to school."

Tyler retired from Southwestern Bell as the area manager of marketing operations in 2000. However, she soon took up a second career as the executive director of the Girl Scouts of the Rio Grande Council.

Through her role in the Girl Scouts, Tyler created many opportunities for the young scouts to experience the UTEP campus and learn about the importance of a college education. She retired from the Girl Scouts in 2007.
Cradled between China and India on a map, the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan defied distance when its culture and traditions made their way into the hearts of thousands in the El Paso border region and beyond.

The beauty and pageantry of Bhutan’s traditional folk and mask dance—coupled with a moving speech by that country’s prince—delighted more than 7,500 spectators during UTEP’s Bhutan Festival 2008.

A celebration of our ties to the country from which our architecture is derived, the festival featured dancers and musicians from Bhutan’s Royal Academy of Performing Arts at the Don Haskins Center July 8.

The group had recently performed on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., as part of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, the largest annual cultural event in the nation’s capital. Several UTEP students had the opportunity to serve as ambassadors and filmmakers there, later sharing their experiences during the university’s festival.

Bhutan Festival 2008 was more than an educational and entertaining event: It bridged cultures, celebrated friendships and inspired harmony in us all.
I. Bhutanese and area folklorico and Tigua Indian dancers participate in a cross-cultural workshop.

2. UTEP student Dorji Wangmo from Bhutan greets guests during a reception at the university’s Rubin Gallery.

3. More than 60 community performers participate in the dance workshop.

4. Cotton Productions, UTEP student filmmakers, shoot Bhutanese craftsmen at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C.

5. Handcrafted by Bhutanese artisans, this lhakhang, or temple, will be transformed into a cultural center at UTEP.


7. The lhakhang was the centerpiece of the Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C., where the temple was constructed.

Photo galleries: www.utep.edu/bhutanfest
His Royal Highness Prince Jigye Wangchuck of Bhutan praised the university for its role in strengthening relations between the United States and his country.

Below are excerpts from his speech during Bhutan Festival 2008:

"UTEP has succeeded in making the Bhutan link much more than a collection of buildings... the school has been very conscious of the need to make the buildings live, to develop a soul..."

The Prince made reference to the "spiritual culture" that will be created at UTEP when a Buddhist temple built by Bhutanese craftsmen at the Folklife Festival and gifted to the university becomes a cultural center on campus.

"Some of that spiritual richness now forms part of your campus... May it serve as an auspicious mark of a solid relationship of friendship and goodwill between the USA and Bhutan..."

"It will most certainly be a special mark of the enduring relationship that you here in El Paso have created with a remote Himalayan Kingdom... Our warm and fruitful relationship, symbolized through this temple, goes well beyond wood and stones..."

"It is our hope in Bhutan that the wonderful relationship we have built over the years with the people of this great country will continue to grow and contribute to better appreciation, understanding and goodwill for each other."

The Prince thanked UTEP for providing a quality education to a number of its students, calling it a "wise investment for our common future."

He also addressed all students in the audience, wishing them "purposeful, productive and happy lives."

"I hope the timeless values and ideals that you have imbribed at UTEP will inspire and sustain you to become a better individual, a better citizen and a better human being—and be able to rise in the face of the challenges of life."

To read the whole speech: www.utep.edu/bhutanfest
UTEP sets pace for Hispanic student success

The University of Texas at El Paso has been identified in a new report by the Washington, D.C.-based higher education policy group Excelencia in Education as a trendsetter in practices that improve access, retention and academic success for Hispanic students.

The report, titled "Modeling Hispanic-Serving Institutions: Campus Practices that Work for Latino Students," states that it is no accident that some institutions have high Hispanic enrollments and degree production. "To be an HSI is to be at the forefront of change in higher education because of the shift in U.S. demographics," says UTEP President Diana Natalicio, who has led the university for 20 years. "We are pleased that models that we have created are being adopted by other universities as their student demographics have begun to change."

Six public universities and six community colleges in Texas, California and New York were included in the study. The report and the case studies from which it is drawn were supported by Lumina Foundation for Education.

The Excelencia report states UTEP and the other cited campuses have worked deliberately to implement broad-scale changes. The report addresses five main areas to improve Hispanic student success: community outreach, academic support, data use, faculty development and transfer paths.

GEAR UP awarded $13 million

The University of Texas at El Paso has been awarded more than $12.9 million from the Department of Education GEAR UP Program to help more than 3,000 area middle school students prepare for college.

Now in its fourth year at UTEP, the program is expected to receive $2.15 million each year during the next six years.

The award will fund UTEP's Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP) where students from 11 Ysleta Independent School District middle schools are enrolled.

GEAR UP is a federal program that helps youth from low-income communities obtain a postsecondary education through tutoring programs, standardized testing preparation and other programs. The course was enacted as a result of Congress' passage of the Higher Education Amendment of 1998 where students in grades 6-12 are encouraged to stay in school and apply for college.

$1 million grant to help minorities earn doctorates

The University of Texas at El Paso has been awarded nearly $1 million from the National Science Foundation to help students earn doctorates in science, technology, engineering or mathematics in an effort to bolster the number of minorities with graduate degrees in these disciplines.

The award will fund UTEP's Bridge to the Doctorate program, which is part of The University of Texas System Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation. The award will support 12 students pursuing graduate degrees. Under the program, students will each receive a $30,000 stipend a year for two years plus funding to help cover tuition and related cost-of-education expenses.

"Nationwide, the number of underrepresented minorities pursuing STEM doctoral degrees is extremely low. The grant gives UTEP a great opportunity to make a significant contribution in this area," says Benjamin Flores, professor of electrical and computer engineering. Flores is the grant's primary investigator. "Right now, UTEP graduates one of every five Hispanic Ph.D.s in STEM disciplines in The University of Texas System. Our goal is to double this statistic."

UTEP has participated in the Bridge to the Doctorate program since 2002. It has provided 22 students with the financial support needed to earn their graduate degrees. This year's 12 students will comprise the third group to pursue doctoral degrees at UTEP under the program.

"This grant allows us to support some of the students we worked with as undergraduates," Flores says. "It helps us continue that pipeline of Hispanic and African American Ph.D.s."

For more UTEP news and information, visit Horizons Online News at www.utep.edu/horizons
Mission Possible II

UTEP graduate John “Danny” Olivas will live his dream twice: He has been assigned to his second mission into space. “What we do is a result of not one person, but tens of thousands of people who dare to dream big,” Olivas says.

Olivas is scheduled to be part of the STS-128 crew set to launch to the International Space Station in July 2009 aboard space shuttle Atlantis. The crew will carry science and storage racks to the station.

Olivas became a hometown hero when he made his first flight into space aboard the shuttle Atlantis as part of mission STS-117 in June 2007. During the 14-day mission, Olivas performed two space walks and repaired a torn thermal blanket on the shuttle’s exterior.

A graduate of Burges High School in El Paso, he earned his bachelor’s degree from UTEP and master’s from the University of Houston, both in mechanical engineering. He also earned a doctorate in mechanical engineering and materials science from Rice University.

Olivas worked for Dow Chemical Co. and later served as a senior research engineer at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He was named to NASA’s astronaut program in 1998.

Olivas was a recipient of UTEP’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006, the university’s highest honor for achievements and contributions to the community.

“Anyone who knew me when I was a kid in El Paso would never have picked me to be in this position,” Olivas has commented. “With hard work and determination you can accomplish anything you want to accomplish.”

UTEP engineers use technology to construct next generation lunar rover

UTEP engineering students have built a model of the new lunar rover that will be used for a planned mission to the moon in 2020. They used state-of-the-art rapid prototyping.

The scale model provides a realistic 3-D mock-up to visualize the proposed lunar rover.

Dubbed the Chariot by the Johnson Space Center design team, the rover will make it easier for astronauts to explore the moon.

The 12-foot long Chariot is a truck with no doors, windows or seats. The six wheels have independent steering and the pilot’s perch, from where the driver steers, can rotate 360 degrees.

Under contract with a large aerospace company, UTEP engineering students transformed NASA CAD (computer aided design) files into a solid prototype of the Chariot using technologies from the W.M. Keck Center for 3-D Innovation.

Rapid prototyping allows the center to provide the quality of prototyping needed for complex projects like this one.

Biology gets $1.2 million boost

UTEP educators and researchers are ready to tackle ways to incorporate more math and related quantitative fields into the biology curriculum – and the federal government has approved around $1.2 million to help them.

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences, a division of the Department of Health and Human Services, has awarded the university around $250,000 per year for the next five years to develop ways to incorporate math, computer science, and chemistry into the study of biology.

This is a supplemental grant to the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) program at UTEP that has funded undergraduate scholarships and research opportunities for more than 20 years.

The program’s goal is to identify and nurture undergraduates in research career fields that are not well represented among minorities – chemistry, biology, physics, math and psychology – and ease their entry into biomedical related Ph.D. programs.

The MARC program has been present on campus for more than 20 years and more than 100 UTEP students have benefitted from the research and scholarship program. Of those, around 40 have obtained or are obtaining their doctorates.
Miners to compete in Olympics

Four Miner track-and-field athletes have qualified for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

Michael Hanany, Halimat Ismaila and Blessing Okagbare will join former Miner Oludamola Osayomi in the summer games.

Ismaila and Osayomi qualified in the women's 4x100 meter relay, while Osayomi was a triple qualifier in the 100 and 200 meters as well. Osayomi won the 100 and the 200 with times of 11.08 and 22.74 seconds, respectively. Both times were personal records.

Okagbare also achieved a personal record in the long jump with a first place leap of 6.86 meters to earn a spot in Beijing.

Hanany had secured a spot in the Olympic Games by winning the national title in the high jump with a personal record of 2.32 meters in June. Hanany will be competing for his native France.

The Olympics will cap an overall successful season for the track and field team.

The women finished in 10th place with 25 points and the men tied for 13th with 21 points at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in June.

Hanany has been named Conference USA Outdoor Track and Field Male Athlete of the Year; while triple and long jumper Okagbare has been named Conference USA Female Newcomer of the Year.

Overall, 13 All-American honors went to 11 Miners.

Football to rock Sun Bowl, Longhorns

Head Coach Mike Price and the Miners are suitting up for an exciting football season as they prepare to face off against a series of formidable foes.

UTEP's first home game promises to be a crowd pleaser as the Miners will take on the UT Austin Longhorns. The teams will square off for the third time in school history at 8:15 p.m. (MST) on Sept. 6. The game will be nationally televised on ESPN2 and can be heard on KOFX 92.3 FM.

"I think it's a really exciting schedule," Price says. "We're kind of breaking it up into three seasons. We have the Buffalo and UT Austin season, then we have a bye, then we have five games and a bye and another five games. It should be a fantastic home schedule with UT Austin, New Mexico State and UCF."

During the annual UTEP Spring Game at the Sun Bowl, fans got a glimpse at the team's new 3-3-5 defensive scheme and saw an improvement in the Miners' passing game with sophomore quarterback Trevor Vittatoe connecting passes to junior wide receiver Tufick Shadrawy.

The Miners will open two-a-day drills in August in preparation for the season opener Aug. 28 at Buffalo.

2008-09 SCHEDULE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time (MST)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 28</td>
<td>at Buffalo</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>UT Austin (ESPN2)</td>
<td>6:15 p.m.</td>
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<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>New Mexico State</td>
<td>7:05 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>UCF * (CBS C)</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>at Southern Miss, Hattiesburg</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
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<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>Tulane *</td>
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<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>at Tulsa * (CBS C)</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Rice *</td>
<td>7:05 p.m.</td>
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<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>at Louisiana-Lafayette</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
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<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>SMU *</td>
<td>7:05 p.m.</td>
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<td>Nov. 22</td>
<td>at Houston *</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>at East Carolina, Greenville</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
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Ticket information: www.utepathletics.com

* C-USA; CBS C (CBS College Sports Network, formerly CSTV)
Chapter Officers

The UTEP Alumni Association El Paso Chapter recently elected its 2008-09 officers. The installation of new officers will be during the “Pass the Gavel” ceremony in August.

The incoming officers are:

- **President:** Alicia Meier; KCOS Public Television, director of special projects and major gifts
- **Vice President:** Diana Origel Gutierrez; J.M. Smucker Co., human resources manager
- **Secretary:** Sandra Martinez; Education Service Center-Region 19, events management administrator
- **Treasurer:** Sam Diaz; Mountain Star Federal Credit Union, president and CEO
- **Membership:** Melanie Thomas; UTEP, information technology manager
- **Historian:** Dov E. Kupfer; Designs by Dov

The El Paso Chapter is one of several across schools, and Michigan offered me a full scholarship with a monthly stipend. I laughed and said, “You should be surprised enough that I will finish a bachelor’s degree. Grad school is way out of my league!”

**Dr. Dave Iacono-Harris in the social work department helped you with those academic endeavors.**

He introduced me to the idea of grad school. I laughed and said, “You should be surprised enough that I will finish a bachelor’s degree. Grad school is way out of my league!”

He said, “All I ask is that you apply anywhere you want, but indulge me and apply to The University of Michigan.” I was accepted to 10 schools, and Michigan offered me a full scholarship with a monthly stipend.

Today you are a successful neuropsychologist.

I use psychological testing instruments designed to assess cognition and memory as a result of traumatic brain injury, stroke and cerebrovascular disease, dementia, Parkinson’s, and geriatric conditions.

I’ve had a rich variety of experiences as a psychotherapist in El Paso and Chicago. I trained at The University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago’s former Cook County Hospital, the Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan in Detroit. I am currently on staff at Tampa General Hospital’s Rehabilitation Center in sunny Florida.

**Anything you miss about the Sun City?**

In addition to my family, I miss my friends, the mountains and the desert rain. When I do visit, it’s great to see my friends on stage all over town as the jazz scene has progressed quite well in El Paso and the talent can easily hold a candle to Chicago, Detroit and Tampa. It took bouncing around the country for me to realize that life is good in El Paso—never take it for granted.

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*ALUMNEWS*

**Miners Rock! Homecoming 2008**

There’s no better way to sum up our 94 years of milestones and the momentum we’ve gained along the way: Miners Rock!

Stroll down memory lane and join us for a rockin’ weekend celebration of our success during Homecoming 2008 from Sunday, Oct. 5, through Saturday, Oct. 11.

**Here’s a glance at a few events you won’t want to miss:**

- **Ron Harvey Memorial Golf Tournament**  
  (Benefits the Ron Harvey Endowed Scholarship)  
  Wednesday, Oct. 8
- **Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally**  
  Friday, Oct. 10
- **Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner**  
  Friday, Oct. 10
- **UTEP Alumni Association Homecoming Pre-Game Party**  
  Saturday, Oct. 11
- **UTEP Miners versus Tulane Green Wave**  
  Saturday, Oct. 11

For information or a complete schedule: 1-866-GO-MINERS, 915-747-8600 or www.homecoming.utep.edu

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*MINER ON THE MOVE*

**Dr. Eduardo Montoya, 42, a 1991 social work graduate, never lost a beat.**

Now a neuropsychologist, Montoya says his competitive edge as a marching band drummer translated to academic success.

**Why did you choose UTEP?**

I grew up in the Lower Valley and graduated from Ysleta High School in 1984. One of my significant achievements in high school was becoming the first El Pasoan in 11 years to make the Texas All State Band in percussion. After that, I was recruited to the music program at UTEP.

**Tell me about your first days at UTEP.**

I vividly recall feeling out-of-place in college and became quite shy, which was not my character. Through the work-study program I was placed in the English department. The entire department had a warm and nurturing feel.

**The marching band was your passion.**

My drive to drum was insatiable. Playing and writing cadences and sitting down with a drum set was incredibly fun. Playing meant enjoying the company of great friends and good laughs, but it also gave me a place to compete and excel. These were some of the best years of my life, but in 1988, I put the sticks down and redirected my priorities to academic endeavors.
'40s

Nancy Hamilton (B.A. '49; M.A. '54) was inducted into the El Paso Commission for Women's 19th annual Hall of Fame in March. Hamilton resides in El Paso.

Benjamin A. de Luna (B.A. '73) is an associate area counsel with the Internal Revenue Service, Office of Chief Counsel, in Jacksonville, Fla.

Edward "Ed" Drusina (B.S. '75) was named president of OMNI Construction Services LLC in January. OMNI is a subsidiary of Moreno Cardenas Inc. in El Paso.

Jack W. Handey (B.A. '71), best-selling author and humorist, resides in Santa Fe, N.M. His new book, "What I'd Say to the Martians and Other Veiled Threats," was published in April.

Harriet B. May (B.S. '71) received the 2008 National Credit Union Foundation's Wegner Memorial Award for Individual Achievement in March in recognition of her groundbreaking work to increase home ownership among low-income El Paso residents. May received the UTEP College of Science Gold Nugget Award in 2000 and, in 2007, was honored with the University's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Cynthia J. "Cindy" Ramos-Davidson, chief executive officer of the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, was elected in March by the Dallas Federal Reserve Bank, El Paso Branch, as chairwoman pro tem for 2008.

Dr. Joseph H. Segapeli (B.S. '76), a physician with El Paso Pediatric Associates, in February received Centene Corp.'s 2008 Physician Summit Award, which recognizes physicians for providing quality care to its members. Centene provides managed care programs and related services to individuals and families enrolled in government-assisted health programs.

Alan M. Veach (M.Ed. '77) is a school improvement consultant for the Atlanta-based Southern Region Education Board. Veach lives in Spring, Texas.

Gary A. Wagner (B.S.E.E. '73) was appointed president and chief operating officer of Ameron International Corp. in Pasadena, Calif., in February.

'50s

John F. Rechy (B.A. '52), a best-selling author and lecturer at the University of Southern California, resides in Los Angeles. His new book, "About My Life and the Kept Woman," was published in January. Rechy received the UTEP College of Liberal Arts Gold Medal in 2007, and, in 2007, was honored with the University's Distinguished Alumni Award.

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'60s

Thomas C. "Tom" Shaughnessy (B.A. '69; M.A. '04) is an English language instructor at King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Nestor A. Valencia (B.A. '63; M.A. '69) retired as vice president for planning from the El Paso Community Foundation in January. An accomplished artist who plans to teach portrait painting, Valencia's work is on permanent display at the Plaza Theatre.

Raymond Samaniego (B.S.E.E. '86), a senior engineering fellow for Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems in Dallas, received the company’s 2007 Excellence in Engineering and Technology Award for his innovation in a see-through-the-wall radar imaging algorithm.

'70s

Gregory K. Allen (B.A. '75) was appointed chief of police for the El Paso Police Department in March.

Eric L. "Rick" Bennett (B.S.Ed. '79) retired from the U.S. Army as a master aviator. While with the Army, he served as a UH-60 Blackhawk instructor pilot and medevac pilot. He resides in Enterprise, Ala.

Robert M. Muñoz (B.S. '77) graduated from New Mexico State University in December 2007 with a doctorate in education. Muñoz is the dean of technical and workforce education at Odessa [Texas] College.

James E. "Jim" Paul (B.S.Ed. '71) in March was named director of development for Hospice of El Paso Inc. Paul received UTEP's Distinguished Alumni Award in 1995.

'80s

Marc G. Gast (B.B.A. '83) is a quality systems certification manager for the British Standards Institute. He lives in Grand Rapids, Mich.


Eva M. Moya (B.S.W. '81), a resident of El Paso, was appointed to the Health Disparities Task Force by Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

Susan J. Rico (B.A. '84) was named senior relationship manager for Canada, Mexico and Iberia for Wells Fargo & Co.'s Global Correspondent Banking Group. She resides in El Paso.

Everette C. Riley Jr. (B.S. '86) was named president of North American Freight Forwarding and Transportation District for UPS. He resides in Boerne, Texas.
attending the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Penn. Upon graduation, Sundquist will become assistant to the deputy chief of staff of operations for the Oregon National Guard in July.

Cynthia A. Utterback (B.B.A. ’87) is the first woman to chair the board of directors at Anderson ZurMuehlen & Co. She also is vice chair of The Foundation for Animals and serves on its Wildlife Center Oversight and Projects, Media and Special Events committees. Utterback resides in Helena, Mont.

Roberto “Bobby” Villa (B.S. ’88) is an assistant chief investigator for the Office of the Federal Public Defender, Western District of Texas, in El Paso.

‘90s

Maj. Reid Culton (B.S.N. ’90) returned to Fort Bliss, Texas, in April after a 15-month deployment as squadron surgeon to the 1-4 Cavalry Squadron, 4th Brigade Combat Team in Baghdad, Iraq. He now serves at William Beaumont Army Medical Center.

Shoshana N. Johnson, a resident of El Paso, serves on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans.

Joe E. Valenzuela (B.B.A. ’90), a State Farm insurance agent in El Paso, in April was named president of the Sun Bowl Association for 2008.

‘00s

Mimi R. “Mica” Espinoza-Hernandez (B.A. ’02; M.P.A. ’04) was appointed vice president of the government relations division at the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce in April. She also was awarded an American Chamber of Commerce Executive’s Ford Foundation Regionalism and Sustainable Development Fellowship for 2008.

David A. Hyder (B.A. ’06) is an intern for N.M. Sen. Pete V. Domenici in Washington, D.C.

Melissa Garcia Bruhnke (B.S.C.S. ’00) is a software engineer for Rockwell Collins Training Solutions in Sterling, Va.


Donald B. “Sparky” Buddbeck (B.S.Mi. ’51) Port Isabel, Texas; Jan. 6, 2008.


Maria Araceli “Chacha” Turner (B.S.Ed. ’84; M.Ed. ’94) El Paso; Feb. 6, 2008.


Brian Charles Stokes, (*) El Paso; Feb. 6, 2008.


Carlos M. Ramirez Jr. (B.S.C.E. ’77; M.S.C.E. ’86) Zaragoza, Spain; March 8, 2008.


Mary Alice Delaunay Shugert (B.S.Ed. ’65) El Paso; March 14, 2008.


Sylvia S. Chavez White (B.M. ’73; M.A. ’93) El Paso; March 20, 2008.


John Patrick McNamee, (*) El Paso; March 26, 2008.


Dr. William Gordon McGee, (*) Dallas; April 6, 2008.


Hazel Cooper Haysworth (B.A. ’45) El Paso; April 12, 2008.

(*) Denotes attendance at UTEP

—Compiled by David Thomas, Shannon Kanorr and Raul Echeverria