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Centennial Newsletter

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
CENTENNIAL NEWSLETTER
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From the UTEP 2014 Commission

Planning for the Centennial Celebration is being directed by the 2014 Commission, a group of 100 community and campus leaders organized in August 2010 and charged with envisioning and planning the commemoration. They are led by Honorary Chair Paul L. Foster and Co-Chairs Laura Tate Goldman and Edward Escudero. At a meeting of the full Commission on February 23, 2012, Dr. Keith A. Erekson summarized the Commission's previously proposed ideas and proposed a Framework for centennial planning that organized those ideas into thematic and programmatic categories. Commission members provided feedback on the Framework and are now using it to align concrete proposals in the areas of events, keepsakes and publications, marketing, and outreach.

UTEP History

Over the course of the past century nearly everything about the institution has changed. It moved location once, changed names four times, grew from enrolling 27 to more than 22,000 students, and expanded its mission to embrace both educational access and academic excellence. And yet, in the midst of such profound transformations, many things have remained the same. The institution has always been shaped by its geographical location, by wider political and cultural contexts, and by the needs of the residents of the El Paso region.

UTEP's history can be understood by the five broad aspirations that have shaped its development. The small mining school opened in 1914 and expanded into a city college in the late 1920s. National impulses after World War II pulled it into a wider regional college before campus leaders actively moved to establish a regional university in the early 1960s. Finally, in the mid-1980s, the institution moved toward becoming a public research university.

A new blog about UTEP's history is now maintained at http://transformations.utep.edu with weekly contributions from staff members and volunteers in the Library's Special Collections Department, the Institute of Oral History, the Heritage House, University Communications, and Intercollegiate Athletics. Follow the blog via email, Facebook, RSS feed, or other method of your choice.

Centennial on Campus

In January 2012, UTEP's Institute of Oral History launched the *Centennial Stories* project. "We know there are great stories out there," said Kristine Navarro-McElhaney, institute director. Her staff, which includes several UTEP students, is reaching out to students, faculty, alumni, staff and other friends of the University to share their personal stories and nominate others to do the same. Transcripts will be preserved in the UTEP Library and selections will be shared through the history blog. We want to hear *every* story!

Alumni Margaret de Wetter (class of 1943) and Miguel Orozco (1980) shared their stories.

Centennial Conversation

On March 29, another distinguished group of faculty, staff, and students met at the Hoover House to share plans for the centennial. The guests discussed making intergenerational connections between students and alumni, involving emeritus faculty, and encouraging campus departments and units to discover their own histories. Bill Weaver reported that the Center for Law and Border Studies is building a website about historic cases that impacted UTEP. Erica Anchondo helped arrange for short trailers to be shown before this summer's *Movies on the Lawn* series.

Save These Dates

March 14, 2014
TCM Day will be a campus-wide event

April 2014
A month-long open house

September 23, 2014
A *huge* celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first day of classes

On the Team

Dr. Keith A. Erekson serves as Special Assistant to the President assigned to UTEP's Centennial Celebration. An award-winning writer, teacher, and historian, he is an assistant professor of history and founder and director of the Center for History Teaching & Learning. In 2011, the Board of Regents of The University of Texas system awarded him its prestigious Outstanding Teaching Award. He is the author of nearly six dozen articles and books on American history and history teaching, including *Everybody's History: Indiana's Lincoln Inquiry and the Quest to Reclaim a President's Past* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2012) and *Politics and the History Curriculum: The Struggle over Standards in Texas and the Nation* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012).

Roberto Ransom serves as the Centennial Coordinator. He graduated from UTEP in 2005 and worked for seven years as an international trade specialist in the El Paso-Juarez and Southern New Mexico region. From his work as executive director of the El Paso/Juarez World Trade Center and program manager in the New Mexico Economic Development Department, he brings experience in international business, event planning, promotion, recruitment, outreach, community development, and information systems. "I am proud to say," he relates, "that the career path that has brought me to UTEP wouldn't have been possible without my degree in Computer Information Systems and International Business from this wonderful University."

Contact Information

For anything to do with UTEP's Centennial Celebration, please email 2014@utep.edu.

Learn more about UTEP's history at the *Transformations* history blog, http://transformations.utep.edu.

Donate to the Centennial Campaign at http://www.campaignforutep.org/.

The official website of the Centennial Celebration is http://2014.utep.edu.

Erekson and Ransom maintain offices in room 403 of the Administration Building, phone 747-5362.