

Winter 2008

# UTEP Magazine: The University of Texas at El Paso

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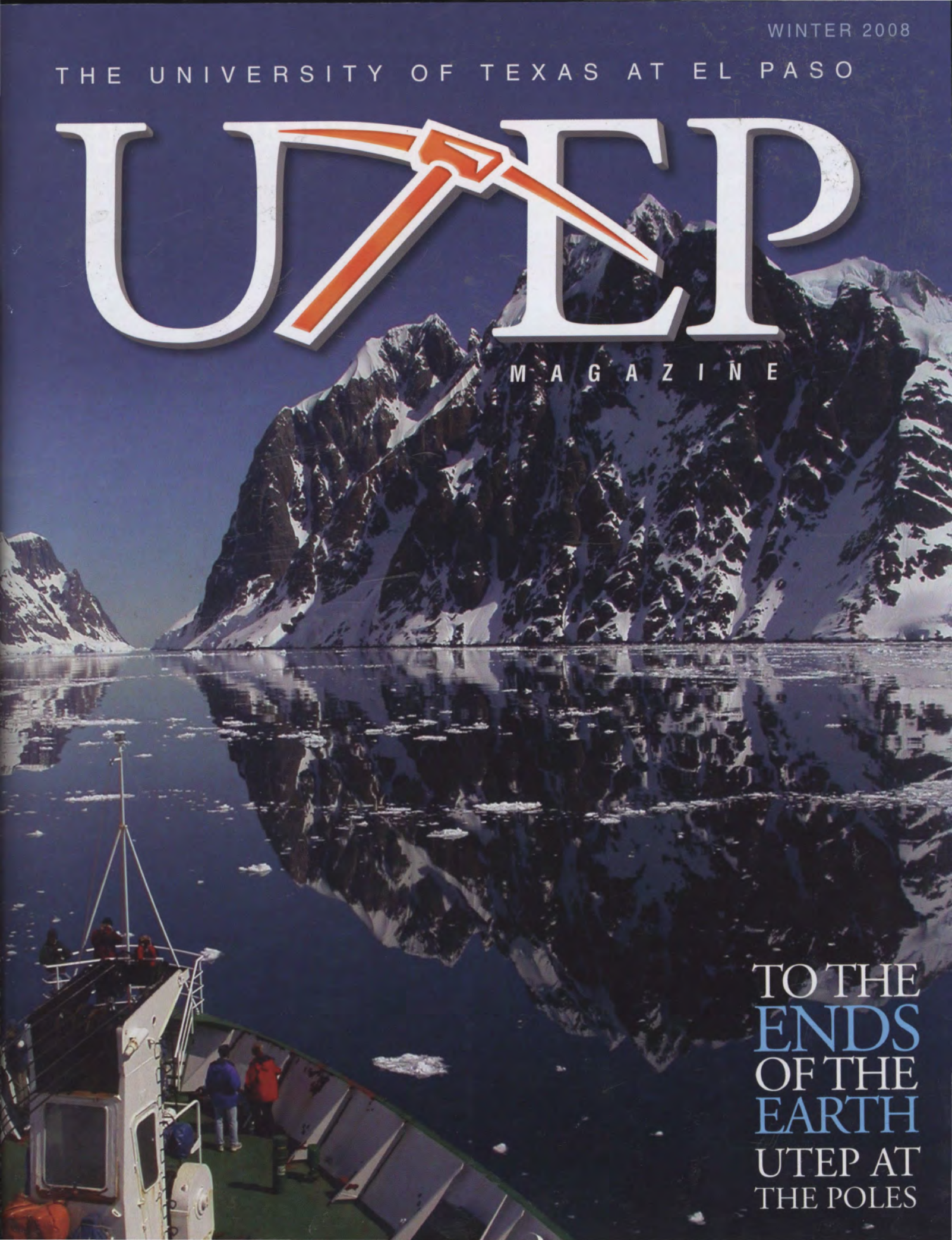
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WINTER 2008

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

# UTEP

MAGAZINE



TO THE  
ENDS  
OF THE  
EARTH  
UTEP AT  
THE POLES





# WELCOME TO UTEP MAGAZINE

The new year is a time for celebration, and The University of Texas at El Paso has much to be proud of in 2009, including the launch of *UTEP Magazine*.


This publication highlights the accomplishments and endeavors unfolding daily at UTEP, which is poised to become a national research university with a 21st century demographic.

Steeped in tradition and fast approaching its 100th anniversary, the University has never had more momentum. Under the visionary leadership of President Diana Natalicio, UTEP has experienced tremendous growth. During her distinguished 20-year tenure, the number of doctoral programs has grown from one to 16, with several more on the immediate horizon; master's degree offerings have multiplied to more than 80; and research expenditures have soared from less than \$3 million to nearly \$50 million a year.

To support this growth, UTEP has launched an unprecedented \$260 million construction program, which includes a \$70 million building for chemistry and computer science and a \$60 million College of Health Sciences/School of Nursing building that broke ground last fall.


In each issue of *UTEP Magazine*, you'll learn about the triumphs of our students, who are receiving national and international recognition for their success in the classroom as well as in areas as wide-ranging as civic service, theater and athletics.

The magazine also will feature stories about UTEP's acclaimed faculty, whose groundbreaking research on nanotechnology, water resource management and climate change, to name a few, is having an impact around the globe.

Whether you're an alumni, friend or supporter, we invite you to join the Miner Nation and stay connected and informed through *UTEP Magazine*. 


## UTEP: A GIFT FOR OUR READERS!

Since our founding in 1914, nearly 89,000 Miners have picked UTEP for their higher education goals. Countless others have walked through our campus to teach, learn and visit.









With the  UTEP window cling found on Page 3, we hope you'll display your UTEP loyalty and share your Miner pride.

**Go Miners!**



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO  
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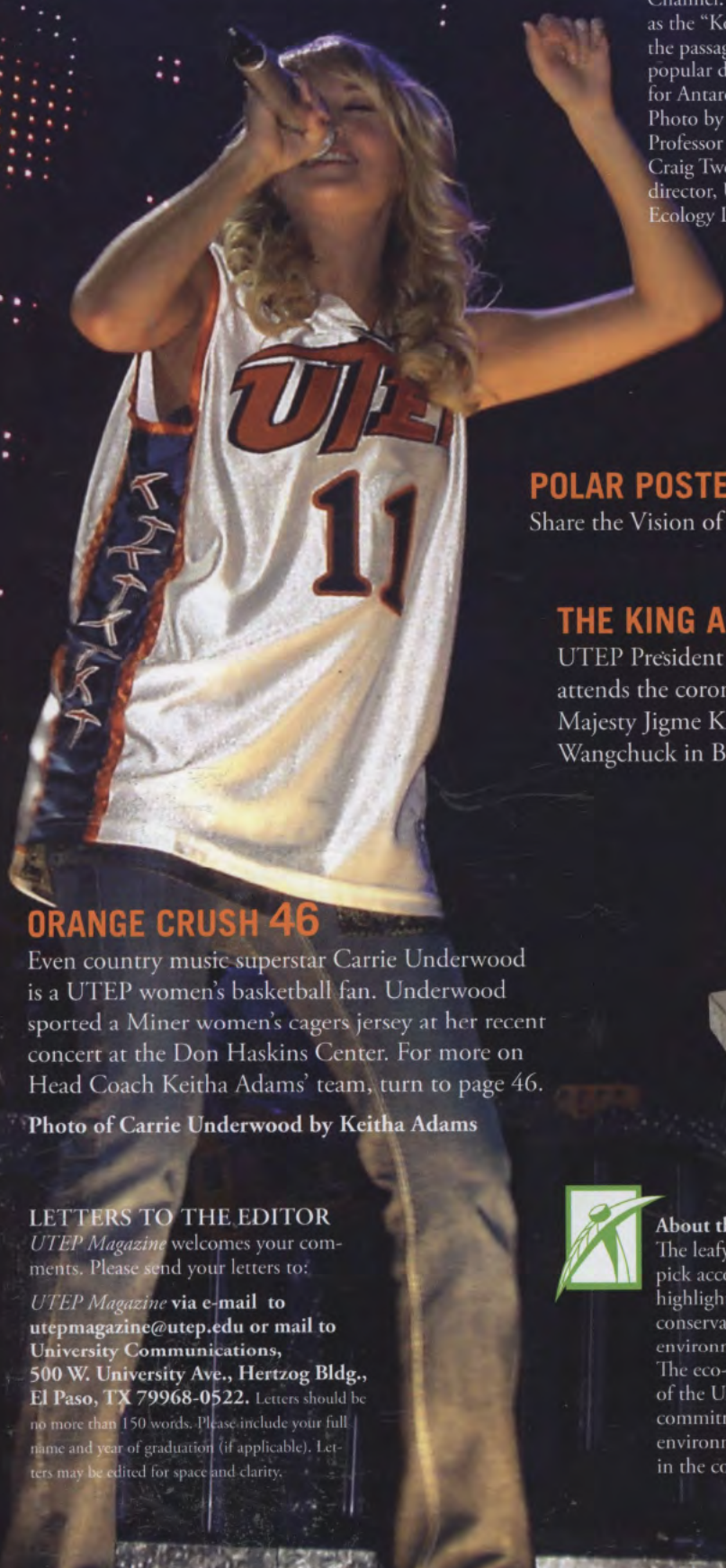
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A ship sails past the steep cliffs overlooking Antarctica's Lemaire Channel. Also known as the "Kodiak Gap," the passage is a popular destination for Antarctic travelers. Photo by Assistant Professor of Biology Craig Tweedie, Ph.D., director, UTEP Systems Ecology Laboratory

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### About the Eco-pick:

The leafy green Miner's pick accompanies stories highlighting UTEP's conservation projects and environmental research. The eco-pick is a symbol of the University's commitment to create environmental awareness in the community.

### ORANGE CRUSH 46

Even country music superstar Carrie Underwood is a UTEP women's basketball fan. Underwood sported a Miner women's cagers jersey at her recent concert at the Don Haskins Center. For more on Head Coach Keitha Adams' team, turn to page 46.

Photo of Carrie Underwood by Keitha Adams

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UTEP Magazine welcomes your comments. Please send your letters to:

UTEP Magazine via e-mail to [utepmagazine@utep.edu](mailto:utepmagazine@utep.edu) or mail to University Communications, 500 W. University Ave., Hertzog Bldg., El Paso, TX 79968-0522. Letters should be

no more than 150 words. Please include your full name and year of graduation (if applicable). Letters may be edited for space and clarity.





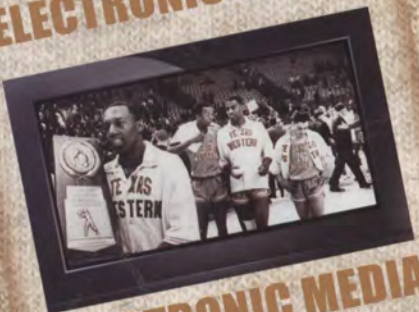
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# 100% COTTON PRODUCTIONS

100% UTEP-MADE MATERIALS



ELECTRONIC MEDIA



ELECTRONIC MEDIA



ELECTRONIC MEDIA



ELECTRONIC MEDIA

## Cotton Productions: The Reel Deal

by Laura L. Acosta

UTEP advertising major Alfonso Duarte had his doubts about pursuing a career in filmmaking.

"I wasn't sure if I would be able to buy food," he jokes about the uncertainty of finding success in the field.

But his perception changed when Cotton Productions, a student-run video production company on campus, gave Duarte the opportunity to spend his summer filming a documentary about the University's participation in the 42nd annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C.

For 10 hours a day during the month of June, Duarte and four other aspiring filmmakers videotaped Bhutanese construction workers as they built a 30-foot-tall *Ihakhang*, or temple, on the National Mall.

At the end of each day, Duarte and electronic media majors Rudy Romo, Javier Corro and Marco Zapata and advertising major Eli Valenzuela returned to their dorm rooms to edit hours of film down to a 10-minute documentary that made its debut during UTEP's Bhutan Festival 2008.

"It was one of my life's greatest experiences," Duarte says. "I felt like a filmmaker for the first time. It made me realize that great things are possible."

Mostly by happenstance, Cotton Productions was established in the fall of 2000 when Carolyn T. Mitchell, a senior lecturer in the communication department, was approached by a football player who wanted to document the Miners' winning 2000 football season.

"It was a fluke," says Mitchell, who also serves as the faculty advisor for Cotton Productions. "Ola Kimrin was an electronic

media major and the football team's kicker. He had his camera with him the whole season and one day asked if he could do a behind-the-scenes piece."

Mitchell gave Kimrin's project the green light. The documentary, *The Road to the WAC Championship*, won first place in both the El Paso Film Festival and the Georgia Tech University Film Festival.

"I teach advertising, not electronic media, but I saw the opportunity for us to do something that would give students an outlet," she says.

In 2002, Cotton Productions produced the critically acclaimed documentary, *And the Wheels Turned: The 1966 NCAA Basketball Championship*.

The 45-minute film featured historic game footage and interviews with Coach Don Haskins and the team's players, including the last interview given by Bobby Joe Hill before his death on Dec. 8, 2002.

The following year, the documentary received an Emmy Award in the student achievement category from the Lone Star EMMY Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

"They called me and asked, 'Are you sure this is student produced?'" Mitchell recalls.

Cotton Productions works only on limited projects for or about the University, most recently documenting its Millennium Lecture Series and Athletic Hall of Fame induction.

"We don't do a lot of projects," Mitchell says, "because my attitude is, 'pick a really good project and do it really well.'"

Without a doubt, Cotton Productions knows how to pick them.



# HOT SHOT

by Laura L. Acosta



Ivan Pierre Aguirre



Ivan Pierre Aguirre's first photo assignment was to shoot the junior varsity football game for the Coronado High School yearbook.

After a few shots of the fast-paced action, he was hooked.

With more experience behind the lens, Aguirre's sports photos today have garnered national acclaim. The electronic media major was recognized with two Awards of Excellence in the Sports Action Category in the 63rd annual College Photographer of the Year contest.

The CPOY honors the best photos in 16 categories from photography students in 121 colleges and universities worldwide. Aguirre's portfolio includes a variety of action shots taken from unusual angles at different UTEP athletic events.

The award-winning photographer also has interned with some of the nation's most prestigious news organizations, including the *Scripps Howard News Service*, *Washingtonpost*, *Newsweek Interactive* and *Sports Illustrated*, as well as the *San Angelo Standard-Times*.

"I'm always hungry to improve my work," says the 25-year-old. "I'm very competitive with myself and I'm always looking to get a better shot."

# LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN

by Laura L. Acosta

Claudia Lizette Ordaz is still in awe of being among a group of extraordinary women—noted entrepreneurs, acclaimed artists, renowned community leaders—honored for their service, leadership and contributions to the Paso del Norte region.

"I was sitting at this table with all these great women and my mom was next to me. I wanted to make her happy," says the 22-year-old Ordaz, who graduated from UTEP with a bachelor's degree in political science in December 2008. "It was a great honor to have been recognized for something I love to do."

Ordaz received the REACH Award from the YWCA El Paso del Norte Region in the College Student category in November for her work in the community and for serving



Claudia Lizette Ordaz

as a role model for other young women. In its 30th year, the REACH Award recognizes women in business, arts, education, health and other categories, and is among the most prestigious honors bestowed upon women in the region.

Hoping to make the most of her college experience, Ordaz volunteered with several

UTEP and community organizations since her freshman year.

She started by coordinating the Ni Una Más outreach initiative at the UTEP Center for Civic Engagement. The program educates high school students about the dangers of domestic violence.

"When I got involved with the Center for Civic Engagement, I learned that community service helps a lot in the areas that you want to aspire to later in life," she says. "When you volunteer in the community, you get a completely different point of view."

Ordaz also has volunteered with the Women's Fund of El Paso and the Texas Civil Rights Project. She spent a semester as an intern with the American Association of University Women in Washington, D.C.

The first in her family to attend college, Ordaz served as a senator-at-large in the UTEP Student Government Association and as the president of the University Democrats.

She plans to pursue her master's in public administration and someday run for office.

"I want to take U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes' job," she says with a wide grin. "I've told him twice that I am going to take his job. Every time I see him, I'm going to tell him the same thing."



# WONDER YEARS

by Laura L. Acosta

Age does not intimidate Tanya Kayla Loya. After all, the UTEP student has a reputation for being the youngest person in the room.

At the age of 12, Loya started her freshman year at Americas High School in El Paso. She enrolled as a political science major at UTEP four years later.

Now 18, Loya has embarked on her most ambitious endeavor to date: In November, the UTEP junior was unanimously appointed to serve as a trustee in the Socorro Independent School District, one of the largest school districts in the Paso del Norte region. She served on the school board's Health Advisory Committee and the Safe and Drug Free Schools Committee while in high school.

"I've been an advocate for my community since I was in high school," Loya says. "I've always wanted to do more for the area where I live, and I've always had the students in mind."

Though she is the youngest board member in the district's history, Loya says she's well prepared to tackle the issues concerning the education of Socorro's 39,700 students. Her agenda includes working on the district's budget and expanding the district's advanced courses and magnet programs.

Loya will fill the seat left vacant following the resignation of another trustee through



May 2009. She plans to run for the seat in the spring school board elections.

The idea of pursuing a career in community service—and doing so early in her life—was sparked during her first political science class at UTEP.

"My major has amazing professors," Loya says. "They really dug deep into what it means to get involved in civic engagement. They gave me a greater understanding of how to pursue my dreams and my passion."

Political Science Professor Kathleen Staudt describes Loya as a role model.

"She's very vocal in class and brings a lot of interesting perspectives," says Staudt, who serves as director of the University's Center for Civic Engagement. "She shows that education is not only what happens in the classroom, but also what happens outside the classroom."

Loya serves as secretary for the Epsilon chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the University's political science honor society. She has taught citizenship classes through the Center for Civic Engagement's SHINE-Citizenship Adult Literacy program. She's also worked as an intern in the El Paso mayor's office.

The daughter of two UTEP alumni, Loya credits her parents for keeping her grounded.

"This experience is going to be very humbling," she says. Loya will graduate from UTEP in 2010, and hopes to continue working to improve the quality of life in El Paso.

"I love El Paso," she says. "This city has made my ambitions and my goals come true. I want to have a greater understanding of my community so we can make it the best place to live."



Chris Lechuga and Alejandra Acosta

## PR Students Form Association

by Chris Lechuga

As the economic situation takes its toll on all industries, college students are forced to face a depleting job market.

This means that UTEP graduates will have to be better prepared to compete globally and against a larger pool of qualified candidates.

To help achieve this, a group of public relations students have formed a new association: The Future Leaders in Public Relations.

The association aims to foster a network between students and professionals and provide opportunities for students to work on real-life public relations projects. In turn, the association will enhance its members' experience and connections needed to excel in their selected careers.

President Alejandra Acosta is a junior majoring in organizational and corporate communication, and a member of the El Paso Press Club. The association's vice president, Chris Lechuga, a senior with the same major, has served as president for the Miner Village Hall Association and Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Other officers include senior Gina Valenzuela, historian; and senior Faustino Payan and junior Alejandra Munoz, both serving as secretary.

The group is in negotiations to become affiliated with the Public Relations Association of the Southwest, a society of professional public relations practitioners from the El Paso area.



**N**early 12,000 family members and friends paid tribute to the accomplishments of 1,550 graduates during The University of Texas at El Paso's 2008 winter commencement ceremonies.

For the first time in its history, UTEP held three commencement ceremonies to accommodate an increase in the number of degrees awarded—as well as a growing number of proud parents, grandparents, children, family and friends who turn out to celebrate alongside their graduate.

“This growth is a testament to the

success of our students in meeting the high standards that we have set for them,” says President Diana Natalicio. “To date, nearly 89,000 students have earned their degrees from this institution, as it grew from the School of Mines to Texas College of Mines, Texas Western College, and now UTEP.”

Commencement marks the end of one glorious achievement, but it also marks the beginning of a brighter future.

“You have studied with us on a campus where the dreams and the realities of

society—both here in the El Paso border region and in the world beyond—are sharply focused,” Natalicio says.

“Here, men and women from an unusually wide variety of backgrounds, ages, interests and cultures have learned much from each other. And here each of you has developed your special talents and abilities. The world needs you and your knowledge. Go out from this commencement—this beginning—and use what you have learned here to the fullest.”

## Graduation day to reflect on family's sacrifice

by Ramón Rentería

They whooped and hollered and laughed and smiled a lot and cried a little.

They came from El Paso's poorest barrios and from neighborhoods so well-manicured they look as if they belong in a magazine.

They came, too, from *ranchos* and humble villages and interesting spots across *el estado de Chihuahua*.

They arrived in polished Suburbans and black Altimas and in pickups that grandfathers use to haul stuff to the dump.

They gathered Saturday on the majestic chunk of rock that is The University of Texas at El Paso for a celebration flooded with tears and joy—proof that anything is possible.

They all came: grandmamas, *madrinas*, *tias* and *abuelitas* in well-pressed Sunday church dresses, so many relatives that the university had to break up the 2008 winter commencement into three ceremonies for more than 1,550 candidates for degrees.

If you looked close enough, you could spot proud fathers strutting around, chests high, like wrestlers. All the mothers in the audience were super proud, too, but some worried whether the neighbor would check on the brisket.

In El Paso, the new college graduates are not just cute 22-year-old coeds but sometimes middle-aged husbands and wives, mothers and fathers who quietly shoulder the double load, working full time while chasing that elusive degree.

And so on this special day we sit back and reflect on all the good and bad advice we give our children and how we wish we could take back what we said about how they might starve with that degree in art.

We remember how many times we've had to postpone buying the skinny television set for the wall to help buy a last-minute book or to make another deferred tuition payment.

Mothers and fathers and grandparents remember the many times they waited for an hour and a half, sometimes longer, for daughters or sons or granddaughters to finish another class. Sometimes they waited in the frigid winter and too many times in the suffocating heat of summer.

They waited because of all the cars parked in front of the house, only one works or only one has all the paperwork. They waited because they had no choice. They love their children, and the goal of a college degree is embedded in a family's dreams.

No matter how many graduation ceremonies you attend, out here it's always a thrill to see how many graduates are the first in their family when UTEP President Diana Natalicio asks for a show of hands.

Three audiences cried a little on December 13 because this annual ritual at what used to be the little school on the hill symbolizes so much hope for so many people of all ages.

In El Paso, every commencement, every extra long journey toward a college education, is always done *con mucho sacrificio*—with tons of sacrifice.

*Reprinted with permission from the El Paso Times*





# New Beginnings





This is an abridged version of the 2008 State of the University address presented by UTEP President Diana Natalicio. To read the speech in its entirety, visit [www.utep.edu](http://www.utep.edu) and click on "President's Welcome" then on "Speeches and Commentary."



**A** Past year's  
accomplishments build  
momentum for the future  
**LOOK  
BACK**

As our collective pace quickened each day during the past year, a single word seemed to best characterize UTEP: Momentum.



From every vantage point, UTEP seems to be gaining momentum, moving faster, accelerating the pace at which we are setting—and achieving—ever more ambitious goals.

Summer 2008 serves as a good example. Campus was busier and more energized than usual as enrollment increased by nearly 17 percent over last year with a revamped approach to summer offerings. This new model achieved our goal of expanding the number and range of classes available to students.

Making more efficient use of summer is especially important at urban universities such as UTEP where most students have employment and family obligations. This new approach took some cues from other innovative scheduling options introduced at UTEP the past several years, including increased evening, weekend, off-campus and mini-semester courses.

## Relationships Foster Achievement

A focus on student success also served to guide completion of the extensive curriculum review conducted during the past two years. Requirements for nearly all undergraduate degree programs at UTEP now stand at or near 120 total credit hours.

Building on nearly two decades of K-16 relationships development by the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, UTEP, the El Paso Community College and El Paso County school districts continue to gain prominence statewide and nationally for strengthening the pathway toward higher academic aspirations and attainment.

Of particular importance is the growth in the College Readiness Initiative, which enables pre-college students to complete their required admissions assessment and any required remediation while still in high school. Important, too, is the significant reduction in developmental education enrollments at UTEP: A 50 percent decrease between 2005 and 2008.

Another important development has been the growth in dual credit and Early College High School programs, led by EPCC in collaboration with area school districts. These programs enable students to earn concurrent credit toward a high school diploma and an associate degree.

## Degrees of Success

The outcomes of these Student Success initiatives are being revealed in the number

of degrees awarded, which reached 3,171 in 2007, a 10 percent increase over 2006. The number of undergraduate degrees awarded increased by 14 percent during the same time period.

Growth in degrees awarded also contributes significantly to the Closing the Gaps goals established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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**We have greatly exceeded our initial lofty goals, steadily building on our growing success and the increased confidence associated with it. We set ever higher aspirations for ourselves, and we are now well prepared and confident in our capacity to become a nationally recognized research university with a 21st century demographic.**

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It's widely recognized that increasing the number of Texans who complete at least a bachelor's degree must be a high priority if the state hopes to compete in the global economy. And as Hispanics in Texas outpace growth of all other population segments, it's equally clear that most of the increase in degrees awarded must be to Hispanics.

With our steadily growing enrollment—which reached a record 20,458 in fall 2008—and our 75 percent Mexican-American student population, UTEP is well positioned to take the lead in responding to this statewide imperative.

Enrollment and degrees awarded are but two in a growing list of ways to measure UTEP's effectiveness. As a brighter spotlight shines on institutional accountability, it becomes ever more critical that the metrics be valid and informative.

An important development occurred during the past year when UTEP advanced its challenge to policymakers to consider alternatives to the flawed graduation rate metric. Originating with the NCAA to measure the academic progress of student-athletes, this metric was adopted in the 1990s by the U.S. Department of Education.

The federal graduation rate has as its denominator the number of first-time, full-time freshmen who enroll at a university in a fall semester. Its numerator is the number of students in that cohort—and only that

cohort—who graduate from the same university in four, five or six years.

At UTEP, 70 percent of students who earn undergraduate degrees are not counted in our graduation rate.

A recent example of our progress has been the shift in criteria developed for a new Texas university performance incentive program. When introduced a year ago, this program relied heavily on graduation rates as its primary criterion for determining performance incentive allocations to Texas public universities.

Over the course of the past year, however, policymakers listened to our concerns. Increases in the number of graduates, at-risk graduates, and degrees awarded in such high-priority areas as engineering, nursing and teacher education, have now replaced graduation rates as criteria.

One of our major challenges at UTEP is to devise strategies to ensure that all students, whatever their backgrounds or family incomes, have the encouragement and the resources they need to develop their talent to its full potential.

## Aspirations Drive Program Development

Enabling residents to achieve their educational aspirations also has continued to drive the development of new academic programs, especially at the graduate level.

Two Ph.D. programs—international business and rhetoric and composition—have recently awarded their first degrees. Starting this year are two new Ph.D. programs—in computational science and teaching, learning and culture—and three new master's degrees—in public health, philosophy and teaching science.

UTEP offers 16 doctoral programs, and we have been granted authorization by the Coordinating Board to plan for several others, including a Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology and doctors of nursing practice, physical therapy and public administration.

New master's degrees are being developed in rehabilitation counseling, systems engineering, construction management, intelligence and national security, biomedical engineering and clinical laboratory sciences.

Quality at UTEP and all universities is determined first and foremost by faculty members who set high standards for their own professional accomplishments as scholars, researchers and teachers, and who also set equally high expectations for their students.

Graduate programs at UTEP have increased



not only access to advanced educational opportunities for residents of this region; they also have enabled us to attract and retain highly competitive faculty members who are actively engaged in research and scholarly activity.

## Do the Research

UTEP continues to be one of the most successful research universities in Texas, and we rank among the top 200 research universities in the entire nation.

Sponsored project expenditures from all sources in fiscal year 2007 totaled nearly \$50 million, with federally funded research at nearly \$27 million, ranking UTEP fourth among all Texas public universities, after Texas A&M, the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Houston.

During the past year, faculty and staff members secured nearly \$77 million in new grant awards from federal and state agencies, foundations and corporations.

## The Bhutan Experience

The Smithsonian Institution's decision to feature the Kingdom of Bhutan and the State of Texas at its annual Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., this summer presented UTEP with a fortuitous opportunity.

Following the festival, 22 members of the Bhutanese delegation, including His Royal Highness Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck, traveled to El Paso for a special performance at the Don Haskins Center of the masked and traditional dancers of the Royal Academy of Performing Arts. The 7,500 area residents who braved a monsoon rainstorm to attend the dance performance will not soon forget the experience.



And the Bhutan momentum continues to build. The festival at the National Mall included the construction of a large *lhakhang*, or temple, whose interior was hand-crafted in Bhutan. Especially exciting was that this beautiful building was donated by the people of Bhutan for permanent installation at UTEP.

## Leveraging UTEP's Success

During the coming year, we will be intensely engaged in two extremely important efforts.

First, we must leverage our success to attract external research funding, develop new and enhance current doctoral programs and increase undergraduate student success.

Our extraordinary progress during the past two decades has earned us designation as one of the state's seven emerging national research universities. It's going to take tremendous effort, teamwork and support from many external sources, but we clearly have developed self-confidence, a strong sense of purpose and a committed group of loyal alumni and stakeholders—all valuable assets that will enable us to accelerate the momentum we've already built.

Second, we are embarking on our Centennial Campaign, a major fundraising initiative that will culminate in 2014, UTEP's 100th birthday.

Last fall, we conducted the first meeting of the Centennial Campaign Leadership Council. Chaired by alumnus Russ Vandenburg, a former Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, this group of highly committed alumni and friends will help us achieve our ambitious campaign goal.

This external funding campaign now has taken on greater urgency as community and alumni support will be essential to our pursuit of national research university status.

UTEP's future capacity to continue to create opportunities for talented young people to achieve their full potential, to prepare a highly skilled workforce, and to play a major role in regional economic development and quality of life will depend on our campaign's success.

In February of last year, I celebrated the 20th anniversary of my appointment by The University of Texas System Board of Regents as UTEP president. The vision of UTEP that I shared then is in fact the UTEP that we have not only successfully achieved, but gone well beyond!

We have greatly exceeded our initial lofty goals, steadily building on our growing success and the increased confidence associated with it. We set ever higher aspirations for ourselves, and we are now well prepared and confident in our capacity to become a nationally recognized research university with a 21st century demographic. ☑

## BY THE NUMBERS

**20,458** students enrolled in fall 2008 — the seventh consecutive fall record and an 18 percent increase since 2002

**75** percent of UTEP's student body is Hispanic

**17** percent increase in summer 2008 enrollment over the previous summer

**50** percent decrease in number of students enrolling in developmental courses at UTEP between 2005 and 2008

**3,171** degrees awarded in 2007 — a 10 percent increase over 2006

**nearly 89,000** alumni on record since our founding in 1914 as the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy

**16** doctoral degrees are now offered at UTEP, with several others in the planning stages

**nearly \$50** million dollars in research expenditures were reported in fiscal year 2007; about \$27 million of which are federally funded, ranking us fourth among Texas public universities



## Paying for College

Student success requires that we provide ready and sustained access to federal, state and institutional need-based financial aid to eligible and deserving students. Last year, we awarded more than \$8 million in scholarships.

## Grant Awards

During 2008, UTEP secured nearly \$77 million in new grant awards from federal and state agencies, foundations and corporations.

## Building Boom

UTEP has embarked on an unprecedented \$260 million program of new construction and renovation projects, the most significant single campus transformation in the University's history.

## In the Spotlight

Through academic program recognitions, individual student and faculty successes, research breakthroughs and athletic accomplishments, UTEP has increasingly stepped into the national and international spotlight.

## Doctoral Growth

During the past 20 years, UTEP's doctoral offerings have increased from one to 16— with more in development.

### Current programs:

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Civil Engineering
- Computational Science
- Computer Science
- Educational Leadership and Administration
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Environmental Science and Engineering
- Geological Sciences
- History
- Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
- International Business
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Psychology
- Rhetoric and Composition
- Teaching, Learning and Culture

### Programs having received preliminary authority:

- Biomedical Engineering
- Communication
- Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Doctor of Public Administration
- Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- Nursing Practice
- Transnational Society, Culture and Politics

**\$77** million in new grant awards from federal and state agencies, foundations and corporations were secured by faculty and staff the past year

**\$260** million in new construction and renovation projects are planned at UTEP, the most significant campus transformation in University history

**6th** the rank the College of Business Administration's MBA program achieved in *Hispanic Business* magazine's listing of the Top Ten MBA programs for Hispanics

**10th** anniversary celebrations were held by the Law School Preparation Institute as well as the Center for Civic Engagement in 2008

**2014** we celebrate UTEP's 100th birthday and the culmination of the University's Centennial Campaign



# WHERE IN THE

by Linda East and Daniel Perez

**T**he Fulbright Scholar Program, a prestigious international faculty exchange initiative, was started more than 50 years ago with one goal: use education to build mutual understanding among the people of the world.

A number of University of Texas at El Paso faculty members have been among the nearly 280,000 educators and professionals who have been chosen to go around the world to do what they do best, and then return home to share what they have learned.

In 2008-09, three distinguished UTEP faculty were named Fulbright scholars, having taught, lectured and conducted research in Jordan, Chile and Nigeria.

Many other international scholars—from across the border or across the world—come to UTEP to share their knowledge and their culture.

## **CAROL L. CLARK, Ph.D.**

**UTEP associate professor of English  
Fulbright Lecturing Grant  
September 2008 to July 2009**

Carol Clark has gotten homesick while she's been away at the University of Jordan in Amman. She misses the familiar parts of her life such as family, friends and a chilled glass of ice tea.

She's been lecturing about political rhetoric and the recent presidential election as well as the culture of the American Southwest. She holds a doctorate in rhetoric and composition from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

When not working, she has done her best to see the sights and chronicle her experiences on her blog, [www.ayearinjordan.com](http://www.ayearinjordan.com).

She says the Jordanian landscape is similar to the American Southwest and the people are like El Pasoans in terms of importance of family and hospitality.

"It will take years for me to express all I have learned in my scholarship," she says of her life-changing experience.

In 2007, Clark published *Aristotle and Averroes: The Influences of Aristotle's Arabic Commentator on Western European and Arabic*

*Rhetoric in Review of Communications*. Her book, *Imaging Texas: Pre-Revolutionary Texas Newspapers 1824-1836*, was published by Texas Western Press.

## **GODWIN JOHN UDO, Ph.D.**

**UTEP professor and chair  
Information and Decision Sciences  
Fulbright Scholar  
December 2008 to fall 2009**

Godwin Udo, who left El Paso in December, says he appreciates the chance to help others in his home country.

"It is a good opportunity to contribute to a less privileged community, especially since I was born in Nigeria," Udo says via e-mail.

The professor is teaching graduate management science courses such as information systems, production and operations management, operations research and research methods at the University of Calabar, one of the top Nigerian Federal Government universities.

He is spending part of his time researching the adoption and diffusion of information and communication technology (ICT) for human development in Nigeria. The project focuses on economic development through ICT operational efficiency, wealth creation through web-based entrepreneurship, health care improvement through e-health information systems, and good governance through the adoption of e-government systems.

He has a master's of science in electrical engineering from the University of Missouri, Columbia, and a doctorate in industrial management, with a concentration in information systems, from Clemson University.

Udo is a consultant for the United Nations.

## **BILL ROBERTSON, Ph.D.**

**UTEP assistant professor of  
Teacher Education  
Fulbright Scholar  
July to December 2008**

William "Bill" Robertson traveled to Santiago, Chile, in July 2008 to lecture and research how technology can help teach science, and evaluate how students and teachers adapt to technological concepts.

Robertson, who is affectionately known as "Dr. Skateboard" for his ability to teach scientific concepts through the use of his skateboard spent the fall 2008 semester at La Universidad Metropolitana de Ciencias de la Educación (the Metropolitan University of Educational Sciences).

He enjoyed the immersion in the language and the culture and the different education system. In one case he used his skateboarding abilities to demonstrate mathematical modeling of velocity and acceleration.

"They called me '*El Particulo*' (the particle)," he says laughing.

"I got so much out of the experience," he says. "Now I can be a better educator at UTEP and in El Paso."

Robertson specializes in science education, curriculum development, and technology integration in the K-12 levels.

Prior to UTEP, Robertson worked in science education, university coordination, and computer education and training at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Robertson earned his doctorate in multicultural teacher and childhood education with an emphasis in science and technology at the University of New Mexico. He has had multiple articles about skateboarding and motivation published, and his Web site, [www.drskateboard.com](http://www.drskateboard.com), combines the best of education and extreme sports.

## **JOSÉ GARCIA MIRELES, Ph.D.**

**Visiting research professor in  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Fulbright Border Research Scholar  
July 2008 to June 2009**

Jose Garcia Mireles will work on microsystems research in the El Paso area during his yearlong stay at UTEP.

The visiting professor comes from the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juárez (UACJ). He will use resources from his home university and UTEP for his project.

"Although the universities are located only five miles from each other in the Paso del Norte region, they are separated by the U.S.-Mexico international border," Mireles says. "The international border has made collaboration difficult. An important goal of the project then is to learn



# WORLD?



**JOSÉ GARCÍA  
MIRELES**  
Juárez, Mexico



**RAFAEL CILOCI**  
Chisinau, Moldova



**CAROL L. CLARK**  
Amman, Jordan



**GODWIN JOHN UDO**  
Nigeria, Africa



**BILL ROBERTSON**  
Santiago, Chile

how to create synergistic technological research projects with the NanoMaterials Integration Laboratory at UTEP?

The engineer hopes to create a better moisture-proof seal for micro-electro-mechanical systems (MEMS). MEMS is the revolutionary technology behind a number of innovative products, such as the movement-recognizing controller in the popular Wii video game system. UTEP and UACJ are members of the Paso del Norte Regional MEMS Packaging Cluster, a group of research, industry and government institutions that are developing potential applications for MEMS devices.

Mireles secured a \$30,000 U.S. Army Research Laboratory grant to develop advanced computer antennas. The work will be done by UTEP and UACJ.

Mireles earned bachelor and master's degrees in electrical engineering from the Instituto Tec-

nológico de Chihuahua, and a doctorate from the University of Texas at Arlington.

**RAFAEL CILOCI, Ph.D.**  
Assistant professor of Economics  
Fulbright Scholar  
August 2008 to February 2009

Visiting Fulbright Grantee Rafael Ciloci used his time at UTEP to lecture about entrepreneurship, Moldovan tourism, the economic transition from socialism to capitalism, and the opportunities and risks involved in international business.

Ciloci, a lecturer at the Technical University of Moldova, Chisinau, says he was grateful to share his insights with UTEP master's and doctoral students, and to be able to study international business at the University because of its proximity to Mexico.

"This has been great for me," he says.

"There's lots of international business here. I've really enjoyed it."

The educator comes from the Republic of Moldova, an Eastern European country wedged between Turkey, Romania, and the Ukraine.

While Ciloci speaks English with a thick accent, he said he still gets his points across.

"The language is no problem," he says. "Americans tolerate the accent."

In 2003, Ciloci taught engineering students how to be entrepreneurs through instruction and an internship with a top Moldovan business leader. The course's goal was to inject "outside the box" thinking to propel commerce, which continues to struggle in a fast-moving global economy.

Ciloci has participated in the TACIS Program (Promotion of Higher Economic Education in the Republic of Moldova) and has done research at the Economic University of Athens in Greece. ➤



# Super COMPUTING



Photo courtesy of SC08

Mega computer company CEO Michael Dell of Dell Inc., accepts an official jacket from UTEP professor Pat Teller. Teller chaired the SC08 conference, which attracted over 11,000 participants from around the globe.

## UTEP Professor Heads Supercomputing Conference

The SC08 international supercomputing conference filled the Austin Convention Center with a record-setting 11,000 attendees and 337 exhibitors, a proud achievement for the event's lead organizer, UTEP Professor of Computer Science Pat Teller.

For one week in November, Austin was transformed into a computer science mecca, as thousands arrived to wrap their hands and minds around the latest in high-performance computing technology.

As general chair of SC08, Teller spent the last three years working with hundreds of her colleagues across the country to put on an unforgettable event that also marked the conference's 20th anniversary.

"It was an opportunity and experience of a lifetime," says Teller, who joined UTEP in 1997 and currently is principal investigator for the University's High Performance Systems Laboratory.

SC08 featured two "research thrusts" as the focus: bioinformatics and energy.

The field of bioinformatics is using high-performance computing to mine and share the vast amounts of data created by the mapping of the human genetic code. Scientists are using the information to develop better treatments for diseases.

Energy use and conservation are also a big focus of researchers, who use supercomputers for the models and simulations needed to design more efficient engines and electronic devices.



Pat Teller, Ph.D.

## ¡VIVA! Celebrating Mexican Theater



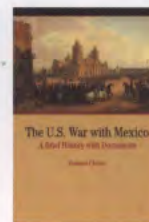
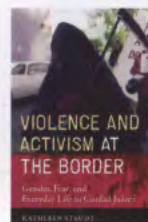
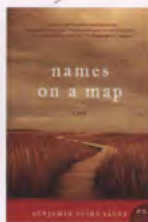
Kirsten F. Nigro, Ph.D.

More than 300 theater buffs from across the United States, Europe and Mexico attended UTEP's Bi-National Celebration of Contemporary Mexican Theatre last fall.

Playwrights, directors and scholars participated in a series of workshops, lectures and play readings during the four-day conference. The event coincided with the XXIX Muestra Nacional de Teatro in Ciudad Juárez, a national theater showcase that presented theatrical works from notable playwrights such as Victor Hugo and Emilio Carballido.

The conference was the brainchild of Kirsten F. Nigro, Ph.D., who is a professor and chair of UTEP's Department of Languages and Linguistics. "I felt it was really important to do a bi-national event," she says. "I wanted to celebrate Mexico and bring the richness of Mexican theater to campus."

A highlight of the conference was a reading of the play *Papa Esta en Atlantida/Our Dad is in Atlantis*, performed by UTEP students Oscar Garcia and Raul Munoz. The conference was hosted in collaboration with the Instituto Chihuahuense de la Cultura, the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes and the XXIX Muestra Nacional de Teatro, Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua.



## FACULTY IN PRINT

The Collections and Bibliographic Services of the UTEP Library feature numerous new titles by faculty, including:

**American Talmud: The Cultural Work of Jewish American Fiction**, by Ezra Cap-pell, Ph.D., associate professor, English; director, Inter-American Jewish Studies Program

**Basics of Engineering Economy**, by Anthony J. Tarquin, Ph.D., professor, civil engineering (with Leland Blank)

**Morality, Political Economy and American Constitutionalism**, by Timothy P. Roth, Ph.D., professor and chair, economics and finance

**Names on a Map: A Novel**, by Benjamin Alire Saenz, professor, creative writing

**Networked Process: Dissolving Boundaries of Process and Post-Process**, by Helen Foster, Ph.D., associate professor, rhetoric and writing studies

**Physical Therapy Professional Foundations: Keys to Success in School and Career**, by Kathleen A. Curtis, Ph.D., dean, College of Health Sciences

**Touchstone Anthology of Contemporary Creative Nonfiction: Work from 1970 to the Present**, by Lex Williford, associate professor, creative writing

**The U.S. War with Mexico: A Brief History with Documents**, by Ernesto Chavez, Ph.D., associate professor, history

**Violence and Activism at the Border: Gender, Fear, and Everyday Life in Ciudad Juárez**, by Kathleen Staudt, Ph.D., professor, political science; director, Center for Civic Engagement

For more titles and information, visit the University Library at [www.utep.edu/library](http://www.utep.edu/library)



## Nanotechnology's Effects on Environment



Jorge Gardea-Torresdey, Ph.D., at front, with chemistry department students

The UTEP Department of Chemistry is part of a \$38 million international research project to study the impact of nanotechnology—the manipulation of matter at the atomic level—on the world's most valuable asset: the environment.

Funded by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the study establishes two Centers for the Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology. One will be at UCLA and the other at Duke University.

The study's primary goal is to determine

whether nanotechnology could have unintended environmental or health effects.

The only university in Texas to participate, UTEP joins the UCLA center, which received \$24 million. Selected for its expertise on nanotechnology's effects on plants and terrestrial life, UTEP will study the effects of metal nanoparticles on plants such as alfalfa and mesquite.

Chemistry department chairman and principal grant investigator Jorge Gardea-Torresdey, Ph.D., says UTEP will evaluate how the nanoparticles of metals impact a plant's biochemistry or germination. ☒

## Heart Health Awareness



The College of Health Sciences and Department of Health Promotion at UTEP have been awarded nearly \$2.7 million to promote healthy lifestyles and reduce cardiovascular disease in El Paso.

The five-year grant was awarded by the National Institutes of Health through the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities. The grant will fund a project known as HEART—Health Education Awareness Research Team.

The first phase was a three-year pilot program that involved the UT Houston School of Public Health, Centro San Vicente and the El Paso Community College.

The project's second phase will include two new partners: the YWCA El Paso del Norte Region and the El Paso Parks and Recreation Department.

"The purpose of this project is to increase heart-health awareness and reduce heart disease risk factors in the community through community health workers," says Maria Duarte-Gardea, Ph.D., associate professor of health promotion and the project's principal investigator.

Community health workers facilitate the link between the health-care system and the community by providing support, informal counseling and culturally appropriate health education. ☒



The UTEP technology that combines organic and inorganic pigments to create vivid and sustaining colors has received a \$250,000 boost from the Texas Emerging Technology Fund.

Mayan Pigments, Inc., a company founded by chemistry professor Russell Chianelli, Ph.D., and UTEP grad Lori Ann Polette-Niewold, Ph.D., received the state funding to help expand its marketing strategy and improve the customer base of its line of Mayacrom® pigments.

The newly formed company sells an innovative series of environmentally friendly pigments that do not emit hazardous waste byproducts in the production process.

The technology was inspired by the researchers' quest to understand why ancient Mayan murals maintained bright and brilliant colors. Although the research took 15 years to develop, Mayan Pigments went private in 2005.

## Mayan Murals Inspire Research

Pictured: Lori Ann Polette-Niewold, Ph.D.

[www.mayanpigments.com](http://www.mayanpigments.com)





Geographic Information Systems Programmer and Developer Abdiel Quezada

## Geospatial Center Maps Ike's Aftermath

The massive devastation caused by Hurricane Ike, the most destructive of the 2008 hurricane season, left many Gulf Coast Texans pleading to the state's National Guard for help.

The Texas National Guard in turn asked UTEP's Regional Geospatial Service Center to create specialized up-to-date maps and gather data for the hurricane-ravaged coastline.

"They lost everything, so we sent personnel and equipment to help create data and maps with the location of hospitals and distribution points for food and water," Raed Aldouri, Ph.D., center director, says. "We've helped communities before over the Internet, but this is the first time we were on the field after a major hurricane."

UTEP Geographic Information Systems programmer and developer Abdiel Quezada traveled to Galveston with some of the technology to support the guardsmen.

"We can send our personnel and technologies anywhere that help is needed

*"We can send our personnel and technologies anywhere that help is needed when any disaster happens."*

—Raed Aldouri, Ph.D.,  
director, Regional  
Geospatial Service Center

when any disaster happens," Aldouri says. "Galveston was very happy to have us because there was little they could do without maps and data."

Established in 2005 through a \$1.9 million federal grant, the Geospatial Center produces maps and geographic information system databases that detail roads and highways, electrical grids and water supplies, and other

information useful for emergency planning and management.

The center collaborates with Stephen F. Austin State University and the Texas Natural Resource Information System to demonstrate and provide backup planning in the event of catastrophic system failure.

The center also is involved in the development of geospatial applications to support UTEP research and service activities in a variety of areas, including border security, economic development and public health. ☒

<http://gis.utep.edu/>

## Border and Defense Systems Technology

The University of Texas at El Paso Center for Defense Systems Research will enhance its ongoing high-tech research in defense systems and border issues thanks to an additional \$1.6 million in federal funding.

The funds come from the 2009 Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations bill.

Established in 2006 with Department of Defense funding and support from U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, the center supports researchers from a number of academic disciplines in science, engineering and business.

Previous funding has helped establish several research projects, including the fabrication of 3-D objects that can house everything from self-locating GPS chips to embedded sensors that monitor biological agents or seismic movement.



Another project is assessing the needs of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents, beginning with the El Paso sector. So far, the study has resulted in a number of requests for technical research support. The center is putting together a multi-disciplinary research team to address some of the technical issues.

There are currently four projects that are supported by seven faculty members, five post-doctoral students, seven graduate students and 10 undergraduates whose work is funded by the grant.

Vice President for Strategic Initiatives Jose Riojas, the center's executive director, is working to develop collaboration between the center's research efforts with that of the newly created National Center for Border Security and Immigration at UTEP.

The national center will receive \$6 million over six years to bring together expertise and research capabilities from colleges and universities throughout the United States to focus on long-term solutions to border security and immigration challenges. UTEP co-leads the center, established in 2008 through designation by the Department of Homeland Security, with the University of Arizona at Tucson. ☒





Carl. W. Dirk, Ph.D.,  
with doctoral candidate  
Monica Delgado

# Lights On

## Light Filter Protects Delicate Artwork

The pioneering watercolor and pastel paintings by American artist Georgia O'Keeffe are slowly deteriorating because of light's harmful rays, but one UTEP professor is working to protect the light-sensitive pieces.

Carl. W. Dirk, Ph.D., has partnered with the Getty Conservation Institute and The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, N.M., to develop a special filter that reduces the harmful light rays used to illuminate the paintings by 35 to 57 percent.

Currently, most museums display light-sensitive artifacts like Georgia O'Keeffe's watercolors under low levels of incandescent lighting or put them on a display rotation. The low lighting often distorts the colors and makes it difficult for some to appreciate the images' details.

Dirk says he's privileged to work on a practical solution that the average person can appreciate.

"Scientists usually work on abstract things," Dirk says. "This is rewarding because people can understand it and appreciate it."

The ultimate goal for the project

is to find the faint balance between conservation and visual satisfaction for the museum visitor.


Dirk and his doctoral candidate Monica Delgado continue to enhance their light filter research. They have had the initial glass lenses manufactured by a German company because no U.S. company could meet the delicate specifications. Each filter costs about \$1,000.

The UTEP professor expects future generations of the filters will be made of plastic and become more affordable to numerous museums. ▣





Reuters

 Bhutan's fourth King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, right, crowns his son Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck as the fifth King of Bhutan in the Tashichhodzong Palace during the coronation ceremony in Thimphu, Bhutan, in November.





# THE KING & I

AN INVITATION TO A CORONATION

*by Diana Natalicio*

**A**n invitation to a coronation ... in Bhutan! Now that's something I surely never dreamed of when growing up in South St. Louis! But there it was, an invitation to be a special guest of His Royal Highness Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck at the coronation of his brother, His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the Fifth Druk Gyapal, on November 6-8, 2008, in Thimpu, Bhutan. Some of you may recall that Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck led a delegation of 22 Bhutanese visitors who spent several days in the El Paso area last summer after their participation in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C.

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Getty Images



**M**y first reaction to the invitation was to convince myself that I couldn't possibly make the trip. Although the date had been determined by Bhutan's monks to be auspicious for the coronation, it didn't seem particularly well timed for me. UTEP would be hosting The University of Texas System Board of Regents meeting on November 12-13, and preparations for that major event would surely have to take priority.

Fortunately, my thinking improved! This invitation from the Royal Family reflected the very special relationship that UTEP enjoys with the Kingdom of Bhutan and represented an extraordinary opportunity to join in celebrating two major milestones in Bhutan's history: the coronation of the Fifth Druk Gyalpo and the 100th anniversary of the Wangchuck Dynasty.

I arrived in Paro from Bangkok on Bhutan's Druk Air on Tuesday, November 4, after more than 48 hours en route via Dallas, Tokyo and Bangkok. The landing in Paro never fails to thrill. After passing Mount Everest and other Himalayan peaks, the plane begins its descent, winding through deep valleys which obstruct sight of the runway until the final bend is rounded ... absolutely breathtaking!

Bhutan is bustling. The newly paved road from Paro to Thimpu, Bhutan's capital city and the site of the coronation events, was completed since my last visit in March 2007, and Thimpu itself has grown and developed, with new thoroughfares, hotels and restaurants, and a beautiful new national stadium. I took a long walk on Tuesday afternoon to recover from the long journey and capture some of the pre-coronation excitement. Most businesses and public buildings were festooned with brightly colored banners and large posters of the new king. The streets were filled with Bhutanese people of all ages, many of whom had traveled from outlying districts to participate in this momentous occasion.

Halfway around the world, another momentous event was about to begin in the United States—Election Day 2008 with its unprecedented expectations and excitement. I will surely never forget where I was when I learned of Barack Obama's election via CNN on Wednesday morning in Bhutan. The juxtaposition of these two major historical milestones in the U.S. and Bhutan triggered many interesting thoughts and even more interesting conversations with Bhutanese people, whose interest in the U.S. election was high.





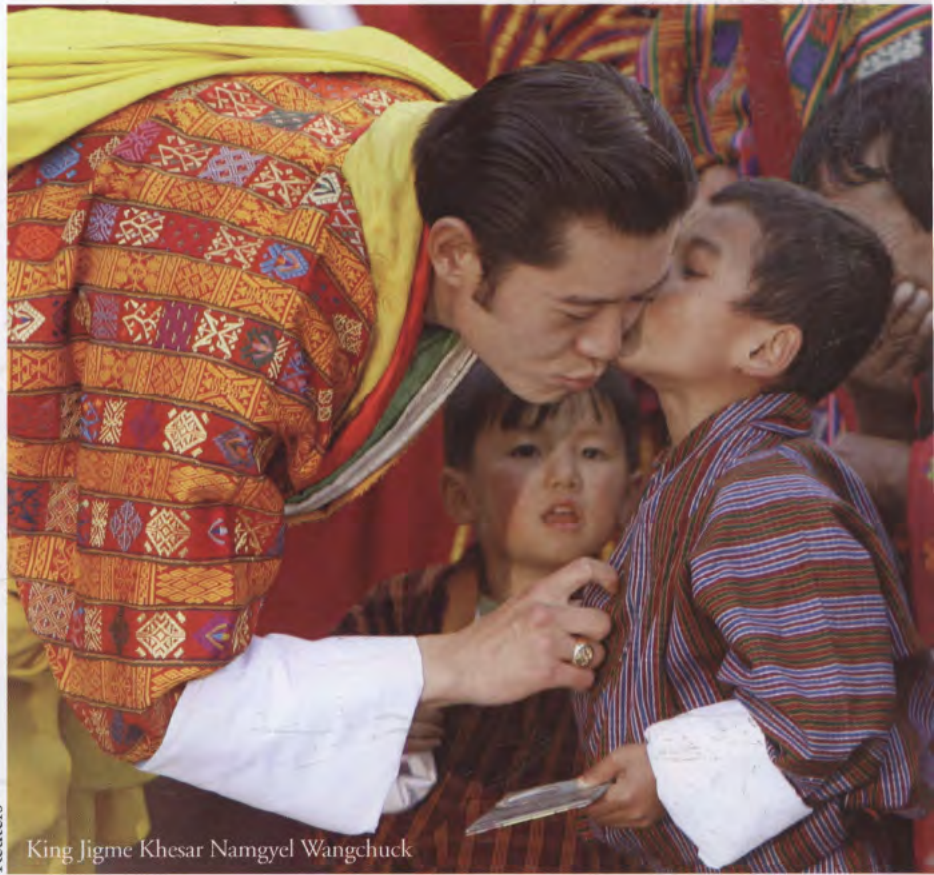


**O**n Wednesday, I was invited to lunch by His Royal Highness Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck. Joining us was Tashi Wangyal of the Royal Education Council of Bhutan, which has responsibility for proposing reforms to Bhutan's educational system. It was exciting to talk with Prince Jigyel and Tashi about plans to create new educational opportunities in Bhutan, and I assured them of UTEP's commitment to continue contributing to Bhutan's human development.

Thursday, November 6, was coronation day, and as predicted, a glorious sunrise cleared the gray skies of the two previous days. By 6:45 a.m., special guests—including diplomats from India, Canada, New Zealand and the Maldives and a university president from Bangkok—already were assembled in the courtyard of the Tashichho Dzong. I saw several familiar faces, including Dechen Wangmo, a recent UTEP graduate who was hosting an Australian diplomat, and former Ambassadors to the United Nations Ugyen Tshering and Om Pradhan, who both visited UTEP during their postings in New York. Excitement grew as the Royal Family arrived to greet first the President of India and her entourage and, a short time later, the new King, whose arrival in the courtyard was preceded by a colorful procession.

From there, all special guests moved to the Kuenra or congregation hall of the dzong, where, together with a large number of Bhutanese monks, we awaited the new King's arrival. Each of us was provided an opportunity to convey our personal greetings to His Majesty, and he made a special point of thanking me for a new endowment established at UTEP to commemorate his coronation and to promote educational and cultural exchange. I told the King that we looked forward to welcoming many Bhutanese students to UTEP in the future and hoped that he too would one day be able to visit our "Bhutan on the Border."

The coronation events for special guests then moved to the Royal Garden of the Dechencholing Palace, located in a beautiful mountain setting just outside Thimpu, where the new king's father, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, and Their Majesties the Queen Mothers hosted a coronation luncheon. Under a brilliant azure sky, large decorated tents accommodated guests who were treated to a splendid menu of Bhutanese and international food and entertainment by the Royal Academy of Performing Arts, the same organization whose dancers performed at the Don Haskins Center last summer. It was a perfect coronation day!



Reuters

King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

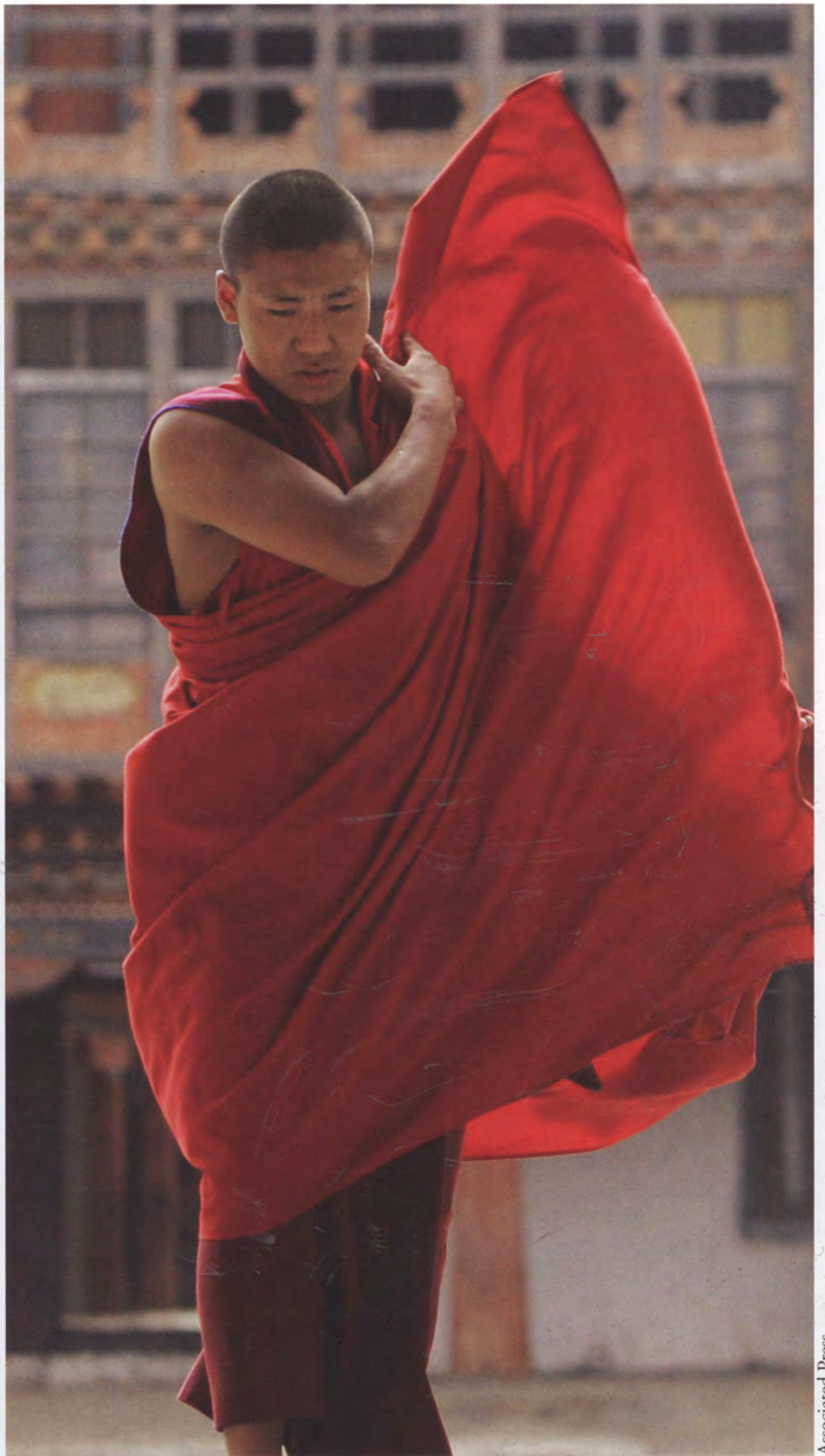


Getty Images





University of Texas at El Paso President Diana Natalicio with UTEP graduate Dechem Wangmo



Associated Press

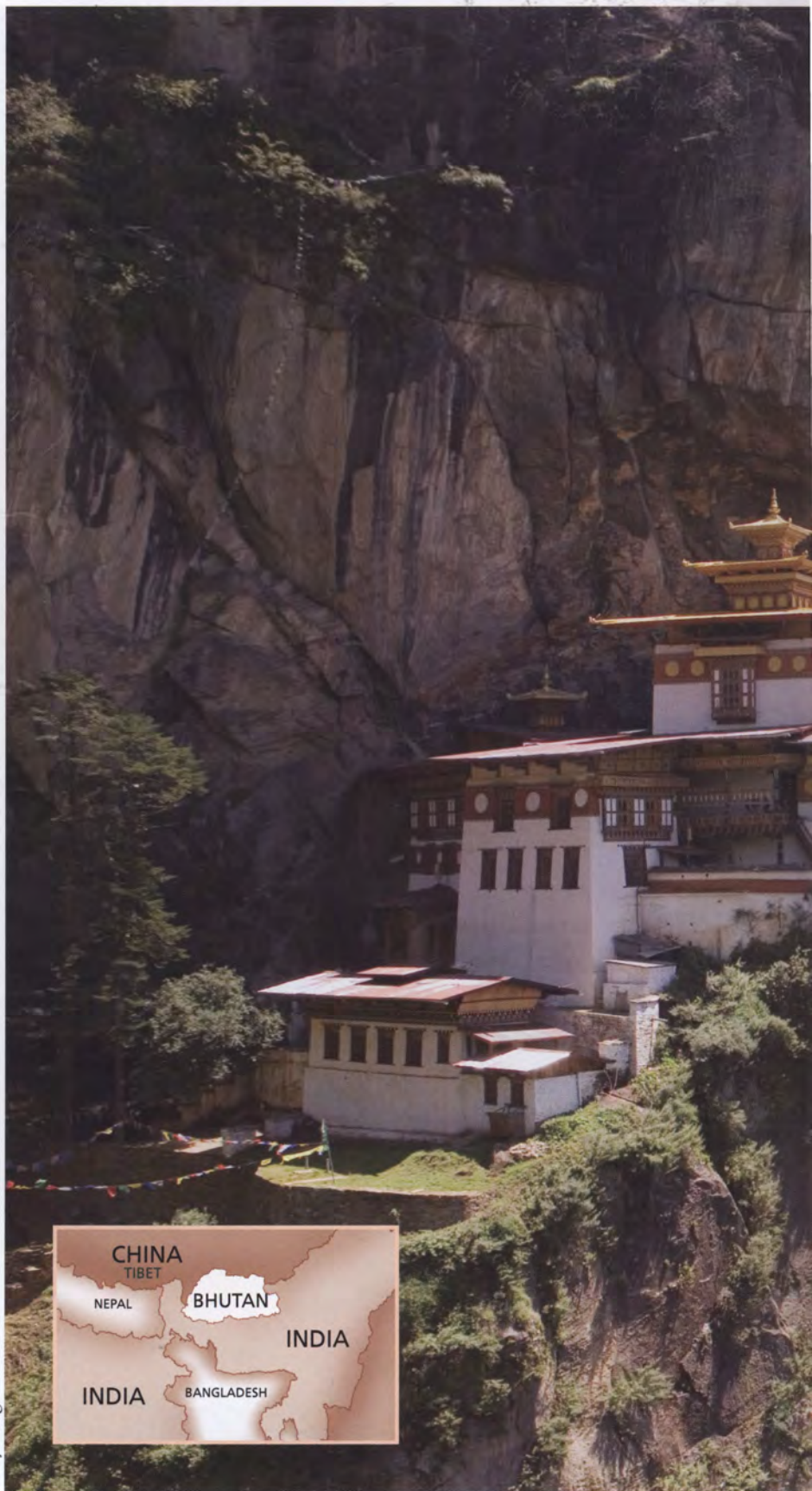


Well before sunrise Friday morning, I heard the sound of people—lots of people—excitedly rushing past the hotel toward the new Changlingmethang Celebration Ground, for the first of two days of public coronation festivities. More than 20,000 people crowded into the stands on another beautiful day to watch 4,000 performers—students, monks, artists, farmers—showcase the cultural diversity and harmony of Bhutanese society. The program included dances by primary and secondary school children and the Royal Academy of Performing Arts, parades by the armed forces, and dances by the Tibetan community in Thimpu and a troupe from Manipur, India. There was a symbolic tribute to His Majesty which was described in *Kuensel*, Bhutan's English-language newspaper, as including "two elephants with one calf, three horses with gold, silver and leather saddles, two mithuns (buffalo), two jatshams (oxen), two cow and calf pairs and two white sheep with lambs. The tribute also consisted of three spoons, nine bags of Dru-na guu (various grains), and five bales of Zongchang (fabrics)." While enjoying this remarkable pageant in one of the special visitor tents, I also had the pleasure of talking with many Bhutanese friends, UTEP alumni and parents of current UTEP students.

Friday evening, my final night in Bhutan before starting the long journey back to El Paso, I joined special guests at a royal banquet hosted by the new king in the courtyard of the Tashichho Dzong. Seated under a starry sky and surrounded by the beautifully lighted dzong buildings, guests were treated to a sumptuous meal and a traditional Bhutanese dance drama by the Royal Academy of Performing Arts. It was a perfect ending to a remarkable, once-in-a-lifetime experience ... and another confirmation of advice that I often share with UTEP students: As you dream about opportunities that your education may bring you, dream bigger! An invitation to a coronation may be in your future, too!

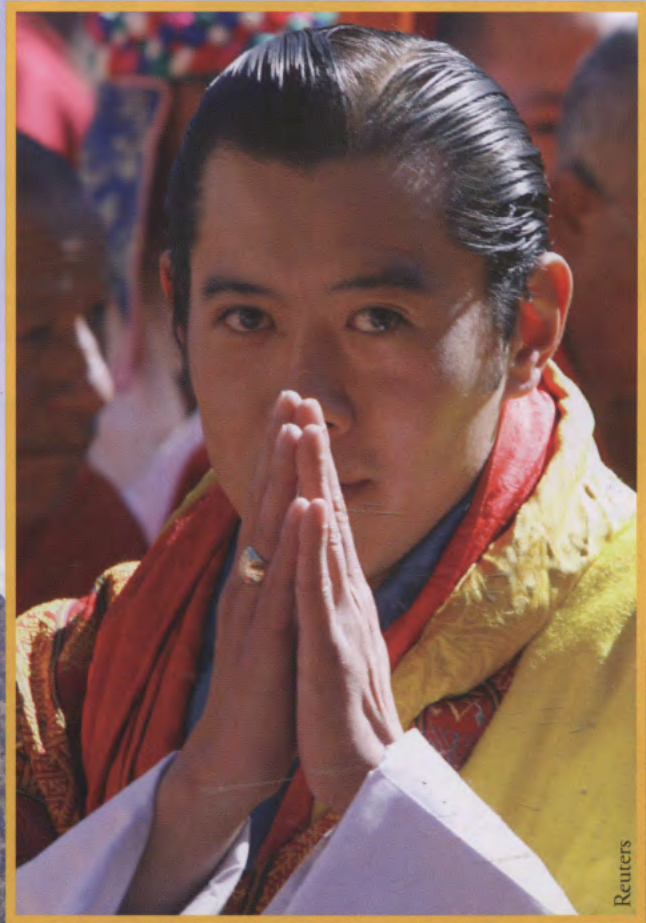
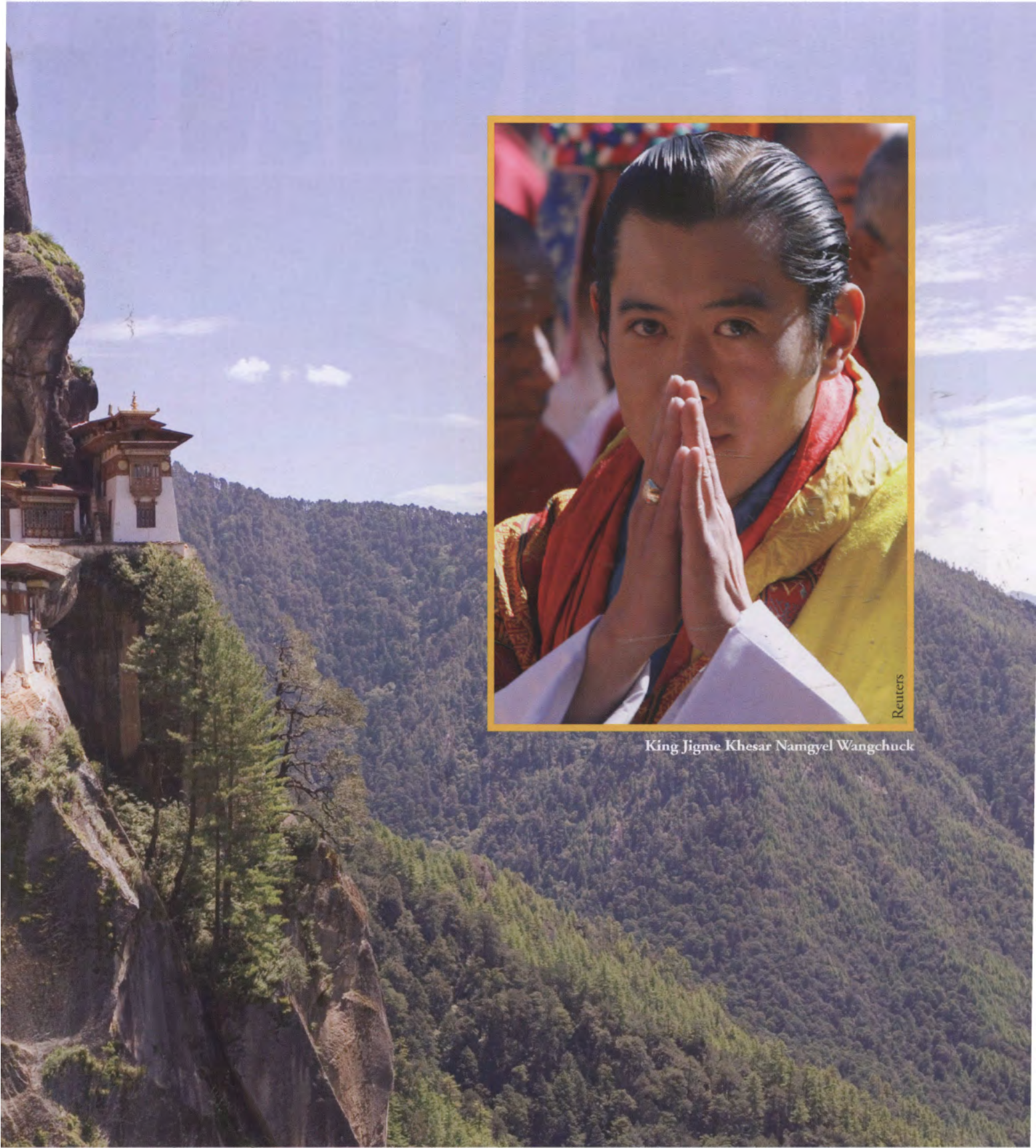
*President Diana Natalicio has led The University of Texas at El Paso for 20 years. During her distinguished tenure, Natalicio has strengthened the University's educational ties to the Himalayan country of Bhutan through initiatives that foster understanding and appreciation of its people, culture and traditions. Bhutan has served as the inspiration behind UTEP's beautiful and unique architecture since its founding nearly 100 years ago.* 🗡️

*Natalicio took all photographs not credited otherwise, or in which she appears.*



Getty Images





Reuters

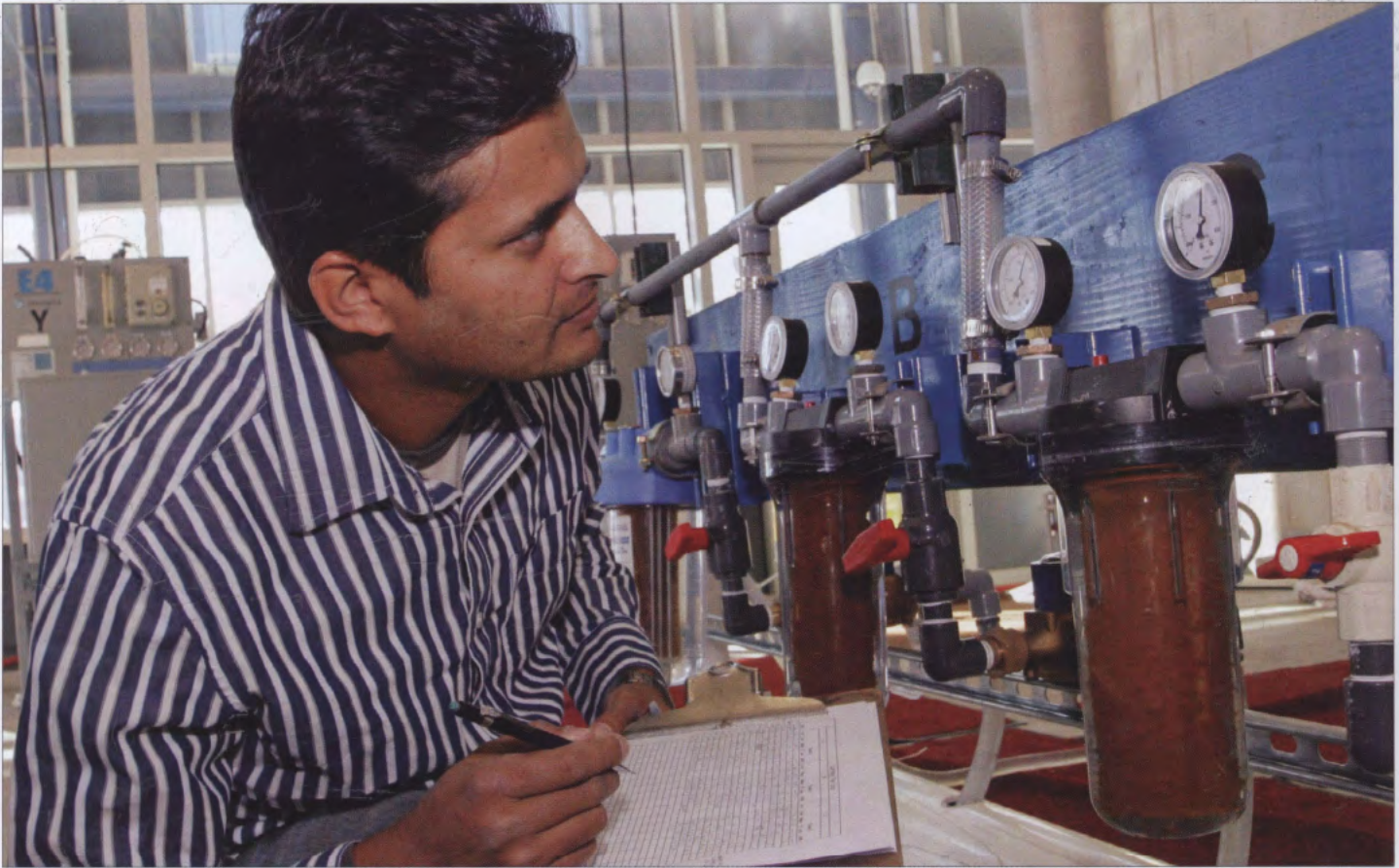
King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

The Taktshang Monastery, also known as the Tiger's Nest, is one of Bhutan's most renowned temples.

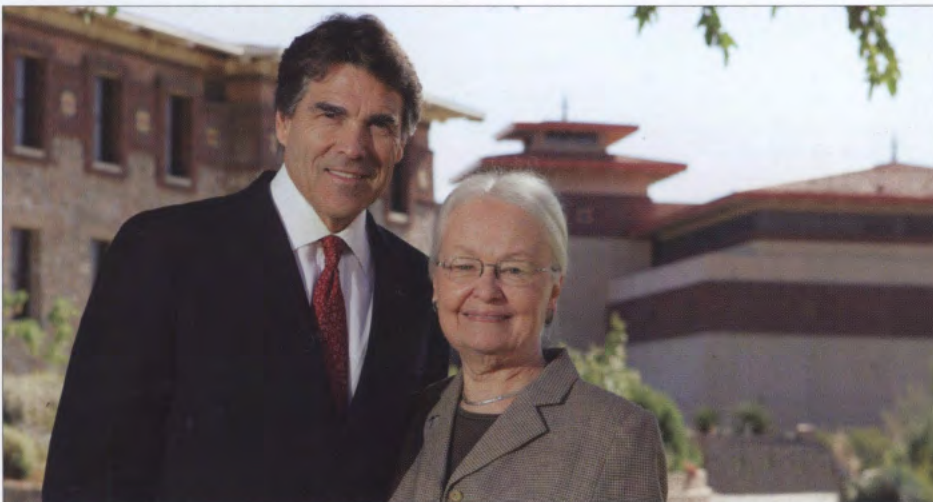




# OPENING



Engineering student Gautam Patwardhan monitors water pressure in a lab at El Paso's desalination plant.



Texas Governor Rick Perry and UTEP President Diana Natalicio



Tom Davis, Director of the UTEP Center for Inland Desalination Systems





# THE TAP



## Texas invests in UTEP's new desalination research center

by Kimberly Miller and David Peregrino

**B**rackish groundwater—the undesirable salty stuff filling underground aquifers across the country—is looking more and more appealing to communities thirsty for fresh water for drinking, agriculture and industry.

The problem is, it can cost big money to filter dissolved salts out of saline groundwater—and then there's the question of what to do with the leftover brine that piles up after the treatment process.

It is a scenario very familiar to water-conscious residents of El Paso, where the city and Fort Bliss partnered to open an \$87 million desalination plant in 2007, securing a fresh water supply expected to last 50 years or more.

And it is why the state of Texas has invested \$2 million of the state's Emerging Technology Fund to create the UTEP Center for Inland Desalination Systems, a research facility that will be tasked with developing cost-effective and environmentally friendly desalination technologies.

Tom Davis, Ph.D., a nationally recognized desalination expert, has been tapped to lead the new center. Davis, who comes to UTEP from the University of South Carolina, has more than 40 years of research experience and holds 13 patents related to filtering technologies.

"We expect to do work that might be used anywhere in the world," says Davis. "We hope to deal with ways to reduce the energy requirements and solve problems of disposing of the waste."

### CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Because desalination requires boiling brackish water or pressurizing it through membranes, energy costs can be prohibitive. It's a vexing problem for poor countries, which often have the biggest need for fresh water.

Also, inland facilities face a serious question of how to dispose of the salts without polluting existing groundwater or surface water. Proper disposal, which can involve injecting the salt concentrate into wells in the ground or transporting it to a disposal site, can add significant costs to the desalination process. It is not as big an issue for seawater desalination plants, which can dispose of the brine by returning it to the ocean.

Davis says the center's researchers will explore ways to transform brine into products with commercial value. They also will work on developing portable and economical desalination equipment that could be used in remote locations, including arid regions where military personnel may be deployed.

The center will extend its reach beyond practical research by spearheading an industrial consortium to explore new areas of research, offering education and training for water-industry employees worldwide, and partnering with the International Desalination Association to keep inland desalination resources up-to-date.

UTEP and The University of Texas System will match the \$2 million technology fund investment, and an additional \$2 million will be raised

in sponsored research from industry partners to develop a world-class research facility.

The center will partner on research with the city's desalination plant, which taps brackish water from the Hueco Bolson to produce 27.5 million gallons of fresh water daily—about a quarter of El Paso's average daily water demand.

Many UTEP faculty and staff who will work at the center already have been conducting desalination research in a laboratory in the plant, operated by El Paso Water Utilities. UTEP assisted the utility during the planning and development of the plant by creating geological models used in the drilling process and conducting tests to help select equipment best suited to the region's water supply.

### LEADING THE CHARGE

Gov. Rick Perry, who visited UTEP in October to formally announce the technology fund investment, says the University's expertise in engineering and science, combined with an inland desalination plant in a water-smart community, creates an ideal environment for a research center.

"Saltwater desalination is a viable remedy for the water shortages we face in inland areas of our state and can help create a sustainable water supply for cities such as El Paso," Perry says. "The state's investment ... will help position UTEP as a leading center of research and commercialization for this innovative technology and attract top experts in the field to Texas."

Gautam Patwardhan, an engineering Ph.D. student, is researching ways the plant can reduce its waste and lessen its environmental impact.

"The plant's process wastes about 3 million gallons a day right now," the 33-year-old says. "We are looking at ways to recover at least 90 percent of that waste."

During the desalination process, brackish groundwater is forced through long tubes called membranes that filter out salt and other substances. After the cleaned water is removed, water with a high concentration of pollutants remains as waste.

Working under UTEP engineering professor Anthony Tarquin, Patwardhan is exploring ways to clean the leftover water using higher pressure filtering and different types of membranes. He says having a real-world test site makes his work possible.

The implications of the new desalination research center, however, go far beyond water-hungry cities in Texas and even in the United States.

"You do this kind of research," Patwardhan says, "because it is going to be useful to our region, the nation and possibly the world." ❏






# Polar E



*Melting ice in Antarctica, photo by Craig Tweedie*





# xplorers

by Daniel Perez and David Peregrino

*At the top of the Earth, long-frozen soil is thawing and sea ice is disappearing, dramatically changing one of the most unique ecosystems on the planet. UTEP researchers who have studied the polar regions for a good part of the past decade believe the problem only will get worse before it gets better—if it does get better.*

The climate change they have witnessed on their visits to the Arctic and Antarctica could spell the eventual extinction of some polar wildlife.

Craig Tweedie, assistant professor of biology in UTEP's environmental science and engineering program, is concerned about the significant amounts of carbon dioxide and methane—both greenhouse gases—that are being or have the potential of being released into the atmosphere because of global warming.

"It's a big worry as we warm arctic soils," says Tweedie, director of the Systems Ecology Lab (SEL) at UTEP. "It's potentially a huge problem. If global warming causes soil carbon in the Arctic to enter the atmosphere as a greenhouse gas, some models predict the Earth's temperature could increase by as much as 8 degrees Fahrenheit. This is something for which current predictions are not accounting."

In May 2009, a team of UTEP researchers will again head north and conduct research at the tip of Alaska and some remote areas of arctic Canada. In 2010, they plan to extend their studies to Greenland.

Tweedie, who joined the UTEP faculty in 2005, has studied changes in the Arctic for eight years. He made his latest trip this past summer as part of the SEL, which has earned more than \$5 million in National Science Foundation grants for work in the Arctic over the past three years.

The carbon in arctic soils is dormant be-

cause it is frozen in permafrost. When arctic grounds warm, microbes and fungi feed on the newly unfrozen soils. This results in the emission of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide or methane into the atmosphere. There, they warm the atmosphere even more, potentially leading to more thawing of arctic soil.

Tweedie likens this runaway process to driving your car on a hot day and not allowing the radiator to help cool your engine. Eventually something has to give. In the Arctic, warming has caused shrubs and trees to grow further northward and has melted away significant amounts of sea ice, a habitat for polar bears, seals and other creatures. The lack of these breeding and hunting grounds could threaten their existence in the wild.

*National Geographic News* reported that there was 1.7 million square miles of sea ice in September 2007. The previous record low was 2.05 million square miles two years earlier. Some studies have shown that the ice is disappearing at a rate of 1 percent per year. Currently, this rate exceeds output from extremely sophisticated computer models.

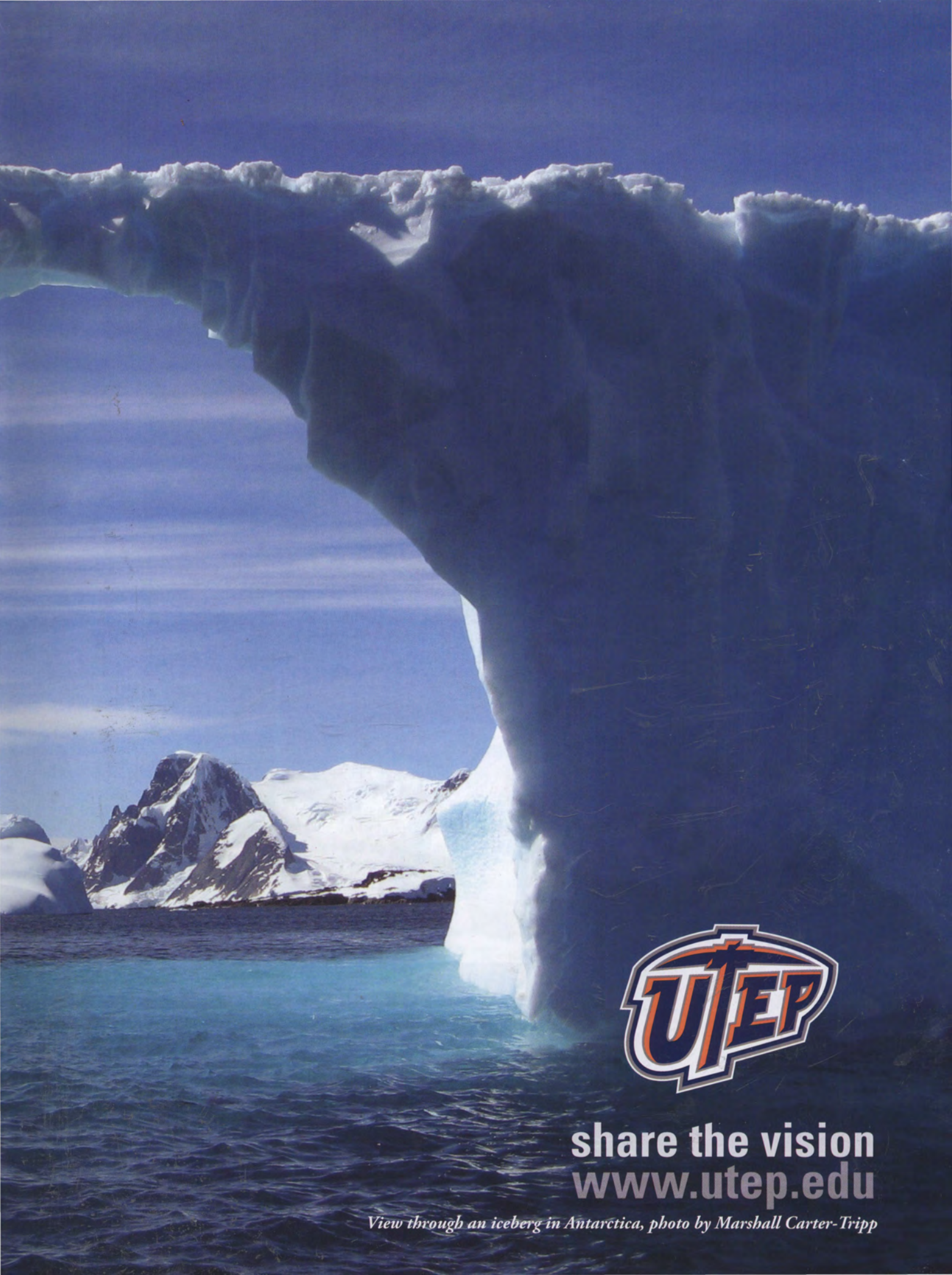
Polar bears, the Arctic's largest predator, depend on a diet of seals and other fatty marine mammals to survive and thrive. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) reports that the species in the wild could die out over the next hundred years if it cannot adapt to warmer temperatures.

*continued on page 33*









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*View through an iceberg in Antarctica, photo by Marshall Carter-Tripp*



## ANTARCTIC FACTS

- Antarctica is 98 percent covered in ice and contains 90 percent of all ice on the Earth. The ice holds more than 70 percent of all fresh water on the planet.
- Antarctica is the only continent that has never had an indigenous human population.
- Antarctica has been governed by international treaty since 1961; many countries have claims to parts of Antarctica but all are suspended while the treaty is in effect.
- The coldest air temperature on Earth (-90°C/-129°F) was recorded near the South Pole in Antarctica.

## ARCTIC FACTS

- The North Pole is not on land, but in the Arctic Ocean.
- Native people have inhabited the Arctic for nearly 20,000 years.
- The Greenland Ice Sheet is the largest Arctic glacial mass and contains 10 percent of the world's fresh water. If it were to melt, the world's sea level would rise by 7 meters (21 feet).
- The Arctic is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the Earth as a result of climate change. The Arctic Ocean could be ice free in summer by 2050.

## POLES APART

### Differences between the Arctic and Antarctica

- Antarctica is a continent surrounded by ocean whereas the Arctic is a sea surrounded by land.
- The Arctic has indigenous people whereas Antarctica does not. There are towns in the Arctic, but only scientific research bases in Antarctica.
- The Arctic has polar bears but no penguins; Antarctica has penguins but no polar bears. Both are threatened by global warming, and polar bears face imminent extinction when the sea ice critical for their survival is lost.
- The Arctic has diverse plant life including some trees. There are only two small species of flowering plants in Antarctica.
- In the Arctic, summer is between June and September, which is winter in Antarctica; the Antarctic summer is between December and March, which is winter in the Arctic.

For more information, please visit [www.ipyroam.org](http://www.ipyroam.org)

Data courtesy of IPY-ROAM, "International Polar Year - Research and Educational Opportunities in Antarctica for Minorities" program Web site.



### Photo Details & Credits

1. Arctic snowy owls nest on the ground and feed on small rodents. (Christian Anderson)
2. Arctic leopard seals are the primary prey of polar bears. (IPY-ROAM)
3. The world's largest land predator, polar bears are native to the Arctic and are classified as a threatened species. (U.S. Geological Survey)
4. Walrus spend most of their time in shallow water near Arctic sea ice. (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)
- 5 & 6. Gentoo and Chinstrap penguins are two of the many penguin species found in the Antarctic. (Gilda Victorino & Michele Phillips)

*Tourists in a small boat in front of an ice shelf, photo by Jenny Arkle*





IPY-ROAM participants hold up UTEP flag at Cuverville Island, Antarctica. UTEP's polar explorers will continue their research in Alaska, arctic Canada and Greenland in the coming years. (Photo by Sarah Robertson)

continued from page 29

The WWF estimates there are about 25,000 polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) left in the wild around Alaska and parts of Canada, Greenland and Russia.

Not only is sea ice the polar bears' natural habitat, but it and snow help reflect the sun's energy back into space. Less ice and snow means the solar energy is instead absorbed by ocean water, and the resulting rise in water temperatures leads to even more melted ice and snow.

The potential emission of arctic soil carbon into the atmosphere and loss of glaciers and sea ice are examples of "positive feedback mechanisms" because the cycle is self-perpetuating.

The consequences are more dire because in times past, the leaves of arctic plants would fall on the Arctic's cold, wet, acidic ground at the end of the short growing

season. The leaves would not break down due to the poor living conditions for microorganisms and fungi. This has allowed a massive amount of dead vegetation with a consistency similar to peat moss to build up over thousands of years. It is now an immense repository of organic carbon at risk of being released into the atmosphere as greenhouse gases.

To put this in perspective, the Arctic region—which encompasses parts of Alaska and such countries as Canada, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Russia and Sweden—has only six percent of the world's

land mass, yet it holds about 25 percent of the world's organic carbon.

When the soil begins to warm, this soil carbon from old and dead vegetation re-enters the food chain as microbes and fungi feed on it. If the soil is dry, emissions are mostly carbon dioxide. If the soil is moist, it will escape as the more dangerous methane, which has more than 25 times the warming capacity of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

If this weren't bad enough, the Arctic already has the deck stacked against it because air currents push much of the world's pollution, which includes mercury, lead and other toxic substances, to the top of the planet.

"It's much like a washing machine does with clothes when it is on a spin cycle," Tweedie explains.

The signs of a changing climate can be seen at the southern end of the Earth as well.

Aaron Velasco, Ph.D. and chairman of the Department of Geological Sciences, was witness to the effects of global warming during last winter's visit to the Antarctic. Velasco helped write part of the NSF grant that funded the International Polar Year – Research and Education Opportunities in Antarctica for Minorities (IPY-ROAM). This project was led by four UTEP faculty members who took 29 students and teachers from the United States to Antarctica over winter break.

Velasco used seismic instruments to study glacial change at the Antarctic Peninsula. The IPY-ROAM program also studied the effect of ecotourism on the local fauna, marine life and terrestrial plants and insects.

His research showed that the warmer season was lasting longer and the glaciers he studied showed no growth. In fact, one glacier had eroded about 40 feet since 1934.

"That is significant," he says. 📍

## On The Web

Systems Ecology Lab: [www.sel.utep.edu](http://www.sel.utep.edu)

International Polar Year – Research and Education Opportunities in Antarctica for Minorities: [www.ipyroam.org](http://www.ipyroam.org)



# POLE POSITION

In the past, when scientists or engineers had a problem, they typically brought in more scientists and engineers from the same discipline to try to solve it. Today, the concept is to invite experts from other disciplines—and even other cultures—to provide a different perspective.

That is what several professors and students at UTEP have learned during the last three years through their participation in multiple programs, including CyberShARE, the FAST Center and the Systems Ecology Lab.

Craig Tweedie, Ph.D. and assistant professor in the department of biology, directs eight active grants funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) that are focused on the Polar Regions. Realizing that all of his obstacles could not be solved by biologists alone, he reached out to his colleagues. The results have been energizing.

“Through collaborations with colleagues in computer science, geology and several engineering fields, we’re able to pursue amongst the greatest scientific questions challenging the environmental sciences,” says Tweedie, who heads the ecology lab.



Ann Gates, Ph.D. and associate vice president for research, worked with several UTEP professors, including Tweedie, to write the CyberShARE grant proposal to the NSF. The organization gave the project \$5 million for five years for three interdisciplinary studies that involve environmental science, mathematical science, computer science and geology.

Also a professor of computer science, Gates is the primary investigator with the CyberShARE Center of Excellence. The center deals with the hardware and software needed to discover, manipulate and integrate data.

One of Gates’ doctoral students, Irbis Gallegos, went to the Arctic during the 2008

summer to work with Santonu Goswami, a doctoral student in environmental science and engineering. Together, they developed a wireless communication system to capture and verify sensor data for the Systems Ecology Lab. This also was a CyberShARE project.

“The University has taken a leadership role in interdisciplinary research,” Gates says. “It’s no longer simply depth of knowledge but breadth of knowledge.”

Interdisciplinary work can be appealing, Gates says, but the initial difficulty is that the different branches of science often use their own academic languages.

Efficiency will increase after the different disciplines find common ground, says Cesar Carrasco, Ph.D. and director of UTEP’s FAST Center, a research and development engineering center for the Department of Defense and aerospace industries.

Carrasco, associate professor of civil engineering, has worked with Tweedie to propose a grant to the Texas Emerging Technology Fund to create a center that would test the technology of unmanned aerial vehicles for private industry; they expect a decision in February 2009. The new test facility would fall under the auspices of the FAST Center, which provides the infrastructure that its clients want regarding issues such as security, fiscal responsibility and project management.

Aaron Velasco, Ph.D. and chairman of the Department of Geological Sciences, says that there also is value in the culture that the individual brings to the table.

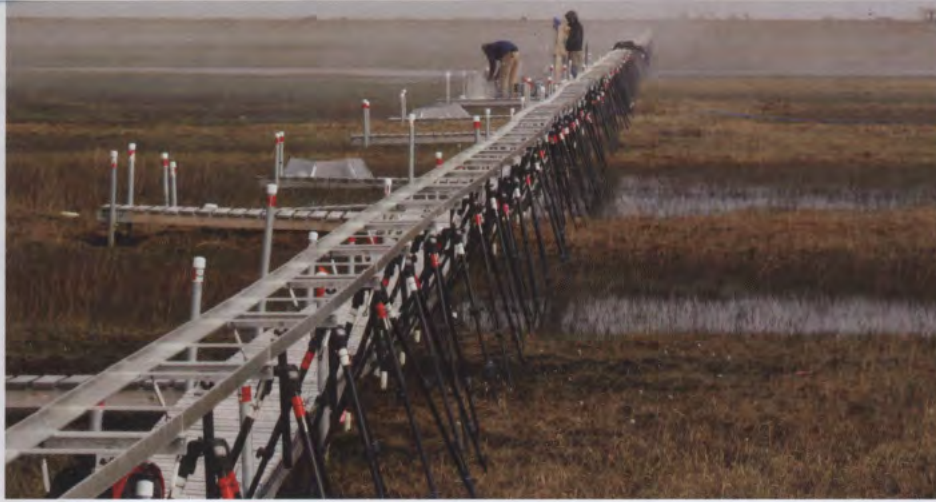
He wrote the minority component of the NSF grant that funded the International Polar Year—Research and Education Op-





# POLAR RESEARCHERS

A number of UTEP faculty have been key to the success of the polar regions research.



**Clockwise from top left:** UTEP research teams study mosses and lichen growing in Antarctica. (Craig Tweedie) A tram system carries instruments for researching conditions on the Arctic tundra. (Christian Anderson) Melting, slumping permafrost at ocean's edge. Polar researchers spend long days working in cold, windswept conditions. (Craig Tweedie) The seasonal snowmelt allows UTEP researchers to monitor the growth of plants on the Arctic tundra. (UTEP's System Ecology Lab)

portunities in Antarctica for Minorities (IPY-ROAM). This grant was led by four UTEP faculty members and took 29 students and teachers from around the United States to Antarctica during winter break 2007-08.

As president of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, Velasco has been a strong national voice to encourage underrepresented students to continue in science.

"We all have different and unique backgrounds" he says. "Complex problems need diverse people at the table."

Such collaborations benefit UTEP's students by providing them with advantages on the road to becoming productive scientists, especially when those collaborations involve industry-oriented interdisciplinary projects. Students learn about critical thinking, budgets, schedules, documentation and working with a project manager.

The opportunity to get students to take on real-world projects inspired Malcolm Cooke,

Ph.D. and assistant professor of mechanical engineering, to collaborate with Tweedie.

Cooke recalls a conversation about the difficulty Tweedie had collecting different data samples in the Arctic. As an engineer, Cooke took the issue to his senior design students who tackled the challenge with gusto.

The students created a sensor-filled, tram-like vehicle that rode a rail. Other students followed and added a sensor arm to provide improved capacities for obtaining high-quality data. Still other students designed and built a computer-controlled sensor robot built on the chassis of an all-terrain vehicle.

All the while, the students worked with the scientists to address their technical needs as well as make the machines durable for polar conditions. The engineering students relished every challenge.

"There's got to be a lot of horizontal interaction because science is getting more complex," Cooke says. "No one (discipline) has all the answers." ❏



▲ **Malcolm Cooke, Ph.D.**  
Assistant professor,  
Mechanical Engineering



▲ **Anne Gates, Ph.D.**  
Associate Vice President  
for Research;  
Director, CyberSHARE



▲ **Vanessa Lougheed, Ph.D.**, Assistant professor,  
Biological Sciences;  
Primary investigator,  
Aquatic Ecology Lab



▲ **Bill "Dr. Skateboard" Robertson, Ph.D.**  
Assistant professor,  
Teacher Education



▲ **Craig Tweedie, Ph.D.**  
Assistant professor,  
Biological Sciences;  
Primary investigator,  
Systems Ecology Lab



▲ **Cesar Carrasco, Ph.D.**  
Associate professor, Civil  
Engineering; Director,  
FAST Center



◀ **Aaron Velasco, Ph.D.**  
Chairman, Department  
of Geological Sciences;  
President, National  
Society for Advancement  
of Chicanos and Native  
Americans in Science





# TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

## UTEP AT THE POLES

# Polar Exhibit a

The icy North and South Poles have come to the desert Southwest in photos, maps, storytelling and more with a special exhibit at UTEP's Centennial Museum.

"To the Ends of the Earth: UTEP at the Poles" features visual displays, scientific equipment, vegetation, native-produced artifacts and first-person stories of researchers and tourists with UTEP ties who have spent time in the Arctic and Antarctica.

Senior environmental science major Sarah Renteria traveled to Antarctica with UTEP's International Polar Year-Research and Education Opportunities in Antarctica

FOR INFORMATION  
T: 915-747-5565  
HTTP://MUSEUM.UTEP.EDU

10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Tuesday through Saturday

UTEP'S CENTENNIAL MUSEUM  
PRESENTS

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH  
UTEP AT THE POLES EXHIBIT  
Runs Through Mar 20 2009

FREE\*\*\*\*\* FREE, BUT DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

### Photo Details & Credits

Far left: Child in traditional clothing in Barrow, AK, (photo by Sandra Villarreal) Spread: Peterman Island, Antarctica, (photo by Craig Tweedie) Far right: Umiag, or canoe, covered with bearded seal skin, (photo by Craig Tweedie)



## ANNE M. GIANGIULIO *by Laura L. Acosta*

She may not be an environmental scientist, but Assistant Professor of Art Anne M. Giangliulo uses her expertise to raise awareness about climate change and water scarcity.

After learning that melting sea ice in the Arctic threatened the survival of the polar bear, the award-winning graphic artist used the animal in a poster about global warming for a prestigious international competition.

In August, Giangliulo's design featuring a polar bear waving a white flag of surrender while on top of a melting glacier was selected as one of the finalists in the 10th International Biennial of the Poster in Mexico 2008. She was pleased to learn that the powerful message resonated with others.

"Even though we live far, far away in El Paso, these gorgeous, strong, powerful creatures are still at the mercy of things that you and I do on a daily basis."



In 2006, her illustration of a skeleton consuming the Earth's water won her an honorable mention at the competition.

Giangliulo's awareness of the importance of conserving water was reinforced by a two-year Peace Corps tour in the Cape Verde Islands off the West African coast.

Giangliulo got another opportunity to spread an environmental message as art director and designer of the exhibit "To the Ends of the Earth: UTEP at the Poles," which runs through March 20 at the Centennial Museum.

The exhibit features photographs of the Arctic and Antarctic regions taken by researchers and others with ties to UTEP and offers suggestions to help reduce our carbon footprint. "It's wonderful because I'm using my graphic design ability to raise awareness about these environmental issues," she says. ☒

STOP GLOBAL WARMING





# UTEP'S Centennial Museum

for Minorities (IPY-ROAM) program. She describes the experience as “kind of unreal.”

“We landed and there were penguins everywhere. It was cold and wet and windy. It was amazing,” she says.

The exhibit's goals include informing the community about UTEP's polar research, how climate change has impacted those areas, and how residents of the Chihuahuan Desert can lessen their carbon footprint.

“We want to raise awareness,” says Anne Giangulio, assistant professor of graphic design and the exhibit's art director.

Photos and many other items fill 1,750 square feet of the museum's Discovery Gal-

lery and the Discover Room. Younger visitors can make origami penguins and leave them at a snow park.

One iconic feature is a full-size wandering albatross with a 12-foot wingspan that hovers near the gallery ceiling. UTEP art graduate Jessica Pizaña created the bird using welded steel wire, vellum and fishing line.

Much of the polar research has education and outreach aspects, says Bill Robertson, Ph.D. and assistant professor of Teacher Education. He also journeyed to Antarctica with the IPY-ROAM team.

“Having materials available for classrooms from the IPY-ROAM project, the museum exhibit at UTEP, as well as outreach efforts by the students in local schools are practical examples of the efforts to bring this science directly to those we serve,” he says. ☒

Learn more about the exhibit at <http://museum.utep.edu>



## JOSE HERRERA by Laura L. Acosta

It was a book about a world gone silent that inspired UTEP senior Jose Herrera to protect the Earth. *Silent Spring*, by Rachel Carson, helped launch an environmental movement and flamed Herrera's passion to study the world's fragile ecosystems. “It was an eye-opener for me—what we're doing as human beings and how we're destroying our planet,” he recalls.

In 2007, the biology major joined students and teachers from across the United States on a three-week journey to study the Antarctic Peninsula. The life-altering voyage gave Herrera an opportunity to make an environmental difference and leave a lasting impression on 600 El Paso children.

Before leaving for Antarctica, Herrera and a fellow traveler, Gilda Victorino, visited 14 elementary schools in low-income neighborhoods throughout El Paso County, and asked students to sign “promise banners” as their commitment to reduce their carbon footprint. The 20 banners accompanied Herrera on his trip. Since his return home, Herrera has revisited the schools and returned the banners—along with the photos—as proof they traveled with him to Antarctica.

“We made sure there were penguins in the background so they wouldn't think we went to Ruidoso, N.M.,” he jokes.

Herrera, who graduated in December, is the first in his family to attend college. The 35-year-old hopes his journey will inspire future Miners. He already sees the impact the trip has had on his 5-year-old son, Evan, who associates Antarctica with the Academy Award-winning movie *Happy Feet*, which is set in an Antarctic penguin colony.

“Evan was bragging to all his friends that he was going to UTEP to study Antarctica and team up with Mumble (the lead character in the movie). They're going to help save the planet,” he says. ☒





# Going Green

Among the numerous efforts to make UTEP eco-friendly:

- An engineering student was hired last fall to study the University's carbon footprint and help make environmentally friendly improvements to the campus.
- Last year, the Miner Metro shuttle systems buses began using a gas mixture that includes 20 percent biodiesel fuel, decreasing emissions and improving mileage by 10 percent.
- A carpool program kicked off in fall 2008.
- Facilities Services and Environmental Health and Safety use small Neighborhood Electric Vehicles, whose electricity is generated by a small solar array, to haul cargo around campus.
- The enormous Thermal Storage Unit (water tank) cools 3.6 million gallons of water overnight when electric rates are cheaper. This saves \$2.2 million each year in deferred electric costs.
- The school spent \$5 million to change light fixtures to more efficient models, saving \$500,000 annually.
- New chillers were installed at the Central Energy Plant that will save 750,000 to 800,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity and about \$65,000 annually.
- Vending machines and computers go to sleep mode during long periods of inactivity to save energy.

## Carbon Footprints



the lighter side of

A "carbon footprint" is defined as the amount of greenhouse gas that you produce from what you do on a daily, weekly, monthly or annual basis. The smaller the carbon footprint, the less you contribute to global warming.

Here are a few tips to lessen your carbon footprint:

- \* Drive a more fuel-efficient vehicle in a less aggressive way.
- \* Walk more, carpool or take public transportation when possible.
- \* Turn your thermostat down 2 degrees in the winter and up 2 degrees in the summer.

- \* Replace your incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents that use less energy, last longer and are more efficient.
- \* Turn off or unplug electronic devices that are not in use. When you buy new appliances, look for the more efficient ENERGY STAR products.

- \* Eat less meat. Buy locally grown foods. Avoid highly processed and over-packaged foods. The processing, packaging and transporting, and raising livestock, are big energy consumers.

- \* Plant a tree to suck the carbon dioxide from the air.
- \* Invest in alternative energies such as a hybrid vehicle, biodiesel and wind or solar power.

- \* Conserve water by using native plants, capturing rainwater, and taking showers instead of baths.



### Recycle. Recycle. Recycle.



Calculate your footprint at [www.epyroam.org](http://www.epyroam.org)







# GREEN ROOF TOPS OFF UTEP'S ECO-EFFORTS

The University of Texas at El Paso is taking environmentalism to new heights.

This spring, the University will plant vegetation on the top of the Biology Building to create El Paso's first "green roof" on a commercial building.

About half of the 15,313-square-foot roof will be covered in plants such as regal mist and white evening primrose to reduce the building's heating and cooling demands.

"We plan to plant materials that will hold up to the winds," says Greg McNicol, associate vice president for business affairs and facilities services.

The roof project is the University's most scientifically ambitious eco-venture, but even everyday efforts that lack cutting-edge appeal propel the University to its greener goals.

Consider recycling, which has become second nature around campus. The University recycles on a monthly basis 45,000 pounds of paper products, including newspapers, papers, books, magazines and cardboard, as well as 20,000 pounds of steel and 1,250 pounds of copper.

UTEP plans to increase its already aggressive recycling program. Facilities Services is working with a Phoenix-based construction waste disposal company that will open a site in El Paso's far East Side. The company will haul off waste from the many ongoing and planned University projects for at least the next 30 months.

"Recycling is never profitable, but it's the right thing to do and we don't want to see that stuff go in the landfill," says John Salles, warehouse operations supervisor, who directs campus recycling.

General recycling efforts are becoming more cost effective and less reliant on manpower, which allows those workers to be assigned to other duties. Also, technology allows more waste products to be reused in constructive ways.

For example, the carpet at the new University Bookstore will be made of material from recycled plastic and glass.

New construction and renovations around campus follow Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles that promote sustainability. LEED was developed in 1998 by the United States Green Building Council, of which UTEP is a member. Ed Soltero, UTEP's campus architect and director of the Department of Planning and Construction, was recently accredited as a LEED architect.

LEED principles provide standards for efficient use of air, water, energy and materials, including the use of public transportation and the type of fuel used for vehicles.

From the bottom of recycling bins to the top of buildings, University officials continue to keep their eyes and ears open to new ways to make the campus more eco-friendly. ☒





# “If You Are To Be Heard”

## Donaldson '55 encourages students to learn, vote

With his usual insight, wit and humor, renowned newsman and alumnus Sam Donaldson encouraged UTEP students—the majority of them young Hispanics—to become more involved in politics and the political process as they represent the future demographic of the nation.

“Barack Obama became president of the United States because minorities voted overwhelmingly for him and young people, first-time voters, voted overwhelmingly for him,” Donaldson commented during a visit to his alma mater in November to offer his insight on the historic presidency.

However, he notes, the same number of young voters cast ballots in November as did during the 2004 presidential election. In the future, he says, young voters must educate themselves about the issues—then vote.

“It’s up to you to ensure you turn out at the polls if you are to be heard,” he says, his voice resonating throughout a room full of students who turned out for the valuable opportunity to hear from the acclaimed journalist.

A 1955 Texas Western College (now UTEP)

graduate, Donaldson is representative not only of the quality alumni who graduate from UTEP, but of the high-profile speakers who come on campus to share their perspectives on topics that impact the region, the nation and the world.

A longtime veteran of *ABC News*, Donaldson currently appears on the daily show *Politics Live* on ABC News Now, the ABC News digital network.

The El Paso-born journalist has served two appointments as chief White House correspondent for ABC News, covering Presidents Carter, Reagan and Clinton. He has also co-anchored *Primetime Live*, and *This Week With Sam Donaldson & Cokie Roberts*.

The event was hosted by the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies, the Department of Communication and the College of Liberal Arts. Established in 2002, the Donaldson Center provides academic enrichment for communication majors, communication programs to high school students and continuing education and training for media and communication professionals.



Look for Sam Donaldson's guest article in the spring issue of *UTEP Magazine*.

## Nature Walk

The University of Texas at El Paso hosted Wendy J. Paulson, chairwoman of RARE Conservation, in November to speak about the importance of understanding and appreciating nature.

Her message? “As you pursue your path as an environmentalist—be it as academic, professional, volunteer, activist—you will make nature a priority in that path.”

UTEP President Diana Natalicio and Paulson announced a partnership between the University and RARE Conservation, an organization dedicated to the preservation of species and ecosystems on the verge of extinction.

UTEP will offer a master's degree in communication to conservation campaign managers around the world. Program graduates will run outreach campaigns to protect their communities' natural surroundings.

“I urge you to make nature a priority in your days—take the time to watch a sunrise, explore the Rio Bosque, listen to the song of a cactus wren,” she says, referring to the 372-acre wetlands park that is administered by the UTEP Center for Environmental Resource Management.

“That regular exposure to nature reaches the child in each of us,” says Paulson, who serves on the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, the National Forum on Children and Nature, and the National Council of the Student Conservation Association, among others.



Wendy J. Paulson

## Cara a Cara

As the largest ethnic minority in the United States, Hispanics recorded a purchasing power of nearly \$870 billion in 2008, according to *Hispanic Business Inc.* That number is projected to reach \$1.3 trillion by 2015.

How to best tap into that continuously expanding market was the focus of the 2008 Emerging Faces in Hispanic Advertising Conference at UTEP last fall.

The one-of-a-kind conference provided UTEP students an opportunity to meet with top industry executives to gain an insight into the advertising world. Experts offered a glimpse of strategies that are being implemented by renowned advertising companies such as Alma DDB and Dieste Harmel & Partners.

“It’s really an honor to have these executives here,” advertising major Erik Baray says. “You hear about these people in the classroom and read about them online, but it’s a different experience to have them here talking to you face-to-face. It’s surreal.”

Organized by the Department of Communication and the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies, the event provided students, faculty and industry leaders an opportunity to learn, network and ask the question that challenges advertising firms across the nation: How do you get your client’s message to the growing Hispanic demographic?



# Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Honors UTEP

The UTEP-EPCC Transfer Scholarship Program has received the prestigious Star Award from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for its success in helping students complete their undergraduate studies and closing the gaps in education.

Since its inception in 1997, the program has awarded nearly \$1.6 million in merit-based scholarships to talented El Paso Community College students who enroll at The University of Texas at El Paso to pursue bachelor's degrees. Supported entirely by private-sector funds, the scholarships cover nearly all costs of the recipients' full-time enrollment at UTEP.

Nearly 280 students have benefited from the Transfer Scholarship Program, which boasts an outstanding 95 percent retention rate. More than 170 of those recipients have completed their degrees—68 percent of them with honors. Another 70 are currently enrolled. Notably, the scholars have recorded a cumulative GPA of 3.6 over the past decade.

The UTEP-EPCC Transfer Scholarship Program joins an elite group of UTEP initiatives that have won the STAR Award over the years, including the Chemistry Peer Leader Program, the Model Institutions for Excellence Initiative, the Law School Preparation Institute, the Entering Student Program and the Mother-Daughter program.

The Star Award, established by the Coordinating Board in 2001, recognizes higher education institutions, organizations, groups and individuals for their exceptional contributions toward one or more of the goals of Closing the Gaps.



From left: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board members Laurie Bricker and Elaine Mendoza, Commissioner Raymund Paredes, UTEP President Diana Natalicio and Stephen Wolslager of The Wolslager Foundation.



## UTEP's Millennium Lecture Series Addresses Presidential Challenges

As President Barack Obama begins his historic four-year term in office this January, a growing list of challenges faces the presidency and the nation.

Prominent experts from across the country are discussing those challenges—from education to health care to the economy—as part of UTEP's 2008-09 Millennium Lecture Series. The series brings distinguished speakers in an array of fields to UTEP to share their perspectives on topics that have a broad impact on society and culture.

President Emeritus of the University of Michigan James J. Duderstadt last fall shared his thoughts on the future of higher education. Duderstadt spoke on the government's need to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in higher education to avoid a negative impact on workforce shortages, health-care quality and economic stability.

In a separate presentation, Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas Eduardo J. Sanchez, M.D., discussed how the health-care system might change under Obama's administration.

Future lecturers include Thomas A. Shannon, Jr., Ph.D., Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the U.S. Department of State; and Dr. Wilson Compton, M.D., Director of the Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research at the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Since its inception in 2000, the Millennium Lecture Series has welcomed more than 35 prominent speakers to campus.



Eduardo J. Sanchez



James J. Duderstadt

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# UTEP Breaks New Ground for College of Health Sciences/School of Nursing Building

by *Laura L. Acosta*

The University of Texas at El Paso's vision to provide its health sciences and nursing students with a state-of-the-art learning facility on the main campus will soon become a reality.

In November, UTEP broke ground on the future site of the College of Health Sciences/School of Nursing building. Dozens of community partners joined UTEP President Diana Natalicio, faculty, staff and students to celebrate one of the University's most anticipated construction projects.

Expected to open in spring 2011, the

\$60 million, 130,000-square-foot facility will include classrooms, practice labs and research space where students will train on cutting-edge equipment under the guidance of acclaimed faculty. The heart of the facility will be a 16,000-square-foot clinical learning center where students will enhance their education by training on interactive patient mannequins in simulation laboratories.


For decades, UTEP has been at the forefront of health care in the Paso del Norte region by offering a wide spectrum of undergraduate and graduate programs in health sciences and nursing.

With the support of community partners and acclaimed faculty, UTEP's future graduates will continue to emerge as highly skilled and competent professionals who will provide advanced quality care.

The new building is part of an unprecedented \$260 million construction program—the single most significant facilities investment in UTEP history.

The construction schedule was highlighted during a November meeting of The University of Texas System Board of Regents at UTEP, allowing the University to showcase its advancements in providing students, faculty and staff the most technologically advanced labs and classrooms.

During the Regents' visit, UTEP held a virtual groundbreaking of the College of Health Sciences/School of Nursing building as well as the \$70.2 million Chemistry and Computer Science Building that will feature 140,000 square feet of classrooms and laboratories when it opens in 2011.

A virtual tour of the new \$60 million Bioscience Research Building took visitors through the 100,000-square-foot facility that boasts a Biosafety Level 3 laboratory, which deals with highly infectious diseases such as tuberculosis. A grand opening is scheduled for the spring. 



UTEP President Diana Natalicio (seated) with School of Nursing Dean Robert L. Anders, Dr.PH., (at immediate left), College of Health Sciences Dean Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D., (at immediate right), and members of the College of Health Sciences/School of Nursing Advisory Board

For decades, UTEP has been at the forefront of health care in the Paso del Norte region by offering a wide spectrum of undergraduate and graduate programs in health sciences and nursing.





# UTEP Hosts U.T. System Regents Meeting




UTEP last fall welcomed The University of Texas System Board of Regents, showcasing a dynamic institution ringing with the sound of new construction and bustling with a record number of students, faculty and staff.

The Regents' meeting, in the Sun City for the first time since 2002, proved a valuable opportunity for The University of Texas at El Paso to display a rapidly growing research capability and many other new programs that reflect the University's mission of academic excellence.

"What I see on this campus is the future of Texas: diverse, energized and very well-equipped to compete successfully in the expanding global economy," says U.T. System Interim Chancellor Kenneth I. Shine.

During their stay, the Regents learned about UTEP's record enrollment of more than 20,000 talented students; growing academic offerings that today boast 16 doctoral degrees; an aggressive \$260 million construction schedule that will provide faculty and students with some of the most technologically advanced classrooms and laboratories in the nation; and a robust research portfolio of nearly \$50 million that focuses on regional and global issues.

The University's transformation into a national research institution with a 21st century demographic of unparalleled achievement would not be possible without the extraordinary confidence and commitment of the Regents.

Their support represents an investment in UTEP, the Paso del Norte region and beyond, as the University's success is vital to improving the educational attainment and economic development of the region, state and nation. 



Regents Paul Foster and Vice Chairman Robert B. Rowling



Regent and Vice Chairman James R. Huffines



UTEP President Diana Natalicio, Regent John W. Barnhill Jr. and Interim Chancellor Dr. Kenneth I. Shine

## The University of Texas at El Paso



"Transferring a donation directly from my IRA enabled me to give back to UTEP for all that they gave to me."

—Bob Heasley, UTEP Class of '53; Distinguished Alumni Award, 1988; member, UTEP Development Board

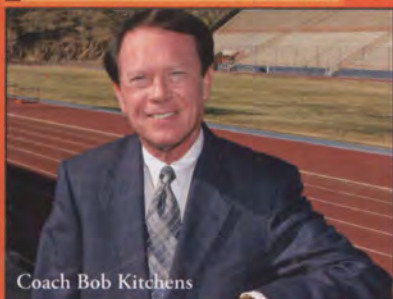
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Coach Bob Kitchens

## RIGHT ON TRACK

by Daniel Perez

Bob Kitchens never imagined outrunning his friends at Silverton High School in the Texas Panhandle would be his first steps toward a stellar career as one of the world's preeminent track coaches.

His dusty farm-and-ranch days behind him, the head coach of the Miners' track and field team is running as strong as ever: He holds 20 national championships and 12 conference titles at UTEP, and most recently coached a number of athletes who participated in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and brought home three bronze medals.

Constantly mining for gold in all competitions, Kitchens has mentored numerous Olympians, NCAA champions and All-Americans during his distinguished 20-year tenure at UTEP.

Kitchens has been honored as Coach of the Year about a dozen times by Conference USA, the Western Athletic Conference and the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. Named in the same breath with top track coaches around the country, Kitchens has been inducted into several athletic halls of fame.

But the 64-year-old downplays the achievements. His satisfaction comes from mentoring student-athletes who persevere and achieve as a team.

"It's not me and them," says Kitchens, who served as head coach at Mississippi State for nine years before coming to UTEP. "It's us."

In college, Kitchens ran track for the Texas Tech Red Raiders and served as a student assistant coach while he finished his education degree.

John Wedel, president of the El Paso Track and Field Association, describes Kitchens as "a winner."

"He sets high standards for himself and his athletes," Wedel says. "And when you demand a lot, the athletes usually live up to those standards." ❧

# HEAVY

by David Peregrino and Laura Cruz Acosta



## Churandy Martina

Age: 24

**Miner status:** senior, Multidisciplinary Studies

**Home country:** Netherlands Antilles

**Event/Result:** 200 meter dash, 19.82 seconds (disqualified, lane violation; appealing to win reinstatement as a silver medalist)

**Notables:** Gold Medal, 100 meters, 2007 Pan American Games

*"I'm always working for first place. I'm focusing to be the best because that's the best place to be."*



## Mickael Hanany

Age: 25

**Miner status:** graduate student, Business Administration

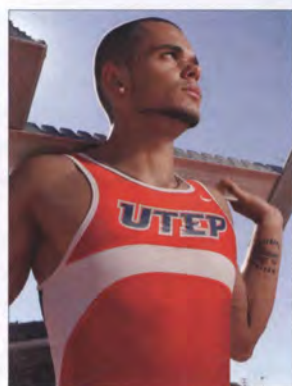
**Home country:** France

**Event:** Men's high jump

**Result:** 7 feet, 4.625 inches

**Notables:** Seven All-Time NCAA All-American; 15 conference titles (C-USA and WAC)

*"Participating in the Olympics was part of a lifelong goal for me. You see it on TV, and you want to be part of it. You don't want to be at home watching."*



## Ronalds Arajs

Age: 21

**Miner status:** sophomore, Industrial Engineering

**Home country:** Latvia

**Event/Result:** 200 meter dash, 21.22 seconds (fifth place, first round heat)

**Notables:** Latvia National Junior Record holder in 100 meters; 2006 Latvia National Titles for 100 and 200 meters

*"It's every athlete's dream to go to the Olympics. It's the biggest dream for track and field athletes."*



## Osayomi Oludamola

Age: 22

**Miner status:** former student

**Home country:** Nigeria

**Event/Result:** 4x100 meter relay, 43.04 seconds, Bronze Medal

**Notables:** Gold Medal, 100 meters and 400 meter relay, 2008 Africa Championship; and Gold Medal, 100 and 200 meters, 2007 All-Africa Games

*"It seems like more people know me now than before. Everything has worked out well." (as quoted online in AfricanLofi)*



# Y MEDAL

## BLESSING OKAGBARE

Age: 20

Miner status: sophomore,  
Business Administration

Home country: Nigeria

Event/Result: Long jump, 6.91  
meters, Bronze Medal

Notables: Silver Medal, long jump,  
2007 All-Africa Games

*"I gave it all my best. I was going to jump  
big. I knew I had something in me."*

## HALIMAT ISMAILA

Age: 24

Miner status: senior, Health Promotion

Home country: Nigeria

Event/Result: 4x100 meter relay,  
43.04 seconds, Bronze Medal

Notables: Silver Medal, 400 meters, 2007 C-USA  
Outdoor Championships; Gold Medal, 400  
meters, 2007 C-USA Indoor Championships

*"I feel really good about having gone  
out there and making the school  
proud—and being proud of myself."*

**P**roudly wearing the colors of Nigeria, Latvia, France and the Netherlands Antilles, an all-star group of Miner track and field athletes pushed their bodies to the limit in pursuit of victory at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

It was an unforgettable experience for the Miners, who soaked in the international flavors of the event, including the spectacular colors, music and acrobatic choreography of the opening ceremony in Beijing National Stadium.

Popularly known as the "Bird's Nest" for its distinctive architecture, the stadium was the site for the Olympic track and field events. The Miners won three bronze medals, bringing pride to UTEP and their home countries.

"It shows we're on the world scene," says UTEP Track and Field Head Coach Bob Kitchens. "We've had Miners participate in the

Olympics in some form over the years, and each time it's just as exciting to watch these athletes give it their best."

Former UTEP athletes won five medals at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

The Olympians are further testament to the longtime success of the program. The UTEP Track and Field Hall of Fame boasts a who's who of world-class athletes, including Robert "Bob" Beamon, who held the long jump record for 23 years after winning gold in the 1968 Mexico City Games; and world champion sprinter Bert Cameron, who won a silver medal in the 4 x 400 relay in the 1988 Summer Olympics. ▣



## Q&A: Coach Keitha Adams



Coach Keitha Adams

### What is your coaching philosophy?

If we teach it, and we practice it, we can expect it. I try to be the best teacher that I can be. The way you are taught is the way you coach.

### Who do you consider to be your mentor?

Coach Jim Littell. He coached me, taught me and to this day, advises me. I owe him a lot. I wouldn't be where I am today without him.

### What's on your iPod?

Wynonna Judd, Vince Gill, Carrie Underwood and Elvis

### Favorite flicks?

*The Color Purple*, *Hoosiers* and *Glory Road*

### Favorite meal?

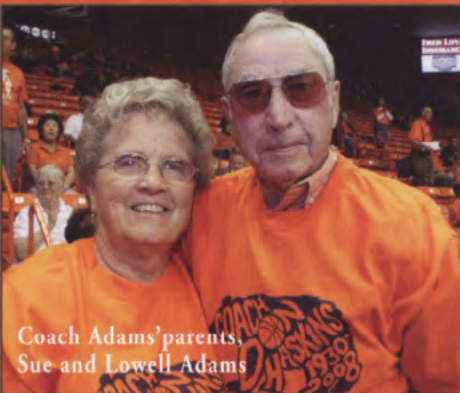
A great steak and baked potato

### What do you love about UTEP?

The people. They are friendly and compassionate.

### In her own words:

I'm an old school, Midwest gal who believes in hard work. I get my toughness from my mom and my softness from my dad. My father is a big man with an even bigger heart.



Coach Adams' parents,  
Sue and Lowell Adams

*Adams has been head coach of the women's basketball team at UTEP since 2000. The team won the 2008 Conference USA Championship and received its first bid to the NCAA tournament in the program's 34-year history. Adams heads into the 2008-09 season with a 50-12 record over the last two seasons.*



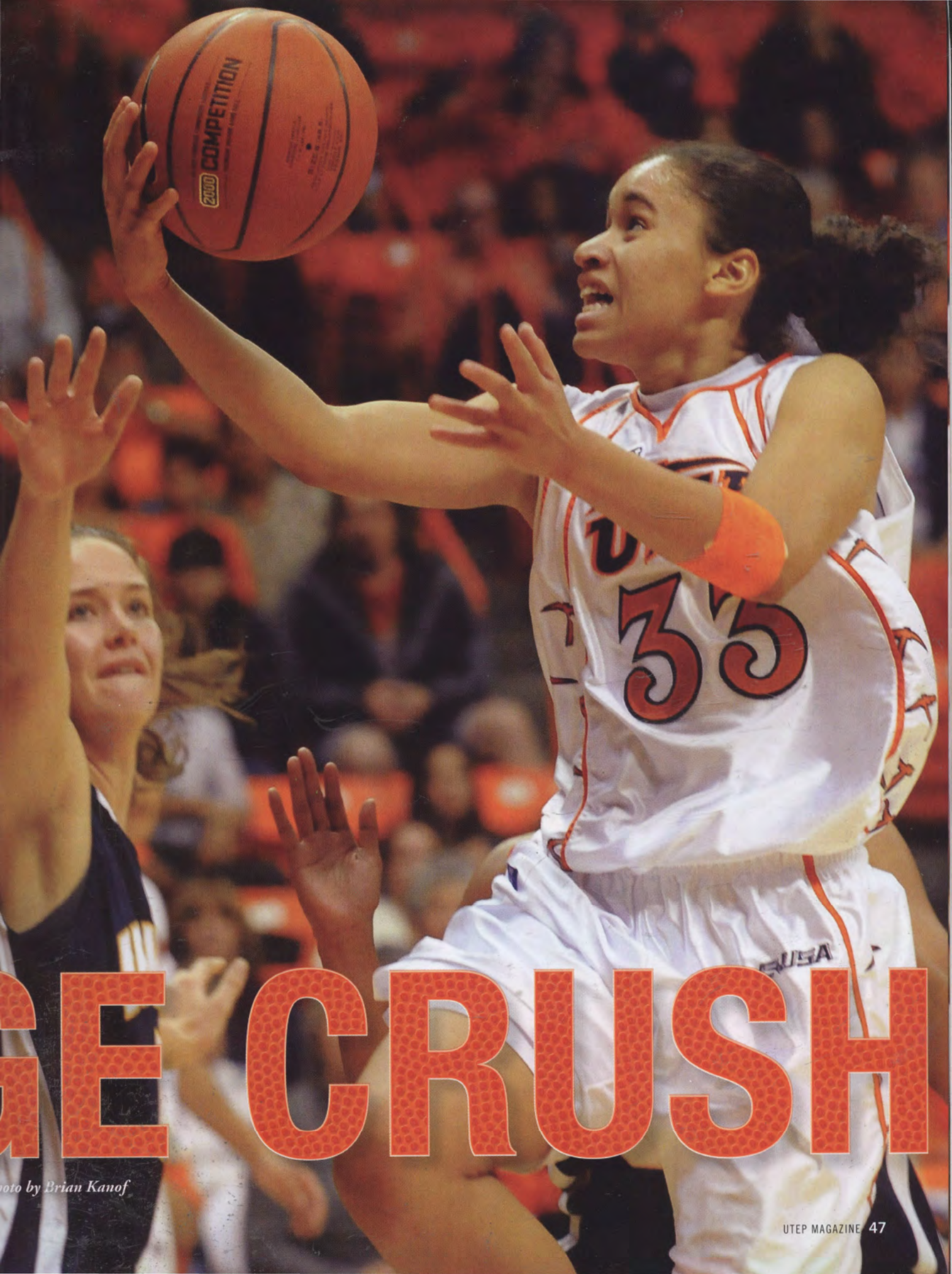
Photo by Brian Kanof

Jareica Hughes

**C**oming off a C-USA title win and first-ever appearance in the NCAA tournament, the Miner women's basketball team is full of high expectations for 2008-09. Head Coach Keitha Adams has six returning letter winners from last year's 28-4 squad, including C-USA player of the year Jareica Hughes. Only a junior, Hughes already ranks third in steals, fourth in assists and seventh in three-pointers made for the Miners, and could climb to the top of those categories this year.

# ORAN





# THE CRUSH

Photo by Brian Kanof



# UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

**F**or the 2008-09 season, the Miner men's basketball team has gone big, adding some inside size to back up the strong perimeter play of star senior guard Stefon Jackson and sophomore shooter Randy Culpepper. Joining 6-foot-11 returnee Claude Britten on the roster are 7-foot Memphis transfer Kareem Cooper and 6-foot-11 freshman Arnett Moultrie. Head Coach Tony Barbee is looking for this new balanced lineup to improve on last year's 19-14 record. Jackson, who led C-USA in scoring last year, is on pace to become UTEP's all-time scoring leader.



Photo of Tony Barbee by Bruce Berman  
Courtesy of *El Paso Magazine*

## Q&A: Coach Tony Barbee

**What is your coaching philosophy?**

Play with tenacity and toughness. Always give more than what people expect of you.

**Who do you consider your role model?**

My dad.

**What do you expect of your players?**

Be solid citizens and accountable students, but don't be afraid to take on my personality on the court.

**What you didn't know about Barbee:**

The 37-year-old Indianapolis native is a huge Colts fan.

**What's on your iPod?**

Music! I listen to everything. I was a hip hop baby, but I listen to everything from classic rock to Motown to soul.

**Favorite flicks or TV shows?**

*Entourage, The Sopranos, Hoosiers*

**What do you do when you're off the court?**

I'm an open book; I have no major hobbies outside of basketball.

*Barbee has been head coach of the Miner men's basketball team since 2005. Under his leadership, the team has gone to a more up-tempo style that has translated to being more aggressive and more competitive on the court.*





LOYALTY  
GRACE

MINERS

REBELS

UTEP

23





# It's GOOD

by Jeff Darby

## HIGH-SCORING MINERS NARROWLY MISS BOWL BID IN 2008

The Miner football team lost three games by five points or less this season and fell just one win shy of earning its third bowl bid in five seasons.

Among many memorable moments were the historic sellout against UT Austin and José Martínez's 64-yard field goal against UCF—the second-longest without a tee in NCAA history.

Martínez, sophomore quarterback Trevor Vittatoe and senior linebacker Adam Vincent were named the team's MVPs for 2008, while Martínez, Vincent and senior center Robby Felix garnered first team All-Conference USA honors. Vittatoe put up

spectacular numbers in 2008, throwing for 3,274 yards and a school-record 33 touchdowns.

The Miners were a resilient bunch all season long. They rallied from an 0-3 start to post three straight wins, then dipped to 3-5 before again squaring their mark at 5-5. But UTEP couldn't pull out a win in either of its last two road games, falling at Houston (42-37) and East Carolina (53-21) to close out the slate.

UTEP ended up facing seven teams that went to bowls—Buffalo, Texas, Southern Miss, Tulsa, Rice, Houston and East Carolina. An eighth team on the docket, Loui-

siana-Lafayette, was bowl eligible at 6-6.

UTEP will return eight starters on both offense and defense for the 2009 campaign. The Miners will again tackle a challenging non-conference slate which features home games versus Buffalo and Kansas and trips to Texas and New Mexico State. UTEP should be explosive offensively next season, and small improvements on defense should result in another bowl appearance. ✕





## MARTINEZ EYES NFL FOLLOWING BANNER SENIOR YEAR

UTEP superstar kicker José Martínez didn't think he'd make a name for himself on the football field. In fact, up until his senior year at South High School in Bakersfield, Calif., soccer was Martínez's game.

But as coaches know, that soccer-style kick translates perfectly into long-distance field goals on the gridiron.

In practice, Martínez, 22, wowed his teammates with field goals that easily bested the distance of the NCAA record 65-yarder made by Kansas State's Martin Gramatica in 1998. For some fun at two-a-day camp

in Socorro, N.M., he attempted a 77-yard field goal and only fell a yard short.

Martínez itched to unleash that power during his senior year. He got the chance in late September, when he blasted a 64-yard field goal in the Sun Bowl at the end of the first half against UCF. The field goal was a school and C-USA record and ranks as the second-longest without a tee in NCAA history.

"It felt good to finally hit a long field goal that counted in a game, and not just for fun in practice," Martínez says.

Martínez was named UTEP's Special

Teams MVP after leading the team with 105 points.

Also, for the second consecutive year, Martínez was named one of 20 semifinalists for the Lou Groza Collegiate Place Kicker Award. The prestigious award is presented by the FedEx Orange Bowl, and is given annually to the nation's top collegiate place kicker. ❏



# Growing UTEP's Dynamic Legacy

by Laura L. Acosta

Founded in 1914 as the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy, The University of Texas at El Paso has a long tradition of helping students succeed through academic excellence, innovative programs and leadership opportunities.

Today, the University's dynamic legacy continues to grow. As an emerging national research university, UTEP serves more than 20,000 students, offers nearly 180 degrees and boasts nearly 89,000 proud alumni.

With the support of generous grants and gifts from corporate partnerships and friends of the University, UTEP has been able to expand its academic and research programs, offer additional scholarship opportunities, and build new infrastructure, ensuring the success of future generations of Miners.

By investing in UTEP, supporters help propel the University toward success in its ambitious fundraising effort set to culminate in 2014, the institution's 100th anniversary, and secure a prosperous future for the Paso del Norte region and beyond.



UTEP Alumnus Russell A. Vandenburg  
Chair, Centennial Campaign Leadership Council

## Success in the Classroom and Community

Often the needs of the community will determine the course of an institution's academic programs. In El Paso County, minority students remain largely underrepresented in science and math due in part to a shortage of teachers in our public schools.

In December 2006, UTEP launched a bold initiative to boost the number of qualified math and science teachers in the Paso del Norte region with the generous financial support from global business solutions provider, Automatic Data Processing, Inc.

The \$600,000 gift from ADP helped establish the Math and Science Teachers (MaST) Academy at UTEP to address the teacher shortage and encourage students to pursue careers in those fields.

"ADP has been a longtime supporter of education," says Steve Penrose, a senior vice president at ADP. "We saw the MaST academy as an important need in the community."

The academy is led by UTEP's College of Science in partnership with the College of Education and area school districts.

Through innovative programs such as the ADP MaST Scholars and ADP MaST Mentor Teachers initiatives, the academy prepares undergraduate math and science majors with minors in secondary education for careers as high school math and science teachers.

ADP scholars are paired with experienced mentor teachers to increase their success in the classroom. Scholars attend professional development seminars and participate in a 16-week field experience where they observe their mentor teachers in the classrooms and participate in science demonstrations or math enrichment activities.

To date, 37 students have participated in the program. Thirteen ADP scholars have graduated from the academy, many of whom are now working in high schools throughout

El Paso County. The remaining students have opted to pursue their master's degrees and have enrolled in graduate school.

"The program already has made me a better teacher," says Tammy Dashley, who earned her bachelor's in three years and is pursuing her master's in teaching mathematics.

"I went into the classroom and became familiar with the classroom environment, lesson planning, and learned from teachers who are really good at what they do," says the 21-year-old Outstanding ADP MaST Scholar. "It's like I've been teaching for a year-and-a-half when I just recently graduated."

The program also is meeting ADP's high expectations.

"The program was clear as to what it was going to achieve to help the community and our growing population," Penrose says. "Everybody can have goals, but delivering is a different issue. I'm delighted at how UTEP has delivered." ❏



# r Loyalty

Russell A. Vandenburg has never lost sight of the opportunities UTEP afforded him.

The Chicago native came to the University in 1966 to pursue his degree in education and play football. Since graduating in 1970, he has served as a teacher and coach, but has found his greatest success as co-founder of TVO North America, one of El Paso's most prominent real estate investment and service companies.


Today, Vandenburg serves as chief executive officer of the company, where the majority of employees are UTEP graduates. Throughout his professional endeavors, Vandenburg has remained a strong UTEP supporter. As his company grows, he says, so do its charitable contributions to the University.

"Since my football playing days in the mid-1960s, I have supported the UTEP athletic department," he says. "My allegiance is also a result of the great leadership under UTEP President Diana Natalicio."

In August, Vandenburg and his wife, Marty, gave UTEP more than \$3 million in support of numerous programs.

Longtime supporters of Miner athletics, the Vandenburgs contributed \$1 million toward the Foster Stevens Basketball Complex. Their gift of \$750,000 will establish the Russell and Marty Vandenburg Family Endowment in the College of Business Administration and another \$250,000 will fund the Russell and Marty Vandenburg Family Endowed Scholarship for Secondary Teacher Preparation.

The Vandenburgs also have committed \$700,000 in the form of a deferred charitable gift annuity. The remaining \$380,000 will help support various campus initiatives.

More than dollars, however, Vandenburg has given of his time, serving on the UTEP Development Board and most recently chairing the Centennial Campaign Leadership Council. 

## Building the Future


Technology is helping prepare students for careers in nursing and health sciences like never before, and the support of respected health foundations enable UTEP to put that within reach of its students and faculty.

In November, UTEP broke ground on the new \$60 million College of Health Sciences/School of Nursing building. The 130,000-square-foot facility will house classrooms, practice labs, research space and video technology.

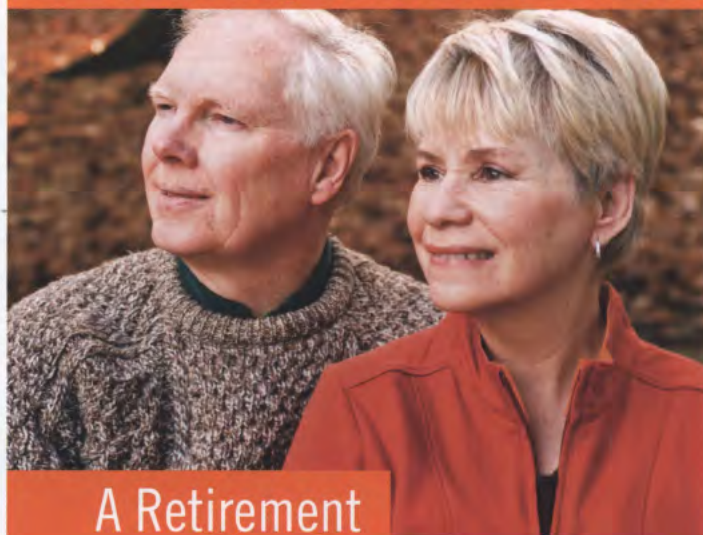
At the heart of the new facility will be a state-of-the-art clinical learning center that will provide training for 2,500 undergraduate and graduate students.

The Paso del Norte Health Foundation recently awarded UTEP a \$1.5 million grant to support the center's training programs. The grant will go toward the purchase of cutting-edge equipment that will be used by students to train in simulation laboratories.

"The grant will provide state-of-the-art educational opportunities through the use of scenario-based education," says Robert L. Anders, Dr.PH., dean of the School of Nursing.

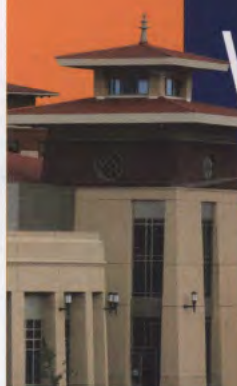
Additional laboratories include a neonatal unit, intensive care unit, surgical suites, and a simulated home environment where students will learn different ways to provide home health care. Students will train on such high-tech equipment as the Laerdal™ SimMan™, an interactive patient simulator that imitates medical scenarios. 

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\* Rates effective July 1, 2008.  
Please contact our office to verify current rates.



# BUILDING THE MINER NATION



Created by artist Gary Prazen, "Today's Miner" is a life-size bronze statue that stands in the foyer of the Geological Sciences Building.

The statue was donated to UTEP by C. Allen Born, who earned a bachelor's degree in geology from Texas Western College (now UTEP) in 1958.

Born, chairman and director of Panoro Minerals, Ltd., was the 1991 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. "Today's Miner" was unveiled at the dedication of the Geological Sciences Building during Homecoming 1991.





Dear Alumni,

On behalf of the UTEP Alumni Association, I'm proud to introduce the Miner Nation membership drive. Our goal is to increase membership to 5,000 members by 2010.

### Who is part of the Miner Nation?

The Miner Nation is made up of card-carrying members of the UTEP Alumni Association. They are alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff and friends of the University.

### Where is the Miner Nation?

With members around the world, the Miner Nation has no borders. Currently there are active chapters in Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, San Antonio and Juárez, Mexico. Chapters provide outreach to Miners through social and networking events such as pre-game and viewing parties, volunteer activities and much more. As membership grows around the world, we look forward to seeing our current chapters grow and helping build new chapters.

### Why join the Miner Nation?

Members of the Miner Nation are dedicated to supporting, promoting and connecting Miners and the University. Membership dues help provide scholarships and support programs such as the Distinguished Alumni Awards, the UTEP Student Alumni Association and the Top Ten Seniors Awards. With each new member, the Miner Nation network grows stronger, helping the University and adding value to each UTEP degree.

As we move toward our goal of 5,000 members by 2010, the UTEP Alumni Association is proud to introduce new campus, local and nationwide benefits as well as new and improved membership cards. The new cards will be sent to members in phases beginning with our Lifetime members. I encourage all alumni to take advantage of the new benefits and become card-carrying members of the Miner Nation.

Thank you and GO MINERS!

*Richard Daniel*

Richard Daniel, Ph.D.

Assistant Vice President for Alumni and Constituent Relations  
The University of Texas at El Paso



# HOMECOMING ROCKED!



## Past, Present & Future Miners Rocked Homecoming 2008

Twenty-five student and university organizations hosted fun-filled events with the "Miners Rock" theme at heart. Students strutted down the catwalk during the Best Mullet Fashion Show; lip synced to their favorite rock songs during the Lip Sync Contest; and gave their best hard rock performance during the Guitar Hero Contest.

Homecoming also gave UTEP the opportunity to honor three alumni whose outstanding contributions to their professions and the community are a great source of pride for the University.

The 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients were James Rohack, M.D., president-elect of the American Medical Association; Paul Yetter, a successful Houston attorney; and Ruben Salazar, who was honored with the posthumous award for his many accomplishments in the field of journalism.

The annual event was a time to recognize UTEP's achievements over the past 94 years and to celebrate the University's future as we head toward our 100th anniversary.







## UTEP Student Alumni Association

by Kimberly Miller and Cindy Ramirez



Analisa Cordova



Aaron Rosas

The Student Alumni Association is a dedicated group of students who fill an extremely important role at UTEP: keeping Miner traditions alive by strengthening the bonds between students and alumni.

“Before we revitalized this group, students weren’t learning about and fostering traditions,” says Richard Daniel, assistant vice president for alumni and constituent relations. “There was no student group engaged with the alumni office or the alumni.”

The group was revived in 2007 after a hiatus and has worked hard to dig up—and breathe new life into—some of UTEP’s most cherished legacies.

“I had been involved in a lot of other student organizations on campus and had learned

that keeping up traditions was very important to students,” says former association president Analisa Cordova, who was instrumental in bringing the group back to life. “It felt very natural to help with this effort that was dedicated to building community between students and alumni.”

The 1966 NCAA men’s basketball championship is among the legacies Cordova helped rein-vigorate. To celebrate the 42nd anniversary of the Miners’ historic win, the association played host in March to a screening of the 2006 film *Glory Road* based on the team’s journey to the national title, and showed clips of the game.

The group also partnered with the College of Engineering to honor UTEP’s roots as a mining school during a “Remember the Green” reunion that brought engineering alumni back to campus. The event was held in March in conjunction with the college’s annual TCM Day, when the University—formerly the Texas College of Mines—honors its roots and the college’s patron saint, St. Patrick.

Student Alumni Association President Aaron Rosas says the reunion, which he hopes will become an annual event, created an opportunity for students to see alumni as role models.

“For the students, it was like, ‘Hey, someone else has gone down the same road I’m on and they succeeded,’” he says.

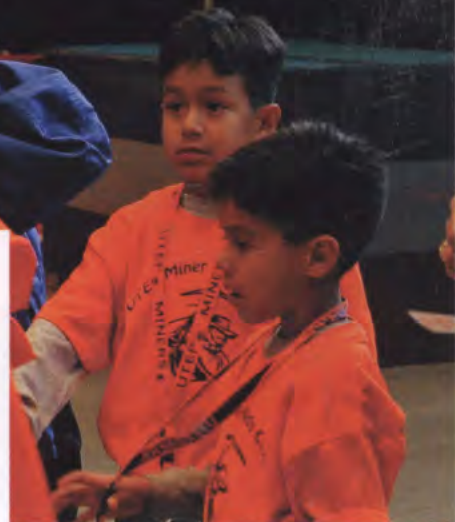
Officials with the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, a professional organization for university advancement officials, say these types of programs are an important component in the success of an institution.

UTEP’s student association is one of about 300 organizations nationwide registered with the council’s Affiliated Student Advancement Programs. Last year, seven members of the association attended a conference in New Orleans with peers from across the country.

Among the lessons they brought home: It’s not all about the past. Acting on that, the group has been enthusiastically creating new traditions it can pass on to future generations of Miners.

A Halloween tour of UTEP buildings believed to be haunted shows promise of becoming an annual event. The group also plans to increase spirit in the University’s athletics program by sponsoring transportation to football and basketball games held away from home.

Creating those new traditions brings the Student Alumni Association’s work full circle.



“It’s a bridge to the past and to the future,” says Daniel. “We want the students to connect with our alumni, but we also want them to see their future.”

Rosas echoes that sentiment.

“We want UTEP students to feel pride not only in our history and where we’ve been, but what we are today and where we could be tomorrow.”

[www.utepalumni.org](http://www.utepalumni.org)

## GOT A MINER IN YOUR FAMILY?

The Parents Association is an organization where members learn about UTEP and the services it provides.

- New student/parent orientation sessions and receptions
- Mentoring by other parents to help with the transition into college life
- Helping support the academic community of UTEP
- Assisting with University events
- Connecting to UTEP, other parents and their own child’s educational experience

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or e-mail: [parents@utep.edu](mailto:parents@utep.edu)





'50s

**Edward Azar Sr.**, president of AFI Inc., was inducted into the El Paso Business Hall of Fame in October.

'60s

**Dr. John D. Boice Jr.** (B.S. '67), recipient of UTEP's 1995 College of Science Gold Nugget Award and 1999 Distinguished Alumni Award, is a professor of medicine at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., and scientific director at the International Epidemiology Institute in Rockville, Md., where he resides. In June, he received the 2008 Alumni Award of Merit from the Harvard School of Public Health.

**Catalina E. "Hope" Garcia** (B.S. '61) is a private practicing anesthesiologist with the Dallas Anesthesiology Group.

**Richard L. Lambrecht Sr.** (B.M.E. '69) received the Texas Bandmasters Association's Meritorious Achievement Award in recognition of his commitment and dedication to music education. Lambrecht is a lecturer for UTEP's Department of Music; a principal horn player for several regional orchestras, including the El Paso Symphony

Orchestra and the El Paso Opera; and a founding member of El Paso Brass.

**Yvonne L. "E.V." Johnstone Lanelli** (B.A. '68; M.A. '73), a freelance outdoor adventure writer and photographer, in September won first place in a competition held by the National Federation of Press Women with her article *The Princess and the Pee*. Lanelli resides in Alto, N.M.

**Luis A. "Louie" Mendez Jr.** (B.M. '60) is celebrating his 50th year as a teacher. He is a music instructor at the Jewett School of the Arts in Winter Haven, Fla.

'70s

**C. Kym Anderson** (\*), a CPA at Jones & Co. in El Paso, was named chairwoman-elect for the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants in July.

**Philip Azar Jr.** (B.A. '75), president of Azar Enterprises Inc., was inducted into the El Paso Business Hall of Fame in October.

**Douglas K. Conwell** (B.S.Ed. '70), the director of emergency management for Santa Fe Public Schools, is a certified national trainer in readiness and emergency management for schools.

**Dr. J. Bernard Cordoba** (B.S. '72) is a psychiatrist with a solo practice in Austin, Texas.

**J. Stephen "Steve" DeGroat** (B.B.A. '72; M.B.A. '75), owner of Lincoln Financial Advisors in El Paso, earned the chartered retirement planning counselor professional designation.

**Milton L. "Mickey" Duntley** (B.S. '74) a retired El Paso law enforcement officer and former Ysleta Independent School District trustee, was reappointed to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board in September by Gov. Rick Perry.

**Dr. Willarda Virginia Edwards** (B.S. '72) was declared president-elect of the National Medical Association in July. Edwards is president and chief operating officer of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Inc. and a partner at Drs. Edwards and Stephens Ltd. in Baltimore, where she practices internal medicine.

**Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Green** (B.A. '77), who retired as inspector general of the Army after 37 years of military service, in July was named vice president for joint operations and integration by Raytheon Co.'s Network Centric Systems in McKinney, Texas.

**Christine M. Kramp Gorjanc** (B.B.A. '79) in January was promoted to chief financial officer of Netgear Inc. in San Jose, Calif. Netgear designs

computer networking products that address the needs of small and medium businesses and home users.

**Gary R. Hedrick** (B.B.A. '77; M.B.A. '82), who retired in 2007 as president and CEO of El Paso Electric Co., was inducted into the El Paso Business Hall of Fame in October and named to the board of directors of ReadyOne Industries in November.

**Debra C. Hester** (B.B.A. '77) was recognized as a 2008 multimillion dollar listing agent and multimillion dollar selling agent for ERA Sellers, Buyers and Associates in September. She is a resident of El Paso.

**Andrew A. Liao** (M.S. '74) is Baroid Industrial Drilling Product's sales manager for the Asia Pacific region. Liao is based in Houston and Singapore.

**George L. McLendon** (B.S. '72) in July was named dean of Trinity College of Arts & Sciences and appointed to a second five-year term as dean of the faculty of Arts & Sciences at Duke University in Durham, N.C. McLendon was awarded UTEP's College of Science Gold Nugget Award in 1996.

**Carlos "Charlie" Simental** (B.S.C.E. '76; M.S.C.E. '82), a retired civil engineer, received

*continued on page 58*



**Bill Hutchison** has worked for 28 years to ensure that people have clean and affordable water. The Corpus Christi native came to El Paso seven years ago and earned his Ph.D. in environmental science and engineering from UTEP in 2006. As the water resources manager for El Paso Water Utilities, Hutchison is finding more efficient and less expensive ways to keep the area's water supply flowing.

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR WORK.** We deal with anything that has to do with groundwater management, which includes locating and drilling wells, and doing groundwater modeling and regional planning.

**IS EL PASO'S WATER SUPPLY RUNNING LOW?** No. We want to make sure that we have as close to a sustainable supply as possible. In reality, we could use local resources for the next 100 years or more, but that would put us in trouble further on down the line.

Back in the 1970s and '80s, groundwater pumping in this area was about twice what it is now. There has been a concerted effort to reduce groundwater pumping in order to make sure that supply lasts. That is one of the reasons for our increased use of surface water and our conservation efforts. We're basically trying to balance the portfolio and make the water supply sustainable and affordable.

**ARE THE CITY'S WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS WORKING?** Yes, they are definitely working. Our water use has been consistently dropping since the early 1980s. It made a significant drop in 1990 when conservation became a very important component of our overall water management strategy.

One way of measuring our water use is per capita or by looking at how much water each person uses in one day. We do that by taking the total water use and dividing that by the total population. In the 1970s, it was 210 to 220 gallons per person per day. Last year, it was 134 gallons.

**WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER THE MOST FROM YOUR UTEP EXPERIENCE?** I was not a traditional student. I was working full time and going to school, so I was juggling a lot of things. I'll always be grateful that UTEP gave me the opportunity to pull something together in a structured and organized way that I think will be helpful long after I'm gone. I hope that's the case.



**BE A PART OF THE MINER NATION**

**JOIN THE UTEP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

and help us reach our goal of 5,000 members by 2010

- Card-carrying members enjoy numerous benefits
- Membership dues provide scholarships, support programs

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the 2008 Engineer of the Year Award in February from the Texas Society of Engineers - El Paso Chapter in recognition of his outstanding achievements and his dedication to the engineering profession and community.

**Russell A. "Russ" Vandenburg** (B.S.Ed. '70), chief executive officer of TVO North America, was inducted into the El Paso Business Hall of Fame in October.

**'80s**

**Carlos Acosta** (B.S.E.E. '85) graduated from the University of Phoenix in September with a Master of Business Administration degree. Acosta is a senior engineering manager at Medtronic Inc. in Tempe, Ariz.

**Susan B. Birdsey** (B.S.Ed. '88) in July was named assistant superintendent of the Garfield School District Re-2 in Rifle, Colo.

**Lt. Col. James M. "Jim" Chatfield Jr.** (B.S. '88) is the information technology director for Integer USA Inc., a business services

company supporting Catholic institutions in the U.S., Canada and the Pacific Rim. He also is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and has completed two tours in the Middle East. Chatfield resides in Atlanta.

**Dr. Norman C. Christopher** (B.S. '81) in September was appointed the Noah Miller Chair of Pediatric Medicine at Akron Children's Hospital in Ohio. Christopher resides in Granger Township, Ohio.

**Roger V. Gonzalez** (B.S.M.E. '86) in May was named LeTourneau University's first Piper Professor for outstanding teaching. The award is conferred by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation of San Antonio. In August, Gonzalez was appointed associate vice president of scholarship and research and associate dean of the School of Engineering and Engineering Technology at LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas.

**Stephen E. Greaber** (B.S.C.E. '89) was named branch manager of the Baton Rouge, La., office for Aquaterra Engineering LLC in July. Aquaterra provides siteworks engineering services in principal cities throughout the Southeast.

**Clara Khoury** (B.S.Ed. '84) in July opened the first Edible Arrangements franchise in El Paso. Edible Arrangements is a specialty food and gift store that creates fresh fruit bouquets.

**Earl D. Starboard III** (B.S.C.E. '89), a registered professional engineer, is project manager in the Phoenix office of Gannett Fleming, an international planning design and construction management firm.

**Diane O. Washington Valdez** (B.A. '83; M.A. '00), a journalist for the *El Paso Times*, in July was awarded the 2008 Chavkin Award for Integrity in Journalism in Latin America for her investigation into the slayings of women in Juárez, Mexico.

**'90s**

**Marco C. Bencomo** (B.B.A. '99) earned the Producer Award for June at JDW Insurance in recognition of new business generated. Bencomo is a shareholder and senior vice president at JDW Insurance in El Paso.

**Steven T. "Steve" Buraczyk** (B.S.E.E. '91; M.B.A. '97) was promoted to vice president of power marketing and fuels at El Paso Electric Co. in July.

**Cheryl Lee Eichorn** (M.Ed. '91) was appointed the English as a second language supervisor for the Lincoln Intermediate Unit at the Gettysburg, Pa., Field Office for Migrant and ESL Services. Eichorn resides in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

**Philip E. "Phil" Gabbard** (B.A. '94) in September was named general sales manager for Entravision radio stations in Los Angeles.

**Graciela Gonzalez** (B.S.C.S. '92; M.S. '94; Ph.D. '00) in September was promoted to assistant professor for the Department of Biomedical Informatics at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz.

**Norma L. Hollebeke** (B.S. '90; M.S. '94) is a biology professor at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio. She is the project director for the Dayton Urban STEM Teacher Academy, which was awarded a \$642,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

**Leslie Navarro** (B.A. '97) in September became the first female and the first Latina to be named president of Morton College in Cicero, Ill.

**Alexandros Papadimitriou** (B.S. '97; M.S. '99) represented Greece in the men's hammer throw at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, where he advanced to the semifinals. He resides in Athens.

**Rosalia Slape** (B.S.N. '96) has been appointed director of the Del Sol Diagnostic Center in El Paso.

**Chief Warrant Officer Brandon S. Tipton** (\*) is a U.S. Army Chinook pilot, company standardizations pilot and instructor pilot stationed in Taji, Iraq.

**Tracy J. Yellen** (M.P.A. '95) is the chief operating officer of the Foundation of the Diocese of El Paso.

**Berenice Zubia** (B.A. '98), a resident of Canutillo, Texas, was named executive director of public relations for the El Paso Independent School District in July.

**'00s**

**Erma-Gene Evans** (B.B.A. '07) represented Saint Lucia in the women's javelin throw at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. She resides in El Paso.

**Mickael C. Hanany** (B.S. '07) represented France at the 2008

Olympics in Beijing. He participated in the high jump. Hanany resides in El Paso.

**Capt. Joseph D. "Joe" Henderson** (B.A. '04), who is serving in Iraq with the U.S. Army's 330th Transportation Battalion as commander of the 99th Movement Control Team, was promoted to the rank of captain in August.

**Sanaan C. Lair** (B.S.C.E. '00; M.S.En.E. '01), a registered professional engineer, was named project manager for the El Paso office of CH2M Hill, a full-service engineering, construction and operations firm.

**Tricia M. Martinez** (B.S.W. '08) was named the 2008 El Paso Social Work Student of the Year and Texas Social Work Student of the Year by the El Paso and Texas chapters of the National Association of Social Workers. She resides in Socorro, Texas.

**Rellon E. Powers** (B.S.N. '03), a resident of El Paso, was named nurse manager of R.E. Thomson General Hospital's Emergency Department and Level I Trauma Center in July.

**Samuel E. Sisneros** (M.A. '01) is a senior archivist at the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives in Santa Fe, N.M.

**Nominate an Honoree Today!**



The UTEP Alumni Association is looking for nominees to honor as exceptional graduates during Homecoming 2009.

- Distinguished Alumni Award
- Gold Nugget Award

The Association is also accepting applications for its Top 10 Seniors Awards.

Information and nomination forms available online: [www.utepalumni.org](http://www.utepalumni.org)

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**Terry L. Witt** (B.A. '69)  
The Woodlands, Texas;  
Feb. 22, 2008.

**Mary Louis Jack  
Blackwell** (B.A. '50)  
Raleigh, N.C.;  
Feb. 26, 2008.

**Betty Joe Cotton** (B.A.  
'42) Midland, Texas;  
Feb. 27, 2008.

**Fred G. Green Jr.** (B.M.  
'58) Gonzales, Calif.;  
March 2, 2008.

**Joaquin Arguelles Sr.**  
(B.S.Mi. '50) Albuquerque,  
N.M.; March 10, 2008.

**Stephen Bruce Belyea**  
(B.B.A. '80) Austin, Texas;  
March 12, 2008.

**Becky Gober West**  
(M.Ed. '72) Clarksdale,  
Miss.; March 12, 2008.

**Ann E. Kyle** (B.S.Ed. '61)  
St. Peters, Mo.;  
March 13, 2008.

**Jerry D. Brewer** (B.B.A.  
'66) Greeley, Colo.;  
March 18, 2008.

**Allan Edgar Goldman**  
(B.S.Mi. '51) Portsmouth,  
N.H.; April 21, 2008.

**Raymond L. "Ray"  
Evans** (B.A. '49) Stayton,  
Ore.; April 25, 2008.

**Dan R. Boyd** (B.S.Met.  
'59) Escondido, Calif.;  
April 26, 2008.

**Cecilia Irene Fargo**  
(B.A. '42) Ventura, Calif.;  
May 11, 2008.

**Helen Malinda  
Coleman** (B.A. '55) San  
Antonio; May 21, 2008.

**Charles Harvey  
"Pug" Gabrel** (B.A. '51)  
Woodward, Okla.;  
May 26, 2008.

**William Morrison  
Kennedy Sr.** (B.A. '47)  
Louisia, Ky.; June 24, 2008.

**Edna Wardy Angona**  
(B.B.A. '51) San  
Bernardino, Calif.;  
July 1, 2008.

**William B. "Bill"  
Ramage** (B.B.A. '74) Fort  
Worth, Texas; July 4, 2008.

**Juanita Mestas Parra**  
(B.S.Ed. '68) El Paso;  
July 5, 2008.

**Earnestine "Teen"  
Thayer** (B.S.Ed. '65;  
M.Ed. '72) El Paso;  
July 6, 2008.

**Barbara Schenk  
Tomlinson** (B.S.Ed. '71)  
Denton, Texas;  
July 7, 2008.

**Antonio "Tony" De La  
Cruz** (B.B.A. '86) Sunland  
Park, N.M.; July 8, 2008.

**Gerald J. "Jerry"  
Terrian** (B.S. '70) El Paso;  
July 8, 2008.

**Ramona C. Escontrias**  
(B.S. '98) El Paso;  
July 12, 2008.

**Adela Zubiate-Rodarte**  
(B.S.Ed. '78) El Paso;  
July 14, 2008.

**Rod Allen Roderick**  
(B.S. '49) Asheville, N.C.;  
July 19, 2008.

**Carolyn Nichols  
Hutchinson** (B.A. '66) El  
Paso; July 22, 2008.

**Gilbert Anthony  
"Gil" Rueda** (B.A. '86)  
Bracketville, Texas;  
July 27, 2008.

**Elizabeth Hines Byers**  
(B.A. '41) El Paso;  
July 31, 2008.

**Lois A. Gilland Rister**  
(B.A. '42) El Paso;  
Aug. 4, 2008.

**Joaquin A. Rosales**  
(B.S. '60; M.S.C.E. '79) El  
Paso; Aug. 5, 2008.

**David Earl Gardiner**  
(B.S.M.E. '95) San Diego;  
Aug. 6, 2008.

**Ramon "Monchis"  
Salas** (B.A. '85) El Paso;  
Aug. 8, 2008.

**Arturo Jose "Art"  
Flores** (M.Ed. '68) El  
Paso; Aug. 14, 2008.

**Hilda A. Rodriguez  
Megaw** (B.S.Ed. '69)  
Glastonbury, Conn.;  
Aug. 14, 2008.

**David J. "Chuy"  
Marquez** (B.S.C.E. '54;  
M.S.C.E. '69) El Paso;  
Aug. 19, 2008.

**Stanley E. Bryan Jr.**  
(B.A. '54) Long Beach,  
Calif.; Aug. 20, 2008.

**Col. Michael Bruce  
Howe** (B.S. '62) Austin,  
Texas; Aug. 24, 2008.

**William H. "Bill"  
Eason** (B.S.M.E. '57) El  
Paso; Aug. 25, 2008

**Debbie Rodriguez** (B.A.  
'98) El Paso; Aug. 26,  
2008.

**Vernon Ralph Brook**  
(M.Ed. '69) San Angelo,  
Texas; Aug. 27, 2008.

**David Norman Key** (B.S.  
'95) Pearland, Texas; Aug.  
28, 2008.

**Susan Thompson Funk**  
(B.A. '63; M.Ed. '73) El  
Paso; Aug. 30, 2008.

**Robert E. "Bob" Shipp**  
(B.A. '57) El Paso; Sept.  
5, 2008.

**Rosemary K. Brooks**  
(B.A. '68) El Paso; Sept.  
8, 2008.

**Alberto "Albert" Soto**  
(B.S.E.E. '49) Placentia,  
Calif.; Sept. 8, 2008.

**Sidney L. Chavers Jr.**  
(B.A. '67) El Paso; Sept.  
9, 2008.

**Robert Gustav King**  
(B.B.A. '52; M.A. '53) El  
Paso; Sept. 10, 2008.

**Leopoldo L. Calanche  
Sr.** (B.A. '57) El Paso;  
Sept. 11, 2008.

**Leon Amson  
Rosenfield Jr.** (B.A. '33)  
Los Angeles; Sept. 11,  
2008.

**Edmond G. "Eddie"  
Feuille** (B.B.A. '48) El  
Paso; Sept. 13, 2008.

**Carlos Marin** (B.S.C.E.  
'78) El Paso; Sept. 15,  
2008.

**Dorothy Kathryn  
Johnson** (B.S.Ed. '68)  
Humble, Texas; Sept. 16,  
2008.

**Leon Silva Jr.** (B.S.Ed.  
'79) El Paso; Sept. 20,  
2008.

**Gustavo Eduardo  
"Eddie" Hickerson**  
(B.A. '68) El Paso; Sept.  
23, 2008.

**Joy Hudson Duarte, (\*)**  
El Paso; Sept. 29, 2008.

**Catherine "Kitty"  
Kistenmacher** (B.A. '48)  
El Paso; Oct. 3, 2008.

—Compiled by Alyson  
Acheson

(\*) Denotes attendance  
at UTEP

# the producer

Rudy Tellez  
UTEP, Tonight Show Alumnus Passes Away

by Sophie A. Rigollet Stewart

Described as a "smiley, winsome guy," Rodolfo F. "Rudy" Tellez was El Paso's No. 1 television and radio personality in the 1950s who went on to become an award-winning producer for *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson*.

"Whatever success I may have attained is a direct reflection of my personal appetite for experimentation in broadcast media, along with much of my schooling which prepared me as a student at Texas Western College—now The University of Texas at El Paso—and my other alma mater, KTSM," he wrote in a 1991 letter in the *El Paso Herald Post*.

A recipient of the UTEP Distinguished Alumni Award in 1970, Tellez passed away November 22, 2008.

Tellez followed a trajectory that took him from El Paso to New York's Rockefeller Plaza to the studios of Hollywood and back home again.

As a young boy, Tellez dreamed of becoming a radio announcer. He entered Texas Western on a music scholarship after graduating from El Paso High School in 1948. He worked at El Paso's first FM radio station alongside fellow Miner Sam Donaldson before graduating with a broadcast degree in 1952.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, he hosted the *The Fort Bliss Hour* for El Paso's first TV station, KROD, which later became KDBC. However, it was at KTSM, where he hosted the popular teen dance TV show, *4:30 Hop*, that Tellez became known as the "Dick Clark of El Paso."

In 1960, Tellez moved to San Francisco and created one of the first late-night, call-in talk shows, the *Les Crane Show*. His work garnered network attention, and, in 1965, ABC-TV bought the program, thereby launching Tellez's career as a national TV producer, which eventually landed him at *The Tonight Show*.

After founding TelCo Entertainment, Inc. in Los Angeles, Tellez produced numerous shows, began managing clients in entertainment and sports, and moved with his wife to New Mexico. Together they owned and operated TV and radio stations across the state.

In 1969, he established the Rudy Tellez Scholarship Fund for broadcasting students at UTEP. He gave the 1984 address for the University commencement, and joined UTEP as a teaching fellow in 2001 with a "Business of Entertainment" course.

Tellez is survived by his wife Tenaya, his sons Steve and Keith, and his grandchildren. ☐





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Henry Quintana Jr.  
President  
UTEP Alumni Association



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# Crossword answers



by Yolanda Patterson '77

In an effort to recognize the need for black students to celebrate their contributions to the success of UTEP—and to reconnect with the University—a new tradition was born during Homecoming 2008.

Former members of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Iota Gamma chapter, organized a reunion of Black UTEP Alumni with the vision to bring the many African-Americans, West Indians, Africans and alumni of many other cultures and ethnicities back to their alma mater.

The reunion was a success! As the word spreads, organizations of former students have volunteered to rotate the coordination of future Black Alumni events. Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity

(2009), former UTEP football players (2010), Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity (2011) and others are already planning events.

The effort continues to encourage membership and involvement in UTEP Alumni events and provides information about the success of black alumni that serves to inspire current students to strive for and achieve their educational goals.

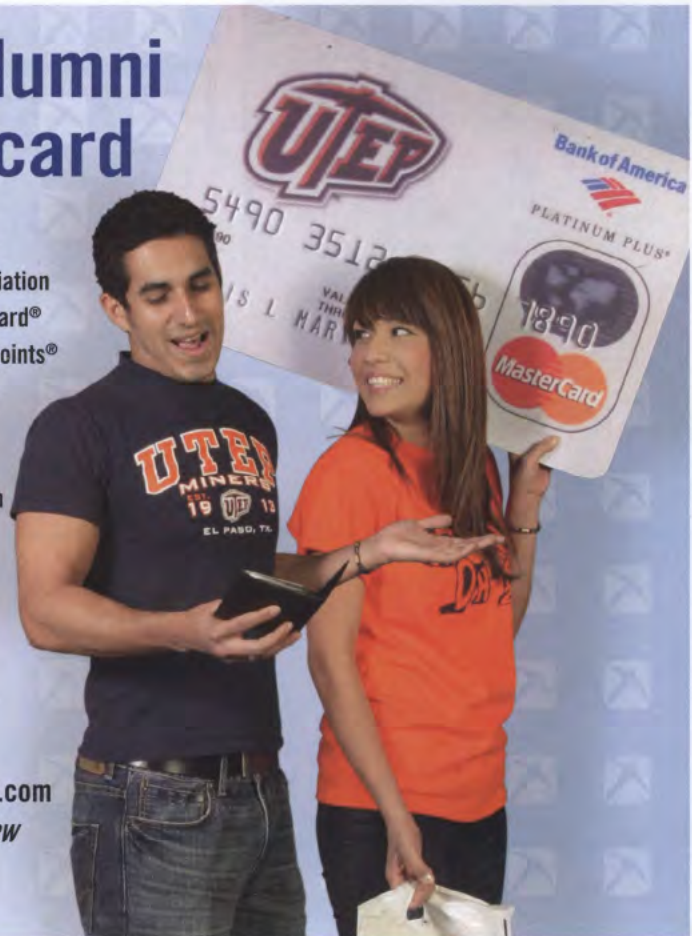
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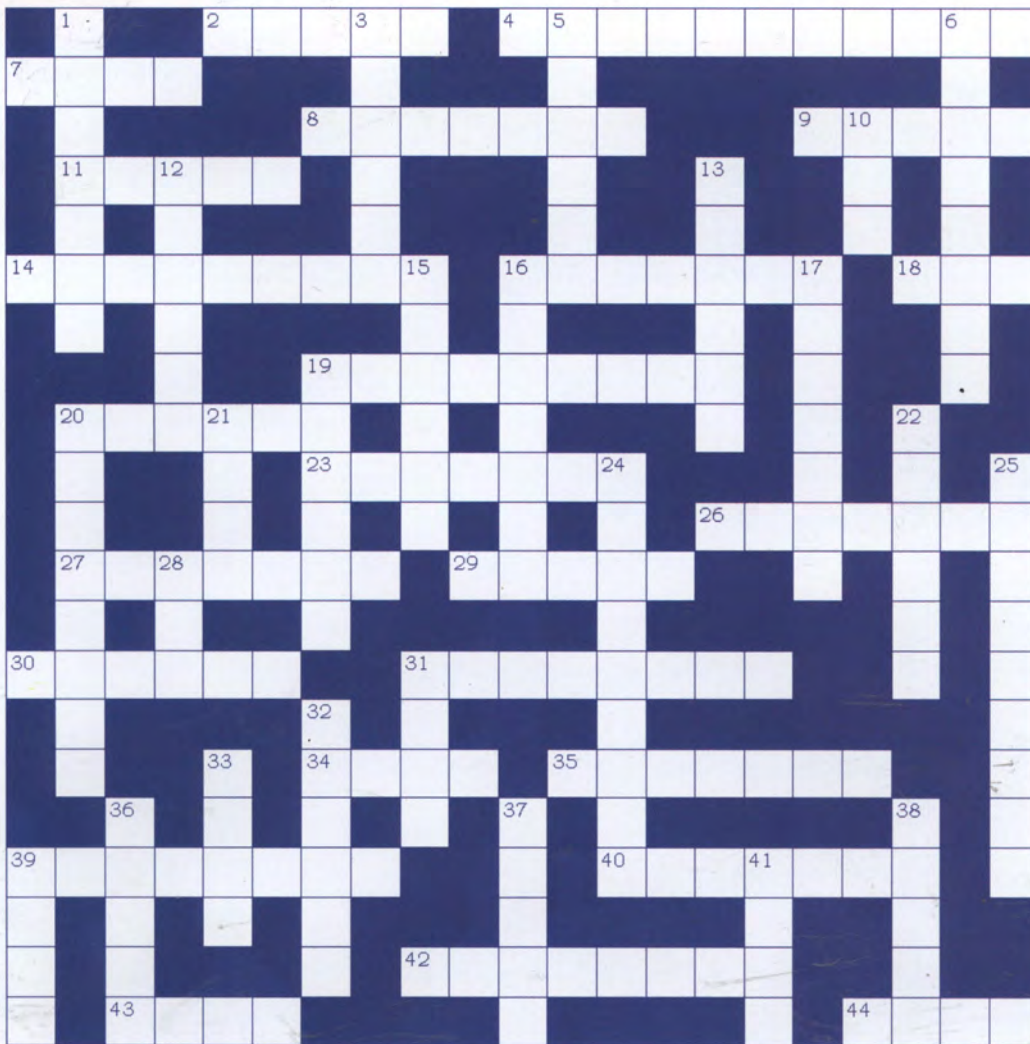


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Members of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Iota Gamma chapter, hosted a special Homecoming reunion to encourage black alumni to become more involved in UTEP.





**ACROSS**

- 2 UTEP sports information director: Jeff \_\_\_
- 4 State of the University
- 7 Chemistry professor/art protector: \_\_\_ Dirk
- 8 Steep walk to Kidd Field: \_\_\_ Hill
- 9 World's largest predator threatened by global warming: \_\_\_ bear
- 11 Portrayed Haskins in movie: Josh \_\_\_
- 14 "Reduce your carbon \_\_\_"
- 16 School Name in '49: Texas \_\_\_ College
- 18 Famed newsman, alumnus: \_\_\_ Donaldson
- 19 Professor exchange program
- 20 Student bilingual publication: El \_\_\_
- 23 Basketball practice complex: Foster \_\_\_
- 26 Bhutanese tile mosaic design
- 27 UTEP student's position on school board
- 29 Our Hollywood story: \_\_\_ Road
- 30 UTEP Center for \_\_\_ Desalination
- 31 UTEP: Emerging national \_\_\_ university
- 34 UTEP symbol
- 35 U.T. System governing body: Board of \_\_\_
- 39 El Paso's \_\_\_ Mountains
- 40 Stadium name
- 42 Track and field coach: Bob \_\_\_
- 43 UTEP's I-10 rival
- 44 Haskins' nickname "The \_\_\_"

**DOWN**

- 1 RARE conservationist: Wendy \_\_\_
- 3 '68 Olympic gold medalist: Bob \_\_\_
- 5 Primary school color
- 6 '08 Olympic bronze medalist: Blessing \_\_\_
- 10 First building on campus: \_\_\_ Main
- 12 Student Videographers: \_\_\_ Productions
- 13 Years UTEP president in office
- 15 Supercomputing conference chair: Pat \_\_\_
- 16 First dean's name
- 17 School of \_\_\_
- 19 El Paso Regent: Paul \_\_\_
- 20 Record-setting football kicker: José \_\_\_
- 21 The \_\_\_ of Texas are upon you ..."
- 22 College of \_\_\_ Sciences
- 24 Clothes-free students in '70s
- 25 UTEP president's last name
- 28 Current athletics conference: C-\_\_\_
- 31 Texas Governor \_\_\_ Perry
- 32 Book that pushed green interests: Silent \_\_\_
- 33 Football coach: \_\_\_ Price
- 36 U.T. System Regent chair: Scott \_\_\_
- 37 UTEP colors pre-1980: Orange and \_\_\_
- 38 Original burro
- 39 Destroyed first school in 1916
- 41 1987 commencement speaker: W. \_\_\_





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# El Escultor

by Cindy Ramirez and Laura Cruz Acosta

On the coffee table at his grandmother's guest bedroom studio sat a book about Rembrandt, its pages filled with self-portraits and Biblical illustrations by one of the greatest painters in European art history.

The images subtly inspired W. Ray Parish's appreciation for fine art. But it would take years—and a few concussions—for the sculptor to pursue a career in art over football.

Attending the University of Mississippi on an athletic scholarship, Parish enrolled in art courses. He was most spellbound with the three-dimensional aspect of sculpting not found in the drawings and illustrations that had captured his interest in his early youth.

"When you're making a sculpture, you're making something that is in the physical realm," says Parish, a professor of art and sculpture who's been teaching at The University of Texas at El Paso for 25 years and inspiring future generations of artists.

Parish is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Border Art Residency, a nonprofit affiliate of the El Paso Community Foundation that offers professional studio artists a \$3,000 stipend and an opportunity to live and work for 10 months in a studio in La Union, N.M., just a short drive from El Paso.

"The idea is that the artist can move into this place and focus on the art and not making a living in real life," says Parish, who founded the residency program for artists in the disciplines of painting, drawing, conceptual art, installation and electronic media.

Border Art Residency also works to strengthen the arts in the El Paso area and broaden community understanding of contemporary art.

"It's just so perfect working out there in the valley, indoors or outdoors," he says. "The quiet; everything about it is perfect."