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## Centennial Newsletter

Centennial Office

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## UTEP Premieres International Opera in Bhutan



At the Paro Airport. Photo by Jenn Crawford.

Thirty-three UTEP representatives—students, faculty and staff—spent three weeks in the tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan as part of an unprecedented international undertaking that produced the world’s first musical performance to blend western opera with eastern musical storytelling. UTEP’s production of the George Frideric Handel opera *Acis and Galatea*, in addition to being the first opera performed in Bhutan, was the first opera in the world to incorporate Bhutanese dance and cultural elements to create a brand new form of expression.

The performance occurred on Oct. 12 at the Royal Textile Academy in Thimphu in front of a large crowd of Bhutanese citizens, members of a special UTEP-sponsored touring party and other tourists from around the world. UTEP performers collaborated with the royal Bhutanese dancers as well as with artists from countries around the world, including Italy, Cameroon, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, Hungary, Croatia and the United States.

The production team—known as Opera Bhutan—brought together UTEP students and faculty with El Paso Opera, the Royal Academy of Performing Arts in Bhutan, and the Smithsonian. Opera Bhutan is an example of the rich educational experiences available to UTEP students. Twenty-four students had the opportunity to work with world-class musicians and artists whose professional and life experiences will impart to them invaluable insights and wisdom. In addition, the students experienced firsthand a culture that has been isolated from much of the rest of the world for centuries. For six of the students, the around-the-world trip was also their first ride on an airplane.



Polyphemus (Jacques-Greg Belobo) gets angry with the atsar, in red, as Damon (Brian Downen) tries to calm him down.

Photo by Jenn Crawford.

UTEP’s relationship with Bhutan began nearly 100 years ago when the wife of the first dean saw photos of the mountainous country in *National Geographic Magazine* and suggested

to her husband

that the school’s new buildings be designed in a similar architectural style. Today, the connection between the two countries has grown to include student and cultural exchanges.

Count Down to 2014



## GECU and Artists Celebrate UTEP



Photo by Ivan Pierre Aguirre/UTEP News Service.

GECU and UTEP have selected 12 artists who will use 5-foot pickaxes as their canvas to create new works of public art. Once the artists complete their work, the pieces will be displayed throughout the city before each will go to auction. The money raised will go toward the GECU Foundation's R.C. Morgan Scholarship Fund, an endowment fund supporting UTEP students.

The 12 artists who have been selected are Jesus "Cimi" Alvarado, Suzi Davidoff, Francisco Delgado, Gabriel Gaytán, Linda Hains, Anna Jáquez, Willie Ray Parish and Becky Hendrick, Fabian Uribe, Margarita Cabrera, Lyuba Titovets, Candy Mayer, and Jeff Litchfield.

## New Tour and Exhibit on Campus

As part of UTEP's Centennial Celebration, the Centennial Museum and Welcome Center has launched the Centennial Tour Series, featuring themed walking tours of campus. Currently being offered is the Athletics Facilities Tour, focusing on Football and Track & Field. The tour includes stops at Holliday Hall, Kidd Field, the Larry K. Durham Center and the Sun Bowl Stadium. The Athletics Tour is available by appointment only and is every Monday at 4 p.m., now through December. For more information or to reserve your own tour, call Maribel Villalva at 747-6669 or email her at [mvillalva2@utep.edu](mailto:mvillalva2@utep.edu). For a look at future tours, visit [centennial.utep.edu/tours.html](http://centennial.utep.edu/tours.html).

A student exhibit of campus life throughout UTEP's history is currently on display in the Union Gallery. The exhibit, titled "Campus Involvement Through the Decades," opened Oct. 8 and will run through Nov. 1 in the Union Gallery, Union Building East, 2nd Floor. The exhibit is sponsored and curated by Union Services in the Division of Student Affairs.

## Contact the Centennial Office

Administration Building, Room # 403 | 915-747-5362 | [2014@utep.edu](mailto:2014@utep.edu) | [www.UTEP100years.com](http://www.UTEP100years.com)

## Junior League Christmas Fair Celebrates UTEP

the 40th Annual  
*A Christmas Fair*  
Judson F. Williams Convention Center  
Downtown El Paso

Friday, November 1st	10:00 a.m.-	8:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 2nd	10:00 a.m.-	6:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 3rd	10:00 a.m.-	6:00 p.m.

**Early Access Shopping**  
Friday, November 1st • 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

**A Concert at A Christmas Fair**  
featuring Cory Morrow  
Friday, November 1st • 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 pm.  
hours d'oeuvres - refreshments - silent auction - raffle

For ticket information please call 915-584-3511 or [jlep.org](http://jlep.org)

Wishing **UTEP** a Happy 100th Birthday!

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The University of Texas at El Paso