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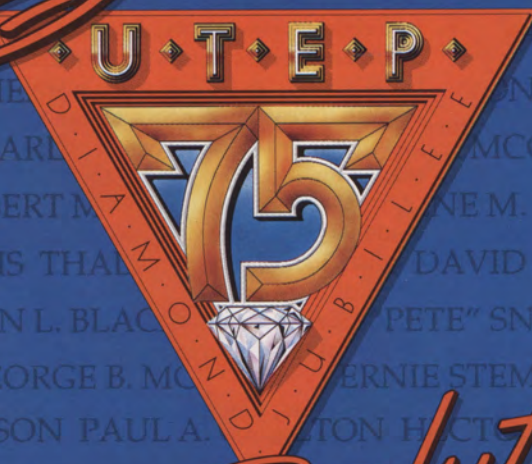
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*Salutes  
the 39!*

Nancy Hamilton's story on UTEP's Outstanding Exes was completed just about the time we received a review of a new book about one of them, the unpredictable, irrepressible, and to his alma mater and plenty of others, the legendary, Charlie Steen.

The book is titled *Uranium Frenzy—Boom and Bust on the Colorado Plateau* by Raye C. Ringholz (W.W. Norton, \$18.95) and the reviewer in the *Rocky Mountain News*, C.W. Buchholz, says, "The hero of this tale is Charlie Steen, a Texas geologist who started poor and struck it rich... a perfect example of the rags-to-riches mythology associated with most mining booms."

The reviewer states that "Readers lusting for personal airplanes, mansions and an extravagant lifestyle will delight in Steen's good fortune. That he later makes bad investments, ends up fighting the IRS and loses almost everything is predictable, but his story is the highlight of this volume."

Buchholz sums up by writing, "Western Colorado and Utah, especially around Moab and Monticello, were boom centers. As soon as the government got its fill of uranium, the boom went bust.... A handful of people tasted wealth. 'Few who lived through that time would have missed having the experience of the frantic fifties,' claims Ringholz. In both categories include Charlie Steen."

We'll have our own review of this book in *Nova* as soon as we can get it together.

We were all deeply saddened by the news of the death on July 12 of Mary Kelly Quinn, age 89, a wonderful lady and as true blue a Mines-UTEP person as our history can show. She served on the sociology faculty from 1925 to 1965 and was named professor emerita in 1984. Her geologist husband, Howard, served the University from 1924-65, became emeritus professor in 1965 and died in 1976.

If you look on page 185 of Nancy Hamilton's *UTEP: A Pictorial History* you will see that great

lady's face, a photo taken during the 1981 Homecoming celebration when the old Chemistry Building (one of the original 1917 structures) was renamed Quinn Hall in honor of Howard E. Quinn.

Mary Quinn had, among many distinctions of her own making, the added one of being the daughter of C.E. Kelly, an El Paso mayor who served on the University of Texas System Board of Regents, for whom Kelly Hall was named.

Trudy Laffler and Gail Miller (like Sheela Wolford who wrote the story on Bob Schumaker in the June *Nova Quarterly*) are new writers in these pages and we hope to see their bylines here in future issues of this magazine.

Laffler is a junior journalism major, a freelance editor and copywriter; Miller is a graduate student in English whose writing credits include articles on equine sports and horse shows; and Wolford is a senior English/Creative Writing major who has published book reviews, magazine and newspaper articles.

And, oh yes, all three were students of mine last spring in English 3362: Nonfiction Writing and Editing.

But they were good writers before they took that course.

Next issue, December, will be the 100th issue of *Nova* and will celebrate UTEP's 75th Diamond Jubilee. At this writing (mid-July), we are still putting ideas together for it, but it ought to be a 'saver' judging by the way its shaping up.

It will be the last issue of *Nova* which will carry Nancy Hamilton's name on the masthead, sad to report. Nancy, the magazine's assistant editor since 1977, will retire from the University January 31, 1990. From her first published story in *Nova* in 1967, through this September issue, Nancy has contributed 103 articles to the magazine and assisted in all other steps of its production.

I'm certain that she will continue to write for *Nova* in retirement. There are some people, after all, who can't ever really be replaced.

—Dale L. Walker

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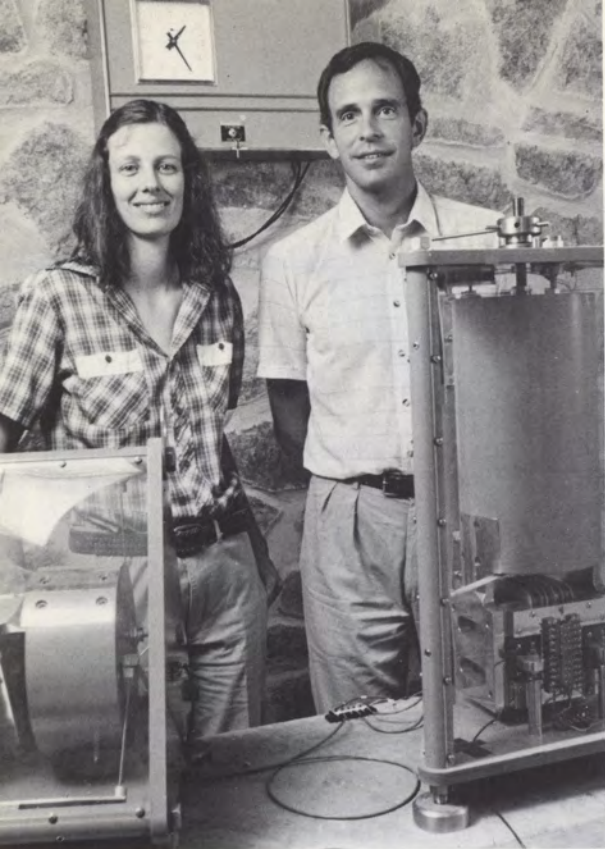
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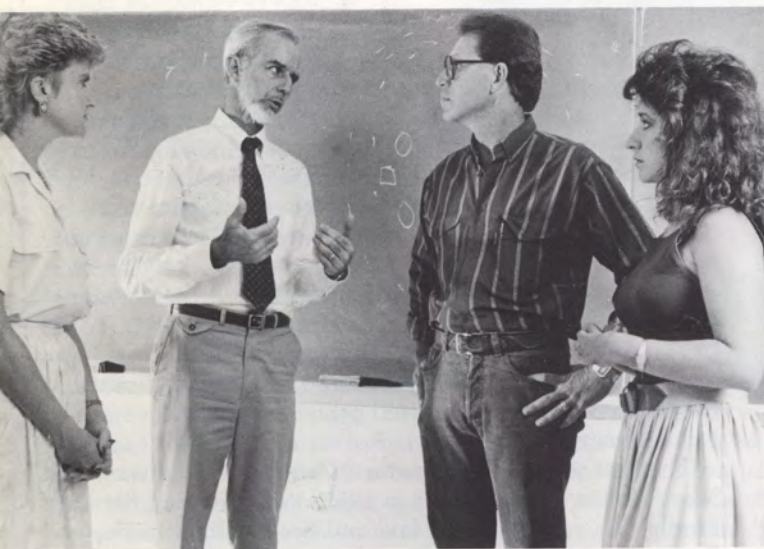


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THE  
DIAMOND JUBILEE

# SALUTES the 39!

by Nancy Hamilton

All past Outstanding Ex-Students will be honored during UTEP's 1989 Diamond Jubilee Homecoming. The Homecoming banquet, which usually honors one new Outstanding Ex, this year will salute all 39 men and women who have that honor in the past. It will be held October 12 at the El Paso Country Club. Homecoming game against the University of New Mexico will be an occasion for recognizing the achievements of the past Outstanding Exes. The first banquet that might be considered a "homecoming" was held by exes of the Texas College of Mines on November 9, 1929, at the invitation of John W. "Cap" Kidd, veteran faculty member and dean. Another was held in 1930, with Eugene Thomas, a Mines graduate and later dean of engineering, involved. The alumni struggled to establish an organization and keep it going, but not until after World War II did the group really begin moving ahead.

Homecoming activities escalated in the late 40s, and by 1950 the alumni decided to start honoring an outstanding ex-student every year. The recipient would be chosen by a committee of alumni and faculty members.

The first to be honored as Outstanding Ex was S. L. A. Marshall, distinguished author, war correspondent and military historian. He was the only recipient of the honor who could not be present to receive it. He was recalled to military service on the eve of Homecoming, but the secrecy of his assignment did not allow him to disclose to the

Ex-Students' Association (as it was called then) just why he

had to leave town. He was sent to Korea, and during that assignment gathered material for his outstanding book, *Pork Chop Hill*.

Since the college had originated as a mining school, many of the early Outstanding Exes were mining engineers and geologists whose careers had taken them all over the world. Among these were John Payne, Jr., a 1931 graduate, honored in 1951, who has returned in recent years for the Golden Grads luncheon; Dr. Thomas Clements (1922), honored in 1952; the late John K. Hardy (1923), honored in 1953, who worked many years in Mexico; and Sheldon P. Wimpfen (1934), honored in 1954, who rose to the position of chief mining engineer/assistant director of field operations with the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

Two graduates who became faculty members were also honored during the 1950s. The late Berte Haigh (1925) taught briefly before joining the staff of the University of Texas Lands Office, eventually rising to the position of geologist-in-charge and managing the lands that brought a wealth of oil income to benefit higher education. L. A. Nelson was a member of the School of Mines' first graduating class in 1916 and served on the geology faculty 43 years. In 1923-24 he served as first president of the new alumni group. Students dubbed him "Speedy" because of his fast delivery style in classroom lectures. After his death in 1964, the University's first endowed professorship was named in his honor.

The first woman to be named Outstanding Ex was Mary Vance Guinn (1937) in 1957. While rearing her family of six, she studied law and became an attorney licensed to practice in U.S. courts at the district, appeals court and Supreme Court levels. She also was active in social and professional groups. The late Mrs. Guinn's husband, Ernest, served as a federal judge and their son, Ernest, Jr., is a faculty member at UTEP.

The most controversial Outstanding Ex banquet was that of 1958 when Charles Steen (1943), the first uranium millionaire, vented his distaste for the name change to Texas Western College, some of its liberal arts course titles, and the townspeople who he felt did not sufficiently encourage students who wanted to work hard for their degrees. Not content with hitting nerves all over the banquet room of Hotel Cortez, he gave out copies of his speech



afterward. (One copy is displayed in a case in the Development and Alumni Office.) Bill Collins, president of the alumni at the time, apologized to President Joseph R. Smiley and everyone else who seemed offended by Steen's remarks, but some in his audience felt that his opinions—some of them, at least—were of interest.

**T**he late Hugh D. McGaw (1929), a retired colonel whose career was as a military engineer, was honored in 1959 and returned for later Homecomings, including that of 1980 when he and other Golden Grads were pictured standing at the entrance to Old Main.

Fred W. Bailey (1920), a mining engineer, retired in El Paso where he was active in historical organizations for many years, and only last year moved to Albuquerque to be near relatives. But he returned for Homecoming, the earliest class representative, and was filmed in an interview that became part of a KVIA-TV Diamond Jubilee special aired last April. Bailey was honored in 1960. The next year another career mining engineer was chosen, Salvador Trevino (1941), son of an exiled Mexican general. He became director general of a group of mining companies and his former classmates regularly look him up when they travel to Mexico.

The 1962 selection was Joseph F. Friedkin (1932), who achieved ambassadorial rank as U.S. commissioner for the International Boundary and Water Commission. He is now retired in El Paso. The following year the alumni honored Dr. Robert M. Stevenson (1936), longtime member of the UCLA music faculty, author of numerous books, composer and concert pianist. When he returns to the campus, he invariably stops off at the Music Department and often gives a brief concert for students and friends.

Eugene M. Thomas (1926), an early organizer of the alumni, was honored by them in 1964, two years before his retirement from a 36-year career as faculty member, dean of engineering and interim president of the institution. "Dean Gene," as students knew him, had a sharp wit and an abiding love for his alma mater and those who attended it. He died in 1980.

Three outstanding El Paso business leaders, now deceased, were the

manager for a cement manufacturer at the time he was honored.

Another industrial executive, David O. Leaser (1943), was chief scientist, materials, for a major automobile manufacturer in Detroit when he was named Outstanding Ex in 1969. Earlier he had developed materials for the first nuclear-powered submarine and participated in the development of the first fast breeder nuclear power generating system for private industry.

Rudy Tellez (1952), chosen in 1970, left El Paso to become a television producer and was for several years with the popular "Tonight" show. He now lives in California, and sometimes returns to his hometown—as he did a few years ago to address a commencement class at UTEP. He spiced up his presentation with taped congratulatory comments from such stars as Lucille Ball.

**T**he first of several physicians to be honored over the years was Dr. Raymond A. Gardea (1951) in 1971. An Air Force veteran of World War II, he completed his medical education at UT Medical School in Galveston. He has been active in the American Cancer Society and has supported tumor research. Dr. Gordon L. Black (1940), a radiologist, was the next recipient. He also was a Galveston Medical School graduate and served many years on the El Paso Board of Education. He was organizing chairman of the Matrix Society, which raises funds for UTEP.

W. E. "Pete" Snelson (1946) taught several years at the college before moving to Midland where he became an advertising executive. He also



honored exes of 1965-1967.

H. Brooks Travis (1935) was president of the alumni group when it reorganized in 1936. He headed an insurance company office and served on boards of financial institutions. E. Ray Lockhart (attended 1929-32) was chairman of the board and president of a utility company when he was honored in 1966. B. Marshall Willis was a nephew of the first recipient, Brig. Gen. Marshall, and an executive with a natural gas company. All three men were active in numerous civic organizations.

**T**had Steele (1933), another former president of the alumni, was named top ex in 1968. He had been an All-Southwestern star football team member for three years in his student days, when the Miners' record was 20-3-3. He was division



served in the Texas Senate. He was honored in 1973.

Two 1939 graduates who served many years on the faculty were the 1974 honoree, Dr. Eleanor Lyon Duke, and in 1975, Ross Moore. After starting her career as a teacher of biological sciences, Duke completed her doctoral degree at UT Austin. Many of her former students became dentists and physicians. She retired in 1985 as professor emerita. Moore was associated with the University for 41 years as student, coach, teacher and athletic trainer. After his death, the athletic training facility on campus was named in his honor and he was among the first group of inductees in the Southwest Athletic Trainers Association Hall of Fame.

**A**nother TV professional, Sam Donaldson (1955), was Outstanding Ex in 1976. He continues to serve as a network anchor man and appears on other news-related programs. His autobiography became a best seller last year.

George B. McBride (1948) was an oil company president in Midland when he was honored in 1977. He since has retired in El Paso. Dr. Vernie A. Stembridge (1943), the 1978 selection, became chairman and professor in the Department of Pathology at Southwestern Medical School, UT Health Science Center in Dallas. A past president of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, he was honored by that group and the College of American Pathologists in 1987 with their Distinguished Service Award for outstanding contributions to the societies and to pathology.

A dynamic businesswoman and civic leader, Hazel Cooper Haynsworth

(1945), was named in 1979. She has business interests in New Mexico and El Paso. Donald S. Henderson (1956), insurance executive and former mayor of El Paso, was Outstanding Ex in 1980. He was alumni president in 1963.

The late Paul H. Carlton (1940), CPA, was a partner in an El Paso accounting firm when he was chosen in 1981. His community interests included service on the El Paso school board.

The founder of a company for computer-aided design and drafting was the 1982 choice, Hector Holguin, a 1958 civil engineering graduate. His El Paso-based firm does business all over the world.

**T**he Fort Bliss commander, Maj. Gen. James P. Malony (1954), also a civil engineer, was named in 1983. He later retired and now is an executive with a utility company.

Another man prominent in the community, Abraham Chavez (1959), not only is music director of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra but also is a longtime faculty member, professor of music at UTEP. He was honored in 1984, and a year later the recipient was business executive Maury Page Kemp (1952) who began his highly successful career in the car business while a college student.

Attorney and civic leader Ellis O. Mayfield (attended 1933-35) was the 1986 Outstanding Ex. He completed his law degree at UT Austin and has been a member of the Public Service Board and many other organizations to benefit El Paso.

**D**r. Daniel W. Foster (1951), the 1987 recipient, was also honored that year with the Outstanding Teacher Award of Southwestern Medical School. He became known nationwide as host of the PBS television program, "Daniel Foster, M.D.," during the 1970s and as author of *A Layman's Guide to Modern Medicine*. His December 1987 Commencement address was published in the March 1988 issue of *Nova Quarterly*.

The most recent Outstanding Ex is Robert C. Heasley (1953), insurance executive, who has served on two presidential search committees for the University and currently chairs the University of Texas at El Paso 2001 Committee, appointed by President Diana Natalicio as part of the Diamond Jubilee observance. That committee, representing the community and the University, is conducting a comprehensive study of how the institution can best serve the region through the year 2001.

Of the 39 past Outstanding Exes, 12 have died since being named to the honor. Members of their families will be invited to represent them at the October banquet, where memories of Miners past will blend with optimism for the future of UTEP during its remarkable Jubilee. ■

# The John W. Kidd Memorial Seismic Observatory

MONITORING THE

## GLOBAL WALTZ

*by Trudy Martin Laffler*



**A** lizard sprawling on a small crag above the glass and metal doorway that leads into a man-made cave behind Old Main holds more interest for students rushing from car to class than what lies below.

But, nestled in the mountainside and dwarfed by majestic Bhutanese structures, The University of Texas at El Paso's John W. Kidd Memorial Seismic Observatory perpetually monitors the "global waltz."

No single seismic observatory can accurately record all of an earthquake's energy or its exact epicenter. Seismic observatories, similar to UTEP's, are located throughout the world forming a global network of inward-looking telescopes that record and measure earth's oscillations.

Seismic observatories are designed to record earthquakes a safe distance

from their occurrence—the other side of the world. UTEP's observatory records earthquakes anywhere in the world measuring a magnitude six or greater with long-band seismometers, and detects smaller ones. Short-band seismometers record nearby earthquakes. Up to 1,000 earthquakes occur daily, world-wide, of at least a magnitude two.

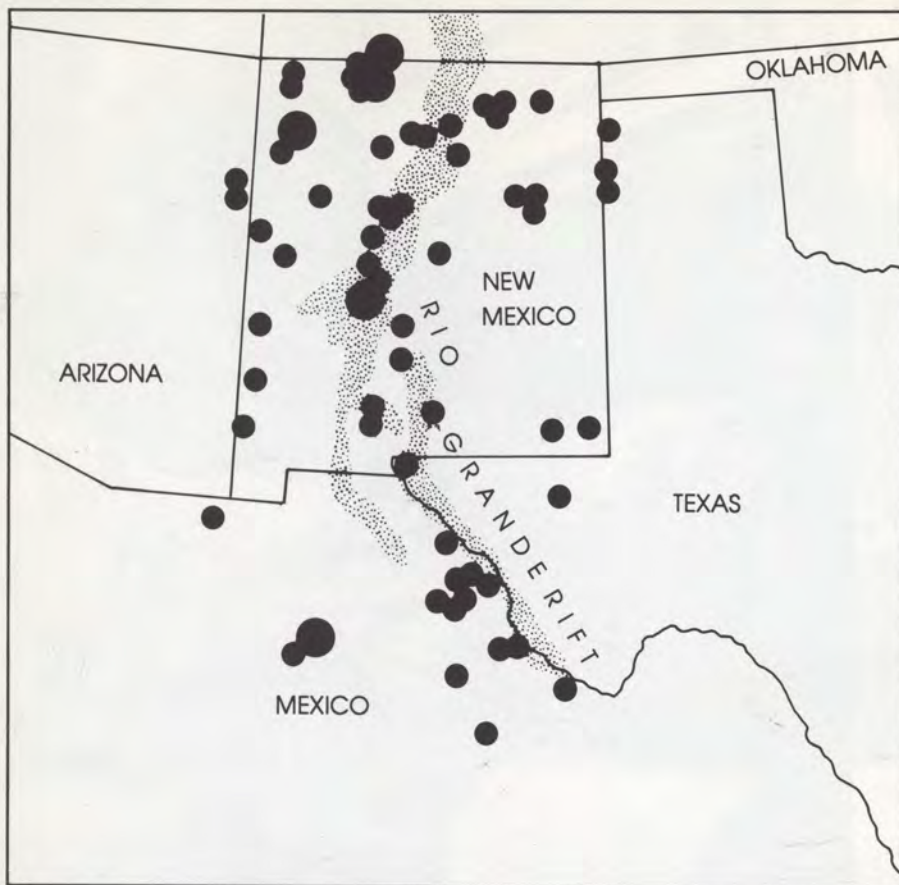
Seismometers even detect interesting crustal activities on the UTEP campus. "When the parking lots fill up with cars, the weight causes the ground underneath to tilt. Seismometers measure that tilt. At the end of the day, the ground goes back up," says geophysicist and seismologist Dr. Diane I. Doser, director of the observatory since 1986, from her office in the Geology Building.

Above her desk is a large, colorful map of the Mid-Ocean Ridge System

that has a combined length of 40,000 miles, nearly twice the distance of the earth's equatorial circumference of 24,901.55 miles. Global epicenters outline the borders of the major tectonic plates of earth's crust which are in perpetual motion of up to ten centimeters annually.

The observatory has a bank of recording drums, turning day and night. The daily records are sent from the observatory to the National Data Center in Denver. The six seismographs and recorders study both short and long-period seismic waves. The records are used for research on earthquakes and related phenomena. As part of the international data center, the information is available to the scientific community.

Knowledge gained from naturally occurring seismic waves and man-made seismic waves are used in such



Seismicity - 1962-1985. Circles indicate location of earthquakes. Larger circles indicate earthquakes with a magnitude of 5.0.

areas as construction of buildings, highways and bridges; petroleum exploration, mining, nuclear blast verification and the study of earth's interior.

**S**eismic verification is determined by the seismic "signature" of a nuclear blast in which the surface waves are more prominent. That plus the location of the blast is a giveaway. Energy released by a nuclear explosion travels in a relatively uniform pattern. Energy released by an earthquake travels in erratic patterns.

Readings of earthquake's seismic waves are also used to scan the earth's interior, similar to brain scanning (tomography). "The earth's interior is not as homogeneous as scientists once thought," Doser says. "We are seeing bumps on the earth's core that are higher than Mount Everest."

The earth's interior has always fascinated humans, especially its commotion. As far back as the second century, A.D., the Chinese had an earthquake-direction indicator.

In determining magnitude, seismologists have come a long way from

the practice of going out to an affected site and observing the degree of damage that occurred. Charles F. Richter advanced the science in 1935 with the development of his scale. The Richter scale consists of three vertical lines of measurements. On the left is a scale of amplitude; on the right is the scale of time, and the middle line is the Richter's relative scale of magnitude.

Measurements are taken from seismogram tracings. The largest loop of the needle is measured in centimeters as amplitude. The distance between the start of the first seismic wave and second seismic wave is measured as time in seconds.

Magnitude is determined by drawing a line from the amplitude scale on the left to the time scale on the right. Where the line meets the middle scale of magnitude, relative strength is ascertained.

Nowadays, seismologists do not use the Richter scale for earthquakes over a magnitude six. "We use more sensitive, digital equipment. So when you hear of a magnitude 7 earthquake, it wasn't on a Richter scale," Doser says.

Over the past 27 years, the seismic equipment at the UTEP observatory has served students and research personnel alike, while the field of seismology has made great strides.

Five graduate students receive their degrees from the geophysics program each year, with approximately 12 undergraduate majors enrolled annually.

**T**he observatory stands as a monument to one of the most colorful and influential figures in the history of the University—John W. "Cap" Kidd. During his tenure as dean of engineering and acting dean of the college, he had expressed his hope for an observatory of this type to be built.

After his death in December 1941, a group of his long-time friends and colleagues established the Kidd Memorial Foundation, but it would be nearly two decades before the observatory finally became a reality, due primarily to World War II.

Almost 20 years after receiving generous donations from various oil companies and the innovative actions of Dean Eugene Thomas, Dr. Lloyd "Speedy" Nelson, students Berte Haigh and Joe Friedkin, plus numerous others donating building materials, "Cap Kidd's Earthquake Machine" was finally erected in 1961.

Completion came in 1962, and the facility opened with \$10,000 worth of equipment. Harold S. Slusher, a geophysicist and seismologist, was chosen as its first director.

**C**urrently, there is approximately \$100,000 worth of equipment in the observatory, most of which Dr. G. Randy Keller, Jr. brought with him in 1976 when he became the director. Keller remained the director until 1986. He is presently the chairman of the Department of Geological Sciences.

The location of the observatory, on solid rock, has proven an excellent one for global readings. Its high-frequency capacity easily detects storms off the Pacific and in the Gulf of Mexico.

The observatory has five small rooms built into the mountain. The ceiling and interior walls are made of cinder block; there is cement flooring. The back rooms have large cement piers rising up from 15 feet inside the

ground. They stand approximately three feet high and are separated from the floor with energy-absorbing insulation.

Atop the pier, three seismometers record earth's up-down, east-west, north-south oscillations, respectively. Doser explains that ground movements have three components.

First the primary (P) waves move in an up and down motion, alternately compressing and stretching the material it travels through. These can travel through molten lava, water and air. They have an audible range. At the onset of a major earthquake, it is this type of wave that gives the express-train roar.

Then, the secondary (S, or shear) waves pass only through solids. These produce up-down, side-to-side oscillations that act like a snapping rope.

Finally, surface (long) waves whip back and forth horizontally, or churn along like an ocean breaker, rotating rock and soil in an elliptical pattern.

**T**he speed of these various seismic waves range from five miles per second to two-and-a-half miles per second, depending on the type of material they are passing through. The seismometers transmit any movements onto seismographs which have rotating drums. The tracings on the seismograms tell where an earthquake occurred, in which direction the ground shifted and at what magnitude.

Geophysicist and research-faculty staff member Dr. Mark R. Baker, explains how magnitude is determined. He points to a horizontal pulse line on a seismogram. "Magnitude is measured two ways, upon first arrival or by using surface waves. It depends where the recording station is in relation to the occurrence," he says.

Pointing to the first large loop, Baker says, "One magnitude is measured from a first arrival."

Then, pointing to the following loops on the seismogram, he explains that earthquakes also make slower waves along the surface. If movement is above a magnitude six, more than one breakage will probably occur. "Each break is represented by a pulse mark. All of these smaller pulsations are looked at as if they were one big pulse in the earth, on the surface wave," Baker says.

Groundshaking of an earthquake depends on where someone stands. A fault acts like a television antenna and directs energy in specific directions.

Over the last few years, seismic observatories world-wide have been undergoing computerized advancements. UTEP's observatory is no exception. These technical advances are cost-prohibitive to many universities' seismic observatories.

"Our people have updated the equipment and saved us thousands of dollars," Keller says. Other universities around the country are interested in the new recording system that can be duplicated for approximately \$4,000. The system is designed and developed by Baker who has an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering. "The staff at the seismic observatory in Tucson is very interested in our system, as well as other observatories around the country," Baker says.

While he was an undergraduate, Baker says that he had the opportunity to work on projects, and he remembers how much it meant to him. He has provided the same opportunity for hands-on experience for some engineering and physics students, by allowing them to help build, program and test the new equipment.

**T**hose students are electrical-engineering major, Nima Bahraini; physics majors Brian Belmont and Troy Anderson; and Adele Doser, an electrical engineering major from The Michigan Technological University. Adele Doser is the sister of Diane Doser.

There is one other relationship that makes up the observatory's updating team. Mark Baker and Diane Doser are married.

The observatory receives its largest amount of funding from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). In the past two years, the USGS has come out to examine this area because of the "Star Wars" program at White Sands Missile Range.

"Every time there's an earth tremor around White Sands, adjustments are made to the Star Wars' laser tables. There has been enough activity for USGS to come out and examine the Rio Grande Rift," Baker says.

The Rio Grande Rift starts near Leadville, Colorado and runs down through the Tularosa Basin, continuing through the Hueco Basin. It ends near Presidio, Texas. The rift spans from the Mimbres Mountains in New Mexico to the Salt Flat in Hudspeth County, Texas.

"We are working on an agreement with the Defense Department to monitor the area around White Sands and the Organ Mountains, due to the earthquake risk within the Rio Grande Rift," Keller says.

**D**oser agrees and adds that they hope to make the public more aware of the possibilities of quakes in this region. The awareness will have an impact on government policy and building codes.

"What's scary is that a major earthquake occurred in 1887 just 150 miles from El Paso in Sonora, Mexico, across from Douglas, Arizona. We can only guess, but based on the 50 mile long and ten foot high fault scar, it was a magnitude seven-point-eight," Keller says.

Some El Pasoans can still remember feeling the earthquake that hit this area in 1931. The epicenter of that quake was in Valentine, Texas, near the Davis Mountains. It was a magnitude six-point-four.

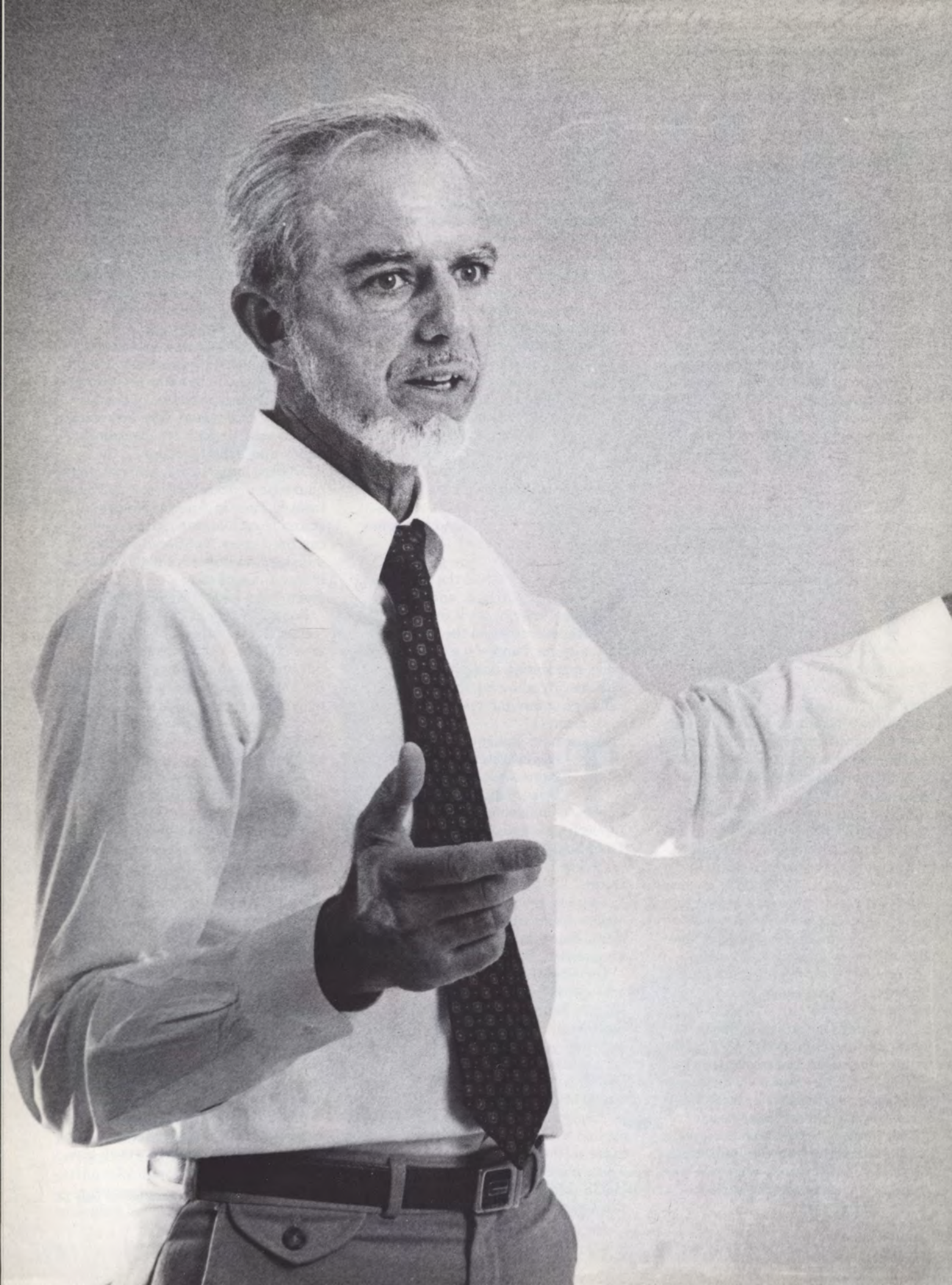
"That type of earthquake can occur anywhere in the world," Baker says and goes on to explain El Paso's risks. "The fault that runs along the east side of Mount Franklin has the potential of a magnitude-seven earthquake," Baker says.

People who have experienced an earthquake describe either a rolling motion or a jolt. Baker explains that the type of motion depends on the type of ground the wave is passing through. "If the ground is in a valley near a river with a lot of moisture in it, then the motion would be similar to that of a bowl of jello being jiggled."

"If the wave is passing through solid rock, it is more difficult to feel, but people could. It would be analogous to tapping a piece of crystal," Baker says.

Scientists are frequently asked if technology has advanced to the point of being able to predict or even prevent an earthquake.

*(Continued on page 17)*



*"I was a  
thorn in  
everyone's  
side..."*

# Jorge A. Descamps:

*by S. Gail Miller*

The tall, rail-thin man walks softly across the carpeted balcony of the university's student academic center. Late afternoon slivers of desert sunlight cast long shadows through the glass doors; the hum of computers and the muted voices of university staff blend into the quiet ambience. The man on the balcony is Dr. Jorge A. Descamps, associate professor of education and director of the academic advising center at The University of Texas at El Paso.

# A PROFILE

"Well, I probably would have become a civil engineer, like my father. But the Jesuits and the Cuban revolution changed all that," he says with a resigned grin. His deep voice has a musical quality—the trilled Spanish r's of his native language have not disappeared. When he speaks his large blue eyes talk, too.

**H**e is the oldest of four children. His mother has an eighth grade education. He leans forward, "You must understand—I went to an elite school run by the Jesuits. We received a quality European-style education." He is speaking fast. His eyes crinkle as he smiles. He uses his hands—palms open and fingers spread. "I had been a Jesuit novice for seven years in Havana when 33 of us were expelled," he explains. The Cuban revolution was in 1959, and he arrived in Florida in 1961. Of his Jesuit training, Descamps recalls, "There was a tremendous emphasis on rational thought through the study of the classics in the Latin and Greek languages. This process produces thinkers with a fine-tuned capacity for analysis."

He adds quietly, "Castro was trained by the Jesuits, too; he graduated nine years ahead of me—from the same high school. So you see, an individual can use this philosophy for revolution or for evolution. The methods differ, but the goal is the same—change. Revolutions favor immediate change which is often violent."

The phone on the desk rings. The shadows on the mezzanine below are longer and paler now. He continues, "On the other hand, evolution's methods favor the processes of negotiation and accommodation. I think, on the whole, I was well prepared for America."

**D**escamps arrived in Florida dressed in a black robe and a white collar and was sent immediately to the Dominican Republic to teach high school. A year later, he requested dispensation of his vows and was sent to Poughkeepsie, New York, to await the outcome. In 1962, the request was granted.

Abruptly, he says, "Loneliness of the heart. I needed family—the sense of belonging. There was no avenue to express love to another human being.

I missed it tremendously." He adds in a monotone, "I was supposed to derive substitute feelings through prayer, but I never did." Now he is smiling again.

Exiled from his country and self-exiled from the world view of the Jesuits, he moved to his uncle's home in West Palm Beach, Florida. He became a day laborer, fell in love, and married Dona, an American girl. He had an informal document from Havana describing his teaching experience which included the equivalent of 200 credit

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"Castro was trained by the Jesuits, too...an individual can use this same philosophy for revolution or for evolution. The methods differ, but the goal is the same—change..."

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hours of undergraduate study, but the U.S. authorities in Florida concluded his foreign teaching credentials had no value. His sister showed his documents to the University of Puerto Rico where she was a student. This university recognized his previous work and gave him three years' credit towards a bachelor's degree. Then he and his new wife went to live in his parents' house in San Juan.

"They gave us the master bedroom—my wife had just had a baby. I was committed to my education. For money, I delivered meat and worked as a carpenter's helper. After a year, I got the B.A. and only then, I got a teaching job."

Immigrants have instinctively recognized education as one of the most effective methods of avoiding poverty in the United States and Jorge Descamps was not to become an exception to this rule. As a junior high school teacher at the University of Puerto Rico, he earned \$3,000 per

year while his uncredentialed American wife taught at a Catholic school for girls. The transition to another culture and a different language was by no means smooth for Descamps.

"I was a thorn in everyone's side. The Cuban revolution liberated me." His tone is ever so slightly apologetic. "When you have seen a democratic nation change overnight into a communist state, you will view the world forever from a different context. I have seen people die for their ideas. You don't know what it was like. For instance, it took Japan twenty years to complete their land reform program; it took *two months* in Cuba. I was a young man living in a kaleidoscope of change." He throws up his hands and laughs. "I arrive in Puerto Rico and say, let's do it now! I was a menace."

He was, of course, too liberal. He behaved in an unconventional manner. He talked to students under the trees and he refused to give final examinations. He says, "Then there was the student strike, which I validated by facilitating negotiations while the faculty fumed—they wanted to crucify me."

**D**escamps' first wife, Dona, was 19 when they were introduced by a neighbor in West Palm Beach. "I was just learning Spanish," she says. "We had a child and we were poor. Jorge was among the first wave of Cuban immigrants—all professionals. He was a charismatic and extraordinarily perceptive. He had fascinating friends. He once came home and announced that a Vietnam draft-dodger had invited him to dine in his treehouse hideout in the San Juan mountains." She smiles as she recollects the student protest days of the 1960s. "Someone told me that he was being investigated by the FBI, but every young liberal professional in those days had to put up with that." She pauses. "He was out to save the world, and gave little to himself. He'd pay someone else's rent because they were about to be evicted, while I couldn't persuade him to buy new underwear." She is speaking slowly now. "People either loved him or hated him. And, he was stubborn." She laughs and continues, "His students adored him. He had

some very influential friends at the university."

In 1967, the University of Puerto Rico's president offered Descamps the directorship of its "lab" school (a junior and high school run by the university for the children of its faculty and staff). When this idea was presented as a trial balloon at an administrative meeting, the faculty said, en masse, "Over our dead bodies." Descamps sighs as he recalls it.

He had been too controversial. When he completed his M.A. in Spanish Literature in 1969, the University of Puerto Rico offered him a \$15,000 scholarship to go elsewhere for a doctorate. The university's offer was generous; he did not have tenure and he could have been fired. Instead, he was politely asked not to return.

**I**n 1972, armed with an education doctorate in curriculum and supervision from the University of Florida, he moved to the University of Georgia as a Field Experience Center coordinator. In 1975 he accepted the position of coordinator of Teacher Education at the University of Texas at El Paso. He had been interviewed and hired by Dr. Norma Hernandez, the university's first, female, Hispanic dean.

"Jorge and I often disagree strongly on how things should be done," Hernandez says. "And I could kick his skinny butt sometimes..." her voice trails off as she looks across the rooftops towards downtown El Paso from the sixth floor of the Education Building. "But he thinks the system is unreasonable so he tries to balance the scales of justice." She smiles and says softly, "People don't like his politics because he is honest and too straightforward for most. Nevertheless," she adds, "I would trust him with my life."

She takes a nail file from her desk drawer. "He has a superior analytical mind; without doubt, one of the best on campus." She explains, "Education is highly politicized—people are busy protecting their turf. Precious few educators make decisions on behalf of the students as consistently as Jorge does." The offending nail has been trimmed. "Hiring Jorge Descamps and facilitating his tenure was the greatest triumph of my deanship," she recalls.

"It was the doctoral work that calmed me down," he says, touching the back of his silvery gray head. "I was able to conceptualize change through studying norms and group dynamics from a theoretical point of view." He grins sheepishly and adds, "The system had aborted me by providing the scholarship for the Ed.D. and I realized that my radical methods had little impact." He smiles. "But my role as an effective change agent became clearer as I learned about the culture of the schools." Then Descamps had a choice. Would he become an administrator or would he train teachers? He chose the latter, recognizing "...it would be slower and less noticeable, but in the long run, it would have the most impact on the process."

Since Descamps came to UTEP in 1975, the student body has changed gradually from a predominantly Anglo university to its current minority majority status—over 50% Hispanic. Programs that focus on this uniqueness include active recruitment of local students and attempts to reduce dropout rates.

"The University's recruitment and advising program, now in its fifth year, has increased the retention rate of provisional students from 16% to 27%—this is excellent." The New Student Orientation program is in its third year. "It's particularly valid at UTEP because our students are increasingly both younger and older. Since they come to us without college preparation they are easily intimidated." Student leaders and faculty provide a support system which guides these students at the beginning of their passage through college.

**D**escamps patiently explains, "UTEP has an open admissions policy because it is a state-funded university. So the Advising Center and the Study Skills and Tutorial Services really make sense." He raises his hands and fans his fingers. "The important thing is not what the students look like when they start at UTEP, but how they look when they finish."

He adds, "We have much to be proud of. For instance, our nursing graduates match and outscore those of other high ranking Texas institutions. And in engineering, UTEP

produces the highest number of Hispanic graduates in the country. You should visit the campus at recruiting time," he says, "It's a madhouse—every major corporation is after our graduates."

"So you see, UTEP is properly serving its population—and the ultimate measure of its success is the quality of its graduates."

He shifts his frail body in the chair. "UTEP's leadership is vigorously pursuing doctoral programs and this improves the institution's standing. However, we need to revitalize our undergraduate programs. I hope that as we move into the 1990s we will continue to attract quality faculty; and, at the same time, improve our capacity to serve the needs of El Paso." He pauses. "Quality educational institutions emphasize the development of a strong sense of faculty and staff morale—a sort of organizational identity—along the lines of an IBM, a McDonald's, a General Electric." His fingers tap the table top. "I see this as UTEP's greatest challenge. A university is not only a business but also a humanistic institution where productivity and process are balanced." He smiles again and says, "Fostering this kind of environment would perhaps compensate for education funding shortages."

**I**f Descamps is not advising or teaching students, he's probably working on a text for elementary school teachers to be published by Harper & Row. "The book attempts to marry theory and practice; and in the process, to design methods through which aspiring teachers may develop teaching competence."

Descamps lives near the university with his wife, Elea Aguirre. He is an inveterate fix-it man who loves solving complex home improvement problems.

"And," he says, "I try not to make love on a Sunday afternoon because then I might do nothing for the remainder of the day." ■

*S. Gail Miller is an El Paso freelance writer.*

## DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR RETIRES

James M. Peak, director of development for The University of Texas at El Paso since 1977, in June announced his retirement from the institution effective August 31, 1989. At the time of his retirement, Peak was the senior development officer in the University of Texas System.

During his 12 years at UT El Paso, the University's Excellence Fund donor base increased from 3,712 donors in 1977 to 6,050 donors in 1988, and its permanent endowment fund grew from \$6,500,000 to over \$21 million dollars.

In addition to fund raising, Peak was actively involved in the National Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), and served on the CASE Southwest District board of directors, giving presentations throughout a five-state area. His community service included fund-raising and consulting for the American Cancer Society, El Paso Arts Alliance, Cathedral High School and Loretto Academy. He is a past president of the Downtown Lions Club, the El Paso County Historical Society, and the West Texas-American Cancer Society.

Commenting on his leaving the University, Peak said, "I have thoroughly enjoyed both the challenges and friendships I have encountered while working for the University, and while it is difficult to leave, I feel that a new challenge is needed. I am satisfied with what the development effort has achieved during my time with the University, and I look forward to exploring new avenues for my continued professional growth."

Peak said that he, wife Julie and daughter Kathy, were looking forward to traveling and toward visiting with children Cynthia Guney of St. Louis, Missouri, sons Matthew, a Naval officer assigned to Honolulu, and Mark, a freshman at Stephen F. Austin University. ■

## Jubilee Homecoming Brings Out the Stars

Special Diamond Jubilee festivities are being planned for the honored classes of '29, '39, '49, '59, '69, '79 and the 25th Anniversary Class of 1954 during Homecoming, October 12-14. Many open-houses and receptions will be held by the University colleges and academic departments in addition to the annual Homecoming Parade, FunRun and student-sponsored activities.

In celebrating Homecoming during the University's 75th Jubilee, all of the past recipients of the University's Outstanding Ex-Student Award have also been invited home to be feted at the annual Alumni Association banquet on Thursday, October 12 at the El Paso Country Club. Citing this change to the Homecoming tradition of selecting one "outstanding ex,"

Lloyd Stevens, chairman of the Outstanding-Ex Selection Committee, stated that "the pride we take in these special men and women is ongoing, and what better time to express our continued esteem than during the University's Diamond Jubilee year."

Also being honored are the Golden Grads, former students of fifty years or more. Their annual Homecoming luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, October 14.

The Homecoming football game will pit the UTEP Miners against the Lobos of the University of New Mexico. Ticket information, as well as Homecoming schedules, are available at your Alumni Office, or by calling (915) 747-5533.

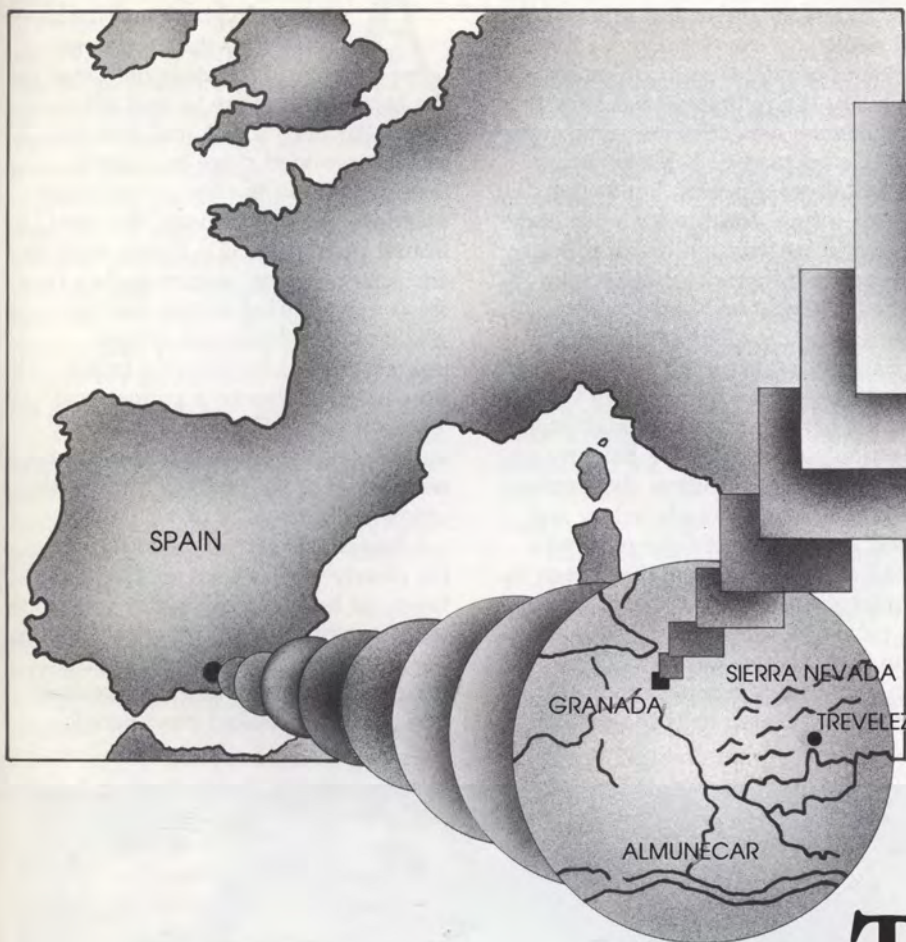
—Marianne Fleager

## AN ADDENDUM...

The following contributors have been added to the 1988 Annual Report of The University of Texas at El Paso Excellence Fund.

Alcoa Foundation  
Houston Endowment, Inc.  
Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.  
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Arthur F. Gale Memorial Scholarship/EPCF  
Knights of Columbus-St. Raphael's Council 7563  
Lulac Council #8  
Press Club of El Paso  
Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Fnd.  
Veterans of Foreign Wars, District 10 Texas  
ABWA - Mt. Franklin Chapter  
Association for Retarded Citizens—Tex Don Miller Scholarship Fund  
Black Jack Pershing Roost  
Bridge City, TX Elementary PTA  
Dolphin Terrace Elementary School  
El Paso District Dental Society  
El Paso Education Association  
El Paso Realtors Auxiliary  
Lulac Council #9  
Velma P. Foster Memorial Scholarship/EPCF  
Fulda American High School  
Mesa Vista School PTA  
Sun City Lab Analysts Association



ALHAMBRA

# The Road Through TREVELEZ

*by Peter J. Hager*

Maria had followed the old woman into the farmhouse and within minutes the aroma of *espresso* drifted out to us. Jose Juan's dark eyes brightened. He smiled and nodded toward the open door to the kitchen at the far end of the terrace.

"The sweet smell of Spain," he said, beaming. His Andalusian accent was heavy. His mouth moved lazily through the words as if slowed by the weight of his beard stubble.

"There are only two things more perfect than our coffee," he said. "Our Alhambra, and our *women*." He winked and nodded again toward the door.

He, of course, meant Maria. She is a native of Almunecar, a village on the Mediterranean coast south of Granada. Years before, I had met and married her there. Jose Juan had marvelled at Maria from the moment we had picked up the old farmer and his wife while on our drive along the mountain road below Trevelez. They were two dark figures bent over from the heavy sacks of groceries they had slung across their backs. The man limped so badly at the right knee that the shudder of his body from each jerky step threatened to rip the sack from his grasp. I imagined his weary hand finally giving way and the sack tumbling down the steep mountain-side, spewing groceries as it plunged

to the river below. His small partner, her head and shoulders covered with a black shawl, followed him with her eyes on the ground like some homeless gnome in mourning.

I had half expected to hear Maria catch her breath and say, "Oh my." When she did, I pulled off the road to let her coax the couple into the car. The old man snarled that such a short walk up the mountain was nothing to them. The old woman inspected our rented Citroen like a disinterested spectator. Finally Maria asked the farmer, "Will you at least do us the honor of guiding us up to the summit?" With that, the couple carefully slid themselves into the back seat. In the rearview mirror I saw the farmer

adjust his black beret and quietly surrender a sigh of relief. Then he looked at Maria and his eyes widened as if noticing her for the first time.

"What a jewel this man has found in Spain!" he said to his wife next to him, but loudly enough to serve as a compliment to all who could hear. The old woman nodded at Maria and smiled. "Our women," the farmer said thoughtfully to himself. His callous hands tightened their hold on the fat sack of groceries in his lap. "God has made our women the most beautiful in the world," he said, turning his head to the window as if further talk of beauty and women would be too painful to share among strangers.

Maria and I were driving to Granada to visit the Alhambra palace. Always when we return to Spain, we make our pilgrimage to the terraced gardens and Moorish courtyards atop their hill overlooking Granada, a city that rolls away from the encircling Sierra Nevada mountains in a wave of whitewashed stucco that each year seems to stretch farther and farther across the dusty Granadan plain. We had been in Spain with Maria's family for nearly two months, but now only a week remained before we had to fly back to El Paso. We always treat our journey to the Alhambra as an unspoken farewell to Spain and we postpone it accordingly until the last days of our trip. On this particular pilgrimage, Maria insisted that we not use any road that would allow us to drive faster than thirty miles an hour. Thus, we shunned the N323 highway that raced northward from Almunecar. Instead, we chose the mountainous road that snakes through the Sierra Nevada, past the whitewashed villages stacked like sugar cubes against the mountainsides of the Alpujarra range—through Lanjaron, Pampaneira, Capileira, Bobion, Lentiji, village names that roll off the tongue like a dry Andalusian wine, until reaching finally, at the mountain's summit, Trevelez, the highest town in elevation in all Spain.

At some time during our day-long stroll of the Alhambra palace, we sit in the shade of the arched Courtyard of the Lions. Over the years, we had memorized each expression held by the twelve marble lions which support the alabaster fountain at the

center of the courtyard. Always the palace rooms surprise us with their 700 years of splendor and grace—tiled walls and floors the color of ivory and emeralds and rubies and sapphires, the ceilings of massive cedar beams, wall tiles inscribed with the angled scrawl of Kufic lettering that will forever praise Allah, the smell of thyme and honeysuckle and sulfur drifting through the dark maze of stone corridors, the crepuscular glow of glass-domed baths where harems once dawdled and gossiped, the balcony off the Hall of Ambassadors where King Charles V, standing beneath a web of alabaster stalactites carved into the balcony's ceiling, once gazed out at the gardens and groves and Granada below and mused, "How ill-fated the man who lost all this!" It is this majesty seen in its quiet solitude late in the afternoon that calms us, leaving us to think about how we would later cherish the memories of our trip and how much we already wanted to come back.

About five kilometers outside Trevelez, the road turns its last switchback to climb the stretch to the mountain summit. It was here that the farmer asked me to pull off the pavement onto a dirt trail that ran along a wooded ridge to a small farmhouse on the edge of an alpine meadow. The house was like most homes in Andalusia—boxey with an encircling terrace, stucco walls a foot thick and purified by the calc of whitewash, a tiled roof whose molten-redness had slowly faded with time and weather to a copper-rust. The side terrace overlooking the valley was shaded by the roof's eave which was supported by stucco columns and arches.

I helped the farmer from the car. He clearly wasn't used to driving to town, as he was visibly stiff from just the short ride up the mountain. When I offered my hand to say goodbye, his eyes lost their pained expression and suddenly looked bewildered.



*Peter and Maria Hager*

"My name is Jose Juan Valera Garcia," he said sternly, and, pointing to his wife, added, "and this is *la senora*." The *senora* seemed to take this as an understood sign, hefted her sack of plastic mesh over her frail shoulder, and shuffled laboriously toward the farmhouse.

Jose Juan put his hand on my shoulder. It was small but thick-fingered and heavy. His grip was vise-like and I realized how foolish I had been to think that this man who had worked the stoney fields of the Alpujarras all his life could ever lose his grip on a sack of groceries.

"You will stay and eat with us," he said, turning then to flick the sack over his back and limp toward the house. "Wife," he called, "what have we to feed these two people who love our Alhambra so?"

"Migas," the *senora* said as she stepped through a door off the side terrace and disappeared.

The *senora* then quickly returned to guide Maria quietly into the farmhouse as Jose Juan led me to the terrace. As we surveyed the green valley below, a chilled breeze smelling of freshly cut grass blew up the mountainside and rustled the pines encircling the farmhouse. A sheep bleated from the muddy corral of the farm's straw-thatched shed. We seemed at the rim of the world. The wooded Sierra Nevada mountains fell away from us to the small town of Trevelez, its whitewashed buildings reflecting like blinding patches of snow in the afternoon sun. Deeper into the valley the grey thread of road unwound through the villages of Lentiji and Bobion that from the distance looked no larger than chips of glittering ice.

"The Alhambra is there," Jose Juan said, pointing toward the snow-covered summit of Mulhacen beyond which lay Granada and its famous palace. "Few tourists come this way. But this is how one should travel to such a place as our Alhambra." He glanced back at the shed and the sheep stopped its bleating. "They say the other road to Granada is better," he told me. "From that road you can see the same hill from where the Moors took their last look at Granada and the Alhambra when the *catolicos* were driving them out of Spain." Then he recounted how, in 1492, the Moors fled to the ports of

Malaga and Motril and Almunecar where they took boats to the safe haven of Moslem Morocco and northern Africa. Some Moors, however, unable to break their bond with Spain, took refuge in the Alpujarras.

"And *we*," Jose Juan said, raising a crooked finger to touch his chest, "are their children." He put his hand again on my shoulder and squeezed, drawing his other hand across the panorama of wooded valley and encircling peaks. "No one else here will tell you that. But *I* tell you. We are strong Andalucians because we were once strong Moros." He thought about this for a minute. Then, smiling, he said, "But this mountain air makes you hungry, no?"

I followed him into the kitchen, stooping to enter through the low door. I sat next to Maria on one of the short cane chairs whose legs Jose Juan, or perhaps his father, had cut down to fit the small people of the house. The *senora* was at the fireplace, bending over a fire-blackened kettle. She wavered on one knee that was hidden beneath the fall of her long black skirt. She was pouring well water from an earthen *pipote* into the kettle to begin steaming the corn meal. The large wooden spoon she used to stir the thickening mass of *migas* also served as a crutch to keep her balance. She was old and small and withered. When Maria touched my arm, I realized that I'd been sitting on the edge of my seat with the expectation that I would at any minute have to lunge to keep the *senora* from collapsing into the fire. I settled back into my chair with my knees tucked up near my chest like a diver waiting to release into the water.

**W**e sat quietly for a time in the cool shade as the *senora* stirred the *migas* and hummed the guttural moan of a *cante hondo*, the most somber of flamenco songs. Her voice lifted and broke like the wailed prayer of a muezzin lamenting from the heights of a mosque minaret. The block of afternoon sunlight angled through the open door so that it fell across the corner of the fireplace and over one of the woman's rope sandals. Maria wrapped her arms around her knees

and leaned slightly forward which, with the chair seat so close to the floor, made her rise out of the cane seat as if mesmerized by the woman's dirge.

"My mother made wonderful *migas* when we were small," Maria said. This drew a toothless smile from the *senora*. The old woman sat quietly as if still listening, waiting for anything that anyone might say. Her grey eyes wandered to the pot of *migas* over the fire, then back to Maria who looked to me the happiest I had seen her since we left her parents' house that morning.

As the *senora* was adding onions and more garlic to the *migas*, Jose Juan retrieved a *pipote* of wine which he said he had vintaged himself in large oak casks in the shed. He filled three water glasses and set them on a rough-hewn table worn smooth by generations of hands and arms and plates. In the failing sunlight, I could see a flurry of sediment swirl in the golden wine.

"Alpujarra wine," Jose Juan warned as Maria and I took our first sip.

"My God," Maria said, placing her glass on the table. I waited until my eyes cleared, then pretended to appraise the wine's overpowering bouquet that smelled strangely of charred oak and vermouth. I wondered how the summer heat had not already ignited the fumes from the casks, sending the farm and the entire village of Trevelez to heaven in a ball of fire.

Jose Juan seemed pleased with the wine's effect and smiled. He rubbed his greying beard stubble and studied his glass, then took a long drink.

"The wine is good, no?" he said, reaching for the *pipote* to fill all glasses again. He watched our blank faces and grinned. Maria giggled. Then the three of us laughed. Jose Juan drank more wine. His eyes were filling with tears of laughter which made the *senora* laugh and nod toward us, encouraging us to drink more.

"*Mujer!*" Jose Juan announced. "Serve your *migas* before these two children die of hunger!"

The *migas* were sublime, tasting of corn and chorizo sausage and olive oil. The wine mellowed the more we drank. The *senora* giggled when Jose

(Continued on page 17)

# 50s

**Gerald Rogers** (B.A. '52; M.A. '55) has retired as executive director of the Education Service Center-Region XVII in Lubbock, Texas. For 37 years he served as a coach and administrator in the Crane and Lubbock Independent School Districts, Texas Tech University, and the Education Service Center, and for the past twenty seasons he has served as the stadium announcer for all Texas Tech football and basketball games. Rogers was captain and Most Valuable Player of the Texas Western Miners basketball team during the 1951-52 season.

**Lucius Casillas** (B.A. '53), who resides in Reading, Pennsylvania, is retired after almost 29 years of combined military/federal service in which he served as a television production specialist.

# 60s

**Arthur L. Napoles** (B.S. '61) has been named director of corporate ethics for Ford Aerospace & Communication Corp., joining the corporate staff at the headquarters in Newport Beach, California. Napoles 24-year career with Ford Aerospace includes procurement, contracts, and program management at their Western Development Laboratories in Palo Alto, California.

**Jerry I. Porras** (B.S. '60), a professor at Stanford University Graduate School of Business, has been named Stanford's faculty representative to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

**George W. Fairchild** (B.B.A. '62) is an executive vice president and controller of the United Bank in Bryan, Texas. His wife, Donna T. Fairchild, is a pharmacist.

**Paul Zeek** (B.A. '63), athletic trainer at Lamar University since 1971, was inducted into the National Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame in June at the association's annual convention in Dallas. Zeek, in an interview in the *Beaumont Enterprise*, says, "I've been fortunate over the years to receive several honors, but this is above any I've received...being recognized like this by my peers." Zeek was named College Trainer of the Year by NATA in 1981.

**Aurelio "Ray" G. Valdez, Jr.** (B.A. '63; M.Ed. '74) has been named superintendent of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation facility in Corpus Christi, Texas. Valdez has managed mental health and mental retardation facilities for the past 13 years in El Paso and in New Mexico. He is former director of the Rio Grande State Center in Harlingen, Texas.

**Joseph Rice** (B.A. '66; M.A. '68) is the advertising and publications director of Cable & Connector Warehouse, Inc., in Irving, Texas. He earned his Ph.D. in English at the University of Oregon and has held several faculty and administrative positions, including associate professor of literature at Xavier University in New Orleans and director of university relations at the University of Dallas.

**Ricardo Hernandez** (B.A. '67), former executive director of San Francisco's residential rent stabilization and arbitration board, has been appointed as the city's new public administrator-public guardian. His department is responsible for administering the estates of San Francisco residents who die without heirs or without persons competent to serve as executor. In addition the office handles the financial affairs of residents who are unable to do so—primarily senior citizens who may otherwise be victims of fraud.

**Joe W. Snavelly, D.D.S.** (B.S. '69), a reserve major with the U.S. Dental Corps, is serving with the Texas Department of Health on a mobile dental van based out of El Paso, treating underprivileged school children in rural communities. The service covers 36 counties and an area of 61,700 square miles of West Texas.



**Richard Pearson** (B.A. '69), general manager of KVIA-TV, El Paso, has been named to the board of directors for the Texas Association of Broadcasters (T.A.B.). Pearson has worked in

television broadcasting for the last 29 years and is a member of the National Association of Broadcasters. He has served as president of the Advertising Federation of El Paso and has received numerous honors including Ad Person of the Year.

# 70s

**Bill Burton, Jr.** (B.A. '70) president of Mithoff Advertising, El Paso, has been elected president of the Southwestern Association of Advertising Agencies.

**John Doran** (B.S. '70; M.A. '73), principal of Magoffin Middle School, has been appointed principal at Austin High School, El Paso.

**Derrell Hiett** (B.A. '71) is a case worker with Life Management Center in El Paso. He is a microbiologist and lab technician with the Texas State Health Department in Austin.

**Shelby Fred O'Neal** (B.A. '72; M.Ed. '76) and **Vickie Beam-Johnson** (B.A. '72; M.Ed. '75) completed their Ph.D.'s in counseling and guidance from Columbia Pacific University, San Rafael, California. Both were promoted to psychologist and are employed in the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Program (ADAPCP), William Beaumont Army Medical Hospital, Fort Bliss.

**John K. Korky** (M.S. '72), a professor at Montclair State College, New Jersey, published a paper, "Radioactive Cesium in Edible Mushrooms," in the *American Chemical Society Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, March/April 1989.

**Matthew V. Paek, C.P.A.** (B.B.A. '72), is an internal auditor with Rockwell International. His wife, **Chong-soon Paek** (M.A. '74), is principal research analyst for the University of California at Riverside. They reside in Anaheim, California.

**Elva Autry** (B.S. '74) was recently awarded a "Texstar" by the American Cancer Society for the best schools program in the State of Texas for her Great American Smokeout program presented at Reagan Magnet School, Odessa, Texas. This is the second consecutive year she has received this honor—she won for her program in 1988 while teaching in El Paso at Western Hills Elementary. Her husband,

**Russell Autry** (B.A. '75) is chief executive officer and director of economic development for the Odessa Chamber of Commerce.

**Beverly E. Diamond** (B.A. '75; M.A. '77) has received a doctorate from the Columbia University School of Social Work in New York. She is the data-management coordinator for the Duchene Muscular Dystrophy Clinical Trials Project at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons in the department of pediatric neurology.

**Sue Kurita** (B.A. '75), El Paso attorney, was elected municipal court judge in the May El Paso elections.

**Terry W. Simon** (B.B.A. '76) is a partner in Peak Marwick Main & Co. in Greensboro, North Carolina.

# 80s

UTEP alumni awarded degrees at the May 1989 commencement at The University of Texas at San Antonio are: **Glenn Thweatt** (B.S. '80; M.S. '82) Ph.D.; **Glenn C. McReynolds** (B.S. '85) D.D.S.; **Doris C. Gundersen** (B.S. '81) M.D.; **Paul R. Jones** (B.S. '85) M.D.; and **Lee Russell Schreiber** (B.S. '82) M.D.

**Zorina Susan Ali Innocent**, Capt./USA (B.S.N. '82), has been reassigned from Bremerhaven, West Germany, to Monterey, California. She received an Ed.M. from Boston University overseas division in May 1988.

**Consuelo Ayala** (B.S. '83) and **Caroline Elizabeth Woodland** (B.S. '82) were awarded their doctor of osteopathy degrees in May at Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Worth, Texas.

**Karlene P. Depinevil**, Capt./USAF (B.N. '82), was a May graduate of the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine upon completion of the flight-nurse course at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

**Fran Ford Jacques** (B.A. '82), who has been associated with KDBC-TV in El Paso since 1982, has joined GuyRex and Associates, El Paso publicists.

**Stephen P. Montgomery** (B.S. '82; M.S. '84) received his M.D. degree from The University of Texas Medical School at Houston in May. He plans to enter a residency in psychiatry at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine in Albuquerque.

**Gilbert Guillen** (B.S. '85) has joined the United Way staff in El Paso as a marketing associate.

—Sue Wimberly

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# Deaths

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**John D. Warne** (B.S. 1938), retired mining and metallurgical engineer, in Carson City, Nevada, October 8, 1988. He is survived by his wife, Othrine Warne, four children and ten grandchildren.

**Frederick H. Stewart** (B.S. 1931), former vice president of Amax and a resident of Tucson, Arizona. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth K. Stewart.

**Stanley Zavala** (B.B.A. 1973), a resident of Houston, Texas, March 16. He is survived by his mother, several brothers and sisters.

**E.R. "Dick" Dunagan** (B.A. 1951), retired elementary teacher and coach, and a resident of Ruidoso, New Mexico, March 19. Survivors include his wife, Mary Ellen Dunagan (B.A. 1949), a son and a daughter.

**Mary Catherine Foster** (B.S. 1970), El Paso teacher, March 29. Several children survive her.

**Malvina Owen Spearman** (B.A. 1966), April 3, in El Paso. Two daughters survive her.

**A. Gale Singh, Jr.** (B.A. 1975), a teacher and librarian in the Fort Hancock, Texas, schools. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Singh, Sr., of El Paso, a brother and three sisters.

**Mildred P. Windham** (M.Ed. 1956), retired El Paso teacher, April 17. Her mother survives her.

**Jessye M. Bilderback** (B.S. 1949), of El Paso, April 28. Two daughters survive.

**Armando L. Garcia** (B.S. 1978), a teacher in the El Paso Independent School District, May 5. His parents and several brothers and sisters survive him.

**Engebret A. Thormodsgaard**, UTEP professor emeritus of music and former chairman of his department, May 6. "Dr. Thor" received his bachelor's degree at Concordia College, Minnesota, his master's from the University of New York, and his doctorate from Columbia University. He joined Texas Western College in 1949. He was the founder of the El Paso Boys' Choir and instrumental in developing the University's opera program. He was preceded in death by his wife, Thelma. Survivors include his niece, Beulah Herbold, and his sister, Viola Engen.

**Joseph G. Lyon** (M.Ed. 1964), May 14. Mr. Lyon was retired from the El Paso Independent School District. He is survived by his wife, Matil Lyon, and several children.

**Lily Jane Lyon** (B.S. 1955), retired El Paso teacher, May 16. Her mother and several sisters and brothers survive her.

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## TREVELEZ (from page 15)

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Juan pulled her from her hearth to show off his Alpujarra version of a *sevillana* flamenco, spinning himself and the *senora* ever so slowly over the tiled floor, his thick hands playing the air like two delicate wings cupping the wind, his head held high and eyes burning as the *senora* hummed her swirling *cante hondo*. Jose Juan pulled his beret from his head and sailed it across the room. He winked at us as he dropped his hands to his hips. He stomped his heels against the tiled floor four or five times as if pretending to be Antonio Gades, the greatest flamenco dancer of all.

After a few minutes, the *senora's* voice failed and she sat Jose Juan down at the table with another glass of wine. "The Alpujarra wine," she explained to us, smiling. She placed the beret back on Jose Juan's white head and corked the *pipote*.

Neither of us said anything as we drove back down the trail along the mountain ridge to the main road. Jose Juan had made us promise to return to them on our next trip to the Alhambra. The *senora* rushed out from the kitchen as we were pulling away and pressed an earthen bowl

covered with a saucer into Maria's hands. The old woman smiled and waved, then made the sign of the cross as a blessing to our travel. She waved until we were out of sight.

The sun was dropping behind the western range of mountain peaks as we cleared the summit of Mulhacen. Night fell an hour later as we descended into the valley, revealing the warm halo of Granadan lights in the distance.

"There it is," Maria said, pointing to a sprinkle of lights perched on a mountainside above the city. With the smell of *migas* embracing us from the back seat, I thought of our spending the night in the Hotel Washington Irving across from the Alhambra, and of our getting up early the next morning for our stroll through the Courtyard of the Lions. There, immersed in the proud history of Moorish Spain, we would promise ourselves yet another pilgrimage the next year, one that would, without fail, follow the road through Trevelez. ■

*Peter J. Hager is an assistant professor in the Professional Writing and Rhetoric Program of UTEP's English Department. He teaches creative writing, business communication, technical writing, and composition.*

*"The Road Through Trevelez" earned the 1989 John and Vida White Award for Best Travel Essay among faculty and staff contributors.*

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## WALTZ (from page 7)

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Predicting when an earthquake will occur is easier in areas that experience them regularly as California does. In the Rio Grande Rift region, it is a matter of geological time. "Our area is on a time scale of thousands of years. Will we have an earthquake in the near future? Tomorrow? The next hundred years? We don't know," Keller says.

Geophysicists have come to the conclusion that the best way to "prevent" an earthquake is for

scientists to either set up a large number of seismometers in a particular area or for several geophysicists to meet in one area. "We have decided our combined weight locks a fault in place," Baker says, smiling.

As the seismic observatory keeps track of the geologic-time scale that technology will not wait for, generous donations of personal time and ingenuity have equipped "Cap Kidd's Earthquake Machine" for the challenges of the next century. ■

*Trudy M. Laffler is an El Paso freelance writer.*

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