

Winter 1993

# Nova Quarterly: The University of Texas at El Paso

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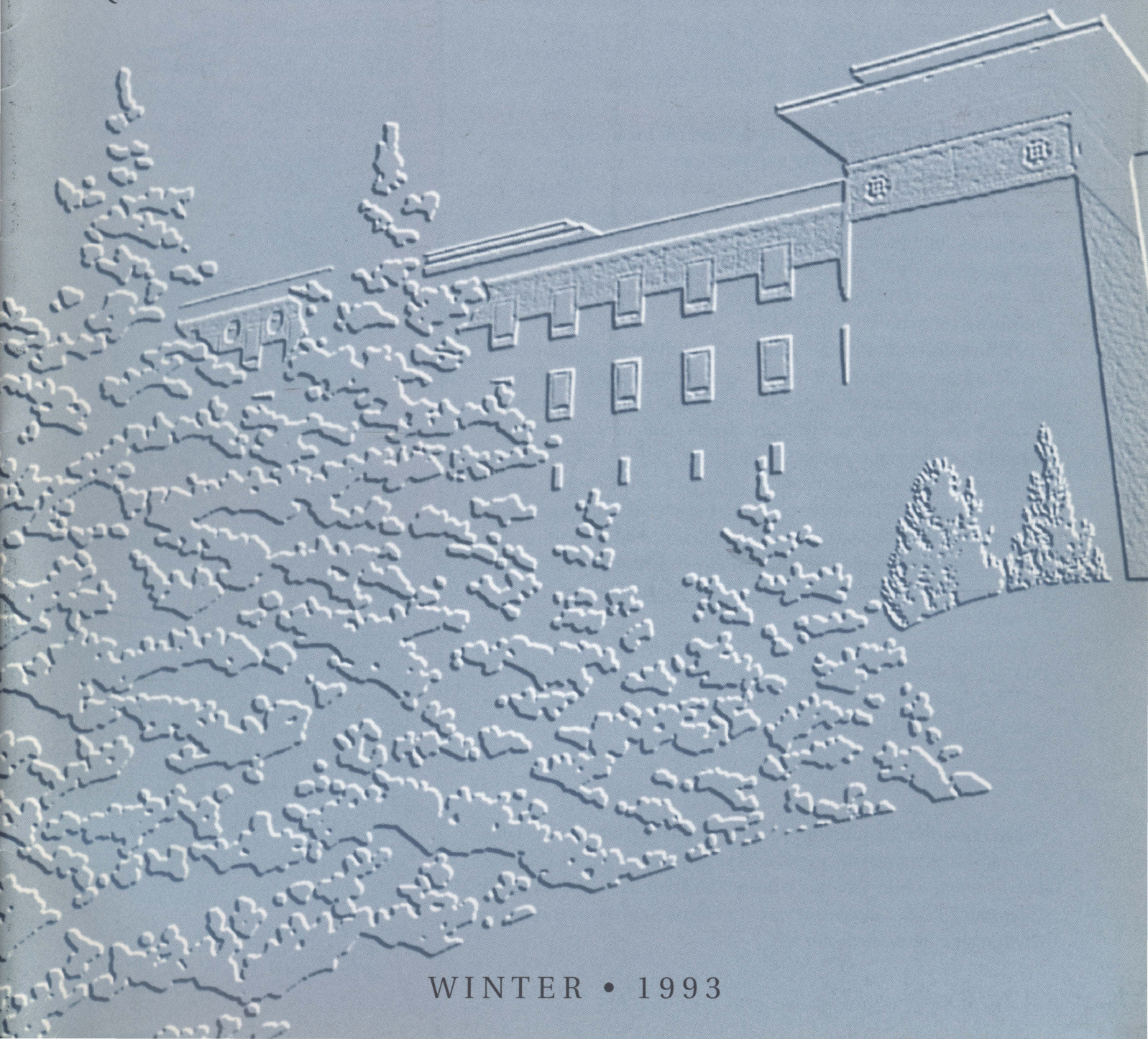
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# NOVA

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO  
QUARTERLY



WINTER • 1993



## FROM THE EDITOR

In a world characterized by increasing interdependence, it is difficult to argue that anyone can do anything without assistance. Specialization in manufacturing and services and, ironically, competition create a strong need for collaboration. UTEP's exponential growth in the past five years has been marked by intensified collaboration with the El Paso community and local and national institutions to strengthen and expand the university's services in the El Paso area. From collaborative research agreements with Mexican universities to new academic program ventures with other Texas universities and increased interdisciplinary collaboration among its own academic departments, UTEP has used partnerships as a means to build its research and teaching infrastructure, expand graduate programs and impact public education reform.

As you will read in President Diana Natalicio's Fall 1993 Convocation Address, UTEP's numerous partnerships are contributing significantly to the university's success. Those who have witnessed the university's recent growth have seen increased outreach to business, government and public and private funding agencies – all of which have joined the university in making it one of the region's most important resources. UTEP will indeed have much to celebrate as it approaches its 80th birthday in 1994-95.

Another development that has changed the way the university conducts business is the integration of communications and computer technologies on campus. Mary Ann Maier, a freelance writer in El Paso, looked into several ways in which UTEP takes advantage of technological development and found that UTEP not only is making widespread use of computerization, but it is, in fact, a leading university in several areas. The university's fiber optic network, for example, ties much of UTEP's on-campus computing activities together and serves as the university's electronic window to the rest of the world. The system is now being used as a model by other universities and private businesses.

With the close of 1993, we want to thank you for your loyal readership and we welcome your suggestions and comments. From all of us at NOVA, may 1994 be a prosperous and happy year for you and your entire family.

—Arturo Vasquez  
Editor

**Errata:** The article "Partners in Education" (Fall 1993) incorrectly stated that non-Moslems cannot attend college in Malaysia. Also, a clarification of statements in "Creating Writers Who Break the Mold": Poetry is still author Alberto Blanco's passion, though his interest in other forms of writing has developed with age.

Editor: **Arturo Vásquez**

Assistant Editors:

**Robert McCorkle and Denise Bezick**

Art Direction: **John Downey**

Graphic Design: **Bobby Daniels**

Production Coordination:

**Kathleen Rogers and Mary Lou Hernandez**

Photography:

**David Flores and Franklin Muñoz**

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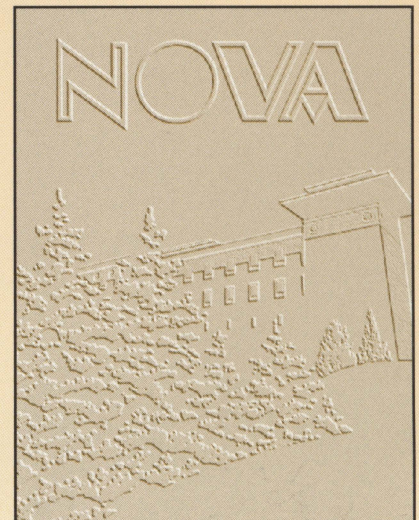
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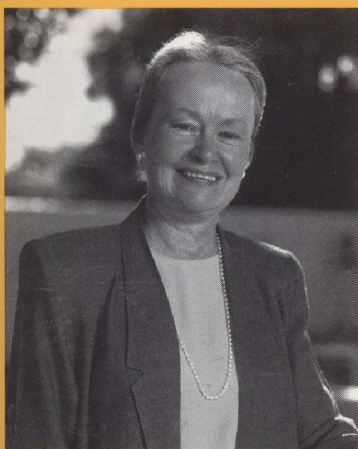


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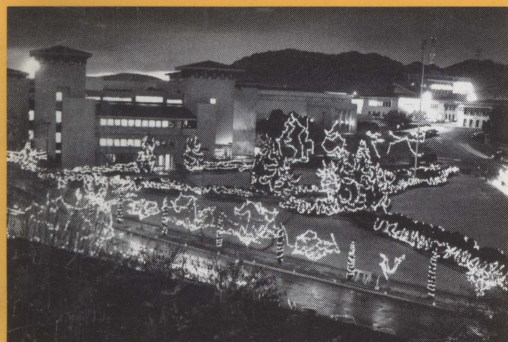
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# NOVA

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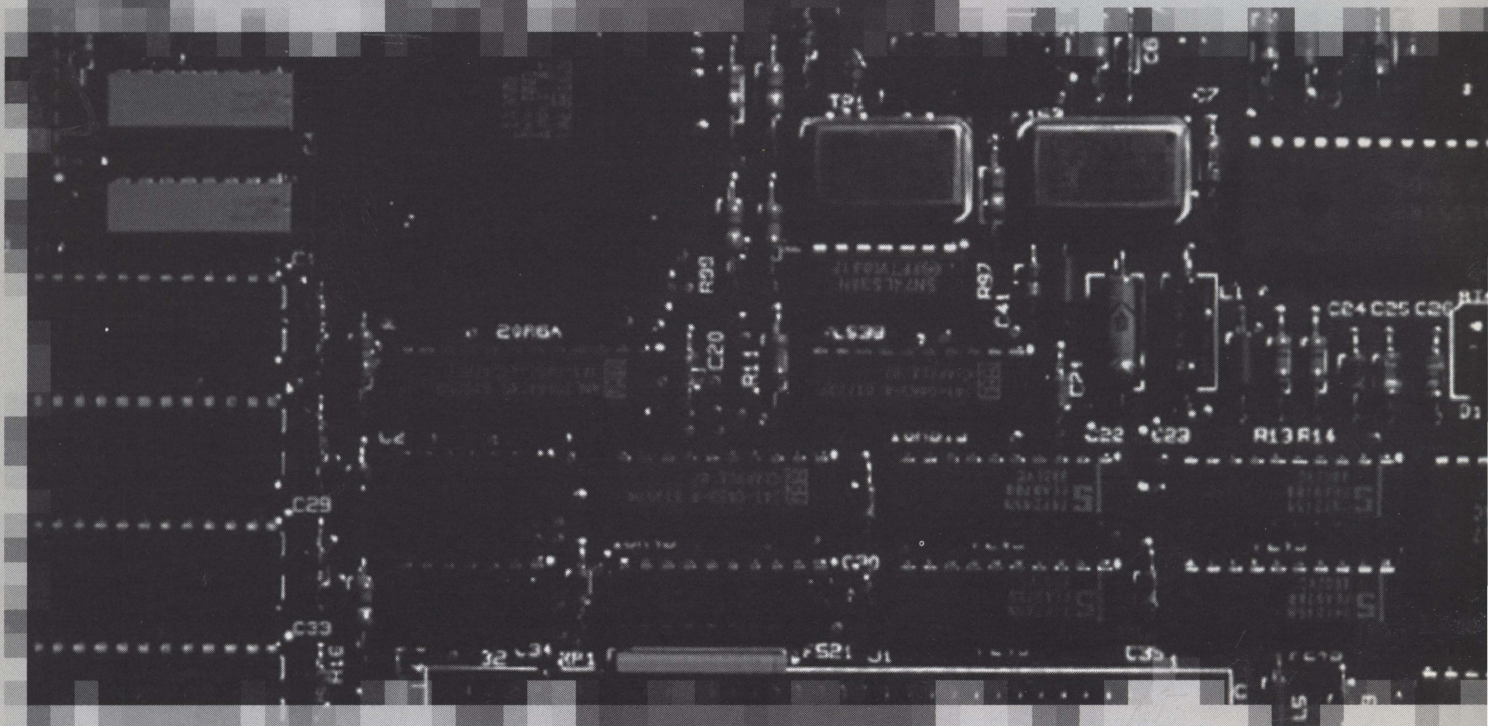
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## READY





*Interactive computer laser disk technology now enables students to perform simulated chemistry experiments. Students can see the results of several decisions without the need for time-consuming laboratory procedures.*



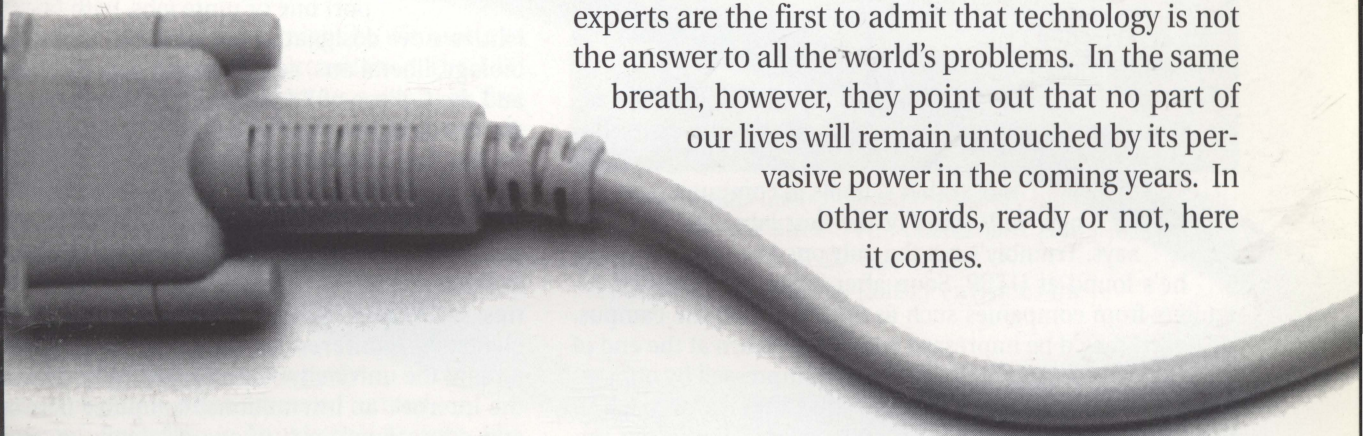
We fear it. We love it. We don't want it. We can't live without it. It makes us feel old. It keeps us up to date. It will depersonalize our lives. It will plug us into life's broad spectrum.

# OR NOT, HERE IT COMES

## A Technological Tidal Wave Hits UTEP

by M. A. Maier

It is computer technology, and it's here to stay. Some of us are delighted by the burgeoning prospects created by this technology that changes faster than we can press redial on our cellular phones. Others feel overwhelmed by it. Computer experts are the first to admit that technology is not the answer to all the world's problems. In the same breath, however, they point out that no part of our lives will remain untouched by its pervasive power in the coming years. In other words, ready or not, here it comes.





The one point upon which nearly everyone agrees is that preparation is the key. UTEP has not only accepted the responsibility of preparing students for the future, it is also leading the high-tech charge into the 21st century. Chances are excellent that nearly any computer technologies you can think of today, and many that you've yet to imagine, are being taught, developed or used at UTEP right now.

"In the past two years, we've moved forward 10 to 15 years in terms of computer technology at UTEP," says Dick Bratcher, director of information and telecommunication services and associate vice president for information services.

This shift into technological warp speed has encompassed the university. "Computers have entered into every aspect of the university in subtle ways," says Wynn Anderson, associate vice president for finance and administration. "Even the motors and fans in every building on campus are operated from a computer in the physical plant. In my day, computers were exceptional tools; now they're ordinary tools."

So ordinary that it will be virtually impossible in the future to find a job that doesn't involve computers, according to Dr. Jim Trumbly, assistant professor of business and director of UTEP's Texas Centers for Enterprise and Economic Development. "I defy anyone to show me a job now that's not computer-related," says Trumbly.

Trumbly's specialization — computer-mediated communication within the Department of Information and Decision Sciences in the College of Business Administration — is in itself an indication of UTEP's leap into the high-tech stratosphere. Yet, when Trumbly arrived at UTEP last June from the University of Oklahoma, he discovered that many at UTEP don't yet realize just how

technologically advanced the university has become. "UTEP is well ahead of most other schools in computer technology, with some of the best labs I've seen," he

says. Trumbly's not the only one impressed by what he's found at UTEP. Soon after arriving, he invited recruiters from companies such as Sprint to visit the campus. He hoped they'd be impressed enough to return at the end of the Spring '94 semester. "Sprint was so impressed by our students and our computer facilities that they came back in November," Trumbly says with excitement. "If you can impress Sprint with your computer facilities, you're doing something pretty good."

Until about a decade ago, recalls Ray Bell, senior lecturer in computer science, those facilities consisted of a single huge mainframe computer and two or three "mini-computers," as they were known then, used by students in the College of Engineering. All of these computers used punch cards to read data. Even massive tasks such as student registration were accomplished by having students gather in a large auditorium to collect punch cards for the classes they wanted to take.

Then, in the mid-1980s, the personal computing revolution struck. PCs (personal computers), many nearly as powerful as the older, room-sized mainframe, appeared on desktops in offices around campus, and then in labs available to students. Today, student transcripts have been moved out of the vault and onto the hard drive, and the library's card catalog is accessed at a keyboard.

Computer technology is now a part of all technology, even the telephones, which Bratcher explains are actually "digital voice terminals using data communication connected to a voice-processing computer system." Although a telephone registration system has supplanted the walk-in system for returning students, it relies on less than up-to-date technology that will be replaced by an entirely new system with expanded phone lines by fall 1994.

Computer labs are probably the most visible sign of UTEP's recent surge in technology. Many of the colleges sup-

port one or more labs, with facilities now designated for nursing, math, chemistry, biology, liberal arts, computer science, engineering, business and the College of Education's Academic Development Center. In addition, fall 1993 saw the opening of the Library Technology Center (LTC) designed for use by students from throughout the university.

Students pay a \$25 technology fee each semester that allows them access to some of the most advanced equipment in the marketplace today. In the LTC, for example, humanities students tap into the mainframe to participate in electronic conferences with students at other locations around the university. Other students and faculty connect to the Internet, an international computer network of research and educational institutions originally created by the U.S. military. Now this system can be used to access research materials in libraries from Taiwan to Brazil. Still others use the



*Computer Center technicians worked for approximately two years interconnecting all UTEP campus offices with fiber optic lines.*





*Louie Valles, Computer Center network manager, coordinated the engineering design and installation of UNET, the fiber optic network that links university computers across campus and enables users to communicate with others around the world via e-mail and to access many public and private information systems.*

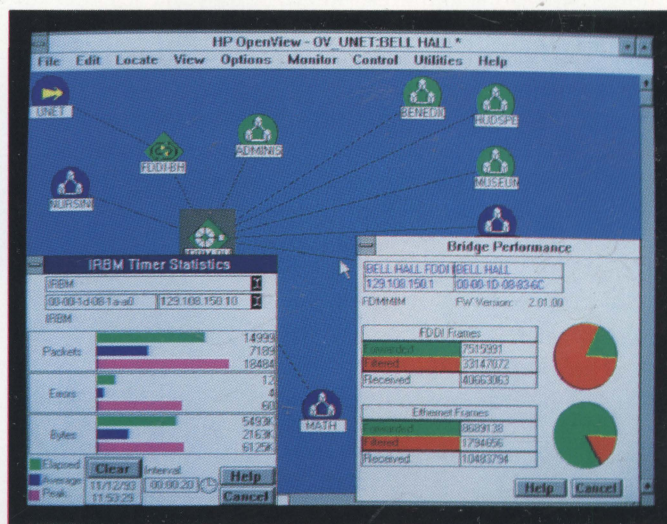
LTC to access electronic mail, or e-mail, a system that allows PC users to send and receive written messages to and from electronic addresses across campus or around the world.

In the Liberal Arts Center for Instructional Technology (LACIT), art students use Amiga computers designed for creating graphics, while foreign-language students watch news broadcasts brought to them from dozens of countries worldwide through a computer and satellite system called SCOLA. Hundreds of English, philosophy and history students write papers on computers and keep copies on diskettes so they don't have to retype the entire paper when their professors ask for revisions.

"Build it and they will come" might be the motto of these Field of Computer Dreamlabs. The LTC alone averaged 300 log-ins a day in its first month of operation, while the newly remodeled LACIT lab, which does not limit use to liberal arts stu-

dents, chalked up 9,600 student visits in September alone, or approximately 370 log-ins a day.

Beyond the labs, today's students are ready for — are in fact waiting for — more advanced technology in the classroom, according to Dr. Michael Kolisky, who was recently hired to the new position of assistant vice president for instructional technology to address this growing need.



"Our students have grown up with very high quality graphics since Sesame Street. The chalkboard alone just doesn't cut it with them," Kolisky says.

A biologist by training, Kolisky envisions the

use of technology already available today in future classes at UTEP to increase the speed and sometimes the safety of



learning in scientific settings. In biology, for example, the computer can be used as a telescope shared by an entire class to study a dissection while simultaneously rebuilding a three-dimensional model of the whole. In chemistry, students can do computer-simulated experiments involving highly dangerous chemicals that replicate actual results, in-



*Paula Morales, computer information systems major, assists Humberto Concha, an English major, in the Library Technology Center, which offers interactive computing from electronic mail to computer-assisted instruction and tutorials.*

cluding explosions and fires. In environmental science, students can compile 20 years worth of data in long-term studies that are reduced to hours or even minutes in computer-simulated experiments.

Kolisky sees the same movement toward expanded learning methods with computers in the arts and humanities. Theater students can use play-analysis software to interactively analyze a theatrical element in a non-linear fashion, with instant random access to any spot in the production.

Students of English as a non-native language can use "repurposed"

American movie videos

that are interspersed with questions to learn about language and

American cultural values. And

in music classes, students can learn

the instruments in a musical piece by

sight and sound at computers that can accurately

simulate the sound of any instrument.

A new classroom building designed to accommodate still unimagined technology is on the drawing board at UTEP and should become a reality in about three years. In the meantime, the line between available technology and that of the future blurs. Kolisky spins tales of students someday "downloading" a professor's notes off a whiteboard and into their portable computers. As he speaks, he faces a wall of boxes, each containing a voice-activated computer that is ready for

hook up right now, ready to change the life of a visually impaired student and to change forever the way all of us think about computing. Today's students are unfazed by this onslaught of merging technologies. "Younger students especially have no fear of computers because they've used them since an early age," says computer scientist Bell.

For faculty, the transition may be more difficult. Experts involved in UTEP's technology transition agree that training faculty in the use of new teaching technology and keeping them up to date as it continues to evolve will be a serious challenge. Yet, Kolisky sees a dual incentive that may drive the faculty's incorporation of these technologies into their classroom teaching: first, the possibility of increased teaching effectiveness and second, the opportunity to do research on the effects of technology on teaching. In the meantime, he hopes to encourage faculty-student collaboration that will take advantage of the faculty's content expertise and the students' ease with technology to put expanding technologies to effective use.

UTEP's administration, leading this charge into the brave new world of tomorrow, certainly won't allow university operations to be left in the technological dust. The development of UNET, UTEP's own fiber-optic network, over the past two years has brought nearly all areas of university operations a giant step forward by enabling every kind of computer on campus to "talk to" every other kind, and by connecting the university to UT Austin and to the worldwide Internet.

President Diana Natalicio has also en-

listed the latest technology to aid in strategic planning.

When Dr. Trumbly arrived at UTEP

last summer with electronic meeting software from Collaborative Technologies

Corporation, Natalicio asked him to help facili-

tate electronic strategic planning sessions for the

university. Sally J. Andrade, director of UTEP's Center

for Institutional Evaluation, Research and Planning, has re-

ceived positive feedback from participants in the sessions.

"It's an effective tool at the brainstorming level," Andrade says. "This technique is very democratic. Everyone gets to talk at once [on their computer screens], but everyone also gets to be heard. This is unlike the typical hour meeting where each person might get only three or four minutes to talk."

Where will this electronic superhighway take us? UTEP researchers are developing international reputations right now with work in areas as remote to most of us today as portable computers would have been in the days of the monolithic mainframe — areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics and expert systems. In the meantime, applications experts believe that video, data and voice technologies will continue to merge. They also look forward to the introduction of virtual reality as a powerful teaching tool in future classrooms. An interactive technology, virtual reality creates three dimensional "worlds" that can be manipulated by students to allow them to experience learning situations that they can only read about or watch today.



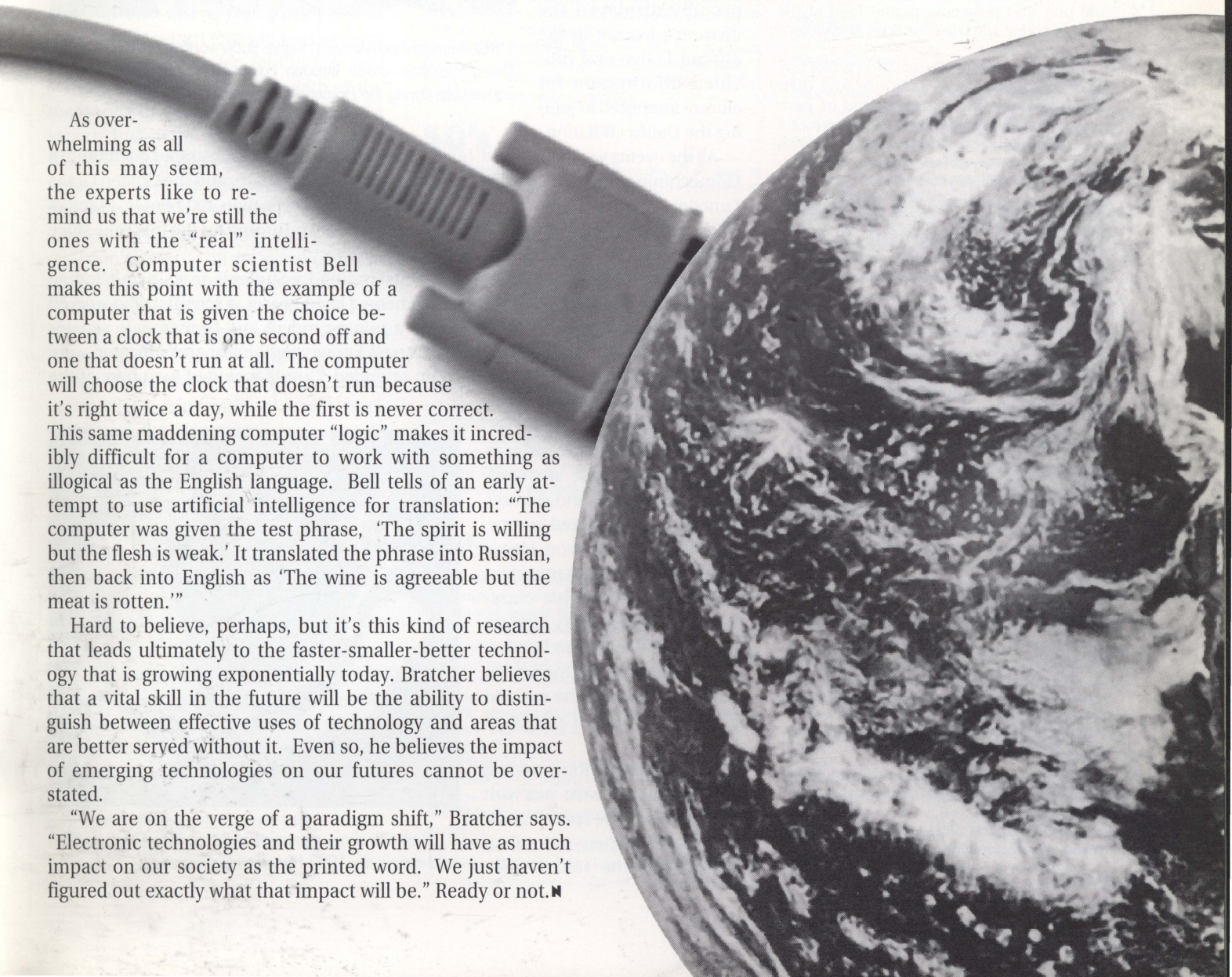


*Jaime Nuñez, director, and student assistants run the Liberal Arts Center for Instructional Technology. As many as 800 students use the center daily for word processing, language instruction and computer animation.*

As overwhelming as all of this may seem, the experts like to remind us that we're still the ones with the "real" intelligence. Computer scientist Bell makes this point with the example of a computer that is given the choice between a clock that is one second off and one that doesn't run at all. The computer will choose the clock that doesn't run because it's right twice a day, while the first is never correct. This same maddening computer "logic" makes it incredibly difficult for a computer to work with something as illogical as the English language. Bell tells of an early attempt to use artificial intelligence for translation: "The computer was given the test phrase, 'The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.' It translated the phrase into Russian, then back into English as 'The wine is agreeable but the meat is rotten.'"

Hard to believe, perhaps, but it's this kind of research that leads ultimately to the faster-smaller-better technology that is growing exponentially today. Bratcher believes that a vital skill in the future will be the ability to distinguish between effective uses of technology and areas that are better served without it. Even so, he believes the impact of emerging technologies on our futures cannot be overstated.

"We are on the verge of a paradigm shift," Bratcher says. "Electronic technologies and their growth will have as much impact on our society as the printed word. We just haven't figured out exactly what that impact will be." Ready or not. ■





## THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

UTEP's Alumni Association is an organization of former students and faculty members that promotes the interests and general welfare of the university and encourages unity and friendship among the university's alumni. The association assists UTEP in its mission for academic excellence, supporting and sponsoring valuable programs such as student recruitment, scholarships, the Top Ten Seniors Award, college and university Distinguished Alumni Awards and the annual Alumni Fund for Excellence telephone campaign.

The Alumni Association also serves as a conduit for fellowship. The association's sponsorship of several programs and projects provides opportunities for alumni to participate as a group in the growth of their alma mater. Some of these activities include:

- pre-game football parties held at the Alumni Lodge
- an annual kickoff picnic at the beginning of the fall semester
- "Follow the Miners" trips for sports fans
- alumni reunions
- participation in Homecoming festivities and promotions, including the post-bonfire party and pre- and postgame parties held at the Alumni Lodge, plus discounts on Homecoming game tickets.

Joining the Alumni Association is one way UTEP graduates have demonstrated their commitment to the university and its past, present and future students. If you aren't a current Alumni Association member and wish to join, send a minimum annual contribution of \$25 per person to the academic program of your choice. Mail your donation to the UTEP Alumni Association, Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas, 79968. Include your year of graduation or the years you attended UTEP on your check, and indicate the college, department, academic program or scholarship for which your donation is intended. A membership card listing benefits of participation in the Alumni Association will be mailed to you upon receipt of your contribution.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- alumni updates
- annual Homecoming calendar of events
- special Homecoming discounts
- pre-game parties before all home football games
- invitations to special on-campus events
- library "community user" privileges
- use of university Career Services (involves a nominal fee)
- discount rates on tickets for programs sponsored by the Union Programs Office
- 20 percent discount on books published by Texas Western Press
- limited use of the university recreation facilities
- discounts on outdoor adventures programs
- use of the campus pool during open swimming hours
- membership in the El Paso Employees Federal Credit Union with a membership fee

## Alumni Turn Out in Record Numbers for Homecoming Celebrations

The call to come home was overwhelmingly answered by our Texas College of Mines, Texas Western College and UTEP graduates. This year, an amazing number of alums turned out to participate in one or several of the festivities held during Homecoming Week, October 11-16. Making the trek from California for the 18th year

was Leonard Chant (B.A. '37) and his wife Cathy. Leonard and Cathy arrived dutifully every morning to the Alumni Lodge to serve as the official greeters. On hand to welcome our alumni living in the Dallas area were representatives of the North Texas Chapter. Chapter president Robert Jimenez, his wife Shirley and chapter secretary Robert Vargas proudly displayed the division's banner in the Alumni Lodge and provided information for alumni interested in joining the Dallas affiliation.

All the events were successful, but two particular events demonstrated our alumni's Homecoming zeal: the '50's and '60's reunion/pre-game party and the Golden Grads Luncheon. The pre-game cookout drew a record of more than 400 people, many of whom were alumni from the reunion years and were returning for the first time since graduation.

The class of 1943 has three UTEP Outstanding Ex-Students to its name and all were honored at the Golden Grads Luncheon. David Leaser, a scientist who worked on the Apollo program; Charles Steen, a mining mogul and former state senator from Utah; and Dr. Vernie Stembridge, a well-known pathologist and educator, were among the more than 300 people who attended. Guests included members of the class of '43, members of the special classes of 1944-48, alumni who graduated prior to 1943, retired faculty and staff, professors emeriti and spouses of those in the honored groups. Following the luncheon, Henry Lide, the senior class president from 1943, joined his classmates, including Mary Jackson Hellums, Bill Collins and professor Robert L. Schumaker, in reminiscing about the era and life at the Texas College of Mines.

In closing our Homecoming 1993 recap, we leave you with excerpts from the speech given by Hughes Butterworth when he received the 1993 Distinguished



1993 Distinguished Alumnus Hughes Butterworth and UTEP President Diana Natalicio cruise through campus atop a 1965 Mustang convertible during the Homecoming Parade.



UTEP alumni share memories at the Golden Grads reunion held during the 1993 Homecoming festivities.



guished Alumnus Award during a reception on Oct. 15 in the University Library:

"Words could never express my feelings for this honor you have given me tonight. It is a very humbling experience for me, and I really do not see myself in this roll. ...

"Having started as a janitor and worked my way up, I learned all about the business from which a successful career has been the reward. I firmly believe you must make a contract with yourself to succeed, and you must put into your efforts the same as you take out – and remember to give back to those who have helped you on your life journey, especially your family, friends, church, university and the community from which you receive your life rewards. ...

"In 1950 when I enrolled at the College of Mines, later renamed Texas Western College, it was a very small campus and one where you quickly felt at home. As we return today to see the campus that has grown ten fold in size and stature, it still feels like home with all the memories of yesteryear – maybe a lot larger but with the same familiar Bhutanese architecture that we've come to love. It is a wonderful place to grow and learn, and I know you will agree – the greatest university in the world.

"I don't know if you are aware of where (UTEP President) Dr. (Diana) Natalicio is leading our university as we enter the 21st century. Let me tell you where I feel she is headed, and I hope we will all become a part of the vision. Today I see Diana personally working with our local school districts at the elementary and secondary levels as well as all educators throughout the El Paso/Mexico region to raise the standard of education which will better prepare students for learning at the university level and make this a better community.

"I personally feel that it is imperative for the business community and all the citizens of the El Paso/Juarez region to endorse and become involved with her vision to raise the standards of education.

"Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to continue to be a part of this great university and especially for the honor you have given me tonight. This certainly is one of the pinnacles of my life.

"Thank you."

# Classes NOTES

## 30's

**Woodrow W. Leonard** (B.S. '35) and his wife, Georgia, avid gem hounds, have been traveling the world in pursuit of their treasures. In Australia they collected opal, sapphire, zircon and peridot, and in Brazil they found topaz, tourmaline, andalusite, emeralds, aquamarine and other gems for faceting.

**William Eldridge Miller Jr.** (attended '39 - '41) and his wife **Marjorie Mithoff Miller** (attended '40 - '42), currently residing in Bowie, Md., were in El Paso to celebrate UTEP Homecoming. Both transferred to UT Austin, where Marjorie earned a degree in English and William received a degree in electrical engineering.

## 40's

**Federico E. Villareal** (B.S. '40) retired from mining about 10 years ago and lives in Saltillo, Mexico. He sometimes gets together with his brother, **Rodolfo**, also of the class of '40, to reminisce about the "good old days" at the Texas College of Mines.

**Harvey Hausman** (B.A. '42) and his wife, **Ann**, of Mission Hills, Calif., recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

**Mary Daniels Taylor** (B.A. '43) lives in Mesilla, N.M., and is writing two books that she hopes will be published in the near future. She is married to **J. Paul Taylor**, a representative in the New Mexico legislature.

**Rita Kircher Keating, M.D.**, (B.S. '46) is a practicing physician in Inglewood, Calif. She received her medical degree from Loyola-Strich School of Medicine in Chicago in 1950 with a specialty in pediatrics.

## 50's

**Carol Gordon** (B.B.A. '54) has been elected secretary to the Board of Directors of Leadership El Paso for the 1993-94 year.

**Gloria Lavis** (B.A. '54) is a newly elected vice-president of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra Board of Trustees.

**Joe B. Gillespie Jr.** (B.S. '57) most recently of Olathe, Kan., is being sent by the U. S. Geological Survey to a two year assignment in Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, to work on a Ground Research Project.

**Amelia (Amy) Castillo** (B.B. '58), executive director of the El Paso Senior Opportunities and Services organization, attended a two-week International Conference of Social Workers in Moscow in May 1993. Because social work didn't become a profession in Russia until 1991, the group's mission is to introduce the concept to the Russian people. She found the people warm and receptive and says she has been asked to return – something she says she is prepared to do because the country is in dire need of social work services.

**Barbara Coleman** (B.A. '58) has been chosen to serve a one-year term on the Board of Directors of Leadership El Paso.

## 60's

**Ralph Ponce de Leon** (B.A. '60) is corporate vice president of Motorola, Inc., and works out of the company's corporate offices in Schaumburg, Ill.

**Maxine Neill-Johnson** (attended late 60's), a 13-year veteran of the UTEP athletic department, has been promoted to associate athletic director. Her official duties will include events management, administration of women's sports and compliance with NCAA regulations.

**Frank R. Sanchez** (B.S.E.E. '63) lives in Seattle, Wash., where he is a member of the Board of Trustees of Central Washington University.

**Miguel Solis** (B.S.S. '64) has returned to El Paso to open a law practice after practicing in the Dallas-Fort Worth area for the past five years. Solis is a former El Paso County Commissioner and a past president of the UTEP Alumni Association.

**Rene Arredondo, M.D.**, (B.S. '65) was named 1993 Outstanding Ex of El Paso's Ysleta High School during a special Homecoming ceremony on Sept. 16. Arredondo, who spe-

cializes in orthopedic surgery, graduated from Ysleta High School in 1962 and after graduating from UTEP earned a medical degree at the UT Medical Branch in Galveston.

**Clyde E. Jeffcoat Jr.** (B.B.A. '65) is planning to retire from his employment with the federal government after 27 years of service. During his tenure, he held positions as senior auditor for the Air Force, senior accountant for the Army and senior information technology operator for the Department of Defense.

**Hector M. Serrano** (B.A. '65) was honored at the annual awards presentation and officers installation banquet of the El Paso Mexican-American Bar Association for his contribution to El Paso's Hispanic community.

**Burt Blackshear** (attended '67-'69) has been elected to a one-year term on the Leadership El Paso Board of Directors. **Tony Woo** (B.S.E.E. '68; M.S. '72), a plant manager at Rockwell International, is one of five El Pasoans appointed to the Upper Rio Grande Private Industry Council.

**Richard A. Eason** (B.S. '69) is one of 438 crewmen who recently returned from a two-month deployment aboard the combat store ship USS San José, home ported in Guam. The ship, part of the USS Independence Battle Group, conducted aerial training with the Australian defense forces off the coast of Western Australia. Eason joined the Navy in 1969.

## 70's

**Martha Ortega** (B.A. '70) has been elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors of Leadership El Paso.

**Robert Geske** (B.S.Ed. '71; M.E. '77) was recently selected "Educator of the Week" by the *El Paso Herald-Post*. Geske has been a teacher for 23 years and currently teaches seventh-grade language classes at Morehead Junior High School. He acknowledges the positive influence his teachers had on his formative years and hopes to accomplish the same with his students.

**Robert E. Marc, Ph.D.**, (B.S. '71) has been awarded a Jules and Doris Stein Research to Prevent Blindness Professorship. The prestigious award, presented to only 20 scientists since its inception in 1984, was created to help medical institutions recruit outstanding scientists for collaborative studies of clinically relevant problems in ophthalmology. Marc received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in 1975 and has spent 15 years as a professor of neural sciences at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston. He joined the faculty of the University of Utah Health Sciences Center as professor of ophthalmology and physiology in 1993.

**Paul Strelzin** (M.A. '71) was honored for his contribution to the Hispanic community of El Paso by the El Paso Mexican-American Bar Association at its annual awards presentation and officers installation banquet.

**John T. Garcia** (B.A. '73) was honored at the October annual awards presentation and officers installation banquet of the El Paso Mexican-American Bar Association for his contribution to the El Paso Hispanic community.

**Randolph C. Nolen** (B.S. '73), a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, recently became a "plank owner" (a traditional naval title given to crew members serving aboard a ship when it is commissioned and becomes part of the U.S. fleet) with the guided missile cruiser USS Lake Erie, home ported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Nolen joined the Navy in 1987.

**Blanche A. Acuna** (B.S.Ed. '74; M.Ed. '89) a third-grade bilingual teacher at El Paso's Zavala Elementary School, was recently named "Educator of the Week" by the *El Paso Herald-Post*. Acuna has been a teacher for 18 years.

**Gilbert Blancas** (B.B.A. '74) has been appointed to the board of directors of the Upper Rio Grande Private Industry Council. He is manager of human resources at Leviton Manufacturing.

**Joe Lopez** (B.B. '75), head of Lopez Advertising of El Paso, was one of four people nominated for the 1993 Texas Association of Mexican-American Chambers of Commerce Businessman of the Year Award. The company specializes in advertising directed at the Hispanic market, and its clients include several large local and national companies.

**Juan Sandoval** (B.B.A. '76; M.B.A. '81) has been named



vice president for finance and administration at UTEP. An employee of UTEP since 1983, Sandoval has been assistant vice president for finance and administration, comptroller and interim vice president for finance and administration.

**John Hjalquist** (B.B.A. '78) is a newly elected vice president of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra Board of Trustees.

**Thomas P. Sullivan** (B.S. '78), formerly in-house attorney with Insurance Corporation of America, has opened a private law office in Houston. He will continue a general practice with emphasis in the areas of health care, professional liability and international transactional law.

**J. Luis Ybanez** (B.B.A. '78) has been named director of special retail development for Maytag Company. Ybanez began his career with Maytag as a marketing trainee in 1979 and worked in different areas of Texas until his most recent assignment as manager of special market development in the Chicago area.

**Christine Althoff** (B.S.Ed. '79; M.E. '87) has been named "Educator of the Week" by the *El Paso Herald-Post*. Currently a first grade teacher at Mesita Elementary School, she has been in the teaching field for 14 years. She is co-sponsor of the Austin High School Flag Corps.

## 80's ▼

**Steven Meador** (B.B.A. '80) is the new vice president and trust department manager of SunWest Bank in El Paso. A native El Pasoan, Meador received his J.D. degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1983. He is president of the El Paso Estate Planning Council and has served on the Finance Advisory Committee to the Business Programs Division at El Paso Community College. He also has taught business finance at the college.

**Donald M. Ziemke** (B.B.A. '80) has been promoted to regional sales specialist for Osram Sylvania, Inc. He currently resides in Dearborn, Mich. Ziemke has been employed by the company since he graduated from UTEP and will be responsible for sales training for 20 states within the company's central region.

**Corina V. Bustillos** (B.S.Ed. '81) was recently selected "Educator of the Week" by the *El Paso Herald-Post*. She has been a teacher for 12 years and currently teaches the second-grade bilingual class at Del Norte Heights Elementary School in El Paso.

**Eva M. Moya** (B.S. '81) is one of 50 people out of 828 applicants chosen for the prestigious Kellogg National Fellowship Program, which was formed in 1980 to strengthen the nation's pool of capable leaders. The theme of the three-year program will be "The Face of Leadership: Taking the Lead in Transforming Society." Already a proven leader, Moya received the Adelante Mujer Hispana's Community and Involvement Award in 1990 and the U.S. Health and Human Services' Paso a Paso: A Model Community Programs Award in 1991.

**Manny Pacillas** (B.S. '82) has become associate director of the Institute for Manufacturing and Materials Management at UTEP.

**Robert Young** (B.S. '82) has been elected secretary of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra Board of Trustees.

**Bea Briones, R.N.**, (B.S.N. '83) has joined the staff at Sierra Medical Center's Diabetes Outpatient Center. Her responsibilities include assisting with the Outpatient Diabetes Program, patient education and marketing of the hospital's diabetes programs. Briones earned a master's degree in nutrition and food science from New Mexico State University.

**Virginia Luz (Rodríguez) Gutierrez** (B.A. '83) earned her J.D. degree from Temple University School of Law in May 1993 and has opened a solo law practice in Philadelphia.

**Charles Etheridge, Ph. D.**, (B.A. '85) is one of six professors elected as representatives to the faculty council at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas.

**Joyce Van Nostrand** (M.N. '86) became chairwoman of the Department of Nursing at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., in July 1993. Her 26 year career began in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, and she was deployed as assistant chief nurse in 1991 during Operation Desert Storm. Van Nostrand earned her bachelor of science in nursing at Southern Oregon State in 1985 and her doctoral degree from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas, in 1992.

**Benjamin Alire Sáenz** (M.A. '87), an author and assistant professor of creative writing at UTEP, has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Lannan Foundation, a private literary organization based in Los Angeles. Writers must be nominated for the awards, which are given annually to poets and fiction writers. Sáenz has a book of poetry scheduled to be published in the spring and a series of essays on life on the border in the works. His most recent book, a collection of poems titled *Calendario of Dust*, received an American Book Award in 1992. His second master's degree, in theology, was earned from the University of Louvain in Belgium.

## Winter Holidays Bring UTEP's Season of Lights

In 1992, the Alumni Association revived an old UTEP tradition of decorating the campus with holiday lights in the hopes of sustaining the warm glow effused in the reunion of friends during Homecoming Week. But we gave the old tradition a new twist. Instead of lining the center of campus with luminarias – small brown bags of sand illuminated with candles – our new Season of Lights uses more than 40,000 tiny

white bulbs that glimmer from trees in the center of campus every night during the holiday season. Students, faculty, alumni and friends



Youngsters from area schools participate in the Season of Lights ceremony.

are treated during the entire month of December to a grand display of sparkle and radiance which enhance the Alumni Lodge and the trees and shrubs in the triangle in front of the Geological Sciences Building.

This year, the Season of Lights continues with the addition of 15,000 more lights that are decorating the Administration Building adjacent to the Alumni Lodge.

The lights were turned on Nov. 30 during the Season of Lights ceremony. Surrounded by darkness, more than 400 participants at the ceremony held burn-



Carolers perform during the Season of Lights ceremony.



ing candles and, in unity, blew out their flames as the festive array of lights was switched on. Adding to the night's magic was musical entertainment provided by fifth-grade students from Alta Vista, Mesita and Vilas schools, UTEP's Chamber Choir and Bones on the Border, the university trombone ensemble. The campus will remain illuminated through New Year's Day.



A view of the lighted campus during the Holidays promises to grow into a citywide attraction. UTEP's 1993 Season of Lights began Nov. 30.

**Martin Ramirez P. III, CPA** (B.B. '88) has been promoted to audit manager at Coopers Lybrand in El Paso, where he has been employed since 1988.

**Joy Slusher** (B.A. '88) has been elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors of Leadership El Paso.

**James D. Britton** (B.S.E.E. '89; M.S.E.E. '92) and **Silvia Monarrez** (B.S.Ed. '89) were married on Oct. 16, 1993. Silvia taught biology at Socorro High School before the couple relocated to San Diego, where James is an electrical engineer at Cray Research.

## 90's

**Sheela Wolford** (B.A. '90; M.A. '92) has joined the staff of KTEP 88.5 FM as its new development/public relations director.

## OBITUARIES

**Denzil D. Jones Jr.** (B.S. '57) died April 5, 1993. He had been employed by McDonnell Douglass as a group manager. Survivors include his wife, three sons and his parents.

**Alice M. (Haugin) White** (B.A. '48; M.A. '50) died in Yuma, Ariz., on June 12, 1993. She was a high school teacher in El Paso for 30 years. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and was named an Outstanding Secondary Educator of America. Preceded in death by her sister, Ida Yowell, she is survived by her cousin, Elaine Nelson.

**Ruthella B. Prentice** (B.S.Ed. '65) died July 25, 1993. She was an El Paso resident for 31 years. Her 37-year teaching career took her to several states and the Philippines. Among her many professional affiliations were the National Education Association, the Texas Classroom Teachers Association, the International Readers Association and the Parent Teachers Association. Survivors include two sons, two grandchildren and two sisters.

**Eugene B. Thurston** (attended '53-'55) died July 28, 1993. He was a well-known Southwestern landscape artist and art teacher. He taught commercial art at El Paso Technical High School and was an art teacher at El Paso High School until his retirement in 1966. He is survived by three daughters, a brother, eleven grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandson.

**Eduardo "Lalo" Dominguez** (B.S.Ed. '83) died July 31, 1993. He was a teacher in the Ysleta and San Elizario school districts. He is survived by his parents, six brothers and one sister.

**Lorenza Eva (Sister Gonzaga Maria, R.J.M.) Acosta** (B.A. '44) died Aug. 3, 1993. She was a native El Pasoan and a member of the religious order of Jesus and Mary. She had been a teacher in the United States and Mexico and taught catechism classes at Queen of Angels and Holy Family Catholic Church. She is survived by four sisters, three brothers and 24 nieces and nephews.

**Lucia G. Casas** (B.A. '42; M.Ed. '62) died Aug. 20, 1993. She was retired after 28 years of teaching in the El Paso public schools. Most recently she taught English to new U.S. citizens as a volunteer. She was a native El Pasoan, a WWII veteran (U.S. Navy) and an active life-long member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church. She is survived by her husband, Sabas, one son, one sister, one brother and two grandchildren.

**Billy Bennett Donovan** (B.A. '69; M.Ed. '78), a retired major in the U.S. Army, died Aug. 20, 1993. He was a retired assistant principal of North Loop School in El Paso. Survivors include his wife, Betty, two daughters, two sons, one sister and seven grandchildren.

**Beatrice Bernice Gates** (B.S.Ed. '67) died Aug. 20, 1993. A resident of El Paso since 1945, she taught for 20 years in the Ysleta school district. She was a member of the Ysleta Retired Teachers Association, the Fidelis Mu Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority, the Woodbine Chapter of Eastern Star, the South West Square Dance Association and Grace Methodist Church. She is survived by her husband, Robert, one daughter, two brothers, three sisters and one grandson.

**Carl Walker, M.D.**, (UTEP Professor Emeritus) died Aug. 29, 1993. He was a counseling and psychology instructor at UTEP and a veteran of WWII. He was a member of the Shrine and many other civic and professional organizations. He is survived by his wife,

Gayle, and his daughter, Laura Kristin.

**Frances W. Sherlin** (B.A. '49) died Sept. 3, 1993. She was a lifelong El Paso resident and a retired teacher from the Ysleta Independent School District. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and volunteered at Sierra Medical Center. Survivors include two sons, two daughters, one brother, three sisters and five grandchildren.

**Cynthia Gould Phillips** (B.S.Ed. '65) died Sept. 10, 1993. She was a lifelong El Paso resident and a retired teacher from the Ysleta Independent School District. She is survived by two sons.

**Mauro Rosas** (attended '40's) died Sept. 10, 1993. A decorated WWII veteran of the Army Air Corps, he flew more than 50 missions over Europe. He was the first Hispanic elected to the Texas Legislature and was a lawyer with membership in many professional organizations, including the El Paso Bar Association, the Mexican American Bar Association, the Trial Lawyers Association and the State Bar of Texas. He was honored posthumously by the El Paso Mexican-American Bar Association for his contribution to El Paso's Hispanic community. Survivors include his wife, Socorro, one son and five daughters.

**Olav Elling Eidbo** (retired UTEP music professor) died Sept. 13, 1993. He had lived in El Paso for 43 years and taught at UTEP for 33 years. He was vice chairman of the UTEP Heritage Commission. He is survived by his wife, Wanda, and his son, Rolf.

**Eugenio Alfredo Aguilar Jr., D.D.S., F.A.G.D., F.A.C.D.**, (B.S. '47) died Sept. 27, 1993. He practiced dentistry in El Paso for 30 years and was a member of many professional organizations, including the El Paso District Dental Society, the Texas Dental Association and its International Relations Committee and the El Paso Dental Study Club. He also was a regent of the Texas State Technical Institute, a member of UTEP's Development Board and Matrix Society, a member of the Sierra Club and director of Project Bravo, United Way El Paso, the El Paso Boys Club and several other organizations. He was a highly decorated WWII veteran who served in the Pacific Theater. Survivors include his wife, Josephina, six sons, four daughters and 13 grandchildren.

**Jayne Vollmer** (B.A. '57) died Sept. 17, 1993, in Huntsville, Texas. A resident of Huntsville for 29 years, she was owner/operator of the Elf Shelf gift shop and a member of the Catholic Church. Survivors include two daughters, two sons, her mother, two sisters, two brothers and seven grandchildren.

**Lula F. McDaniel** (B.A. '35; M.A. '50) died Sept. 30, 1993. She was a resident of El Paso for 76 years and taught school for 45 years. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and Tri Delta Sorority and St. Clement's Episcopal Church. She is survived by four nieces and nephews.

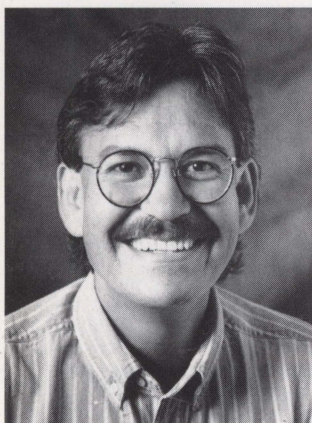
**Bertha Leowenstein Carpenter** (B.A. '35; M.A. '52) died Oct. 17, 1993. She retired from teaching after a 32-year career in which she taught at North Loop Elementary School and Ysleta High School. Survivors include two sons, two daughters, three sisters, one brother, nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

**Maurice Edward (Ed) Hill Jr.** (B.A. '62) died Oct. 17, 1993. He was a nationally respected art dealer and owner of the Ed Hill Gallery in El Paso. He was a founding member of the Festival Theater, co-founder of the Committee for a Better Museum and worked with the Cultural Planning Council, the Business Committee for the Arts and the El Paso Museum of Art Citizen's Review Committee. Survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice E. Hill Sr., one brother and one son.

**Wilma McKay Hanley** (friend of UTEP) died Oct. 29, 1993. She was the widow of Frank Hanley, founder of Hanley Paint Company in El Paso. She worked as executive secretary for the president and board of directors of the White House Department Stores in El Paso for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Hanley were dedicated to UTEP's athletic program and faithful friends of the university. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Winona McKay and her nephew, David McKay.



# HIGH LIGHTS



## SÁENZ WINS FELLOWSHIP

The Lannan Foundation recently awarded UTEP creative writing professor Benjamin Alire Sáenz a \$50,000 poetry fellowship in appreciation of his poetry collections, *Dark and Perfect Angels* and *Calendar of Dust*, which won the American Book Award in 1992.

Sáenz, a Chicano poet and short story writer, was one of 10 writers to receive a \$50,000 fellowship this year from the private Los Angeles-based literary foundation.

Sáenz's poetry focuses on the Southwest, its sometimes brutal history, its environment and its Chicano Catholic culture. In making the award, the Lannan Foundation said Sáenz's work is an eloquent statement for justice and humanity.

Born in Las Cruces, N.M., Sáenz received a master's degree from the University of Louvain in Belgium and was formerly an ordained Catholic priest. He holds a master's degree in creative writing from UTEP and is a doctoral candidate at Stanford University. He teaches in UTEP's new master of fine arts program in creative writing in which students study in English, Spanish or both languages.

Sáenz plans to release his third book of poetry next spring.

## MEXICAN SCULPTOR DISPLAYS SILVER WORK AT UTEP

Thirty-eight finely textured, hand-hammered silver and copper vessels that are part of a traveling exhibit of work by master Mexican metalsmith Ignacio Punzo Angel will be displayed through Jan. 8 at the Centennial Museum.

Punzo's work melds the artist's imagination and creativity with his ancestral ties to the coppersmiths of Mexico's pre-Columbian Purepecha empire and techniques passed on to him in the artistic heart of that empire by his own father and brothers – kettle makers from the village of Santa Clara del Cobre in the state of Michoacán.

"Punzo has elevated his family's craft to a fine art," says Centennial Museum director Florence Schwein. "His craftsmanship is among the best I have ever seen. It is gorgeous, and it will take your breath away."

The thirty-eight vessels in the Centennial Museum display range from six inches to nearly two feet in height, and each was forged by hand from a single block of metal. Patterns of light and color are reflected in a mosaic of tiny indentations that cover the surface of every piece – a design left by thousands of well-placed hammer strikes on the hot metal. Brilliance is sculpted into each vessel with the polished face of Punzo's hammer; none of the vessels are machine polished.

In 1977, he won the National Prize of Bellas Artes, and in 1981 he submitted his first silver vase to the National Silver Competition at Taxco.

The Centennial Museum is one of many stops Punzo's sculptures will make in a traveling exhibition sponsored by the Instituto Cultural

Mexicano en San Antonio (Mexican Cultural Institute in San Antonio). The El Paso showing is co-sponsored by the Consulate General of Mexico at El Paso and the University of Texas at El Paso. The exhibition's next showing will be in Italy.

The exhibit will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday from Jan. 4 to Jan. 8. The Centennial Museum is on the corner of University Avenue and Wiggins Road on the UTEP campus.

## BIOMEDICAL GRANT

UTEP will purchase sophisticated equipment for its undergraduate biology laboratories and develop a mentoring and research program for biology majors with an \$850,000 four-year grant recently awarded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Through the grant, the institute will improve access to state-of-the-art undergraduate biology instruction in West Texas.

The equipment, which will cost more than \$400,000, will include computer research support systems, thermal cyclers for DNA synthesis, high speed centrifuges that will separate cells into their component parts and electrophoresis equipment, which is used in gene sequencing. It will be used in undergraduate molecular biology, cell biology, immunology and vertebrate physiology laboratories.

"This grant will enable us to provide as good a program in undergraduate biology as you can find in any state university in Texas or in the United States," says biology chairman Louis Irwin.

"Many universities have this kind of equipment only at the graduate level."

The mentoring and research

program funded by the grant will target minority students and women who have academic potential but limited exposure to scientific training.

Selected high school graduates and entering freshmen will participate in a pre-college coaching program that will help them polish their science and math skills and teach them effective study techniques. Students who attend the summer workshops will participate during their freshman year in study groups and seminars on research strategies and career opportunities.

During their second, third and fourth years at UTEP, they can apply for financial support from the Howard Hughes Research Participation program, which will provide stipends to students who work with faculty members on laboratory research. Students also will be assigned graduate student mentors.

"The introduction of this kind of computer technology, sophisticated equipment and research funding into our biology program allows us to give our students an educational experience that is closer to what they will encounter in the laboratories where they will work after graduation," UTEP President Diana Natalicio says.

The grant also will move UTEP closer to its goal of establishing a doctoral degree in biological sciences, she says.

UTEP – the largest comprehensive university in the continental United States with a majority Hispanic student body – is an ideal location to develop non-traditional biology graduates, says Dr. Jack Bristol, interim dean of the College of Science. Enrollment in UTEP's College of Science grew faster in 1991 and 1992 than overall enrollment in the university, reflecting the success of the college's programs in attracting and retaining minority students. Hispanic students account for 64 percent of UTEP's biology/microbiology majors and 58 percent of its chemistry majors.



**K**nown as the "boy sociologist" when he joined the UTEP faculty at the age of 25, Dr. Howard Daudistel has evolved into a B.M.O.C. – Busy Man on Campus – teaching, researching and serving as chairman of two growing departments.

Daudistel spends his time on campus these days juggling myriad responsibilities as chairman of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and as the interim chair of the Department of Communications. Up until two years ago, the administrative dynamo also directed the Department of Criminal Justice and the Social Work Program, but he has relinquished those duties to new program directors. That he was asked by Dean of Liberal Arts Carl Jackson to be the chairman of the Department of Communications for the fall semester is indicative of the high esteem in which Daudistel is held.

Jackson characterizes Daudistel as his "utility infielder" – an unflappable and personable leader who is capable of dealing with a multitude of disciplines and a variety of personalities. "He has tremendous knowledge, is personable and gets along with everybody," Jackson says. "But he will speak his mind when others are staying quiet. He's always willing to work and is extremely competent."

President Diana Natalicio's assessment of Daudistel's contributions to UTEP parallels that of Jackson's.

"Howard is one of our most flexible administrators," Natalicio says. "He is always willing to stretch to assist the institution when there are transitions. We appreciate his willingness to go the extra mile for UTEP."

Daudistel, who has chaired the Department of Sociology and Anthropology since 1980, says it's been enjoyable serving as the interim head of the communications department, which he describes as quite complex.

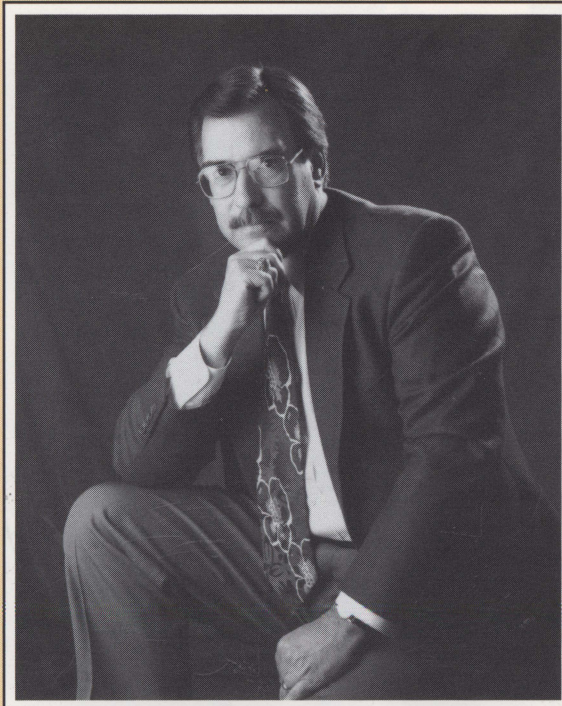
"The folks in communications have been very helpful," says the social scientist who'll be replaced by the new communications department chairman in January. "It's been fun."

A California native, Daudistel majored in sociology at the University of California - Santa Barbara, where he earned his bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees in the discipline in the 1970s. It was there that he met Dr. Don Cressy, one of the nation's premiere criminologists and the man who would serve as his mentor throughout his college days.

Encouraged by Cressy in his graduate studies, Daudistel began teaching classes in

the University of California Law and Society Program, a continuing education program set up for people working in law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Convinced by his students that he couldn't really understand crime and the criminal court system simply by studying theory, Daudistel accompanied law enforcement officials into the field for 16 months and became fascinated by criminology.

While working on his dissertation, Daudistel was recruited in 1974 by UTEP as a lecturer to teach criminology under a National Institute of Mental Health training grant. What the educator thought would be a three- or four-year stay in El Paso has turned



## Professor Howard Daudistel:

"Boy Sociologist"  
Comes of Age at UTEP

by Robert McCorkle

into a career-long commitment to UTEP.

"One of the two best decisions I've ever made was to stay on as a faculty member," he says, a smile creasing his face. "The second best decision was deciding to marry Marcia."

Howard and his wife Marcia Daudistel, who is assistant director of Texas Western Press, comprise one of more than a dozen husband-wife teams working for UTEP. When not busy with university business, the two enjoy sojourns to Cloudcroft, N.M., and

Ruidoso, N.M., to spend leisure time in the mountains.

"We think nothing of hopping in the car and going," he says. "In three years, we've put a little more than 60,000 miles on our car. I like to fish, too, though I don't have time."

It's no wonder. In addition to handling administrative and teaching duties, Daudistel spends many hours involved in scholarly research with colleagues such as psychology department chairman Harmon Hosch.

At present, Daudistel and Hosch are researching the decision-making processes of police officers and those within the criminal court system. "I'm interested in trying to understand the outcomes of criminal cases, some of which are very strange, such as the Reginald Denney trial. You can end up with some decisions that are difficult to understand unless you look at the broader context in which they are rendered," Daudistel says.

As a faculty member and professional sociologist, Daudistel believes he sits at the ideal intersection to make an impact on today's rising crime rate. Says the sociologist, "I firmly believe that if we are to permanently bring about change and reduce crime, poverty and the host of social ills, the answer lies in education. Individuals must educate themselves to feel more vested in society and feel they are upwardly mobile in the system."

Daudistel is proud of the progress that's been made in his department during the past few years and points at the move toward interdisciplinary instruction and the hiring of dynamic, new faculty members as prime accomplishments. He points to the number of criminal justice majors – about 700, the largest number in any major in the College of Liberal Arts – as ample proof of his department's success.

"The past few years have been the most fun," says the man who Dean Jackson considers as prime dean material, "because I've hired good people and been fortunate they've turned out great. My job at this point is easy because they're self-starters. I help facilitate, and they go with it."

As he approaches his 20th year at UTEP, Daudistel is far from content to rest on his laurels. He is currently looking to hire five more criminology faculty members and is also working on a proposal to implement a master's level anthropology program.

"Down the road, I see our department playing a key role in the training of people to work in multicultural environments," Daudistel says. "I think we can be the academic gateway to Mexico and Latin America." ■



# PARTNERS IN EDUCATION



**C**ompanies and individuals who make important contributions to the university form the partnerships that help create a stimulating experience for UTEP students. In every issue, NOVA features one of these Partners in Education. The other side of the partnership is, of course, the students. In 1993, UTEP awarded approximately 950 scholarships with funds from about 300 donor accounts. When other community and national scholarships received by UTEP students are

counted, the dollar amount is expected to reach \$1.2 million.

But most important, scholarships give many students an opportunity to attend college that they might not otherwise have. A large percentage of UTEP students have a demonstrated financial need. Seventy-six percent work full or part time and a majority are the first in their families to attend college.

With scholarship support, UTEP students have become highly recruited graduates by major U.S. firms and prestigious graduate schools.

*UTEP/Houston Endowment Scholars, from left to right: Raquel Hinojosa, senior in bilingual education; Magda Alarcón, senior in social work; Angel Padilla, junior in mechanical engineering; Ray Sanchez, sophomore in communications; Moises Próspero, senior in psychology; and Laura Lee Landeck, junior in political science.*





THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF TEXAS  
AT EL PASO  
CONVOCATION  
ADDRESS  
  
FALL  
1993

*delivered by President Diana Natalicio*





President Diana Natalicio

I was recently told by Bill Sanders, associate dean of liberal arts, that his computer spell-check converted UTEP into UTOPIA. This totally objective assessment of our reality – it was not my computer, after all – confirms what many of us already know: UTEP is really an extraordinary place! And 1992-93 was another extraordinary year.

The most visible aspect of our progress during the past year was the decision of the 73rd Texas Legislature to begin addressing the long unmet higher education needs of the South Texas border region. I will have more to say later about the special opportunities that have resulted from the state's recognition of its responsibilities for the rapidly growing population of this region, but equally noteworthy is the lesson that this legislative session taught us about the importance – indeed the necessity – of cooperation and teamwork. If it had not been for the highly coordinated efforts of a large number of individuals – the El Paso legislative delegation, a broad-based group of El Paso community representatives, the UT System and the leadership of Gov. Richards, Lt. Gov. Bullock,

Speaker Laney, Senator Montford and Representative Junell – we surely would not have been successful in securing support to continue and enhance our efforts to foster educational aspirations and achievement in this region.

Teamwork and partnerships were clearly evident in many other areas as well. In academic programs, for example, partnerships – both internal and with other institutions – have enabled us to offer many new educational opportunities, especially at the graduate level. The newly approved doctoral program in materials science and engineering is the result of the joint efforts of faculty members representing several academic departments on the campus – metallurgical and materials engineering, chemistry, physics, electrical engineering and geological sciences – and a partnership with the National Science Foundation through its support of the Materials Research Center of Excellence.

The recently approved doctoral program in psychology is another example of effective teamwork at UTEP. Partnering with colleagues in sociology, mathematics, management and public administration, faculty in





psychology have developed an innovative program which will prepare professionals to work in applied settings with bilingual/bicultural populations. The first cohort of seven doctoral students entered the program this fall.

The reorganization of the criminal justice program also illustrates the growing interdisciplinary nature of many of UTEP's degrees. Faculty members in sociology, psychology and political science have joined forces to strengthen this very popular undergraduate major. Still another good example of teamwork is the new master of fine arts degree in creative writing. Faculty members in the departments of English and languages and linguistics have developed the only bilingual creative writing degree in the United States, which admitted the first group of 18 students this semester.

In addition to these internal partnerships, UTEP has also successfully worked with other institutions to develop a number of cooperative programs that were offered for the first time during 1992-93. Collaboration with the UT Medical Branch in Galveston has brought career opportunities in physical and occupational therapy to residents of this region. UT Houston's School of Public Health is another of UTEP's new partners, helping us establish a master's degree program in public health that will not only create career opportunities for students, but also serve as a resource to assist in addressing the many public health challenges in this binational region.

In 1992-93 we celebrated the culmination of another partnership as the first four graduates of the Nurse-Midwifery Program, which UTEP offers in cooperation with Texas Tech, passed their certification licensure examination. Of special note are the discussions that John Bruhn has initiated with the University of Texas at Austin to bring a pharmacy degree program to this region. As Texas' fourth largest city, El Paso has had neither an appropriate level of health care services nor the capacity to develop the human resources necessary to provide such services.

Other program planning reveals a growing trend toward multi-disciplinary partnerships as well. The proposed new doctoral program in environmental engineering will likely include not only participation by departments in the colleges of engineering and science, but also faculty in public health, nursing and health sciences and public policy. A proposal for a doctoral program in administration and public policy involves faculty in



the College of Education and the Department of Political Science.

Obviously, all these program developments and all other UTEP initiatives require resources. First and foremost, they require human resources, the talents and skills of dedicated professionals who help shape our planning and whose expertise and experience ensure successful implementation. We are fortunate at UTEP to be able to count on a large number of highly talented individuals who have demonstrated a strong commitment to our ambitious institutional mission, and we are delighted with the caliber of the new faculty and staff members who begin their association with UTEP this year.

For me, it is exciting to see the number of our own graduates who left El Paso years ago to pursue graduate degrees or careers elsewhere and who have now chosen to return to help create opportunities for students who, just like them, bring their hopes and dreams to UTEP. There can be no stronger validation of this university than the re-engagement of those who have known us best, and there can be no stronger role models for our students than those who have walked the same path before them.

The second set of resources are, of course, financial, and new revenues generated in 1992-93 lay the foundation for future institutional development. The most visible new resources were appropriated by the Texas Legislature: \$33 million in special funds to support UTEP over and above the formula funding provided to all public higher education institutions. Of that total, \$23 million will support the construction of a new classroom building and the renovation of several campus facilities. The classroom building, which will be constructed on the site of the present swimming pool, women's gym and tennis courts, will consist of 123,000 gross square feet of space devoted primarily to undergraduate instruction.

Renovation of facilities is a never-ending process on this and all university campuses. A number of recent projects attest to the remarkable improvements that can be made in both the appearance and functionality of facilities:

- the LACIT laboratory on the fourth floor of the Liberal Arts Building;

- the Police Station and Information Center at the east entrance of the campus;

- the physical therapy/occupational therapy laboratories in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences;

- the Computer Science Building;

- the International Programs Office in the Union;

- the Tutorial and Learning Center and computer laboratory on the third floor of the library;

- and the Computer Center facilities in the Union.



*Undergraduate student researchers working in UTEP's materials science laboratories will now have the opportunity to pursue a doctoral degree in materials science and engineering. UTEP is one of a small number of universities with materials science and engineering doctoral programs.*

**E**ight million dollars of the special South Texas border funding for UTEP has been earmarked for renovation projects in Old Main, the Physical Science Building, Magoffin Auditorium and the liberal arts and psychology buildings.

The UTEP campus continues to be a source of great pride to us all. Our visits to other universities and visitors to UTEP repeatedly remind us that the cohesive architectural style and the excellent maintenance of our buildings and grounds are great assets. Juan Ontiveros and his Facilities Services staff de-

serve our highest compliments for their continued good work.

The special South Texas border appropriation to UTEP also included \$9.2 million for program development and enhancement. A portion of this appropriation was directed toward specific UTEP programs including the Center for Environmental Resource Management and the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, and a special allocation was made for Computer Center upgrades. The remainder of these funds will help us build our capacity to offer new programs.

Not all of the news from the legislature was positive. For example, no funds were appropriated for faculty/staff salary increases during this biennium. Even worse, funding for the 3 percent salary increase granted all state employees last year – thanks to the Texas Lottery – was sustained for the first year of this biennium only; we must find in our budget nearly \$1 million to cover the cost of continuing this salary increase during the second year. There are also provisions which stipulate that if state revenues fall below predicted levels, all agencies must contribute a percentage of their second-year funding to cover the shortfall.

We must also continue our highly successful efforts to seek funding support from non-state sources. UTEP's recent record of generating external funding has captured considerable attention at both state and national levels. During fiscal year 1992, we ranked eighth among 36 state universities in total research expenditures and in the top five universities statewide in computer science, psychology and the social sciences. UTEP also ranked 32nd nationally in gener-

ating funding from private foundations. This past year, UTEP faculty and staff submitted 397 proposals, a remarkable 50 percent increase over the previous year, and received 206 grant awards totaling more than \$22 million.

Credit for this enormous achievement goes to the many faculty and staff members who articulate their good ideas in proposals submitted to a broad range of public and private agencies and who understand the great opportunities that external funding affords them and their students. Faculty and staff members such as Soheil Nazarian and Miguel



Picornell in civil engineering; Randy Keller, Diane Doser and Kate Miller in geophysics; Steve Riter and Wesley Leonard in the Center for Environmental Resource Management; and Florence Schwein at the Centennial Museum. Credit must also go to Julie Sanford and the Office of Sponsored Projects staff, who provide technical assistance and who assume major coordination and writing responsibilities on a variety of institutional program grants. Although it would be impossible to list here all of the new grants, mention of a few may serve to illustrate the broad base of grant activity on the UTEP campus.

○ Led by Jack Bristol, an interdisciplinary team of faculty in science and humanities fields at both UTEP and the El Paso Community College received funds to develop a freshman-level course in science, its history and its cultural implications.

○ A grant from the Dewitt Wallace/Reader's Digest Fund will enable returning Peace Corps Volunteers to become teachers through UTEP's Alternative Certification Program. Thanks to the good work of Tom Wood in the College of Education, the first two volunteers were enrolled in 1992-93 while serving as full-time teachers in the Canutillo and Socorro districts. This year, 14 more volunteers have come to El Paso from assignments in Central and South America, Eastern Europe and Africa to participate in this innovative program.

○ The National Institute of Health Research Centers in Minority Institutions program established UTEP's Border Biomedical Research Center, which focuses on biochemical and molecular biological approaches to infectious diseases, cell cycle regulation and mutagenesis and biostatistics. One of the long-term goals of the center is the development of UTEP's capability as a doctoral granting institution in the biomedical sciences.

○ With a \$500,000 grant, UTEP has been designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as a Minority Academic Institution Environmental Center to stimulate research and development projects on hazardous substances, and policy research on environmental equity issues, with a special emphasis on Superfund sites.

○ The Department of Education has awarded

a major grant to the Division of Student Affairs to increase the retention, graduation rates and postgraduate placement into jobs or graduate schools of 200 economically disadvantaged, first-generation students who are provisionally admitted to the university.

○ The College of Education was particularly successful in generating grant funds during the past year, with three major awards from the U. S. Department of Education and one from the Texas Education Agency. The \$1.6 million Texas Education Agency grant will establish the El Paso Center for Professional



*Norma Mendoza received her bachelor's degree in psychology in 1993 and is in the first group of doctoral candidates in the recently approved Ph.D. program in applied psychology. The doctoral program will prepare professionals to deal with the needs of bilingual populations.*

Development and Technology, reinforcing UTEP's growing partnership with area school districts and fundamentally changing the way future teachers are prepared.

**T**hree education department grants will support the preparation of bilingual math/science teachers and special education teachers and the training of school counselors in the prevention and treatment of substance abuse. In addition, UTEP's affiliation with John Goodlad's National Network for Educational Renewal through the

good work of Dean Arturo Pacheco reflects the growing national prominence of our efforts to restructure teacher education at UTEP.

The large increase in external funding has required us to examine closely UTEP's infrastructure, not only to comply with all policies and procedures required by funding sources, but in the long term, to ensure that each of these funded projects contributes cumulatively to UTEP's overall institutional development. There are, of course, many dimensions to infrastructure development. One of them is communication, both internal and external, and much has been accomplished during the past year to acquire and install technology that improves our capacity to communicate. The new telephone system, the fiber optic network and the new administrative computing conversion that helped streamline procedures in such areas as accounting, budgeting, personnel and purchasing have made us all more efficient. In fact, there are undoubtedly moments when, bombarded with e-mail, voice mail and fax messages, we may wonder whether we haven't carried all of this communication business just a bit too far.

The coordination of UTEP's many initiatives – academic programs, student support services, research contracts and grants and auxiliary services – requires extensive evaluation and planning. UTEP is fortunate indeed to have been able to recruit Dr. Sally Andrade as director of the newly created Center for Institutional Evaluation, Research, and Planning. Dr. Andrade will take the lead in responding to the many evaluation and planning requirements placed upon us by SACS accreditation, UT System strategic planning and the Texas

Legislature's performance reviews.

Many recent grants partner UTEP with individuals and organizations in this community to meet our shared challenges. Faculty in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences have, for example, been actively engaged in two projects supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to foster health careers among young people in this community, to re-focus the preparation of health care professionals and to bring health care to previously underserved populations in this county. A variety of community partners, including



Texas Tech, El Paso County, Thomason Hospital, EPISO, Centro Medico del Valle and school districts in the Lower Valley area are working to coordinate their activities and their dreams to accomplish the very ambitious goals of these projects. Dr. Pat Castiglia, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, deserves particular credit for her tireless efforts to make these dreams a reality.

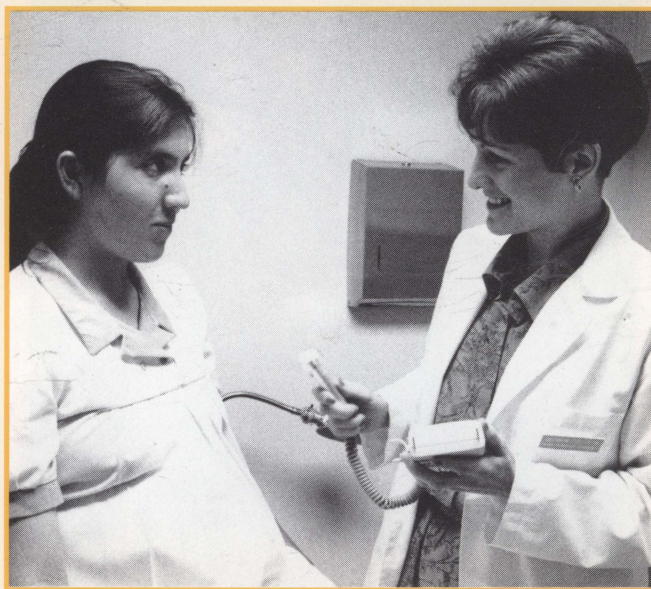
Another broad-based community partnership is the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, which brings together UTEP, the community college, the El Paso, Socorro and Ysleta school districts, Region XIX, the City of El Paso, El Paso County, the two chambers of commerce and EPISO in an ambitious community-wide effort to raise academic aspirations and achievement of all young people. Supported by the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Coca-Cola Foundation and the National Science Foundation and very ably directed by Dr. Susana Navarro, the collaborative has already begun to raise expectations of educational achievement in this community and to gain recognition as a national leader in systemic school and teacher preparation reform.

A very important initiative related to the collaborative's work is a joint effort of UTEP faculty members and representatives of the school districts and the El Paso Community College to define admission criteria to be phased in at UTEP during the next eight years. The challenge is to ensure that students come well prepared for university-level work and that all schools in this county have the capacity to provide such preparation.

UTEP continues to expand its outreach programs to schools and young people in this community. The goal of most of these programs is to encourage pre-college youngsters to stay in school and graduate from high school with both the motivation and the necessary preparation to succeed at the university. The Mother-Daughter Program, so capably directed by Dr. Josie Tinajero, has attracted national attention and funding support as a result of its remarkable success in helping sixth-grade girls develop and pursue their educational and career aspirations. The first cohort of 33 sixth-grade girls who participated in the program graduated from high

school this year, and only one of the original group was missing – a remarkable achievement when you consider the odds. Many of these girls are now enrolled at El Paso Community College and UTEP, as are their mothers. So successful, in fact, have we been in fostering the mothers' aspirations, that AT&T has recently provided us funding to develop a special curriculum just for them.

Other outreach programs have brought success to pre-college students and recognition and funding support to UTEP: Upward Bound, the National Hispanic Institute, Youth Opportunities Unlimited, the National Youth Sports Program, the High School Equivalency Program, Special Engineering and Sci-



*The Nurse-Midwifery Program offered in partnership with the Texas Tech University Regional Academic Health Science Center is just one of the many ventures UTEP has undertaken to help meet the critical shortage of health services and educational opportunities in the El Paso region.*

ence Programs sponsored by NSF and industrial partners and the many programs coordinated by Continuing and Professional Education and the Centennial Museum. Thanks to the good work of Upward Bound Director Sandra Boyd-Webb and support from Southwestern Bell, for example, we can point with pride to the fact that all high school seniors who completed the Upward Bound bridge program this year have enrolled in college.

But it is not only through specially funded grants that UTEP reveals its strong partnership with the El Paso-Juarez community. The

Center for Professional and Continuing Education, under the capable leadership of Robert Stakes, has become a major source of non-credit educational opportunities for residents of this region. Offerings range from personal and professional skills development to youth programs to customized programs for specific businesses.

One of the most successful of its initiatives is the Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL), which has grown to more than 600 members this year. UTEP has created for retired members of the El Paso community a context in which to pursue their intellectual and cultural interests and to access the many resources – faculty, library, cultural and artistic events – offered by the university.

UTEP's efforts to be a major community partner were also reflected in the large number of events hosted on the campus during the past year. Sixteen major conferences and professional meetings were coordinated by Continuing and Professional Education, the Alumni Association and the Development Office. In addition, UTEP sponsored a very large number of events in the Fox Fine Arts Center, the Centennial Museum, the University Library, Magoffin Auditorium, the Union and the Special Events Center. The Union Dinner Theatre had another outstanding season, and the museum's first annual Native Plant Sale was a great success. For the first time in 20 years, a major concert—featuring U2—was held in the Sun Bowl Stadium.

Our athletic program contributes to community pride, and last year was particularly important in the development of women's athletics at UTEP. Sandra Rushing's Lady

Miners basketball team achieved their best record ever while moving into the more intense Western Athletic Conference competition. The women's tennis team now has a full-time coach – Tim Norris, who also coaches the men's team – thereby upgrading both of those programs. Maxine Neill-Johnson, UTEP senior women's administrator, has been promoted to associate athletic director.

But, as in all areas of university operations, budgetary constraints are a constant challenge, and here, too, UTEP's partnership with the community is the key. Because it must



operate like a business, the athletics department depends for a large portion of its income on fans who buy tickets and attend games. Without them, this program simply could not continue to compete in the WAC or in NCAA Division I-A. Under John Thompson's leadership, I am confident that we will be able to contain costs and manage the program efficiently.

Although partnerships are critical to nearly everything that we do at UTEP, one set of these relationships outweighs all others in importance: the partnership between this university and the students we serve. I often say that no one really does anything alone, and that my own life has been shaped by the opportunities that others have – or have not – created for me. I am not in the Baseball Hall of Fame for lack of pitching skills, but because I was not provided the opportunity to develop my very promising curve ball. And I know that as all of you think about your own accomplishments, it is easy to recognize just how important others have been in your success.

This is quintessentially UTEP's mission: we, the faculty and staff, are here to create opportunities and foster the success of those who come to us with their dreams and aspirations. We know that by creating such opportunities, we are not only adding value to the lives of the individual students who succeed, but also contributing to a better society for all of us. As we look at the many challenges in our society today, we recognize that H.G. Wells got it just right: without education, there will surely be catastrophe.

I have already mentioned a variety of ways in which we have created and enhanced opportunities for students at UTEP during the past year. Others include:

- awards totaling more than \$1 million in academic scholarships and grants-in-aid to talented graduate and undergraduate students;
- expansion of the scope of the International Programs Office to include a new Mexican student services focus and responsibility for coordinating study abroad experiences for

UTEP students;

- reconfiguration of the Graduate School to include a Graduate Student Services Office offering one-stop assistance from the time of initial inquiry to completion of master's or doctoral degrees;

- establishment of the Student Activities Center that coordinates a broad range of student programs, including a revamped orientation with special sessions for transfer students and for parents;

- augmented services to disabled students, resulting in a substantial increase in their enrollment;

- active outreach programs by the Health Center and the Wellness Program;

lege of Engineering setting the pace;

- planning for a major new recreational complex in Charlie Davis Park, with a new student-fee-funded swimming pool as the centerpiece.

**T**his fall, some 17,000 students have entrusted us with their hopes and dreams for the future. This trust presents us with an awesome responsibility to the students themselves and to the society that established this institution and continues to support it. Because our largely non-traditional student population places us at the forefront of major national trends in higher education and because so many public and

private sector organizations have invested in UTEP's capacity to meet the needs of previously underserved groups in our society, expectations of us are extraordinarily high. Higher still, however, must be our expectations of ourselves and of the students we serve. As primary partners in their educational development, we cannot expect them to do their best if we do not do our best. Their success will truly be our success.

And succeed they do! We can take great pride in the accomplishments of UTEP graduates who in increasing numbers are assuming leadership roles in business, education, health care, science, engineering and public service in the United States, Mexico and throughout the world.

If making a difference motivates you the way it motivates me, you are in the right

place at the right time to make a huge difference, not only in the lives of our students but in the future development of our society.

*Diana Natalicio*

Diana Natalicio  
President



*The El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence presented awards this year to area schools that demonstrated the greatest progress in student academic achievement. Students, teachers, parents and administrators were recognized for raising student test scores and for innovative programs supporting student success.*

- relocation of the Tutorial and Learning Center to renovated space on the third floor of the library, affording greater accessibility – in terms of both space and extended operating hours – to this important student support program;

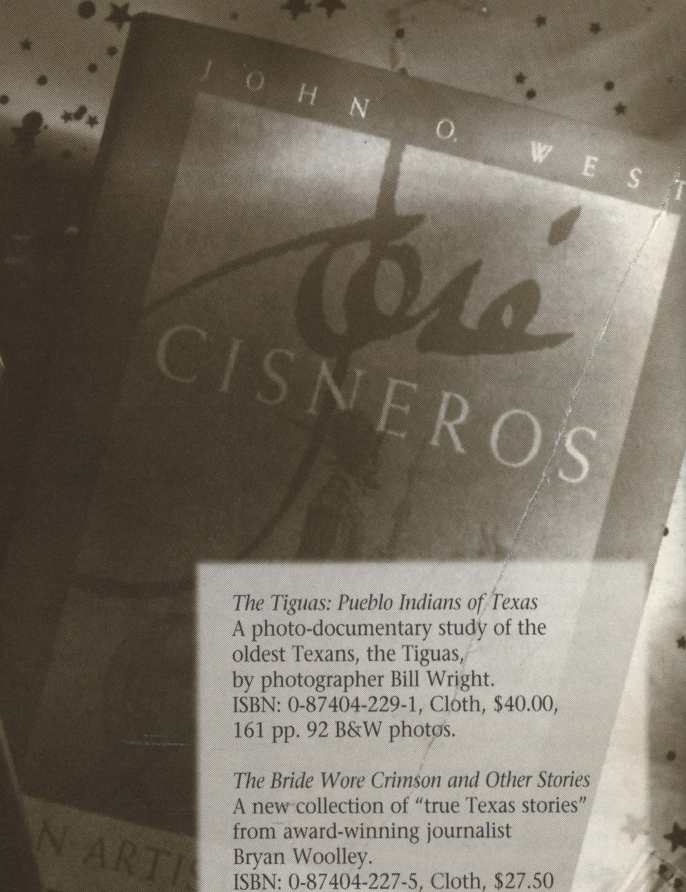
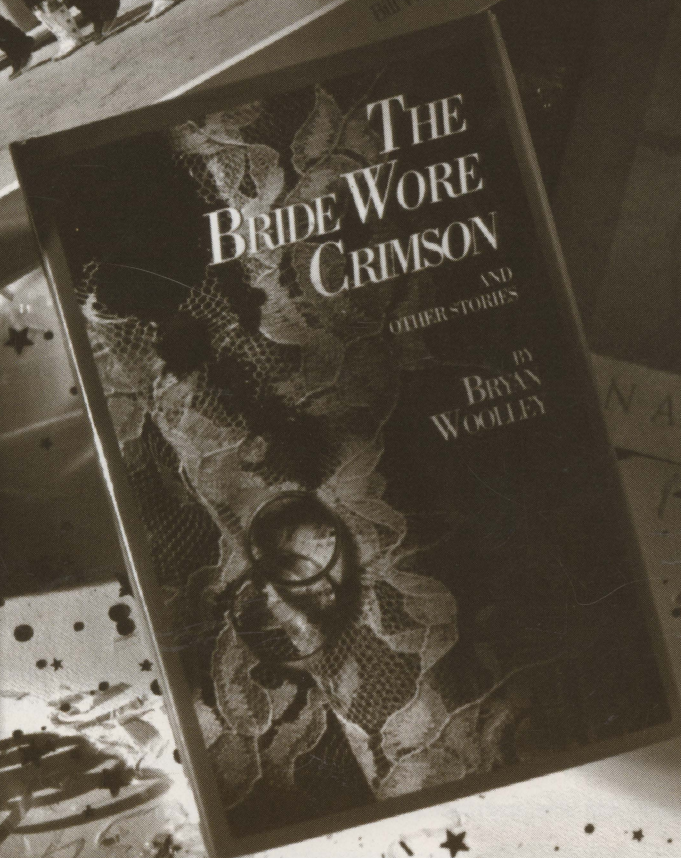
- concerted efforts to employ students in externally funded research projects, recognizing that employment on campus is a demonstrably positive factor in student retention and graduation;

- development of innovative student retention programs, with Steve Riter and the Col-



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