

Summer 1994

# Nova Quarterly: The University of Texas at El Paso

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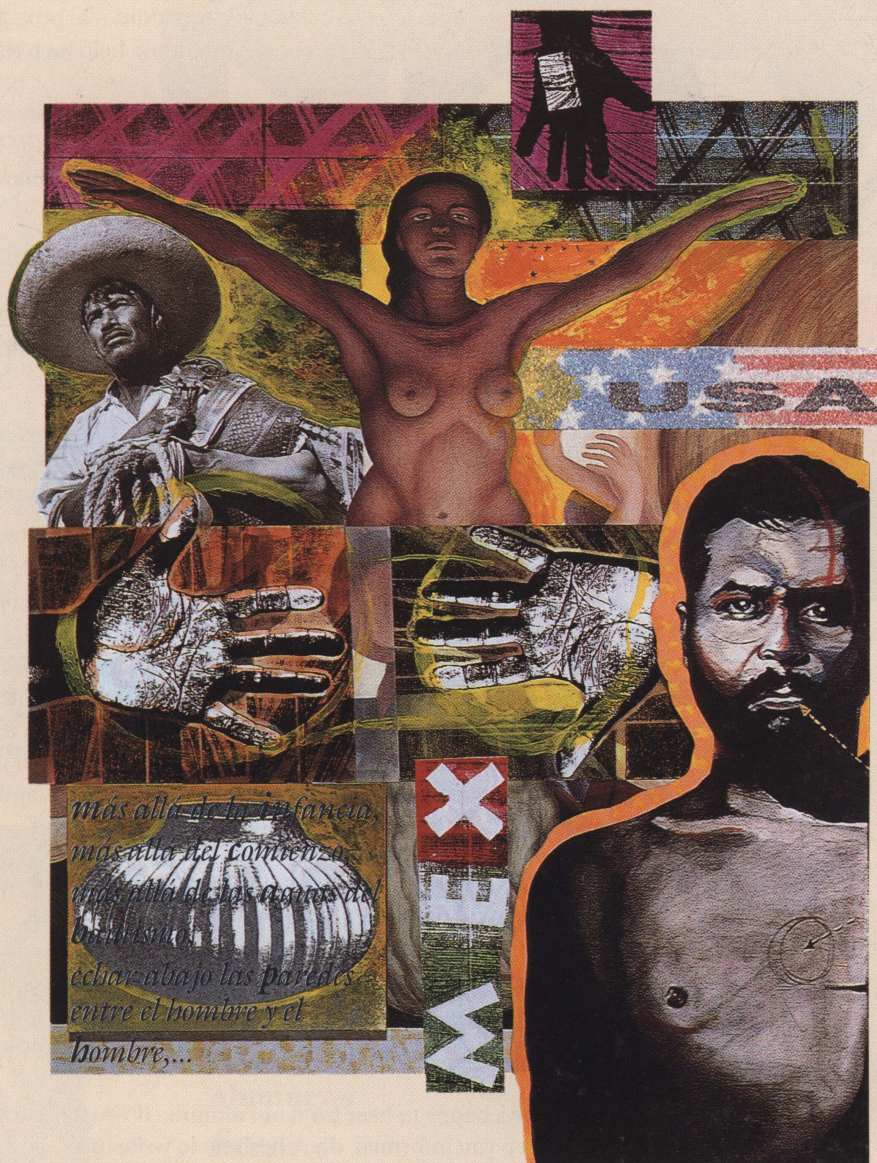
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# NOVA

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO  
QUARTERLY



más allá de la infancia,  
más allá del comienzo,  
más allá de las aguas del  
baptismo,  
echar abajo las paredes  
entre el hombre y el  
hombre,...

SUMMER • 1994





## FROM THE EDITOR

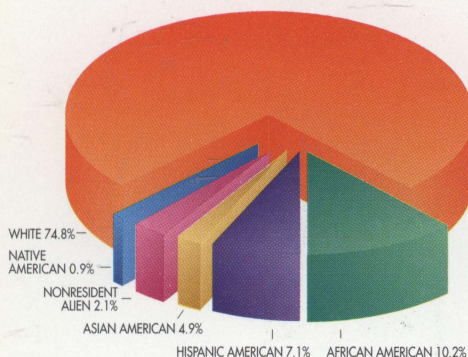
The U.S. demographic shifts predicting a greater number of minorities and women entering the workforce are focusing attention on universities that graduate a significant number of minorities. In its May 16, 1994 issue, *Black Issues in Higher Education*, a Washington-based magazine, published the Third Annual Special Report of the top 100 university degree producers. The magazine's editors analyzed the number of college degrees awarded for the 1990-91 academic year and provided rankings for institutions that conferred the highest number of degrees to all minorities in all disciplines and levels.

The publication used U.S. Department of Education data compiled from a survey of 7,145 institutions. The survey had an 84.7 percent response rate.

UTEP consistently appeared on the top of the lists published in the analysis. Understandably, the university was absent from the doctoral degree rankings. The concentration of doctoral programs in central and east Texas limited UTEP's doctoral degree offerings to two programs—Geology and Electrical Engineering—at the time of the survey. Doctoral programs in materials science and engineering, and psychology have been added since. The demonstrated need for additional programs in the El Paso area, however, and the university's current efforts should help increase this number in the near future.

Still, UTEP is, without a doubt, one of the strongest leaders in minority education. Of Texas universities, only U.T. Austin and UTEP ranked in the top 20 institutions graduating the most minorities with baccalaureate degrees in all disciplines. The following list shows UTEP's ranking among the Top 100 Degree Producers.

PERCENT OF UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT BY RACE, 1992



- 1st in Hispanic Health Sciences Baccalaureate Degrees
- 2nd in Hispanic Baccalaureate Degrees (all disciplines combined)
- 2nd in Hispanic Business and Management Baccalaureate Degrees
- 2nd in Hispanic Education Baccalaureate Degrees
- 3rd in Hispanic Engineering Baccalaureate Degrees
- 6th in Hispanic Engineering Master's Degrees
- 11th in Hispanic Master's Degrees (all disciplines combined)
- 13th in Life Sciences Baccalaureate Degrees
- 16th in Hispanic English Baccalaureate Degrees
- 20th in Total Number of Minority Baccalaureate Degrees (all disciplines combined)

In this issue of NOVA, Rob McCorkle writes about one of UTEP's most eclectic degree programs—the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, which is providing younger and older students the opportunity to customize their studies in a way compatible with their unique interests. Mary Anne Maier brings us a glimpse of just one of the many ways in which UTEP continues to strengthen its ties with Mexico, and Denise Bezick reports on new efforts to make the university more “student friendly.”

Since we began mailing NOVA to alumni living outside the United States, we wondered when we would hear from them. Well, last month we received a letter from Federico Bernal who lives in Costa Rica. He writes:

"I would like to congratulate you for continuously improving NOVA. I enjoy the very interesting articles and Alumnews/Classnotes. I graduated in 1970 (BSEE) and as of June 1, 1993, have been company manager of Gillette's Costa Rica subsidiary. Best regards."

We're always happy to hear from our alumni. If you have any ideas about how NOVA can better keep you informed, don't hesitate to write to us.

Until then, have a great summer.

—Arturo Vasquez



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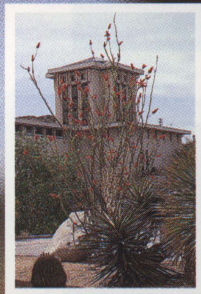
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## ON THE COVER

The essence of cultural exchange between the United States and México is captured in a creative illustration of the works of famous Mexican artists and the illustrator himself, Antonio Castro Hernández. The UTEP senior is a graphics intern with the News and Publications Office. The illustration reflects not only UTEP's close ties with its neighbors, but Antonio's bicultural background as a dual citizen of Mexico and the United States.



# NOVA

Q U A R T E R L Y

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# M.A.I.S.

## A Tailor-made

by Robert McCorkle

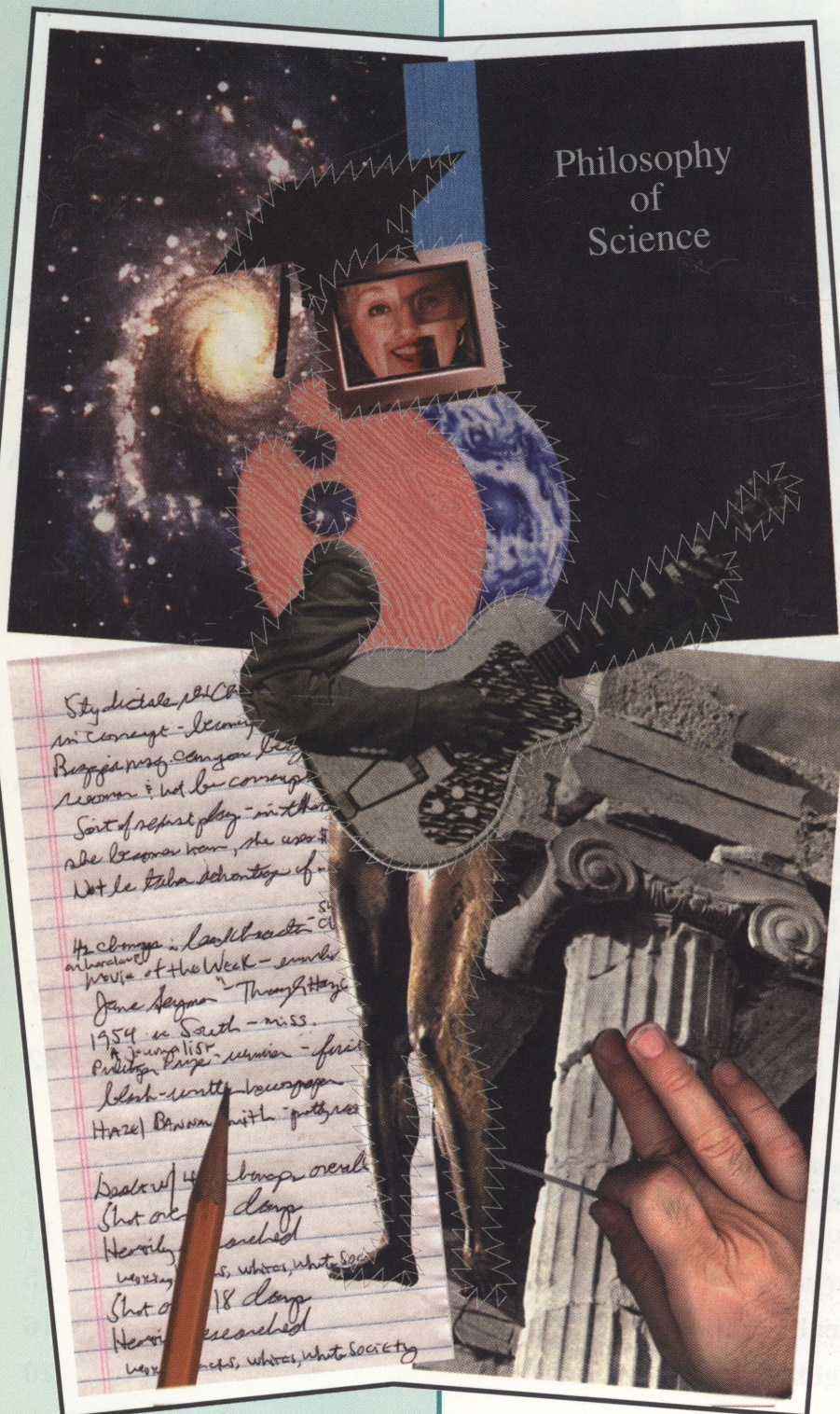
**F**ree thinkers.  
Contrary to ordinary.  
Eclectic and creative.

Those are just some of the words used to describe the select cadre of graduate students pursuing one of the university's best kept secrets – an M.A.I.S. degree.

"What is an M.A.I.S. degree?" is a frequent response to the mention of this unheralded graduate degree that remains an anomaly among academia's more common advanced degrees, such as the M.B.A., M. Ed. and M.S.N.

The Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies was introduced to UTEP's curriculum in 1978 by Dr. Larry Johnson, associate professor of English, who had brought the seeds of the program back from Johns Hopkins University, which offered a Master of Liberal Arts degree that allowed students to tailor their curriculum to their specialized needs. Sensing the unique nature of the El Paso community, he decided to try to set up a similar program at the university.

"The problem was," says Johnson, who directed the program during its formative years, "we couldn't really afford to set up a separate curriculum, but it was clear that there were enough courses existing within the various departments that would be of interest to and accessible to individuals after a case-by-case evaluation of what they wanted to do. The whole goal of M.A.I.S. is not just to produce people with degrees, but to make the university more accessible and serviceable to the community."



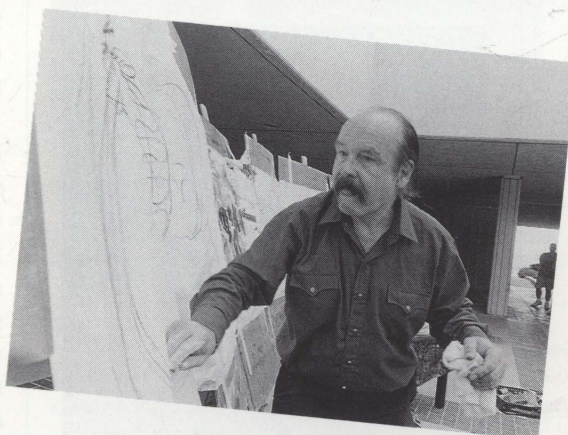
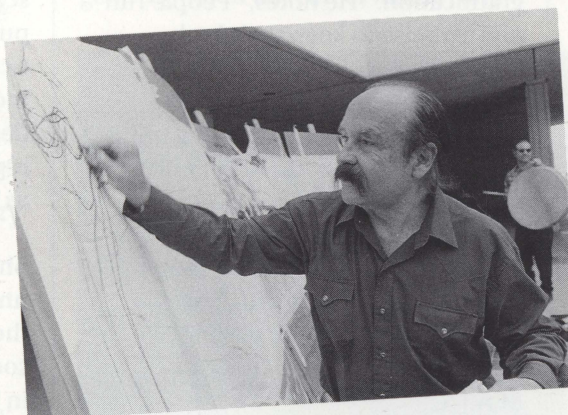
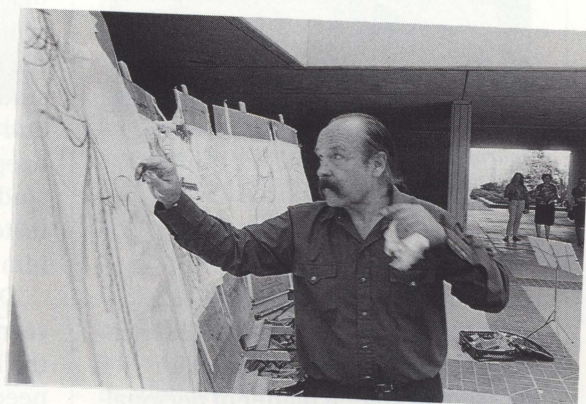


# Degree for the Independent Scholar

Dubbed by some a "designer degree" or "do-it-yourself" degree, the M.A.I.S. is a graduate program for people of all ages who have a broad thirst for knowledge that just cannot be fit into specific degree programs. Each student participates in the design of a plan of study consisting of courses offered by a variety of departments, as well as graduate seminars designed specifically for the individual. The master's candidate must complete 39 hours of course work, with the majority of hours required to be within the College of Liberal Arts, and he/she must successfully complete a final project (similar to a thesis) that includes an oral examination and written document. The only required courses are the seminars, "The History of An Idea" and "Contemporary Ideas."

In some cases, the final project takes on an unorthodox character. Consider the case of Alan McChesney, a 54-year-old, pony-tailed architect, who this past May received his M.A.I.S. by blending the disciplines of art and music.

An accomplished musician who had played violin since he was a child, McChesney several years ago took a continuing education class in classical guitar. He recalls, "I walked around the campus a few evenings while attending the class, and thought to myself that I've got to be on this campus. This place is so neat and there are so many interesting people and things going on."



*MAIS major Alan McChesney took time out from playing his violin during an "action art performance" to paint his fellow musicians and a belly dancer who performed nearby. The event served as McChesney's final project to complete his master's program.*

That experience prompted McChesney to inquire into the possibility of furthering his formal music education at UTEP. But upon learning of McChesney's architectural background and his interest in not only music, but also in art, two professors directed him to the M.A.I.S. program.

"It's worked out so well," McChesney says of his three-year program that incorporated art, music, communications, history and political science into his study of the border culture's influence on music. "It hasn't been an easy thing, mind you, running an architectural consulting firm, being on campus every day, being at rehearsals and often performing on weekends, but I was big-time committed."

For his final project, McChesney organized what he dubbed, "Art in Music: Spontaneous Action Sketches." With a colorful ensemble that included several musicians, including himself at times, and a belly dancer, the graduate student captured scenes from the musical and dance performance by painting the action on five large palettes set up in the courtyard of the Fox Fine Arts Center. The "happening," as he referred to it, drew a mix of students, faculty, staff and the local media. It proved a great success.

McChesney cites the credibility of the master's program with providing him with opportunities he likely would have never had. He has been involved



with the Arts in Education program in city schools as an artist in residence, he plays with the Juarez Symphony, he has collaborated with the El Paso Symphony to produce paintings of visiting artists in action, and he performs violin and viola with numerous community chamber music groups and mariachis.

A Renaissance man who once was an accomplished amateur boxer, speaks four languages, paints and plays three instruments, McChesney "is what this program is all about," asserts current M.A.I.S. program director Dr. Barth Byrd, who herself holds an interdisciplinary Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico.

Byrd, whose enthusiasm about the program is infectious, says directing the program for the past four years has been "the academic joy of my life." The associate professor of communication adds that she's never had more fun administering a program and finds the people attracted to it exceptional.

"It's self-directed," she explains, "so you have all these people who are eclectic, who are curious, who are creative and who are putting their own programs together, which means they're really vested in it."

It's hard to imagine anyone more committed to interdisciplinary studies than 82-year-old Victor Douglass, a retired electrical contractor who graduated in May with his M.A.I.S. after being forced to miss one semester with a back injury. More significant, however, is that Douglass returned to college in 1989 to work toward his undergraduate degree after a 50-year hiatus during which he raised a family and helped operate a business with his brother. After receiving his B.A. in English in 1991 from UTEP, the longtime El Pasoan enrolled in the M.A.I.S. program.

The octogenarian explains that he didn't get into the master's program "to achieve recognition in any one discipline" but to pursue studies in history, political science and English. He cites as more intriguing courses he took on European women of the 18th and 19th centuries, a native American history course and Dr. John Haddox's

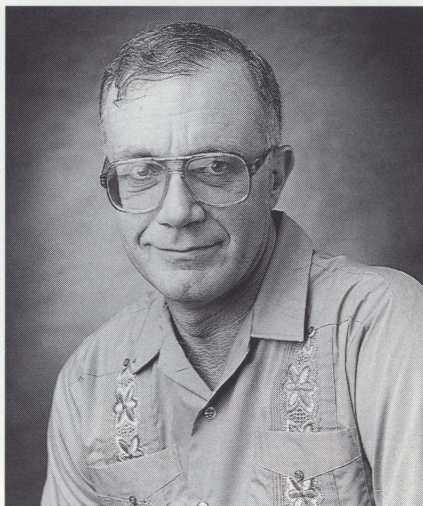


*Dr. Barth Byrd, who teaches broadcast journalism for the Department of Communication, has directed the M.A.I.S. program for the past four years.*

philosophy course that included a study of the Indians of North America.

Douglass calls his pursuit of a graduate degree "a matter of personal gratification." He notes, "People run and exercise to keep their body healthy. I go to school to keep my body and mind healthy."

The B+ student has nothing but good things to say about his professors, especially program director Dr. Byrd. She, in turn, was impressed with Douglass and recalls with a laugh a conversation during which he confided that all he wants to see on his tombstone is: "Victor Douglas - B.A., M.A.I.S."



*Dr. Larry Johnson is credited with bringing the idea for the M.A.I.S. program from Johns Hopkins University in the 1970s.*

Byrd inherited the master's program from Dr. Howard Neighbor in the Department of Political Science, who considers the M.A.I.S. "still the best kept secret" on campus because it's not a run-of-the-mill program. Indeed, Byrd confirms that most people who enter the program hear about it through word of mouth from satisfied academic customers.

"Most graduate programs are narrow in focus to increase the depth of knowledge in a particular discipline," Neighbor says. "The essence of the M.A.I.S. program is to allow the student to broaden his knowledge, and along the way, to dig a little deeper. Fundamentally, it enables a student to dig where he wants to dig instead of where someone else tells him to dig."

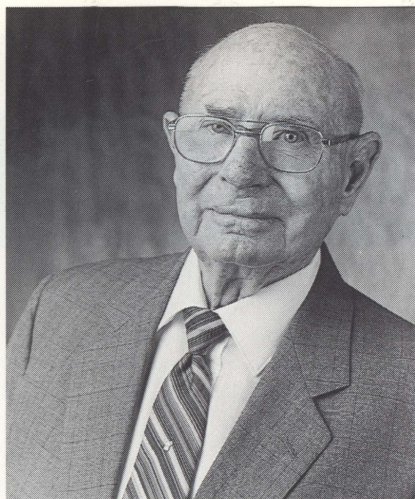
Denna Hintze, a 25-year-old with seemingly unlimited energy, saw in the M.A.I.S. program the flexibility she needed to study the philosophy of science. Though she considered pursuing a graduate degree in linguistics or math, she saw those fields as too constraining. So, Hintze wrote a degree plan that encompasses a heavy regimen of physics and math, as well as philosophy and history courses.

"In short, I feel that modern philosophy is lacking a fundamental understanding of recent scientific theories," she says. "I believe that soon these ideas will be incorporated in the consciousness and philosophy of both society and the individual, and I want to be prepared to aid in the understanding of the immense implications of these theories."

Hintze, who plans to pursue a doctoral degree in the philosophy of science, views the M.A.I.S. program as uniquely suited to such an esoteric field because of the cross-disciplinary support that permits her to delve into such areas of interest as quantum mechanics, the chaos theory and theory of relativity from a philosophical rather than scientific perspective.

With the enthusiastic support of several professors, including Dr. Larry Johnson for whom she works in the English department as a teaching assistant, Hintze says she has been given "carte blanche" by the various





*The M.A.I.S. program has been the mental equivalent of the fountain of youth for retired businessman Victor Douglass.*

departments to customize her curriculum to suit her specific needs.

"I feel very special," Hintze says. "Everyone has been willing to help me however they can. That creates a kind of obligation on my part and gets me motivated because people are interested in what I'm doing. I've found myself working in an environment supportive beyond my wildest dreams."

She freely admits that the desultory nature of the M.A.I.S. program, however, is not for everyone, and more specifically, benefits a special few students who "have their education in hand," and don't approach their advanced degree with a laundry list of courses dictated by someone else simply to be checked off.

The choice of courses that M.A.I.S. students may take are as varied as the personalities of the people who enter the program, and tend to be taught by the university's most dynamic and renowned teachers. Professors who "cross-list" their courses to make them available to a handful of Dr. Byrd's students each semester do so enthusiastically because they find that M.A.I.S. students are hard-working and add spice to the class.

"An M.A.I.S. student *wants* to take a course instead of being required to do so by a degree plan. That alone makes them an interesting part of the classroom because they are prepared

to ask provocative questions and challenge assumptions," explains Dr. Johnson. "They're not constrained by traditional ways of thinking like many students in specific graduate degree programs."

Dr. David Hall, who succeeded Johnson as director of the fledgling M.A.I.S. program, and who is credited with helping to shape its philosophy, concurs with his colleague's assessment. He likes to cross-list his philosophy courses with Byrd and enjoys her students in his classes.

"M.A.I.S. students make noise, are very articulate and have a lot to say. A lot of them are retired and come back and enroll in the program for fun," Hall observes, adding that this was not always true.

Hall says that in the early days, the 16-year-old program primarily attracted two types of people – those who were public school teachers who needed any kind of master's degree to get a leg up on the career ladder, and

There's been a shift away from an interdisciplinary to a transdisciplinary approach that draws more flexible kinds of students."

Hall explains that a transdisciplinary approach is "where you take a problem and see how many disciplines are relative to the solution to the problem," and how many different kinds of resources you can bring to bear on a problem, such as complex border issues. Solutions to border problems touch on everything from art, language and music to history and economics, he says.

But while the M.A.I.S. program may still suffer from its relative obscurity and a somewhat amorphous nature, it benefits from the talents of an all-star lineup of faculty, from a dedicated and high-achieving group of from 20 to 25 students any given semester and from a growing reputation as a important offering in the graduate curriculum.

Says Susan Jordan, director of the Graduate School: "In order to be



*The cross-disciplinary nature of the M.A.I.S. program has allowed Denna Hintze, who has served as a teaching assistant, to study the rather eclectic philosophy of the science field.*

professionals seeking to enhance their careers by continuing their education through a customized program suited to their particular job needs.

"Nowadays," he observes, "disciplinary lines are crumbling, not only in the sciences, but also in the liberal arts fields like philosophy and literature.

competitive in today's job market, students often need a combination of specializations and a diverse educational background. The M.A.I.S. program allows students to develop graduate programs that are individually tailored to their personal and professional needs." ■





**WELCOME TO**

**REGISTRATION**

**CONVERSATION**

**TO ENTER NEW**

**TOUCH-TONE**



# THE UTEP TELEPHONE

That's the first thing UTEP students hear these days when they register for classes. And, thanks to the university's touch-tone telephone registration system, they hear it in the privacy of their own homes.

Unlike UTEP alumni who remember waiting to register in long lines in sweltering summer heat in front of the Liberal Arts Building, Memorial Gym or the Special Events Center, today's UTEP students register by simply calling a phone number

## N SYSTEM. DURING OUR

and pressing numbers on the keypad to relay information to a computer. The computer records students' class requests, tells them if they've met the requirements for enrollment, and notifies them of scheduling conflicts. If all of the seats in the class section they've requested already have been taken, the computer gives them a list of other times the class is offered. Even a freshman registering for the first time can complete registration, which alums remember taking all day, in less than 10

## N, I'LL BE ASKING YOU

minutes without ever having to leave home. Touch-tone registration is just one of many examples of how the process of applying, enrolling and paying for college has changed over the years as UTEP has grown to meet the needs of the El Paso community.

The new system might sound complicated and cold to graduates who remember the heated interaction of people and paper that was once the center of the registra-

## MBERS ON YOUR

tion process, but students who are used to communicating through telephone voice mail, computer electronic mail and fax couldn't imagine registering for classes any other way. In fact, touch-tone registration has become so popular since it began in 1989 that UTEP is installing a new and more sophisticated system that allows as many as 36 students to register simultaneously.

## PHONE. • *by Denise Bezick*



Graduates who remember struggling through school on meager financial resources may be surprised to learn that UTEP students now



#### **Registration in the 1970s**

*Students shuffled between various departments to sign up for the classes they needed – a time-consuming chore that wore out plenty of shoe leather.*

receive more than \$19 million a year in federal, state and private financial assistance. Those who remember wondering if they should bother applying to college at all will be happy to learn that UTEP recruiters

now reach nearly every high school senior in El Paso – and lots of students who are much younger – to tell kids that they should expect higher education to be a part of their future. And those who remember feeling lost and overwhelmed the first time they tried to navigate the university campus on the far northwest edge of town would be pleased to see freshmen attend orientation every summer on a much larger and imposing campus that is now almost at the center of a sprawling city.



#### **Registration in the 1980s**

*The process became a bit easier with one-stop shopping at the Special Events Center, but the lines could be a bit taxing on the impatient.*

While growth – and the changes that accompany it – have improved access to the university, they have also made the process of tracking the progress of students more complex. Records that used to be updated by hand now are stored in computers, and the handful of people who used to handle students' application,

enrollment and financial aid questions has become an entire division of student services offices that's headed by a newly appointed dean of Enrollment Services.

"Getting a college degree has become more and more complicated," says Robert Stakes, who was named to head the new division in September 1993. "We have more than 17,000 students enrolled at UTEP, and it is our responsibility to make sure that they receive the financial aid that they are eligible for, register for the proper classes and are making adequate progress toward graduation."

The sheer size of the task dictates that the process will become increasingly more technology driven, and the university will soon invest close to \$4 million on a new computer system that will assist with many of these tasks. Stakes says the greatest challenge of the enrollment services staff members who guide UTEP students toward their degrees has become ensuring that the work is done with a human touch.

"Our ultimate goal is to make the technology invisible," Stakes says. "We want to put people in front, and we want our people to anticipate our students' needs. When it is necessary for students to interact with technology, such as in the case of telephone registration, we want to make it so easy that they won't even realize that they are dealing with a machine."

#### **Recruitment**

Figuratively, though, you could say that the Enrollment Services division has become a machine – a well-oiled one that produces the guidance and assistance El Paso youngsters need to become college students and college graduates.

Work begins when the students are still in elementary school. Recruitment officers and dozens of other faculty and staff members begin making initial contacts with tens of thousands of El Paso students through outreach programs that introduce the city's children to the university. Whether they come to UTEP to participate in the National Youth Sports Program's summer camp for children from low-income fami-



lies, to experience a hands-on exhibit at the Centennial Museum or to participate in an academic enrichment program, they begin to learn that UTEP is a fun and friendly place. "Our message today," says admissions and evaluations director Diana Guerrero, "is that you, too, can go to college. A university degree is within your grasp, and we would like you to consider UTEP."

Isela Cuellar, an eighth-grader at Sanchez Middle School in the Socorro Independent School District, got the message loud and clear when she and nearly 50 classmates visited UTEP on a career field trip on national Take Our Daughters to Work Day in April. It wasn't the first time she had been on campus, and she said she could easily picture herself in a UTEP classroom.

"I want to study archeology" she said, while waiting for lunch in the UTEP Union. "I could go to college here, but I'd also like to try to go someplace where the weather is colder. I want to travel and see different places."

UTEP also takes its message of empowerment through education to high school students, giving seminars on applying to college in nearly every high school in the city. The recruitment program began in earnest in the mid-1970s, when UTEP began hiring people whose primary job was recruiting. The old belief that El Pasoans would register at UTEP because it was nearby was replaced with a concerted effort to help students make informed choices about their futures.

"Nowadays, we are always in the schools," Guerrero says. "We've agreed that we'll talk about going to college in general, so the schools are very accommodating. Of course, we use UTEP as an example, but our message is that education is a lifelong process that continues after high school. If our presentations encourage kids to

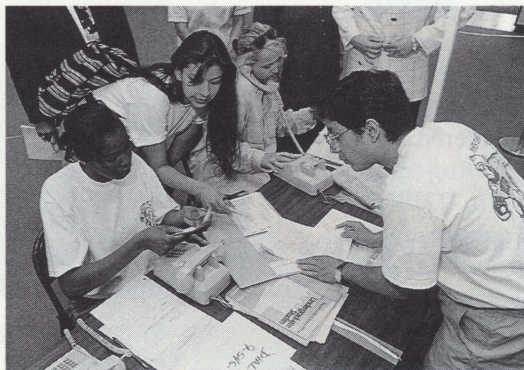
pursue higher education somewhere – even if it isn't at UTEP – we've done something to improve their lives."

Because high school seniors often fill out applications to UTEP at these information sessions, the number of students applying for freshman

admission has increased by 35 percent in just six years. Though freshman enrollment at UTEP hasn't increased as substantially, it is on an upward swing at a time when other public

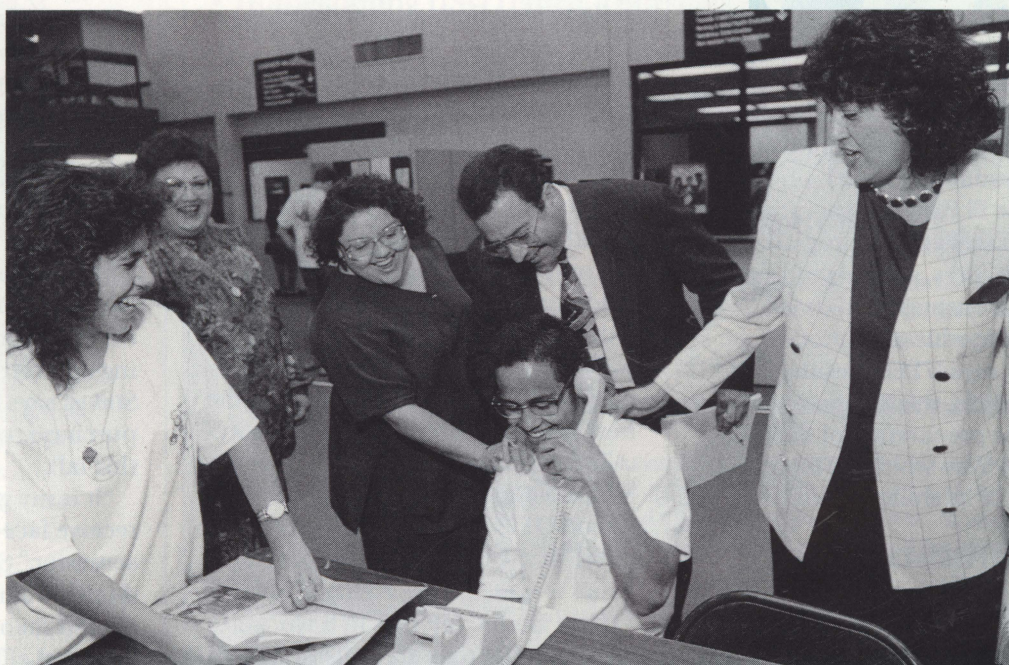
universities in Texas and elsewhere are experiencing declines in enrollment. The hope, says Stakes, is that many of the students who apply but don't attend UTEP are studying at another university, community college or trade school.

discourage students from applying,



#### **Registration in the 1990s**

*Customer service has become the hallmark of today's registration procedure that has become more user-friendly and much quicker thanks to a thorough new student orientation process that permits first-time UTEP students to schedule classes via touchtone telephone registration and gives them access to personal service from enrollment services specialists.*



#### **Admission**

It is significant that during this period of increased interest in UTEP, the university's application procedure has become more strict – not to



but to help them prepare better to attend UTEP or another college. In the fall of 1993, Enrollment Services announced an application deadline of July 1 for international students and a final late application deadline of July 31 for U.S. residents. In the fall of 1995, those deadlines will be moved to May 1 and July 31 so that high school graduates will complete the application process before they finish high school. Students who apply late will be considered for admission for the following semester.

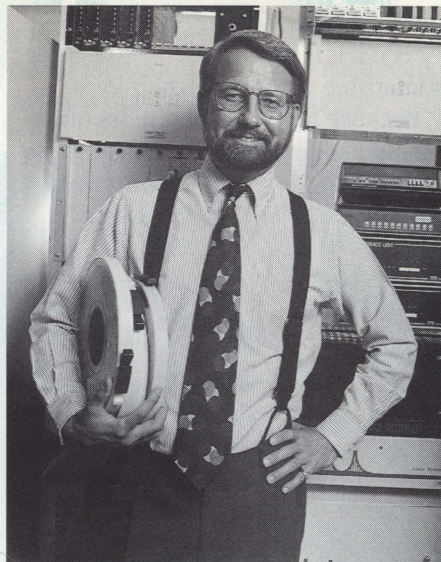
Students who apply to UTEP must take the SAT or ACT college aptitude test, and most of the students do well on these tests. But, because state law requires state-funded universities to accept all applicants who graduate from Texas high schools, the university has designed a provisional admissions program for the small minority of students whose high school performance and test scores indicate they'll need special assistance to excel in college.

Over the years, Guerrero says, this program of study skills classes and counseling has become so effective that provisional students who complete their first year of college have the same chance of earning a degree as other UTEP students.

UTEP is also working with El Paso schools to improve the quality of students graduating from high school through the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, a program that involves teachers, administrators, parents and business and civic leaders in the education process. Eventually, says UTEP President Dr. Diana Natalicio, this program will improve the preparation of the pool of students from which UTEP draws 86 percent of its student body.

## Financial Assistance

Once a student is admitted to UTEP, the next step for Enrollment Services officials is helping students find a way to pay for college. Many alumni probably remember a time when financial assistance was given to only the best students. Today, nearly 7,500 students – more than 44 percent of UTEP's student body – depend on financial assistance totaling more than \$19 million from grants, loans,



*Robert Stakes*

scholarships and employment to pay for their education.

While most of the scholarship awards are based on merit or a combination of merit and need, the great majority of students who receive financial assistance today receive Pell Grants, federal loans and other assistance without which they probably wouldn't be able to afford college, says financial aid director Linda Gonzalez.

"Scholarships have always been reserved for exemplary students," says scholarships director Barbara Nehring. "But back before federal financial aid programs were established in the late 1960s, they were also the only source of financial aid for students with need. Once those federal programs became available, we have looked at our scholarship program as a tool for making sure the best students come to our university."

Today, 65 percent of new students who are offered scholarships to attend UTEP accept those offers and enroll at the university, Nehring says. "That is quite good," Nehring says. "These are the top kids in town, and we know that they are considering other universities."

In the fall of 1993, 940 of UTEP's top graduate and undergraduate students shared \$1.2 million in scholarship money. Among the most substantial of these awards were the Presidential Excellence and Presidential Scholars awards of \$1,500 or

\$2,000 to El Paso's top high school graduates. Students must submit an application by March 1 to be considered for a scholarship.

Currently the university is attempting to increase the amount of scholarship money available to students and make the university's scholarship pool more permanent by encouraging alumni and friends to create endowed scholarships. Unlike scholarships awarded on the basis of yearly or one-time contributions, endowed scholarships are drawn yearly from the interest paid on money invested to create the endowment. Because the investment yields a return year after year, the endowments can support students indefinitely, says development director Dr. Jan Cavin.

## Onward to Graduation

While recruiting students and getting them enrolled at UTEP are among the primary responsibilities of the Enrollment Services division, those responsibilities don't stop once students have begun their university career. Enrollment services monitors the Student Information System, a computer network that tracks the progress of each of UTEP's 17,000 students from admission to graduation. It records the classes taken by each student, the financial aid the student has received and other important data necessary to determine if a student is eligible for graduation.

UTEP has begun the process of acquiring new computer capabilities that will allow more efficient recording and retrieval of this data, and Stakes says he hopes to have a purchase recommendation ready this fall.

"It is my goal that every student receive face-to-face advising every semester," Stakes says. "To be able to do this we need to provide the faculty or staff member the tools to meaningfully and effectively advise students well before registration begins for the following semester."

It sounds like a monumental task, but Stakes says, "Our emphasis is on student achievement, and we'll do what it takes to make sure they have a successful university career." n





### 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. The association assists UTEP in its mission of achieving academic excellence, by supporting and sponsoring valuable programs, projects, and activities. The Alumni Association also serves as a conduit for fellowship. In sponsoring several activities, the association provides opportunities for alumni to come together and participate as a group in the growth of their alma mater.

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, Tex., 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 will be mailed to you upon receipt of your contribution.

### TOP TEN SENIORS OF 1994

The Top Ten Seniors, organized and funded by the Alumni Association, is an award given to ten UTEP graduating seniors completing their first undergraduate degree. The seniors are recognized for their excellent academic performance, leadership, commitment, and involvement in the campus and in the community. With great pride, we present the Top Ten Seniors of 1994:

**Maria Lavonne Bielawski**

**Ricardo Jordan**

**Laurie Tice**

**Marla Diane Broaddus**

**John Frederick Magni**

**David Vazquez**

**Diana Kathryn Bruce**

**Sanchit Maruti**

**Arturo Carrillo**

**Monica Perales**

## “ON THE HOME FRONT”

### THE 1994 HOMECOMING EVENTS

The theme for this year's Homecoming is titled “On The Home Front,” a commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of World War II. Make plans now to “come home” to UTEP in October for a week full of food, fun, friends, and festivities.

### HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK:

- **Annual Alumni Open House**  
**Monday-Friday, October 17 - 22**

Everyone is invited to stop by Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the USO (the Alumni Lodge). Call (915) 747-5533.

- **World War II: The Home Front Display**  
**Monday-Friday, October 17 - 22**

Second floor of the UTEP Library.

- **USO Mixer for Golden Grads and Honored Classes**  
**Thursday, October 20**

The Alumni Lodge will be the site for our Allied Tea Room from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. for the Golden Grads of 1944 and all years prior, the ASTP's along with the Honored Classes of '54, '64, '74, '84 and the 25th Anniversary Class of '69. Contact Jeannie Johnston at (915) 747-5533.

- **Homecoming USO Dance, Thursday, October 20**

In the mood for big band sound? Join us for dancing to the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra from 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Call Union Programs Office 747-5481.

- **Homecoming Victory Parade and Rally**  
**Friday, October 21**

Join us at 12:30 p.m. as we honor the 1994 Distinguished Alumnus and the Homecoming Court. Call Office at (915) 747-5481.

- **Luncheon in Honor of the Special Reunion Classes**  
**Friday, October 21**

A complimentary buffet luncheon will be served at 1:30 p.m. for the Honored Classes of '44 (and all years prior), '54, '64, '74, '84 and the 25th anniversary class of '69 in the “Allied Tea Room” on the patio of the USO/HQ (the Alumni Lodge). Contact Jeannie Johnston at (915) 747-5533.

- **“Medal of Honor”: The Distinguished Alumnus Reception and Buffet, Friday, October 21**

A reception and buffet will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the UTEP Library in honor of the 1994 recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award and the classes of '34, '44, '54, '64, '74, '84 and the 25th Anniversary Class of 1969. In addition, the 1994 Gold Nugget recipients from the individual colleges will be honored. Call (915) 747-5533 for dinner ticket information.

- **“On the Beach at Normandy”: Homecoming Bonfire and Beach Party, Friday, October 21**

The Beach Party will begin at 8 p.m. with plenty of carnival booths and live music, followed by a spirit rally, coronation of the Homecoming Court, and traditional bonfire. Call (915) 747-5584.

- **Open House at the Heritage House**  
**Thursday - Saturday, October 20 - 22**

Heritage House will be open Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon for all who want to browse through the memorabilia of three schools: Texas College of Mines & Metallurgy, Texas Western College, and UTEP. Contact Jeannie Johnston at (915) 747-5533.



## • Golden Grads Luncheon Saturday, October 22

At noon, a complimentary luncheon for graduates of fifty years or more will be hosted by University President Dr. Diana Natalicio. The class of 1944 will be honored as well as the WWII classes of 1945-1948 and the ASTP's. Retired faculty and staff are invited. Contact Jeannie Johnston at (915) 747-5533.

## • Party at the Canteen: The Alumni Association's 5th Annual Pre-Game Party and Cookout, Saturday, October 22

Mingle from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. with your fellow alumni as well as this year's Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, the 1995 Alumni Board, and all honored and reunion classes. Call (915) 747-5533.

## • "D-Day" Ground Assault: UTEP vs. BYU Homecoming Football Game, Saturday, October 22, 7 p.m.

## HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND COLLEGES

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

Honors House Open House. Contact Mary Carnie at (915) 747-5858.

Metallurgical Engineering Mixer. Call (915) 747-5468.

College of Business Administration Open House. Contact Jackie Gronert at (915) 747-5241.

College of Liberal Arts Gold Nugget Ceremony. Call (915) 747-5666.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

Civil Engineering Reception & Tour. Contact Dr. Oey or Dr. Rozendal at (915) 747-5464.

Languages & Linguistics Open House. Contact Dr. Joan Manley at (915) 747-7037.

English Department Open House. Contact Rosa Holguin-Hernandez at (915) 747-6240.

History Department Wine and Cheese Reception. Contact Dr. Kenton Clymer or Vicki Fisher at (915) 747-5508.

International Students and Alumni Reception. Contact Debbie Agthe at (915) 747-7373.

Physics Department Picnic. Call (915) 747-5715.

Recreational Sports Department 10th Annual Homecoming Open Tennis, Racquetball, and 3-on-3 Tournaments. Contact Ruben Espinoza at (915) 747-5103.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

College of Engineering Breakfast. Contact Concepcion Rodriguez at (915) 747-5460.

Art Gallery. Open to Public. Call (915) 747-7837.

Political Science Department Coffee. Contact Kathy Staudt or Debbie Pancoast at (915) 747-5227.

Geology Department Brunch. Contact Sandy Ladewig at (915) 747-6551.

Communication Department Media Brunch. Contact Catty Corson at (915) 747-5129.

Math Department Coffee. Contact Dr. Joe Guthrie at (915) 747-5761.

Recruitment & Scholarships Open House. Contact Marina Seañez at (915) 747-7318.

College of Education Mini-Fair and Reception. Contact Pat Dominguez at (915) 747-7604.

Sociology and Anthropology Dept. Pre-Game Barbecue. Call (915) 747-5740.

College of Nursing Tailgate Party. Contact Dr. Shirley Garick at (915) 747-7218.

For any additional information, please call the Alumni Office at (915) 747-5533.

## ATTENTION UTEP ALUMNI: WATCH THE MAIL!!

All Alumni with current addresses will soon be receiving an important questionnaire in the mail. This questionnaire is being sent to give every alumnus the opportunity to be accurately listed in the upcoming, new University of Texas at El Paso Alumni Directory.

Once received, your information will be edited and processed by Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company Inc. for inclusion in the new Directory. At a later point in the project (and before the final composition stage of the book), you will be contacted by Harris directly to verify that your personal data is absolutely correct.

If you don't return your questionnaire, it is possible you may be omitted or that the information available about you may be incorrect. So don't take a chance...watch for your questionnaire form and remember to return it promptly!

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE BE SURE TO COMPLETE AND RETURN YOUR DIRECTORY QUESTIONNAIRE BEFORE THE DEADLINE INDICATED!**

## UPDATE ON THE "FOLLOW THE MINERS" TO SAN ANTONIO TRIP

Package prices have been reduced and a third package has been added to this year's "Follow the Miners" trip. So don't delay in choosing a package and making reservations to cheer the Miner football team to victory against Air Force in the new Alamodome on September 24, 1994. Space is limited. Deadline for reservations is August 10th.

Packages are as follows:

Package 1 - A two-night, three-day trip, departing from El Paso on Friday, September 23 at 3:30 p.m. and returning on Sunday, September 25 at 2:50 p.m. The package is \$375 per person and includes airfare, hotel, football tickets, ground transportation, and pre-game reception. Hotel accommodations are at the St. Anthony.

Package 2 (for alumni, friends, and fans who need local accommodations only) - Hotel for one night at the Holiday Inn-River Walk, football tickets, ground transportation, and pre-game reception. Cost is \$150 per person.

Package 3 - A game day plan which includes football tickets and pre-game reception. Cost is \$45 per person.

For reservations or additional information, call Justine Coleman at Sun Travel, (915) 532-8900, or Marcia Cohen at the Alumni Office, (915) 747-5533.



# CLASS NOTES

## PRE-GAME MINER FOOTBALL PARTIES

Football season is just around the corner and so are the Miner pre-game football parties, sponsored by the Alumni Association and open to alumni, friends, and family. All pre-game parties, held at the Alumni Lodge before each home game, begin at 5:30 p.m. You need only bring your Miner spirit; food and drinks are provided by the Alumni Association. So put on your orange and blue, and join the Association on the following dates:

- September 10** UTEP vs. Eastern Illinois  
**September 17** UTEP vs. NMSU  
**October 1** UTEP vs. Hawaii  
**October 22** UTEP vs. BYU  
**November 12** UTEP vs. Fresno State

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Los Angeles/Orange County

Congratulations to the following elected officers of the Los Angeles/Orange County Chapter of UTEP's Alumni Association:

- John Solis, *President*  
Ernie Federico, *Vice President*  
Lou Moreno, *Treasurer*  
Martha Woelfle, *Secretary*

Plans are also in the works for a fall football trip. For more information about this trip or other upcoming UTEP alumni activities in the Los Angeles/Orange County area, contact Chapter President John Solis at (310) 334-8269 or Chapter Vice President Ernie Federico at (310) 496-3500.

### North Texas

The North Texas Chapter recently sent out a questionnaire to area alumni. Robert Jimenez, chapter president, asks that you complete and return the questionnaire as soon as possible so that the chapter can begin to plan activities of interest to all area alumni and their families.

Plans are also in the works for an evening of baseball this summer at the new Texas Rangers Stadium. Alumni interested in attending this game or the upcoming "Follow the Miners" to San Antonio trip on September 24 may contact any of the chapter officers for details: Robert Jimenez, president, (214) 506-0456; Manny Arciniega, vice president, (214) 660-4425; or Robert Vargas, secretary/treasurer, (214) 783-6539.

## 40s▼

**Jean Miculka** (B.A. '44) retired UTEP speech and drama professor, recently won second place in the mainstream and third place in the mystery/suspense categories of the Southwest Writers Workshop Contest held in Albuquerque NM.

**Jesus R. Provencio**, Ph.D. (B.S. '48; M.S. '66) has retired after teaching in the UTEP math department for 30 years.

## 50s▼

**Laurance Nickey**, M.D. (attended '51) director of the El Paso City County Health District, has been honored by Baylor College of Medicine in Houston by being named Distinguished Alumnus. Formerly a successful El Paso pediatrician, Dr. Nickey retired from his practice to lead the county health district. Well known for his commitment to community health, he was 1991-92 president of the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association.

**Fred Rosas** (B.A. '50; M.Ed. '56) was honored as 1993 Outstanding Ex-Student of Bowie High School. A football star at Bowie, and later a starter for the Miners, Rosas is presently director of the Magoffin Latchkey Program.

**Park Kerr** (B.B. '52) in collaboration with the El Paso Chile Company, has authored a recipe book which will soon be published. He recently served up some of the recipes to 50 guests during a televised demonstration/fundraiser for El Paso's Pro-Musica.

**Noel Longuemare** (B.S.E.E. '52) has been appointed deputy to the undersecretary for acquisitions for the Department of Defense. Prior to this appointment, he was employed by Westinghouse Electric Corp. in Baltimore, MD.

**Russell Harding** (B.B. '55) has been promoted to director of staff services for the Texas Department of Transportation headquartered in Austin, TX. He will oversee public and legislative affairs, international relations information resources and special projects.

**Roger Mansfield** (B.B.A. '56; M. Ed. '65) has retired after 38 years with the El Paso Independent School District, the last 13 of which he served as principal of Lindbergh Elementary School. He and his wife plan to relocate in Chandler, AZ.

## 60s▼

**Hobart G. Hamilton, Jr.** Ph. D. (B.S. '61) has been appointed interim provost/vice president for academic affairs for California State University, Stanislaus. Hamilton earned his Ph.D. at New Mexico State University in 1967 and moved to CSU Stanislaus in 1968 as a chemistry professor. He served the university in many capacities including associate vice president for academic affairs. He is well known for his active involvement in the enhancement of educational opportunities for minority and disadvantaged students. **Phillip T. Smith** Ph. D. (B.A. '64) chairman of the history department at Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA, has completed a study of the Siege of Mafeking, during the Boer War, and based on an original memoir which he edited. He has also authored a book on the London police in the Victorian period.

**Jessie L. Thompson** (attended '29; B.A. '65) recently moved to Columbus, NM to write a history of her family's involvement in the Pancho Villa Raid. She will chronicle the death of her grandfather, the misfortunes

of other family members and the burning of the family's hotel.

**Mark Hutman** (BSED '66; M.Ed. '71) is currently assistant principal at Parkland High School in El Paso. **Judith Peters** (B.S. Ed. '66) was selected Teacher of the Year for 1993 at Emily Griffith Opportunity School for adult learners in Denver, CO.

**John Skogland** (B.A. '68) a partner in the San Antonio, Texas law firm of Haynes and Boone, L.L.P. has relocated to head up the firm's new office in Mexico City.

**Terrell T. Kelley**, Col. USMC (B.A. '69) has recently assumed duty at Headquarters, Fleet Marine Forces, Europe. He joined the Marine Corps in 1969.

**Richard Pearson** (B.A. '69) representing the El Paso Zoological Society, was crowned 1993-94 King Rex at the annual Gala Auction sponsored by the Civic Woman's Auxiliary in October, 1993. Pearson is C.E.O. of KTSM TV/Radio in El Paso.

**Elma Garcia Valdes** (B.S. Ed. '69) was selected by the California Association for Bilingual Education as the 1994 CABE Teacher of the Year. She has been teaching for 25 years and is currently a kindergarten teacher in Norwalk, CA.

## 70s▼

**John Birkelbach** (B.B.A. '71) has joined the El Paso law firm of Mounce and Galatzen, P. C. as a shareholder. Birkelbach will be practicing with the firm's business section. He is a member of the El Paso and American Bar Association and the State Bar of Texas.

**Delia Camacho** (B.S. Ed. '71), a teacher at Mesita Elementary School, is one of five El Pasoans chosen for the 1994 Leadership Texas program.

**David Chavez** (B.A. '71), a government teacher at Coronado High School in El Paso was elected chairman of the Teacher Personal Services of the 30,000-member Texas Classroom Teachers Association. He is a member of the El Paso CTA and serves on the board of directors of the TCTA.

**Jim Paul** (B.S. Ed. '71), owner of the El Paso Diablos baseball team, was awarded the 2nd level of the Conquistador Award by the El Paso City Council for his numerous contributions to the city. Only three people have ever received this award.

**W. Patrick Resen** (B.A. '73) has been elected president of the family law section of the Contra Costa County Bar Association in Concord, CA for 1994. Resen, who received his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Missouri, maintains an active family law practice in San Ramon, CA. He is a faculty member of the John F. Kennedy School of Law, Walnut Creek, CA. **Sue Shook** (B.S. Ed. '74; M.Ed. '78), the Socorro Independent School District assistant superintendent for strategic planning, received the 1993 George and Sue Jensen Leadership Award from the National Association of Year-Round Education for her work in helping develop a year-round school program in the district.

**Louis Brown** (B.S.E.E. '76) is director of broadcast operation for Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty. He is also a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and currently director of officer courses for a reserve unit in Augsburg, Germany. His wife, **Dallas Ann (Lindsey) Brown** (B.A. '68; M.A. '75), is actively involved with the Munich International School.

**J. James Rohack**, M.D. (B.S. '76) was appointed this

## ANNUAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL KICK-OFF PICNIC

Kick-off the fall season and a new academic year by taking part in the Alumni Association's Annual Back-to-School Picnic. Scheduled for Saturday August 27th, the picnic is a wonderful means by which UTEP alumni, friends, and students can come together, have a great time, and show their Miner support. Call the Alumni Office at 747-5533.



year to the American Medical Association Continuing Medical Education Advisory Committee as well as the Texas Medical Association Special Committee on Health System Reform and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Ad Hoc Committee on Health System Reform.

**Clara Duncan-Adams** (B.S. Ed. '77) was one of 31 El Paso business women to be spotlighted during Women's History Month in March. Duncan-Adams is owner of the El Paso Schwinn Cycle and Fitness Stores. Her considerable civic involvement includes serving as state board vice president for the Association of Texas Leadership Program, vice president of the Better Business Bureau board and fundraising chairman for the El Paso Commission for Women.

**James E. Gifford** (B.B.A. '78) has been named president of the Hagerstown Business College, Hagerstown, MD. His master's degree in education was earned from the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX, in 1983.

**Luis Mata** (B.B.A. '78) was appointed by Gov. Ann Richards to the five-member Texas Agricultural Finance Authority Board. Mata is U.S. Rep. Ronald Coleman's district director and chairman of the board of Centro Medico Del Valle.

## 80s▼

**Francisco Rodriguez** (B.S. Ed. '80) was chosen Teacher of the Year at Oakhurst Elementary School in Fort Worth Texas in 1989, and was a finalist for this year's Teacher of the Year Award in the Corpus Christi Independent School District.

**Patricia Y. Gaytan Moore** (B.B.A. '81) financial reporting supervisor of Latin America at Exxon Chemical Interamerican, Inc. in Houston, TX, was elected national director of the 4,000 member American Woman's Society of Certified Public Accountants. In addition, she was recognized by the Federation of Houston Professional Women as a Woman of Excellence. Her husband, **John D. Moore**, (B.A. '81) earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the South Texas College of Law in 1990 and is in private practice in Houston. Married 12 years, the couple have a baby daughter, Rebecca.

**Dianna Offutt** (B.A. '85) is one of 105 women statewide and 5 locally to be chosen for the 1994 Leadership Texas Program.

**Jane Hiles**, Ph. D., (B.A. '82; M.A. '87) received her Ph. D. from Emory University and currently teaches English at Samford University in Birmingham, AL. In the summer of 1993 Hiles presented a paper at the University of Durham in England on "Milton, Cromwell and the Art of the Turn."

**Marjorie Marinovic** (B.B.A. '83; M.B.A. '90) was featured for her accomplishments in the *El Paso Times* during Women's History Month in March. Marinovic, a Certified Public Accountant and chief financial officer of Comgraphix Inc., is a member of the UTEP Matrix Society, on the membership committee of the El Paso chapter of Certified Accountants and is a former board member of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce. She also teaches accounting at UTEP.

**John R. Emmons** (B.S.M.E.T. '85) lives in Canoga Park, CA, where he has been occupied in recovering from the effects of last year's earthquake.

**Eric Thompson** (B.S.M.E. '85) acquired his P.E. license in 1992 and has been employed by Baxter Convertors for 8 years. His wife, **Lisa**, (M Ed. '87) is a full-time mom to their two children.

**Jolene M. Collins**, Petty Officer 3rd Class USN (B.S.Ed. '89) has graduated from the Basic Hospital Corps School at Field Medical Service School, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, CA.

**Linda Holman Ed. D.** (M. Ed. '89) has completed her doctorate in education administration at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM. She was recently promoted to principal at Hillside Elementary School in El Paso.

**John A. Wenke** (B.A. '89) graduated from Texas Tech University School of Law in May 1993 and has been named as a new associate at the law firm of McCluskey and Associates in El Paso, TX.

## 90s▼

**Lisa Ann Schoenbrun** (B.S. '90) was honored by the El Paso Independent School District as their Employee of the Month. Schoenbrun teaches special education at Mesita Elementary School.

**Mario Castillo** (B.B.A. '91) was chosen Agent of the Month at the Equitable in El Paso.

**Raphael Hernandez**, 2nd Lt. USMC (B.B.A. '91) recently graduated from The Basic School at the Marine Corps Combat Development Command in Quantico, VA.

**Miguel Caballero** (B.B.A. '92) has accepted a position as credit supervisor for Esso Standard Oil S.A. Ltd. in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

**Erika Molina** (B.B. '93) is the new training coordinator of The Human Element of Business Inc. in El Paso.

## OBITUARIES▼

**Terry A. Hornaday, Jr.** D.D.S. (B.B.A. '59) Dec. 4, 1993. He was a dentist in West Palm Beach, FL, and former president of the West Palm Beach County Dental Society and also former president of the Woehler Research Group. He was the father of the late Terry A. Hornaday, III and is survived by his wife, Sherrie, a son and a daughter.

**Reinaldo "Ray" Martinez** (B.B. '82) January 1994 in Hatch, NM.

**Sharon Kay Lemmons** (B.S. Ed. '74; M. Ed. '82) Feb. 14, 1994. A lifelong resident of El Paso, she was a counselor at Indian Ridge Middle School. Survivors include her son, her parents and a sister.

**Andrew "Bud" Roland** (B.A. '52) Feb. 16, 1994. A 50-year resident of El Paso, he played football for Texas Western College and the U.S.M.C. He was the owner of Sheila and Sharon's Hallmark Shops, and a member of Asbury United Methodist Church, the U. S. Tennis Association and El Paso Tennis Club. He is survived by his wife, Iris, two daughters, a son, two grandchildren, two sisters and a brother.

**John Howard Clary** (B.B.A. '72) Feb. 18, 1994. He was retired from Southwestern Bell Telephone after 16 years and had lived in El Paso 42 years.

**Clair Jo Schnitz** (B.A. '78) Feb. 20, 1994. A lifelong resident of El Paso, she was a member of the First Baptist Church and Phi Kappa Phi and founder of the El Paso Post-Polio Group. Survivors include her parents, Ples and Aileene, two sisters and a brother.

**Ralph W. Bennett** (B.B. '65) Feb. 24, 1994 in Kilgore, Texas. He was a retired vice president of Beverly Enterprise. Survivors include two daughters, a grandson and two brothers.

**Wilson H. Elkins**, Ph. D. (president of the University from 1949 to 1954) March, 1994. After leaving El Paso he served as president of the University of Maryland from 1954 until his retirement in 1978. He was a Rhodes Scholar and studied for his doctorate in Oxford, England. His first wife, the former Dorothy Blackburn, died in 1971. He is survived by his wife, Vivian, two daughters, two stepsons and six grandchildren.

**Inez Derryberry Wood** (B.A. '49; M.A. '51) March 1994. She had lived in El Paso since 1943 and worked as a teacher and high school counselor for 29 years. Preceded in death by her husband, Laurence, she is survived by two daughters and 14 grandchildren.

**Mildred J. Wiley** (B.S. Ed. '72) March 1, 1994. She was a teacher for the El Paso Independent School District and had lived in El Paso all her life. She is survived by her son, Joseph.

**Mary Edythe Kerr Treat** (B.A. '43) March 9, 1994. Following World War II, she and her husband ranched in the Roswell area. She was very active in her church and the Assistance League. Survivors include her husband, a son, a daughter, three grandchildren and three brothers.

**Ramon Mendez** (B.A. '92) March 10, 1994. He was a history teacher at San Elizario Junior High School where he founded the Movimiento Estudiantial Chicano de Aztlan chapter, which stressed culture and education to its members. He is survived by his wife, Ingrid, and his parents.

**Loia C. Williams** (attended the Texas School of Mines) March 10, 1994. She was a lifelong resident of El Paso and a member of the Rainbow for Girls Chapter 4. She was a member of Asbury Methodist Church. She is

survived by a granddaughter.

**Michael Joseph Twomey**, CW4, USA (M.B.A. '77) March 12, 1994. He retired from the U.S. Army in 1977 after 22 years of service. In 1993 he retired as Operations Research Analyst for Combat Developments at Fort Bliss. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary, three daughters, a son and his mother.

**Eunice Ellen Steurwald** (B.A. '58) March 22, 1994. She taught school for more than 20 years in El Paso and Colorado and had moved to California to be near family after the death of her husband. She is survived by two sisters and a brother.

**Carson H. Green** (B.S. Ed. '89) March 27, 1994. He had lived in El Paso for 30 years and taught high school English in the Ysleta and Socorro school districts. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth, a son, a daughter, his mother and three sisters.

**Ralph M. Moshier**, CW2, USA (M.Ed. '76) March 27, 1994. He retired from the Army after 24 years, serving in World War II and Korea. He was a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church and the Cielo Vista Optimist Club. He is survived by his wife, Catherine, two sons, two daughters, a brother, a sister and sixteen grandchildren.

**James E. Walters**, MSG, USA (B.S. Ed. '72) April 2, 1994. A 46-year resident of El Paso he was a member of Grandview Baptist Church and VFW Post #58. He had been a teacher at Parkland Elementary School. He is survived by his wife, Jennie, a daughter, two sons, two sisters, a brother and five grandchildren.

**Linda Boone Heineman** (B.S. Ed. '64) April 21, 1994. She was a lifelong resident of El Paso and a member of Immanuel Baptist Church for more than 46 years. A former elementary education teacher for the El Paso Independent School District she was past province president of Zeta Tau Alpha, a sustaining member of the Junior League and member of the PEO Chapter. Survivors include her husband, Kenneth, a son, a daughter, a brother, a sister and her mother.

**Vaughn Tracy Knighten** (B.S. Ed. '75) April 26, 1994. A resident of El Paso for more than 40 years, he was a member of the Masonic Lodge. He was preceded in death by his son, Scott, and is survived by two daughters, two brothers, a sister and two grandchildren. **Janice Ellen Kepple** (B.S. Ed. '76) April 27, 1994. She had lived in El Paso for 35 years and was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi and Alpha Chi Honor Societies. She was a retired teacher from the Ysleta Independent School District. She is survived by a daughter, a son, three grandchildren and three sisters.

**Frances C. Baker** (B.A. '39; M.A. '50) April 30, 1994. She was a retired teacher from the El Paso Independent School District and Ben Milam School. She was a member of the Retired Teacher's Association, T.S.T.A., Delta Kappa Gamma and St. Clement's Episcopal Church. She is survived by her husband, Dwight, twin sister Jennie, a niece and nephew.

**Howard W. Crook** (B.A. '69; M.A. '72) May 2, 1994. He was owner of the H.W. Crook Realty Company, which has been in operation since 1947. He pioneered the growth of the city's West Side with the development of Coronado Hills. Listed in Who's Who in the Southwest, he was a senior member of the American Society of Appraisers and an environmental activist. Survivors include his wife, Nancy, two daughters, three sons, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

**William Clayton Adams** SFC USA Ret. (B.S. Ed. '72) May 4, 1994. He was a retired math teacher for the El Paso Independent School District, an elder at Faith Presbyterian Church, past president of the Ysleta Lions Club and past director of El Pan Presbyterian Emergency Food Center. Preceded in death by his wife, Ann, he is survived by a daughter, son, his mother, a brother, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Robert E. Pence** MST. SGT. USA (B.B. '77) May 4, 1994. He was a 5th grade teacher at La Barron Elementary School and had retired after 15 years with the Ysleta Independent School District. A veteran of World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars, the Clint resident was a member of Cielo Vista Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, three daughters, two brothers, a sister and seven grandchildren.





## PARTNERS

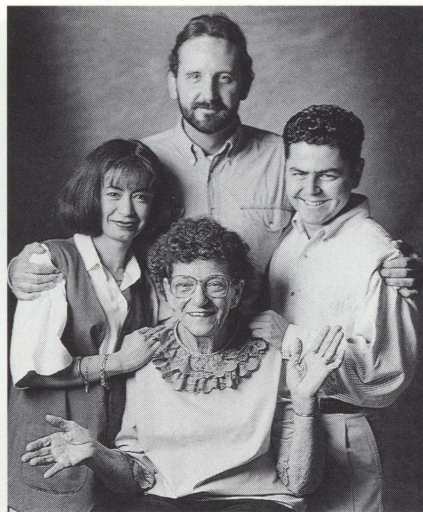
Sometimes we don't know who our friends are until they knock on the door and introduce themselves. Such has been the case with Mrs. Henrietta "Penny" Lewis, who knocked softly on UTEP's door in 1989 and has been offering delightful lessons in friendship to students and administrators alike ever since.

Penny Lewis' husband, Forrest O. Lewis, was a 1950 electrical engineering graduate of Texas Western College. He put his education to work during a long and successful career in the construction industry. When Mr. Lewis passed away in 1989, Penny Lewis decided to share the inestimable gift of education that had shaped their lives together by establishing two endowments to the electrical engineering department in her husband's name.

"My husband had talked with our lawyer about contributing to the university," she explains. "I am carrying on his wishes." Those wishes are already beginning to grow into achievable dreams for some electrical engineering students, while spurring ambitious new goals for the department as a whole.

Penny Lewis, who is 77, began her giving to UTEP by establishing the Forrest O. Lewis Electrical Engineering Endowed Fund in 1990. This fund is dedicated to enhancing the general level of excellence of the department. Through it, the department has recently created a cash award for each year's outstanding student, named the Dean Eugene Thomas Award. At the same time, electrical engineering can now offer the Professor Floyd A. Decker cash award to each year's outstanding faculty member.

Gerardo Gonzalez, an electrical engineering graduate student who was the first recipient of the Dean Eugene Thomas Award in 1993, is appreciative of the moral support as well as the financial boost the award gave him. "Receiving this award gives you confidence in yourself and



### HENRIETTA "PENNY" LEWIS

*by M.A. Maier*

motivates you to continue," he says.

Of course, the \$250 stipend attached to the award was a big help as well. "Students are always short of funds," he explains. "When I went away on an internship last summer, the award helped me pay for the move."

Currently, Mrs. Lewis is working to establish the Forrest O. Lewis and Henrietta Lewis Professorship of Electrical Engineering. This endowed professorship will have the somewhat unusual function of helping a newly hired faculty member each year to advance in his or her career. "The professorship will be a great recruiting tool for us," says Dr. Michael Austin, electrical engineering department chair.

For Penny Lewis, the two endowments in her husband's name have been the first steps down a long and ever-broadening road of friendship with the university. Mrs. Lewis has also donated a piano to the Alumni Lodge, become a volunteer (and supplier of much-sought-after home-baked goodies) once a week at the Development Office, attended numerous university functions, and helped out with special development events as they've come along.

"All my life I've stayed at home — until now," she says shyly. "It will be two years in July since I started [volunteering at the university]. I enjoy it."

"Penny has almost become a part of our family," says Jean Johnston, administrative clerk at the development office. Mrs. Lewis' Thursday volunteer work has become a weekly bright spot for everyone.

"We enjoy her goodies and look forward to her coming each week," Johnston remarks. "She's game for anything. Our relationship with her is a very happy one."

Students who've gotten to know Penny Lewis through her university participation feel the same way.

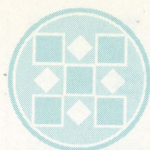
"Mrs. Lewis has a lovely personality," says Maria Chee, a graduate electrical engineering student who has met Lewis at numerous university and departmental functions, including a tour that Mrs. Lewis took of the electrical engineering department. "She's very interested in students as individuals," adds Chee. "She even remembers what projects we're doing."

Seamus McKenna, an electrical engineering graduate student originally from Ireland and the recipient of this year's Dean Eugene Thomas Award, has been deeply touched by Mrs. Lewis' generosity. "I'm very grateful to this society and to individuals like Mrs. Lewis who have made my education possible," he says. "Her giving symbolizes America's generosity."

In choosing to remember her husband through gifts and service to the university, Penny Lewis will have a profound effect on the futures of countless students in coming years. In the meantime, her friendship is enhancing the daily lives of students and administrators alike.

"All of us at the Development Office are Penny's biggest fans," adds Jan Cavin, UTEP Development Director. These days, they're among her many fans at UTEP.





## FACULTY PROFILE

Emma Perez runs her finger from the southern tip of a Texas map to the eastern portion near Houston. The line represents her paternal grandparents' northern migration from the states of Coahuila and Nuevo Leon in Mexico to East Texas. Perez, an assistant history professor, is fascinated by the story it reveals.

"I love the Texas map and I always find myself studying it," Perez says. "I am also studying the women in my family to trace their rural to urban migration in Texas."

Perez, one of a handful of Chicana historians in the United States, is drawn to the history of Texas women on both a professional and personal level. Eventually, she will publish the research she has conducted on the women in her family.

Perez says when her grandmother came to Texas in 1917 after the Mexican Revolution, she and the other members of her family faced a hard life.

"They were uprooted from their homes after the revolution," Perez says. "They began by living in small south Texas towns but moved north to follow the migrant farm labor. That was a difficult type of lifestyle."

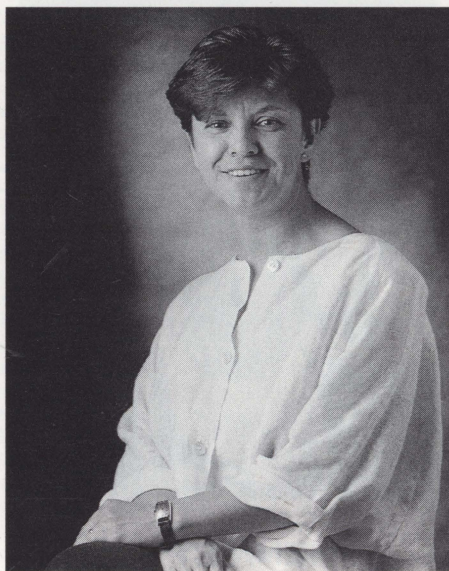
Difficult, too, were the lives of El Paso's Mexican-Americans during World War II—a topic that is the focus of a project of the UTEP Institute of Oral History, where she serves as director.

The El Paso region's history during World War II has been overlooked nationally, so this is a ripe topic for studying, Perez says.

Perez considers herself a product of the early Chicano movement and says El Paso offers a unique opportunity to study her roots because of its proximity to Mexico.

"I enjoy living on the border," Perez says. "It has given me the opportunity to study the oral histories of my students and their relationships to Mexico."

Perez came to UTEP in 1988 after



### PEREZ USES CULTURE TO EXPOSE HISTORY

*by Christian Clarke*

teaching at Pomona College, the University of California in Davis and the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

She received her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California in Los Angeles, where she specialized in women's studies. She also received her master's degree and Ph.D. degrees in history from UCLA.

After graduating, Perez realized she was one of only 12 U.S. Chicana historians, four of whom were from Texas. As a result, she notes, there are few Chicana texts available for research.

"Tejana history has to be studied because we need to uncover this past which has been so underrepresented and negated," Perez says.

"Prior to the 1960s, there were no classes offered at the university level that covered our history," Perez says.

The Chicano movement changed that, Perez says. "We realized this (deprivation) was a form of racism and we began to scream to be allowed to learn our history."

Perez is impressed with the number

of Chicano studies programs that continue to thrive with students from younger generations who want to learn about their Mexican-American roots.

"We are taught self-hate at an early age," Perez says. "Later, we are forced to embrace everything we are at once, but when an individual realizes their multiple identities it becomes a celebration."

To offer insight into these identities, Perez is revising for publication her dissertation titled "Through Love and Sweetness: Women, Revolution and Reform in the Yucatán, 1910-18." And next year, she will teach at the University of Colorado in Boulder on a Rockefeller Fellowship at the Center for Studies on Ethnicity and Race in America.

Perez has received other awards, including the Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship from the National Research Council and the Rockefeller Fellowship for the Southwest Institute for Research on Women at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Kenton Clymer, chairman of the history department, says Perez will be missed during her stay in Boulder. He says she has become a vital member of the history department's teaching staff because of the huge demand for expansion in border studies and Chicano history at UTEP.

"Perez will be a central figure in the development of a Ph.D. history program, which will have a major focus on borderland history," Clymer says. "And in this realm of history, Perez is the person."

She is currently working on a novel titled *Gulf Dreams* for Berkeley: Third Woman Press.

Perez says she will continue to reflect upon her heritage for the inspiration for her research. "It is an important part of who I am," Perez says. "I can never forget that because I would not be sitting here without the sacrifices and struggles of those who came before me."



# Messages from the Heart

*UTEP is proud to be selected as the vehicle through which many individuals choose to pay tribute to those close to their hearts. In 1993, the university received 701 such gifts for a total of \$330,602.*

*The donors of these testimonial gifts contribute immensely to our university and its students. We are deeply grateful for their dollars and for the honor of being selected to carry their "messages from the heart."*

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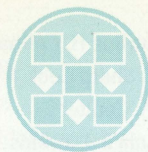
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### U OF H DEAN TAKES STUDENT AFFAIRS POST

A longtime University of Houston administrator and Houston native took over the reins of the Office of Student Affairs on March 1 as the new vice president. Richard Padilla, who served as the dean of student affairs at U of H's downtown campus for six years, replaced Arturo Pacheco who assumed full-time duties as the dean of the College of Education.

"I see UTEP as being poised to grow and develop and to become a very important university within higher education," Padilla said. "I also see my position here as a continuation of the work I've been doing at U of H Downtown, which is noted for providing access to higher education for traditionally underserved populations."

Padilla said he also was impressed with UTEP's growing research capacity and its diversification of programs, and Dr. Diana Natalicio's commitment to serving a multicultural community.

As the vice president of the Office of Student Affairs, Padilla will oversee 19 departments that provide a variety of services and opportunities for students – from recreational activities to financial aid, from student organizations to career services.

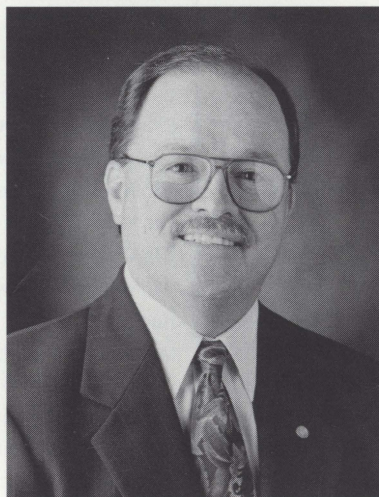
He holds a doctor of education degree in higher education administration from U of H, a master of divinity degree from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and a bachelor of arts degree in English from Bellarmine College in Louisville, Ky.

Before joining the University of Houston staff in 1982 as the area coordinator for the Department of Residential Life, Padilla served in the priesthood as a counselor, teacher and recruiter in San Antonio, Houston and California.

### CAMPUS MESMERIZED BY RARE SOLAR ECLIPSE

More than 1,000 El Pasoans gathered in the Sun Bowl on May 10 and donned special solar glasses to view a rare natural phenomenon – an annular solar eclipse.

El Paso was in the direct line of the near-total solar eclipse when the moon



Richard Padilla

passed between the earth and sun on its monthly orbit, causing a shadow that blocked almost 90 percent of the sun's rays. Those who were too busy working or taking finals won't have another chance to see such a bizarre sight in El Paso for many years.

For a little more than five minutes, beginning at 10:12 a.m., an awestruck crowd *oohed* and *ahhed* as 88.5 percent of the sun was blotted out by the moon, leaving a crescent-shaped ring of golden light, or an annulus, around the rim. By shortly before noon, the moon's disk left the sun and it was all over for El Paso viewers.

El Paso was the first large U.S. city to experience the phenomenon – called an annular eclipse – starting at 8:44 a.m. as the 200-mile-wide path of the eclipse spread from the southwest to the northeast on a line to Amarillo, Tx. to Springfield, Mo. to Buffalo, N.Y., Dr. Alan Dean, associate professor of physics, says.

As predicted by NASA scientists, El Paso proved an ideal location in which to view the eclipse, attracting Japanese television camera crews and the Cable News Network. Clear skies prevailed, giving viewers an unobstructed view of the ephemeral occurrence under typical blue skies.

"Being in El Paso to witness the eclipse will be sort of like being in Times Square when the ball drops on New Year's Eve," Dean said several days before the eclipse. "We are in the most perfect spot of any city in the nation with the best chance to view the eclipse."

Billed by the colleges of science and

engineering as "Solar Trek: The Chance of a Lifetime," the eclipse lived up to advanced reviews. To make the viewing easier and more aesthetically pleasing, the campus radio station, KTEP88.5 FM, gave away special solar specs to the first 1,000 people to show up at the Sun Bowl.

Special astronomy lectures in days leading up to the eclipse and a post-eclipse pin-hole camera contest among high school students rounded out the special week's activities.

### UTEP 6TH IN TEXAS IN RESEARCH EXPENDITURES

The University of Texas at El Paso has climbed past UT Arlington and the University of North Texas into sixth place in state university research expenditures in Texas, according to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

In 1993, UTEP's annual research expenditures increased 24 percent to \$12.87 million, up from \$10.37 million in 1992, the board reported. Texas A&M and UT-Austin rank one-two with more than \$200 million in research expenditures.

Overall, UTEP has climbed from twelfth to sixth place in research spending among the state's academic components since 1988 when the university spent \$2.73 million on research.

"One of the most impressive aspects of our growth in research expenditures is that we've now passed a number of institutions of higher education that have more graduate programs and longer histories of doctoral programs than we do," says Julie Sanford, UTEP's associate vice president for research and graduate studies.

"For instance," Sanford points out, "UTA and North Texas have had a full array of doctoral programs. We have worked very hard at UTEP to build productive research programs without some of the advantages that come with having numerous doctoral programs, large numbers of doctoral students and the state resources they generate."

A year ago, the coordinating board approved UTEP's fourth doctoral program – a Ph.D. program in psychology with a bicultural and bilingual research emphasis. UTEP offers three



other doctorates in geological sciences, electrical engineering and in materials science and engineering.

Unlike students attending many state universities, UTEP's undergraduate and graduate students have an extraordinary opportunity to participate in research activities because the university places a high priority on integrating research with instructional programs, Sanford says.

She points out that UTEP's faculty members wrote grant proposals that brought in \$22.35 million in external funding in 1993, up 33 percent from the previous year. Just the sheer number of proposals submitted – 397 – represents a 50 percent increase over the previous year.

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AWARDS \$15 MILLION TO COLLABORATIVE

The National Science Foundation has awarded a five-year grant of \$15 million to the El Paso community. The award announced on May 10 is part of the agency's new Urban Systemic Initiative (USI) Program aimed at bringing about systemwide improvements in science, mathematics and technology education for urban students.

The award was made to the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, which brings together El Paso's three largest school districts – El Paso, Ysleta and Socorro Independent School Districts – with the UTEP, the El Paso Community College, Region XIX Education Service Center, the El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization and the community's business and civic leaders.

El Paso was selected as one of nine cities nationally among 25 cities eligible for the program. The collaborative's plan was funded because it set high goals for all students in the El Paso area and it created a plan for ensuring that all students are taught high-quality mathematics and science and are expected to learn. The primary goals of El Paso's USI are:

- to engage all students in the study of challenging, high-quality mathematics and science at every point in their schooling;

- to dramatically upgrade math and science achievement levels among all area students; and

- to create a cooperative unified system supporting teachers and students in achieving academic excellence.

The effort will impact approximately 125,000 El Paso school children in grades K-12. The goal of the USI Program is to "confront one of the most intractable education issues of our time – the disturbing and continuing performance gap between the mostly poor and predominantly minority children in the inner cities, and their largely white suburban counterparts," says Luther Williams, NSF's director for education and human resources.

Dr. Susana Navarro, director of the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, was named as the principal investigator. She says the NSF was impressed with the history of cooperation between the city's public schools, community college, university and business and civic community that resulted from the collaborative's efforts over the past three years, as well as the collaborative's focus on ensuring academic success for all students.

The El Paso initiative will be launched with an initial award of up to \$2 million for the first year. Teams of curriculum supervisors, teachers, and science and mathematics professionals will formulate strategies to develop new curriculum; build the school districts' capacity through intensive long-term professional

development; increase the use of technology in the classroom; change school and district policies and practices to facilitate reform; and redirect existing school district resources. A focus on increasing the number of fully certified math/science teachers prepared by UTEP is also part of the effort.

## UTEP TO TEAM WITH BOWIE HIGH TO BETTER SERVE IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

UTEP is the only Texas university receiving money from the Mellon Foundation in Washington, D.C., to evaluate the educational needs of the growing immigrant population in the border region. The university will share \$400,000 with organizations in two other Texas cities.

Dr. Margarita Calderón and Dr. John Peper of the Department of Educational Leadership will join with three graduate student assistants to study El Paso's Bowie High School and develop strategies for the school that will be implemented over the four-year funding period. Bowie was selected because it serves the largest number of immigrant students in the El Paso Independent School District.

"Immigrant children are newcomers to our area, and we cannot just be concerned with their academic performance," Calderón said. "We have to look into their social well-being, self-esteem and other needs, such as housing and jobs for their parents."

Calderón said developing a single course of action will be difficult because there are many different kinds of immigrant children – from the offspring of professional parents who enjoyed a comfortable living situation to children who have traveled alone to the United States from Central America and have to be placed in foster care.

Some of the goals of Mellon program, titled "Creative Collaborations: Empowering Immigrant Students and Families Through Education," will be to improve English language and literacy development, stress community involvement and encourage interaction with universities such as UTEP.



*Dr. Diana Natalicio, left, shares the good news about El Paso's receiving a \$15 million grant from the National Science Foundation with the media as El Paso Independent School District Supt. Stan Paz and El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence Director Susana Navarro look on.*



# ART FOR OUR SAKE

## EL PASO'S MEXICAN CONSULATE SHARES MEXICAN CULTURAL TREASURES WITH UTEP AND EL PASO

by M. A. Maier

Mexico and the United States, said the great Mexican poet Octavio Paz, "are going to be neighbors until this planet ceases to exist. Perhaps it's time to understand each other." While the 1990 Nobel Laureate has devoted a healthy portion of his eighty years to working toward that end through foreign service to his country, he believes most strongly in the power of art to unite people. In his words, "Imagination is the faculty of discovering the uniqueness of our fellow man."

In recent years, the Mexican Consulate General in El Paso has worked to nourish the imaginations, and thus the cultural understanding, of all of us here on the border through a number of Mexican art and cultural exhibits at the University of Texas at El Paso. With the establishment of the Consulate's new cultural center, *Centro Cultural Mexicano Paso del Norte*, by Consul General Armando Ortiz Rocha near the end of 1993, we've been given the chance to discover the uniqueness of Mexico with cultural opportunities never before afforded the El Paso/Juarez *frontera*.

"Mexico has a tremendous cultural richness," remarks UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "There's a great deal of interest in this community in knowing more about Mexican art and culture."

More interest than anyone could anticipate, judging from the April opening at UTEP's Centennial Museum of a traveling exhibit focusing on the life and art of Mexican master muralist, painter, and champion of the people Diego Rivera. The Mexican Consulate's *Centro Cultural Mexicano* arranged to bring this important exhibit to El Paso.

"I don't believe we've ever had this large a crowd [at an exhibit opening]," says Florence Schwein, director of the Centennial Museum. Schwein still sounds a little awed by the evening's events as she recalls, "We had food for 250 people; it was gone in less than an hour."



The Mexican Consulate General in El Paso brought an exhibit of the works of contemporary Mexican copper and silver craftsman Ignacio Punzo to the Centennial Museum.





*"The Abundance of the Earth," 1926-27, is from Diego Rivera's Chapingo Agricultural College Chapel murals.*



*Diego Rivera self-portrait, c. 1936.*



*Dr. Guadalupe Rivera, Diego Rivera's daughter, welcomed visitors to the "Encounter with Diego Rivera" show at its opening April 20.*

While the community's overwhelming enthusiasm could not have been fully anticipated, the museum staff was eagerly aware of the magnitude of the Rivera exhibit from the first whisper of possibility by Consul General Ortiz. Months of planning preceded the few, short days that Centennial Museum curator Scott Cutler had to unpack and mount the exhibit. As part of the show's contract, a museum employee from *Museo Estudio Diego Rivera* in Mexico City flew to San Antonio, where the exhibit was shown first, to help repack the show and accompany it to El Paso for unpacking.

Ultimately, El Paso's Rivera exhibit accomplished exactly what the sharing of art, and especially the art of Diego Rivera, is intended to accomplish: It brought together college students and grandmothers, children and regional leaders, El Pasoans and Juarenses. It gave young people wearing single earrings, ball caps, mini-skirts and high tops a chance to share ideas with long-time art patrons in silk suits and elegant dresses. And it gave those art patrons a chance to gain from the bright imaginings of eager students discovering a master for the first time.

Dr. Guadalupe Rivera, daughter of the renowned artist and a respected Mexican historian and economist in her own right, gave a lecture at UTEP on her father's art and politics, and later attended the exhibit's opening. She could easily have imagined her father smiling his wry approval of the event, for as she reported in her lecture, "Rivera [and his fellow revolutionary artists] repudiated the idea of art for art's sake . . . They felt art should belong to the general public."

Maria Delores Limongi, director of the *Centro Cultural Mexicano Paso del Norte*, points out the historical and social significance of Rivera's work:

"Rivera changed the style of painting in the world. He was the first in the world to make political murals," she says. "Thanks to Rivera, the poor people's needs are put in front of us forever."

Limongi has dealt in art all her life in Mexico, but as a cultural director for the Mexican government in the United States, her first concern now is education. Her goal is to interest all who attend an exhibit to the point that they will be inspired to learn more about Mexican art after seeing a show.

"An exhibit only for the sake of an exhibit is very sad," she explains. "What happens after? Nothing. I hope many people will gain the interest to investigate more about Rivera. This is exactly my intention with every exhibit — to get people to follow the idea further."

The Centennial Museum's Florence Schwein couldn't agree more.

"This is our most important role — to teach," says Schwein. "We'd like to have people coming not only to see what is already familiar to them, but to explore ideas and cultures that are different from their own."

Her wish list of visitors for the Rivera exhibit and future shows at UTEP's museum of natural and cultural history includes "each of the 17,000 students here at UTEP, and certainly all government officials and educators in the El Paso/Juarez metroplex, because they have the greatest influence on daily life in the community, and really all of El Paso and Juarez."

During the weeks after the opening reception for the Rivera exhibit, hundreds more visitors, as diverse as the opening crowds, formed a continuous stream flowing through the celebrated show. In the end, thousands of people had gathered to learn and imagine more about each other's lives and cultures.





Diego Rivera's "Blood of the Martyrs Fertilizing the Earth," 1926-27. The figure lying in the earth at left is Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata.

"In terms of a better understanding of our neighbors in Mexico, having the Diego Rivera show here was a real coup," says Schwein. "We don't normally have this type of opportunity, so it was extremely valuable to the community. With enough such experiences, we build a collective understanding of another culture."

Rivera's stature as an international master in the world of art can certainly account for much of the success of this most recent cultural exchange. But earlier exhibits brought to UTEP by the Mexican Consulate have also generated enthusiastic responses from the university and the community.

The Mexican Consulate, according to Limongi, feels a responsibility to provide as many of these cultural experiences as possible to Americans of Mexican heritage, while making Mexican culture and history more accessible to all Americans.

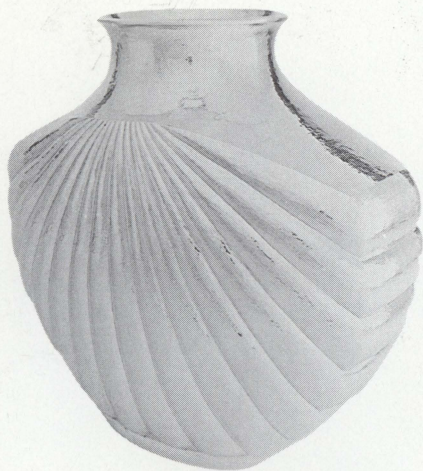
"People who are of Mexican heritage but are generations removed from Mexico need to know their heritage," she says. "It increases their self esteem to know their family's culture — their language, folklore and history." At the same time, Limongi adds, all Americans can gain from Mexican art, folklore and literature by including these in their broader sense of culture and history.

The first exhibit at UTEP under the auspices of the new *Centro Cultural Mexicano* was that of Ignacio Punzo, a contemporary silver and copper craftsman who accompanied his shimmering works to the Centennial Museum show. Punzo's work, a world away from that of Diego Rivera, helps to establish the tremendous breadth of Mexican art. For although he was born half a century after Rivera, Punzo uses a pre-Columbian technique to forge decorative vases and kettles out of solid blocks of copper or silver, a method that has ancient beginnings dating to the late stone age. From the famed Mexican copper-working village of Santa Clara del Cobre, where some 5,000 native craftspeople work as coppersmiths even today, the young Punzo has distinguished himself as an exceptional artist among a multitude of highly skilled artisans.

"Punzo is extraordinary," Florence Schwein explains. Her hands dance as she recalls the artist's UTEP visit. "His craftsmanship could stand up to any in the world. You have to say that his art jumps over all boundaries — social, political. Never mind that this person doesn't have formal training. These beautiful objects transcend it all."

In keeping with her desire to help exhibit viewers go beyond the initial viewing, cultural director Limongi is currently working toward the possibility of having Ignacio Punzo return to UTEP in the fall to present a workshop on his highly specialized metalworking technique.

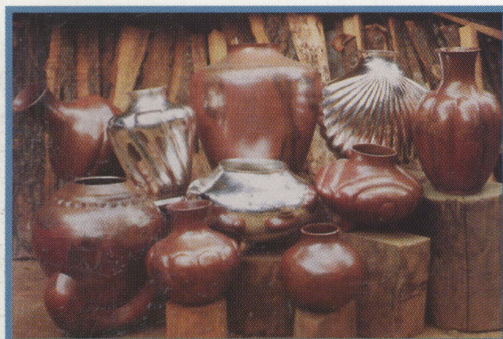




Craftsman Ignacio Punzo names each piece according to its form. He has done "Abanico" ("Fan") in both silver and copper.



Ignacio Punzo looks on as Mexican Consul General Armando Ortiz Rocha greets UTEP President Diana Natalicio at Punzo's exhibit.



Punzo crafts his works from solid blocks of copper or silver, which he and his helpers hammer by hand. Each piece may take up to a month to make.

The 1990s have been an especially fruitful time in UTEP's growing cultural partnership with Mexico. We've been reminded of the familiar and allowed to imagine the obscure with exhibits such as a Oaxacan village with authentic Zapotec musicians, a photo show by the famed female photographer Graciela Iturbide, and a delightful collection of hundreds of Mexican toys.

Dr. Natalicio sees this relationship as one of the unique advantages of being located in a city in which the Mexican government maintains a consulate.

"A partnership like this one provides us with access to opportunities that wouldn't otherwise be available to us," she says. "I'm very grateful to everyone at the Consulate for their spirit of cooperation."

What pleases both partners in this friendship is the growing appreciation, by the university community and El Pasoans as a whole, of the Mexican cultural treasures being shared. Limongi credits Consul General Ortiz's anticipation of this appreciation with his success in having El Paso named the only border city with a cultural center among Mexico's U.S. consulates. As she explains, "The people here welcome us. El Paso is a small city with a big, big heart."

It is this open heart that allows us to imagine, to dream. And as Octavio Paz reminds us in his poem "El cantaroto" ("The Broken Jar"), it is only through dreaming, as we do in creating art and sharing in it, that we begin to find the unique and the universal in humanity:

*Hay que dormir con los ojos abiertos, hay que soñar con las manos,  
soñemos sueños activos de río buscando su cauce, sueños de sol  
soñando sus mundos,*

*hay que soñar en voz alta, hay que cantar hasta que el canto eche  
raíces, tronco, ramas, pájaros, astros, . . .*

*hay que soñar hacia atrás, hacia la fuente, hay que remar siglos  
arriba,*

*más allá de la infancia, más allá del comienzo, más allá de las  
aguas del bautismo,*

*echar abajo las paredes entre el hombre y el hombre, . . .*

We have to sleep with open eyes, we must dream with our hands,  
let us dream active dreams of the river seeking its water  
course, dreams of the sun dreaming its worlds,

we have to dream aloud, we have to sing till the song throws out  
root, trunk, branches, birds, stars, . . .

we have to dream backward, toward the source, to row up the  
stream of the centuries,

beyond infancy, beyond the beginning, beyond the baptismal  
waters,

to tear down the walls between man and man . . . ■



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1855-1877



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