

Summer 1995

Nova Quarterly: The University of Texas at El Paso

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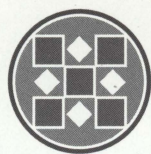
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NOVA

Q U A R T E R L Y
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



SUMMER • 1995



FROM THE EDITOR



EDITOR'S NOTE:

This issue features a guest editorial from UTEP President Diana Natalicio. The following are her comments reflecting on UTEP's Spring Commencement exercises, May 12, 1995.

UTEP's Spring 1995 Commencement ceremony was the largest we have ever conducted. Nearly 1,200 graduates received their diplomas, joined by an estimated 10,000 family members and friends who filled almost every seat in the Special Events Center. Undergraduate degrees were awarded to 128 students in engineering, 251 in business administration, 151 in education, 280 in liberal arts, 120 in nursing and health sciences, and 61 in science. At the graduate level, we granted 181 master's and three Ph.D. degrees.

Commencement clearly represents a major milestone in the lives of our graduates and their families. As they embark in new directions, they recognize the role that this university has played in creating opportunities for them to pursue their dreams and aspirations. I was particularly touched at this ceremony by the many students who, as I congratulated them, took a moment to say, "Thank you, Dr. Natalicio, for giving students like me an opportunity."

Who are these "students like me?" Some are traditional college students, but most are what are known as "non-traditional." They are men and women, young and not-so-young — but all clearly young at heart! They represent a broad range of ethnicities, races and socio-economic levels. A majority are from the El Paso-Juarez area, but others came long distances — from South Dakota to Southeast Asia — to study at UTEP. Some graduated in four years, others needed more time to complete their degrees, often because their class schedules had to be adjusted to accommodate a complex set of family and employment responsibilities. A majority are the first in their families to graduate from college. Some were valedictorians or salutatorians of their high school classes, and others came to UTEP less well-prepared for university-level work.

Despite these differences, the graduates who crossed the Special Events Center stage had one thing in common: the quality of education they received at UTEP. They leave here with confidence that their degrees will enable them to compete successfully with their counterparts from other universities throughout this country. Each of them has grown intellectually, socially and professionally. As a result of completing a UTEP degree, each graduate faces exciting new opportunities and each is better prepared to make a significant contribution to society.

UTEP faculty members take great pride in the fact that our graduates are recruited by the most prestigious graduate and professional schools and by a large number of employers, whose satisfaction with the quality of our graduates is confirmed by their eagerness to return to UTEP each year. UTEP's success in educating large numbers of non-traditional students is nationally recognized as a model that other universities will emulate in the future as student populations reflect changing U.S. demographic patterns.

So, as we applaud the achievements of the May 1995 UTEP graduates, we must also give a special round of applause to the faculty and staff members who demonstrate a commitment to providing quality education and to maximizing the potential of all students who come to us with their educational and career aspirations; faculty and staff members who know that not all human potential is successfully captured in standardized test scores, and who understand that creating a supportive environment for student learning does not mean lowering standards; faculty and staff members who understand the broad range of backgrounds and expectations that UTEP students bring to our campus.

Congratulations to the UTEP class of 1995 and to the scores of faculty and staff members who were their teachers, mentors and friends. We are immensely proud of all of you.

— Diana Natalicio, President

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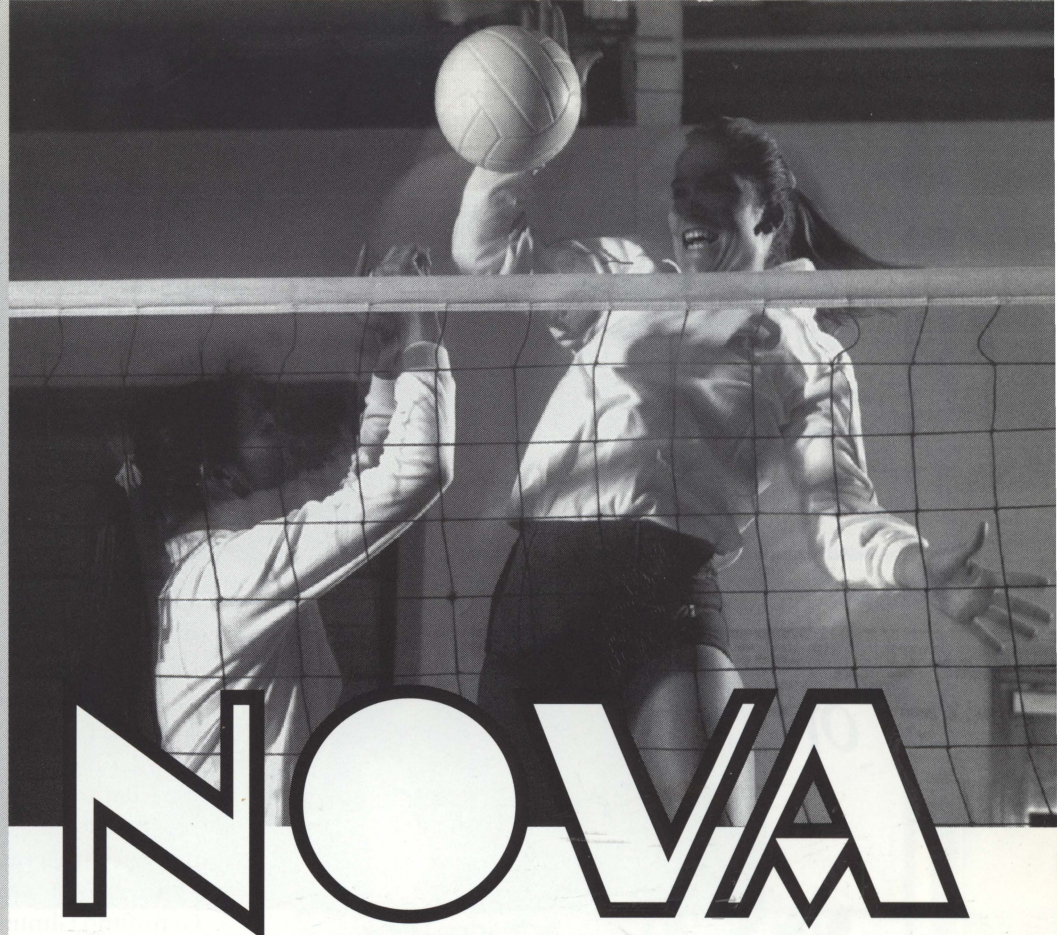
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Q U A R T E R L Y

ON THE COVER

*Graphic and photographic collage
depicting "UTEP's Opera on the
Border." Graphic illustration by John
Downey, photography by David Flores.
Cover model, Lilliana Sustaita.*

*Above right photo:
The Lady Miner volleyball team
participates in the toughest conference
in the country and has a 100 percent
graduation rate. (See story on page 14)*

FEATURES

Opera on the Border

By Marina Lee

2

Women's Sports at UTEP — Going Strong

By Frank de Santos

14

Shaping the Courtroom Verdict:

Social Scientists Transform Research into Testimony

By Christian Clarke

18

DEPARTMENTS

Highlights

6

Partners

8

Alumnews

9

Faculty Profile

13

Director's energy
and enthusiasm
inspire a resurgence
of international

Opera on The Border

by Marina Lee



The halls are alive with the sound of music. We're not talking any old music, but opera: one of the most complex of all art forms because it combines acting, singing, orchestral music, costumes, scenery and often ballet or some form of dance. From Magoffin Auditorium and the Fox Fine Arts Center on campus to the gymnasiums at Coronado, Jefferson and El Paso high schools, to the stage at the Chamizal National Memorial, El Paso has been treated to a bilingual resurgence of opera.

The excitement stems from the arrival of Victor Chacón, a native El Pasoan who returned home after a 25-year absence and hit the ground running. Barely two months after settling in at UTEP last summer as an associate professor of music and director of opera, Chacón directed the *zarzuela* (Spanish musical theater akin to operetta) *La Tempranica* for three performances at the Chamizal. A combination of students and community artists worked under his direction to present this simple tale of unrequited love written at the turn of the century by Spanish composer Geronimo Giminez.

Next came *The Face on the Barroom Floor*, a popular American contemporary opera commissioned and first performed in 1978 by the Central City Opera House Association at the Teller House Bar, Central City, Colo. A few weeks later, the UTEP Music Theater Workshop presented its annual fund-raiser, "An Evening of Opera," which included a medley selection from Rodgers and Hammerstein, arias from *Tosca* and *The Barber of Seville*, a scene from *The Magic Flute*, a quintet from *Carmen*, and more.

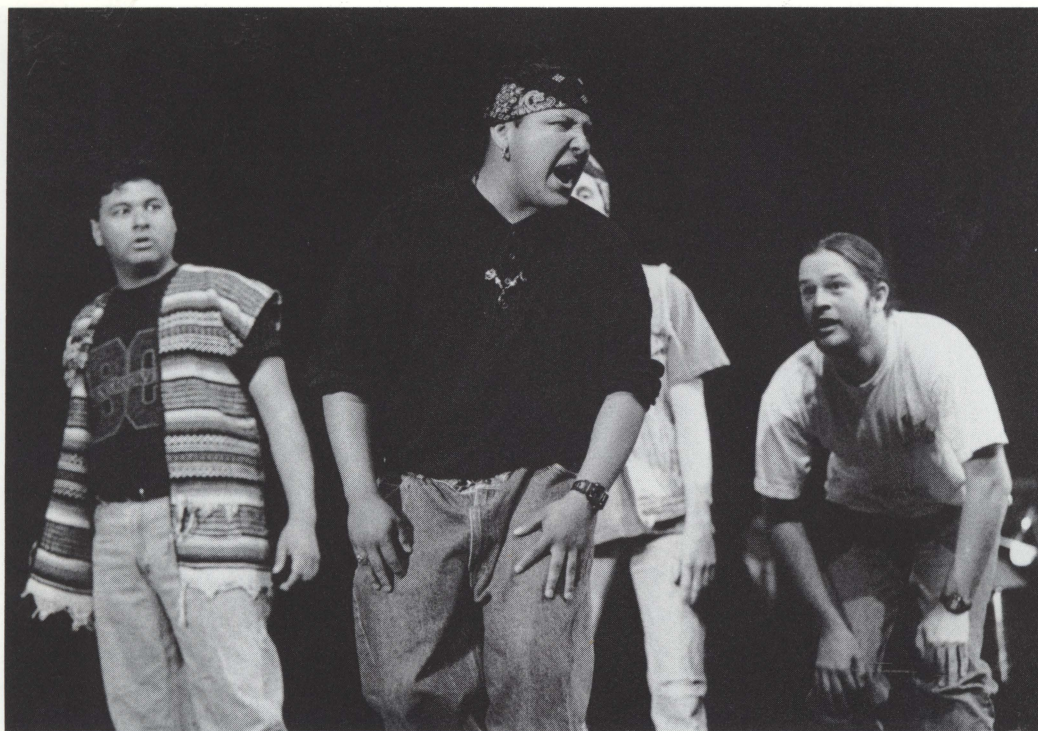
Quicker than you can say Gioachino Rossini, Chacón completed his first year as UTEP's first full-time director of opera. That coincided with his first term as president of the Festival Internacional de la Zarzuela in El Paso, for which he is currently preparing this summer's presentations.

Carl Jackson, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, lavished praise on the newest member of the music department staff.

"We're thrilled to have Dr. Chacón on board," Jackson said. "He brings expertise and experience to our faculty. Not only is he qualified, he has a lot of energy and enthusiasm."

Having attended Chacón's most recent production, *A Place to Call Home*, Jackson gave it two thumbs up.

"This was an opera about immigration and border issues; obviously very topical, and it was well done," Jackson said.



From left: Pedro Morales, Antonio Lozano, Stacy Sheridan and David Love perform in *A Place to Call Home* presented at El Paso High School.

Ron Hufstader, chairman of the UTEP music department, said the opera program has had its problems and seen many changes, but is now headed in the right direction.

"Opera is important to voice students, and it is important for orchestra students to have the exposure," Hufstader said. He added that because an opera director has so many responsibilities and wears so many hats, it has to be a full-time position.

Diana Natalicio, UTEP president and high priestess of persuasion, obviously considered all the angles when she convinced Chacón to return to El Paso. Indeed, his credentials are impressive. Chacón received his bachelor's degree from UTEP and master's degree in music from the University of Texas at Austin. His doctorate degree in music is from the University of Washington in Seattle. Bilingual in English and Spanish, fluent in Italian and literate in German and French, he has sung 24 leading operatic roles in their original language. As a professional baritone, he performed with the Santa Fe Opera Company, Houston Grand Opera and the Boise Opera. In addition to being on the creative side of the stage, Chacón has been on the marketing, promotional and business development side of the art as well.

Victor Chacón is as complex as his beloved opera. His office on the fourth floor of the Fox Fine Arts Building is decorated with posters of his favorite operas, including several commemorating some of his own productions. A baby grand piano is nestled in the corner. A framed embroidery work that reads "MUSIC IS LOVE IN SEARCH OF A WORD" faces his desk. Pictures of his family line a shelf. The phone rings often; students wander in; paperwork and files are neatly in order. He is articulate, gracious and talks a mile a minute. The wheels appear in constant motion.

Chacón says that while he misses the excitement of San Francisco and Seattle, he's delighted to be back in El Paso.

"I've seen many changes, but unfortunately a growth in the arts scene is just not there," Chacón said. "Being a border city is no excuse for not growing. El Paso is poised to change its image and I want to be part of that process."

"My heart is in opera. I've sung. I've taught. I've directed, produced and done a variety of administrative functions. I know it's possible to develop a program that's attractive to the El Paso community, that has a standard of excellence and that provides a healthy relationship between the audience and the performance."



Lilliana Sustaita performs the female lead in the opera, *A Place to Call Home*.

Chacón feels that a community this size can support a music theater and opera program. He added, "In terms of cultural events and arts-related activities, we need to upgrade. Local corporations have to realize that UTEP and our outreach to other organizations can provide the cultural atmosphere imperative to attracting businesses to our community."

Chacón has fans off campus as well as on. Gloria Lavis, director of development for The Opera Company (a newly formed organization which provides a scholarship for a UTEP opera student) said, "He is a lovely man and an asset to the school. I see him working hard and really relating to the students. He knows opera production, he understands the joy of students and I admire him and what he's doing."

Lavis added that she and Chacón sang opera together in the '60s at UTEP and have been friends and colleagues for many years.

While networking and expanding community horizons are vital to Chacón, he explained that his first mission is to train students.

"I love to see students grow. I want to help them develop skills as singers and actors, as well as opera performers," Chacón said. "My second mission is to upgrade the performances and repertoires here at UTEP and to include Spanish translations of traditional operas. Within five years, I'd like to do a full blown production of *Madame Butterfly* or *La Traviata*."

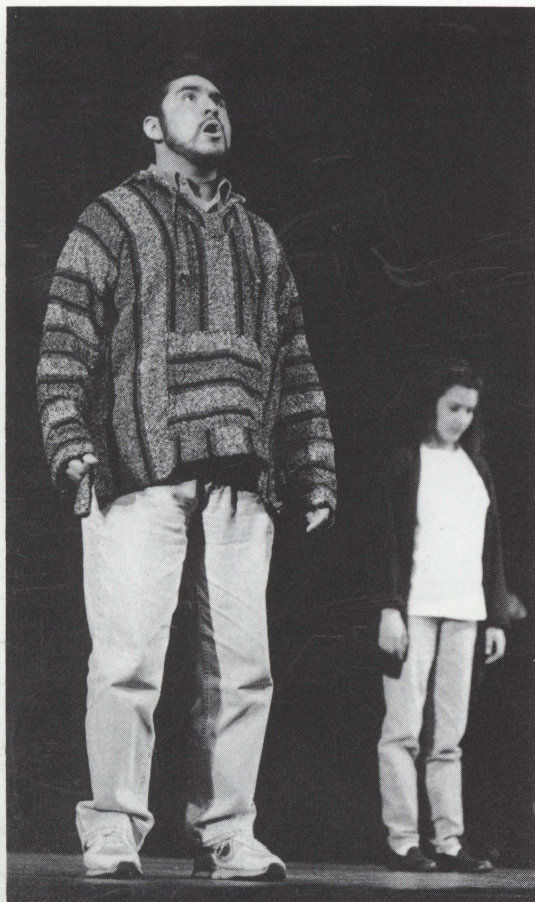
Bethany Ferguson, a 1994 Coronado High School graduate and vocal major at UTEP, said the music theater workshop class has not only been fun, but getting involved in the program made the transition from high school to college much easier.

"I've enjoyed singing in the chorus," Ferguson said. "I got to play the flute in *Barroom* and I danced in the *zarzuela*. I learned how the whole production is put together, plus I've made a lot of new friends."

Luis Chairez, a graduate of UTEP working toward his certification in music education, said, "I met Dr. Chacón a month after he got here and I've performed in every production since. I'm one of the older kids on the block — more seasoned — and my

*"I love to see students grow.
I want to help them develop
skills as singers and actors,
as well as opera performers."*

—Victor Chacón



Michael Hernandez performs the male lead in *A Place to Call Home*.

voice is more mature. It's been a great learning experience and I'm seeing opera in El Paso like I've never seen before.

"Chacón is a perfectionist and demanding, yet he'll allow you to seek out your own interpretation. It's creative, challenging and empowering."

Chairez especially enjoyed the fact that Chacón brought in the composer of "*Barroom*," Henry Mollicone, as a guest conductor and lecturer. Mollicone currently teaches at Santa Clara University in California and was an assistant to the late Leonard Bernstein.

Chairez said, "Bringing in composers and artists from out of town so that we can see and learn from them is invaluable."

Beginning his second year, Chacón states that his major difficulty is in getting funding.

"I've had to scale down productions because it's hard to find people to work for nothing or next-to-nothing," Chacón said. "The technical support — costumes, lights, sets — is a problem because of lack of budget. Word is getting out that the quality of production is there, so I'm hoping my fund-raising efforts will pay off."

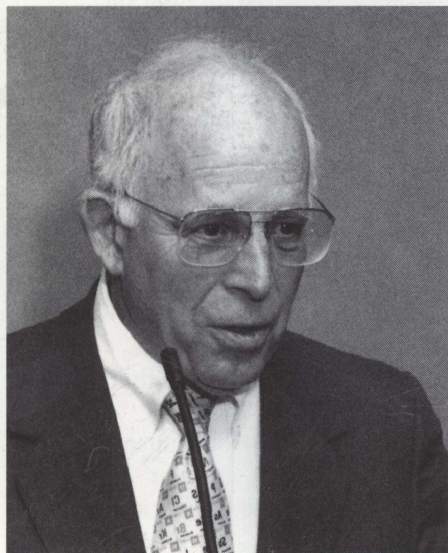
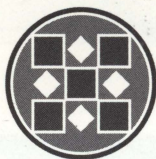
The bottom line is Victor Chacón is totally committed to his goals. One hall at a time, he wants them filled with superb performers and happy audiences.

"Great cities are known by their great art. I think it was Nixon who said that, and I agree."

Chacón was quick to point out that quoting Nixon does not in any way reflect his political attitude. His passion lies in Puccini, Plácido Domingo and Pergolesi. Make no mistake about that. ■

1995 International Festival de la Zarzuela
Chamizal National Memorial

- July 28 - *Los De Aragon*
- Aug. 4-6 - *La Dolorosa* - a bilingual music company from New York is being imported to present this zarzuela
- Aug. 11-13 - *La Del Soto Del Parral*



John H. Gibbons

JOHN H. GIBBONS SPEAKS AT UTEP

John H. Gibbons, assistant to President Bill Clinton for science and technology, was the keynote speaker for "Science in the National Interest," a regional conference held May 4 at UTEP.

Top U.S. analysts and leaders from industry, academia and government gathered to discuss the nation's science policies and to discuss the Office of Science and Technology Policy's recent report "Science in the National Interest."

Speeches were given by key players in the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy and NASA. The conference also focused on analyzing policies to enhance science education and scientific literacy.

UTEP was chosen as one of four academic sites nationally to host a series of science and technology working conferences. Their purpose was to discuss and

set policies that will enhance and raise science and technology literacy in secondary and higher education institutions.

STUDENT-PRODUCED VIDEO UNITES GENERATIONS

An intergenerational project at UTEP has brought together younger and older students in the creation of a documentary video focusing on UTEP's Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL).

Students in UTEP's Department of Communication television production class and retired individuals at the university's CLL worked together to create a 20-minute video about the center.

CLL is an educational program of UTEP's Division of Professional and Continuing Education that offers people ages 50 and older the opportunity to explore new subjects in special classes given at the university.

The students involved in the video project got to know their senior counterparts at CLL as they filmed classes and interviewed participants.

The video premiered at the CLL's annual meeting May 4 in the Tomás Rivera Conference Center, followed by a Union Dinner Theater performance of *Oklahoma*.

The video will be distributed to libraries, community recreation centers and retirement homes to inform the community about the opportunities CLL provides. It will also be shown at regional senior learning conferences as a model for new senior learning programs.

Ruth Taber, public relations

director of the CLL, says of the video project: "The students were amazed that we (CLL participants) wanted to go to school. I think they have a new appreciation of older people and senior learning — that learning is something we want to do."

UTEP's Center for Lifelong Learning is the largest in Texas and has served as a model for many of the more than 200 senior learning programs in colleges and universities across the United States.

UTEP AWARDED GRANT TO ENHANCE TEACHER PREPARATION

UTEP was awarded a \$4.6 million grant from the National Science Foundation to prepare teachers for certification in math and science at all levels, and to revise the university's current math and science education curriculum.

The El Paso Partnership for Excellence in Teacher Preparation, a collaborative among UTEP's colleges of education and science and the El Paso Community College, received one of only six grants awarded nationally by NSF's Division of Undergraduate Education.

The five-year grant will enable the partnership to recruit and offer financial assistance to students, particularly minorities, interested in becoming science and math teachers.

The partnership will also focus on the revision of math, science and education core curricula for prospective teachers, provide

support for new math and science teachers as they enter the public schools, and enhance the teaching skills of education, math and science faculty at UTEP and EPCC.

"This grant is the result of over 9 months of work by faculty from UTEP and EPCC and will allow us to very carefully re-examine the way we train potential teachers," Jack Bristol, dean of UTEP's College of Science said. "It will allow us to produce teachers who will inspire our future students to excel in math and science, so by about 2010, the majority of our students will be prepared for college-level math and science, and we should need very few remedial classes."

AMP STUDENTS MAKE CAPITOL PRESENTATION

Four UTEP students presented their research and success stories in a poster session at the Texas State Capitol Rotunda April 6 as part of a program designed to increase the number of minorities graduating from baccalaureate programs in science, engineering and math.

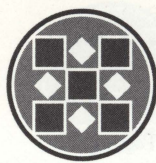
Twenty-six students representing the Alliance for Minority Participation programs in the UT System and the Texas A&M System presented posters illustrating the results of their AMP participation in conjunction

with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's 11th annual Minority Recruitment and Retention Conference. The session was coordinated by UTEP, the lead institution in the University of Texas System AMP program.

UTEP science and engineering students José Alonso, Estrella Anchondo, Servando Rojas and Monica Rosales were among the students selected to present posters. El Paso Community College students Jeffrey Rivas and Monica Hernandez also presented posters as participants in a bridge program between the community college and UTEP.



Students involved in the Alliance for Minority Participation programs in the University of Texas System and the Texas A&M System gathered at the Texas State Capital Rotunda April 6 for a poster session coordinated by UTEP to present their research and success stories. AMP is a minority recruitment program designed to increase the number of underrepresented minority students in science, engineering and math at the university level.



If the University of Texas at El Paso had godparents, they surely would be Judson and Jackie Williams.

Indeed, like family, the Williamses have steadfastly helped nurture the university for some 55 years.

"While fortunate to have people who come forth and serve UTEP for a while and then move on, once in a while, we have people like Jackie and Judson who have served UTEP for a lifetime," said Don Henderson, UTEP Development Board chairman and former El Paso mayor. "They have served with their time, and also their money, to make the university a better place. Since they first came to the university as teachers, they have certainly made a UTEP degree mean so much more."

Mr. and Mrs. Williams have made numerous contributions to the university such as those to the College of Business, Centennial Museum, Miner Miracle Fund and UTEP Library. Judson is also a UTEP Development Board member.

The Williamses' commitment to UTEP's academic excellence and to each other reaches back to the World War II era when the university was known as the Texas College of Mines.

The year was 1940 and Jackie, a talented pianist, was teaching in the college's music department and Judson was a university administrator. At the school's faculty formal that fall, he asked for a dance, then for a date. By the following summer, they were married.

Shortly after their wedding, Jackie left the university, but continued to teach music privately and served as the choir director at Temple Mount Sinai and the First Presbyterian Church.

Judson, meanwhile helped the university through a critical period marked by the influx of returning World War II veterans and the name



JUDSON AND JACKIE WILLIAMS

by Timi Haggerty

change in 1949 to Texas Western College.

During his tenure at the university, Judson's duties were as diverse as his talents. He helped put the institution on the map by serving as director of public relations and writing daily press releases to El Paso newspapers. He convinced Virgil Hicks from KTSM Radio to head the school's radio program. He also managed the university's band and the Goldiggers. He served as dean of students, founder and chairman of the communications department and assistant to the president.

Throughout the years, Jackie continued to be one of UTEP's most loyal benefactors. Whenever help was needed, she was there to lend a strong and capable hand. With her husband, she became a fixture at many university events.

Judson's contributions to UTEP were unmatched at the time of his retirement from the institution in 1956.

Such was his dedication to the university that in 1963, Judson was

appointed chairman of Mission '73, one of the most ambitious and important projects Texas Western College ever requested of a citizens group. This initiative developed a plan to help guide the institution's progress through that decade.

Judson's community involvement also included an unprecedented three terms as mayor of El Paso and participation in various local business and civic organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce. As mayor, Judson signed the treaty establishing the Chamizal National Memorial and led the development of the El Paso Civic Center.

The Williamses' influence is still keenly felt at UTEP. There's practically no university event that the Williamses have not attended. Practically no university project or cause they have not supported.

"Dr. Williams has helped us from every vantage point — from being a counselor and mentor to students, many of whom are today's community leaders, to being a major donor and fundraiser, and by offering his knowledge and political savvy to university presidents over the years," said Jan Cavin, director of Development and Alumni Affairs. "And in every regard, Jackie's commitment has always paralleled his. Between the two of them, they've been UTEP."

For his service to UTEP, Judson was awarded the university's Medalion of Merit in 1967. In 1986, he received *El Gran Paseño* Award, the highest honor given to university patrons.

"More loyal supporters of UTEP would be hard to find. We all appreciate greatly Judson and Jackie's active participation in UTEP's many events and their abiding support for all we do," UTEP President Diana Natalicio said.



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, TX 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.

MINERPALOOZA 1995

Make plans to attend Minerpalooza on August 26 (formerly known as the Annual Back-to-School Picnic).

The late afternoon/evening event will take place in the center of campus and will consist of food (pack a picnic or create your feast from a wide variety of food booths), activities for adults and children, and live entertainment. Come celebrate with alumni and friends the start of the fall season and a new academic year! For more information, call the Alumni Office at 747-5533.

1995 TOP TEN SENIORS

With great pride, the Alumni Association is pleased to present the 1995 Top Ten Seniors. The graduating seniors selected for this annual honor exemplify academic and leadership excellence and an uncommon commitment to involvement in the campus and the community.

ARMANDO ALEJANDRO BARRON

A civil engineering major with a 4.0 GPA, Armando Barron enhanced his college career by meeting people, volunteering and helping others succeed. He is the recipient of numerous scholarships including the GEM Engineering Fellowship, the UTEP Presidential Excellence Scholarship and the American Institute of Steel Construction Scholarship. He is active in the Mexican American Society of Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers. He also participated in the Mini-Baja competition.

ROBERT CRAIG COLLINS

Named to the Dean's List, Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities and as an Academic All-American Scholar, Robert Collins is a computer information systems major with a 3.54 GPA. Collins, who credits his academic success to his wife, Susan, actively participated in numerous campus organizations such as Alpha Chi National Honor Society, Tau Theta Mu Honor Society, Data Processing Management Association, Golden Key and the Leadership Development Program.

PATRICIA MARIE CORONADO

An individual who overcame a learning disability, Coronado is an accounting major with a 3.92 GPA. She is the recipient of numerous scholarships including the American Society of Women Accountants Scholarships, the State Farm Scholar-

ship and the Orton Dyslexia Society Scholarship. In 1992, Coronado was named the Outstanding Junior Student by the accounting department. She was a member of Beta Alpha Psi, Golden Key and the Accounting Society.

JAMES JOSEPH JANCU

Graduating with a UTEP honors degree in creative writing, Jancu has a 3.77 GPA. He received a Houston Endowment Scholar and DeGroat Outstanding Senior Scholarship. He was a member of Who's Who, Mortar Board Senior National Honor Society, Alpha Chi National Honor Society and Golden Key. Jancu, who credits his grandmother, grandfather and mother for his academic success, was a student intern with Electronic Data Systems in London in 1993.

JEANETTE CHRISTINE JOHNSON-LICON

A political science and philosophy major, Jeanette Johnson-Licon is an individual motivated by a commitment to service that was instilled in her by her parents. This commitment is reflected through her involvement in community organizations such as the Texas Rural Legal Aid, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, La Mujer Obrera and Habitat for Humanity. Named the Outstanding Senior in Political Science, Licon also received the Tutoring & Learning Center Lifetime Achievement Award. Graduating with a 3.82 GPA, she plans to attend Duke University to pursue a master's degree in public policy.

LARA LEE LANDECK

A political science major with a 4.0 GPA, Landeck is the recipient of numerous scholarships including the Houston Endowment Honors Award and the Lucille T. Stevens Presidential

Scholarship. An All-American Scholar, she participated in several campus organizations including University Honors Council, Pi Sigma Alpha and Golden Key. Landeck plans to enter graduate school and pursue a degree in policy research and public administration.

EDWARD JOHN ROBLEDO

Robledo entered UTEP in 1992 after completing four years of service in the U.S. Air Force. Graduating with a 4.0 GPA in mechanical engineering, Robledo received the Union Pacific Foundation and John Hancock Scholarship. He was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Alpha Chi Honor Society and Pi Tau Sigma Honor Society. Robledo plans to enter the U.S. Navy Nuclear Propulsion School.

JAMES A. SMASH

After 15 years in the Army, James Smash returned to UTEP. A psychology major with a 3.45 GPA, Smash's many honors include Men and Women of Mines and Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. He served as president of the Black Students' Coalition and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and is the co-author of a proposal to create an African American Center. As the editor of the campus newspaper, *The Prospector*, Smash represented UTEP at the White

House where he met with President Bill Clinton and other key officials.

LEANDRO VALENZUELA

An accounting major, Leandro Valenzuela is a member of Golden Key, Alpha Chi National Honor Society and the University Honors Program. Other organizations he participated in include the Data Processing Management Association, Honorary Management Fraternity and the Professional Business Fraternity. Valenzuela showed his love of music by participating in the University Marching Band, University Wind Ensemble, Marimba Pops and the University Symphony Orchestra Concerto. He credits his father's love, support and encouragement for his accomplishments.

LILIANA WOO

Woo is the first UTEP student to be admitted to Harvard Medical School. She is a recipient of numerous outstanding student awards including Men and Women of Mines and top member of the Medical Professions Organizations. Woo is a microbiology major with a 3.98 GPA. She participated in campus organizations such as Alpha Epsilon Delta and Alpha Chi Honor Society and worked at the Southwest Center of Cyanobacterial Research. Woo credits her mother's endless support and motivation for her academic success.

CHAPTER NEWS

•North Texas

The North Texas Chapter will hold its annual meeting and elect new officers in September. For more information about this meeting or upcoming chapter events, contact Robert Jimenez, chapter president, at (241) 506-0456.

•Los Angeles/Orange County

Congratulations to the following new officers of the Los Angeles/Orange County Chapter: Richard Bengsten, president, and Sal Holguin, vice president. Re-elected were Lou Moreno as treasurer and Martha Woelfle as secretary. Activities in the works include summer picnics at Laguna Beach and Long Beach, plus a couple of trips to watch the Miners play Arizona State University in September and Tulsa (UTEP's Homecoming game) in October. For more information about upcoming chapter events, contact Martha Woelfle at (714) 827-0586 or Lou Moreno at (310) 433-3998.

•San Antonio

Congratulations to the officers of the recently established San Antonio chapter: Ralph Murillo, president; Joe Loya, vice president; Rita Salinas, secretary; Leo Sanchez, treasurer; and Angelica Loya, social committee chair. Chapter members are moving ahead full force on numerous projects including the creation of a chapter scholarship. Area alumni interested in joining the San Antonio chapter may contact Ralph Murillo at (210) 229-5924.

•Houston, San Diego, San Francisco

UTEP alumni chapters are underway in Houston, San Diego and San Francisco. For more information about alumni activities in these areas, contact:

Charlie Smith, Houston	(713) 495-0514
Emma Ciriza, San Diego	(619) 234-4220
Charlie Brown, San Francisco	(510) 548-5848

"FOLLOW THE MINERS" TO ARIZONA

Follow the Miners to Tempe, Ariz. this fall to watch the football team take on the Arizona State University Sun Devils. The two-night, three-day event begins with a departure at 5:15 p.m. on Friday, September 8, and ends with the return trip at 3:55 p.m. on Sunday, September 10. Priced at approximately \$300 per person (double occupancy), the package includes airfare, hotel, football tickets, ground transportation and a pre-game reception. For an additional charge, a Saturday morning golf or shopping option may be added to your weekend package. Don't delay. To confirm your reservation, a \$100 deposit per person is due July 21. The remaining balance is due August 1. Cancellations received after August 15 are subject to a \$50 per person penalty.

Make plans now to join alumni, students and friends for a fun-filled weekend under the hot Arizona sun. For additional information or to make your reservations, call the Alumni Office at (915) 747-5533.

1995 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Aug. 26	Minerpalooza: Annual Picnic
Sept. 7	Fall Convocation
Sept. 9	"Follow the Miners" to Tempe
	UTEP vs. Arizona State
Sept. 16	Football Pregame Party
	UTEP vs. Valdosta State
Sept. 30	Football Pregame Party
	UTEP vs. Utah
Oct. 9-14	Homecoming Week
Oct. 13	Distinguished Alumnus Award Reception
Oct. 14	Homecoming Pregame Party
	UTEP vs. Tulsa
Oct. 21	Football Pregame Party
	UTEP vs. Wyoming
Oct. 28	Football Pregame Party
	UTEP vs. San Diego State
Nov. 18	Football Pregame Party
	UTEP vs. New Mexico
Nov. 28	Season of Lights Ceremony
Dec. 15	Fall Commencement

NOTE: Pregame parties are held at the Alumni Lodge before each home game and are open to all Association members and friends. Please call the Lodge at 747-5533 for more information or to RSVP.

FORMER MINER ATHLETES: STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

Did you participate in football, basketball, track and field, cross country, tennis, golf, volleyball or rifle while a student of TCM, TWC, or UTEP? If so, we want to hear from you. Please complete and send us the following:

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Maiden/Previous Name(s) _____
 Years attended _____ Graduation Date _____
 Degree/Major _____
 Sport(s) and year(s) of participation _____

Mail form to: The University of Texas at El Paso
 Development/Alumni Office
 El Paso, TX 79968-0524

CLASS NOTES

by Jean Johnston

30s ▼

Sheldon P. Wimpfen (B.S.'34) is the author of *Tin Peaks and Silver Streams*. His book was recently accepted into the "Twentieth Century Western Mining Series" of the Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley.

40s ▼

Mago Orono Gandara (B.A.'49), a prolific painter, sculptor and muralist, has earned a regional reputation for creating contemporary murals in mosaic. She uses fragments of brightly colored glass, tile and other materials as a painter would use paint. Her work has been shown in Juarez, Mexico, Houston, New York, Dallas and Washington D.C. She studied under Urbici Soler, the sculptor who created the Cristo Rey monument.

50s ▼

Hughes (B.S.'54) and **Sharon Butterworth** have received the 32nd annual Humanitarian Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. They were selected for the regional award for promoting greater understanding among all religious, racial and economic sectors in El Paso and increasing awareness of issues facing youths in the area.

60s ▼

Nolan Richardson (B.A.'65), the 1994 distinguished alumnus who led Arkansas to the NCAA basketball championship last season, won the U.S. Basketball Writers' Most Courageous Award. The award is presented for "extraordinary courage reflecting honor on the sport of amateur basketball." Nolan was selected by the national media group for having overcome hardships ranging from racial prejudice to the death of his young daughter from leukemia.

Lupe Casillas Lowenberg (B.A.'66) was recently named to the El Paso Hall of Fame by the Commission for Women. She is an art teacher, painter and muralist who is trained in art education, counseling and psychology.

Betty Jackson Phillips (B.S.'66; M.Ed.'71), senior counselor at Santa Teresa High School, retired in June after 29 years in the Gadsden Independent School District in New Mexico. She began her career in 1966 as a seventh-grade teacher at Gadsden Junior High School. In 1975, Phillips left the classroom to become a counselor.

John Boice (B.S.'67) was awarded the 1994 E.O. Lawrence Award by Secretary of Energy Hazel R. O'Leary. Boice received his award in the Life Sciences category for his contributions to the epidemiology of radiation-induced cancer in populations exposed to medical, occupational, military and environmental radiation. Boice received a gold medal and \$10,000. Following his graduation from UTEP, Boice earned his M.S. degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and his Sc.D. degree from Harvard University.

Raymond Ybarra (B.A.'68) was recently appointed director of the regional office of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a United Nations specialized agency located in Mexico City. Prior to this promotion, Ybarra was the ICAO deputy director in Mexico City and the Federal Aviation Administration representative for South America.

Johnny Lee Smith (B.B.A.'69) has retired after 28 years with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

He worked as a support employee for the FBI in El Paso before serving as a special agent in Kansas City, San Francisco and Las Vegas. He and his wife plan to retire in Las Vegas.

70s ▼

Pete Payan (B.B.A.'71), senior vice president and controller at State National Bank, was elected 1995 board president for the El Paso Ronald McDonald House.

Buena T. Milson (B.S.Ed.'72; M.Ed.'75) was recently named by the El Paso Commission for Women to the city's Hall of Fame. "Dusty," as she is affectionately known, has been a supportive force behind the growth of the Insights Science Museum. **Robert Amezcua** (B.S.E.E.'73) is general manager of Personal Communicating Systems for the IBM PowerPersonal Systems Division.

Patsy Launspach (B.S.'74), librarian at Indian Ridge Middle School, has been named the Border Regional Librarian of the Year for 1994 by the Border Regional Library Association.

Luis Herrera (B.S.'75) has been appointed director of library and information services for the city of Pasadena, Calif. Prior to his appointment, he served as deputy director of the San Diego Public Library.

Ron Gillis (B.M.'79) returned to El Paso to direct The Bruce Nehring Consort Singers and members of the Gilbert and Sullivan Company in "The Charm of Gilbert and Sullivan." This performance was a tribute to **Joan Quarm** (retired UTEP faculty member), who founded the Gilbert and Sullivan Company in El Paso 25 years ago.

Ruben Ponce, Jr. (B.S.C.E.'79), president of Ponce Engineering, Inc., has been selected as Engineer of the Year by the El Paso Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers. Ruben has worked with the American Society of Civil Engineers and the David Carrasco Job Corps Center. He is also a member of the El Paso Building Board of Appeals and vice president of the Vista Hills Lions Club.

80s ▼

Rafael Adame (B.B.A.'80) has been named vice president of sales and marketing for Rio Grande ComputerLand.

Antoinette Denise Graves (B.S.Ed.'80) has been appointed assistant principal at St. Amant High School in St. Amant, La., where she had been a physical education teacher and a track and basketball coach for fourteen years. Graves received her master's degree in education from Louisiana State University. She is also a sponsor of Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Robert Ruelas (attended UTEP '81-'82) has been named business unit executive for IBM's General Business Marketing in Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas.

Jane Hiles (B.A.'82; M.A.'87) has been awarded the 1995 James Woodall Prize for teaching innovation by the Association of College English Teachers of Alabama. Hiles received her doctorate in English from Emory University in Atlanta. She is an assistant professor of English at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Felipa Solis (B.A.'83) was named the Texas General Land Office's marketing specialist for the El Paso area by Texas Land Commissioner Gary Mauro. Solis is a former broadcaster and has also served as press representative for the Texas Senate, Texas Attorney General's Office and the El Paso Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Michele Mareski-Diaz (B.B.A.'86), director of Physician Recruitment/Network Development for Columbia Healthcare, has passed the national

certification examination for medical staff recruitment.

Mary B. Stevens (M.A.'87) was recently named to the El Paso Hall of Fame by the Commission for Women. Stevens is an accounting instructor at UTEP and also serves students as an internship coordinator, VITA coordinator and faculty advisor to the national Beta Alpha Psi.

90s ▼

Melissa Yvonne Macias (B.S.'90) is a fifth-year student in the Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She has worked on research experiments in muscular atrophy, which have been part of Columbia space shuttle missions.

Carlos L. Olivo, 1st Lt., U.S.M.C. (B.A.'91), is serving a 6-month deployment to the Mediterranean and Adriatic Seas. He is one of 2,000 Marines who are deployed with the 3-ship USS Nassau Amphibious Ready Group off the coast of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Tony Tolbert (B.S.'92) signed a five-year, \$15 million contract with the Dallas Cowboys. Tolbert was with the Miners in 1988 when they had a 10-2 record season and had their first bowl appearance since 1967. He was drafted by the Cowboys in 1989 and is one of the team's most prolific producers of tackles and quarterback sacks.

OBITUARIES

Elroy R. Esparza (B.S.E.E.'62) January 7, 1995. He was staff engineer and test director for a group that launched experimental satellites for NASA and the military. He was retired from Lockheed Missiles Land Space Company. Survivors include his wife, Celia Esparza, of Sunnyvale, Calif.

Husta Landers (B.S.'79) January 22, 1995, in Goppingen, Germany. Landers received her master's degree in education in Albuquerque, N.M. She taught at schools in Austin, Texas and Vicenza, Italy. Survivors include her mother, Merle Landers, and two sons, Gregory and David Rudes.

Maria Margarita Burciaga (B.S.'73) February 8, 1995. Born in El Paso, she was a long-time teacher at Zach White Elementary School, where she received the Teacher-of-the-Year award. She also headed the Spanish Department at Morehead Junior High School, was active with the Rosa Guerrero International Folklorico and Viva El Paso, and president of the V.I.P. Guild. She is survived by two sons and several sisters and brothers.

William George Fikani (B.B.'50) February 11, 1995. A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, Fikani was an active member of the UTEP Alumni Association from 1967 - 1993. He is survived by a brother, sister and several nieces and nephews.

Paul Poe Mustain (B.S.'46) February 12, 1995. A lifelong resident of El Paso, he had retired from Chevron, Inc., as operations superintendent after 38 years. He was a partner in Di-Te Hog Farm in Chaparral, N.M. Survivors include his wife, Billie, two daughters, a son, and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Jeannette Erin Bridler (B.A.'68) February 18, 1995. Assistant Director of the News and Information Office (now News and Publications) at UTEP before her retirement in 1987, she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority, the UTEP Women's Auxiliary and the Sungold Chapter of the Sweet Adelines. Bridler was a Sun Princess in 1945 and 1946. She served as chairman of the Rio Grande Council Girl Scout Cookie Drive for several years. She is survived by her husband, William, seven children, several grandchildren and a great granddaughter.

Leonard A. (Nardo) Goodman, Jr. (Attended TCM)

February 22, 1995, in Akumal, Quintana Roo, Mexico. Goodman was an infantry officer in the Pacific Theatre during World War II and received a B.S. degree from the Wharton School of Finance in 1943. After being recalled to serve during the Korean War, Goodman became an agent for the John Hancock Life Insurance Company. He was past president of United Way, El Paso Museum of Art Association, State National Bank, YMCA, Associates of the UTEP Library and the Paso Del Norte Jewish Historical Society. He had also been a director of the El Paso Electric Company and a member of the Catholic Diocese of El Paso Finance Committee and the UTEP President's Associates. Goodman is survived by his wife, Eleanor Kohlberg Goodman, and several children.

Francisco Licon (B.A.'39) February 24, 1995. A veteran of World War II, Licon was a member of VFW Post, serving as post surgeon for District #10. A well known family practice doctor and general surgeon, he was active in numerous community service organizations. Working with LULAC, Licon helped to raise scholarship funds for Hispanic youths. A member of the Matrix Society, he became a Golden Graduate in 1989. Survivors include his wife, Lilia, and several children and grandchildren. **Martha DuSang** (B.A.'67) March 3, 1995. A long-time resident of El Paso, she was a homemaker and member of Phi Mu Sorority and A.J. Chapter of P.E.O. Survivors include a daughter, a son, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Joe Sides (B.A.'36) March 15, 1995. Sides was a long-time member of El Paso Lodge #130, El Paso Kiwanis Club, and Trinity Methodist Church. Prior to his death, he had been recognized as the oldest living graduate of the College of Mines. He is survived by two daughters, two brothers, three sisters, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

John A. Hollowell (B.B.A.'75) March 31, 1995. He was marketing and underwriting manager for J. Paul Henderson Insurance Co. and served in the U.S. Navy from 1961-63. As a student at UTEP, he was president of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. Survivors include his wife, Jean, and their two children.

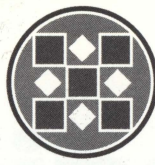
Robert Gael Strawn (B.B.A.'71) April 6, 1995. A resident of El Paso since 1969, he was a World War II veteran and retired as a Lt. Colonel from the U.S. Air Force. Strawn worked for the El Paso Civic Center as an accountant. Survivors include his wife, Evelyn, two sons and two daughters.

Catherine Failla McCoy (B.A.'69) April 7, 1995. Born in St. Louis, Mo., she was a resident of El Paso since 1957. She retired from the El Paso Natural Gas Company in 1983 and was a member of Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Survivors include her husband, David, and son, Brian.

Estrella Fernandez Calderon (M.Ed.'60) April 17, 1995. A lifelong resident of El Paso, she retired after 30 years as a teacher and V.O.E. coordinator in the El Paso Independent School District. Survivors include her husband, Pablo, two sons and a daughter.

Felie R. Truitt (B.A.'53; M.Ed.'60) April 30, 1995. A veteran of the U.S. Army, he was a student teacher supervisor with UTEP and had served as a principal for 20 years at Burleson Elementary School. Survivors include his wife, Lucille, a son and two daughters.

William F. Glass (B.A.'51) April 30, 1995. Born in Lorraine, Texas, he was president of Casey and Glass Construction Company, Inc., a business he founded in 1964. He was president and longtime member of the Associated General Contractors of America. Survivors include his wife, Helen, two daughters and a son.



FACULTY PROFILE

To Roy Malpass, it's the details that really matter.

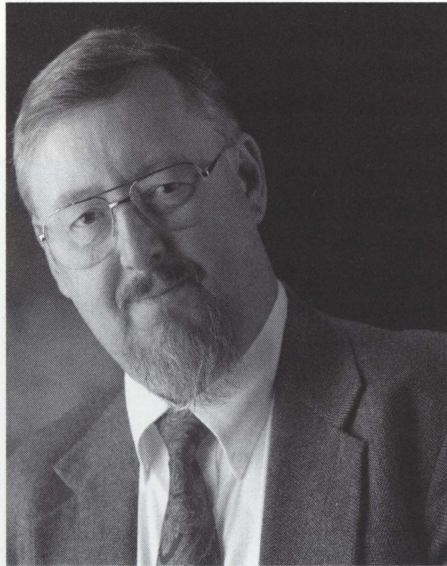
Ask him what he likes to do and Malpass won't simply say boating. Instead he will paint an elaborate picture of himself paddling his Adirondack guideboat, painted Winslow Homer blue (from Homer's painting "The Blue Boat"), away from the dock that is a part of his summer home on a peaceful lake in upstate New York.

Details have been the basis of Malpass' career. The professor of psychology and director of the criminal justice program came to UTEP in 1992 after nearly 25 years of putting together the details of cross-cultural research in psychology with the details of psychology and the law.

This important combination has led to Malpass' current status as a leading international expert on cross-racial facial recognition and eye-witness identification. It has also proved to be a perfect fit for UTEP's new psychology doctoral program and the multidisciplinary criminal justice program as well.

"UTEP was doing a national search for me, and they found me," Malpass said with a laugh. "They wanted someone in the psychology department to be part of their cross-cultural research, and the other thing they wanted was someone to direct the criminal justice program. Since there's hardly anybody else in the world who has that combination of things, that's why I say they were conducting a national search for me."

His willingness to learn from anyone or anything with something to teach has led Malpass to the important discoveries of his research career. Perhaps the greatest of these to date came early on, in the spring of 1968, when he and a friend were working with an activist group in Champaign, Ill.,



ROY MALPASS

"...to feel the great forces that are behind every detail"

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

by M. A. Maier

training black applicants to take exams for positions on the segregated police and fire departments of the community. When he noticed one essential detail — that an important part of the police exam involved identifying white faces from a group of mug shots — Malpass turned immediately to his academic training and began a search of the literature on cross-racial identification to prove that the use of all white faces biased the exam against applicants of other races.

To his surprise, no literature existed on the subject.

"That summer, we did the first research on the topic. I had a student who went to Howard University, where an old graduate school friend of mine was. We were able to collect data both at a predominantly black and a predominantly white institution, so

we nailed it. That was really exciting," Malpass said.

The psychologist's first experience presenting expert testimony before a judge offered him another valuable learning experience. The judge refused to allow the testimony to go to the jury, saying he failed to see the relevance of the faces Malpass flashed on a screen to what happened to some poor guy outside a bar at 2 a.m.

"I went home and did the first of a series of very realistic eye-witness identification studies," Malpass said. "It was really the judge's comment that got me from face recognition to eye-witness memory."

Today Malpass teaches a graduate course in cross-cultural research methods in psychology, as well as a number of undergraduate courses in psychology and law, and eye-witness identification. He views teaching as an essential element of his work but says he has selfish reasons for caring so much about it: "I've been fortunate over the years to have students who ask me questions that I can't answer, so it helps me to press my own work further. And the students with whom one works closely become lifelong friends."

Malpass continues to apply his research knowledge to the very real needs of the community. He is currently serving as vice chair of the El Paso Police Academy Advisory Board, and he hopes to conduct future cross-cultural facial recognition research in South Africa.

For now, Malpass is excited by the tremendous strides being made by UTEP's psychology and criminal justice programs. And he has noted yet another important detail about working with students that adds to his motivation. As he explains it, "Being a university professor is a wonderful hedge against fossilization."

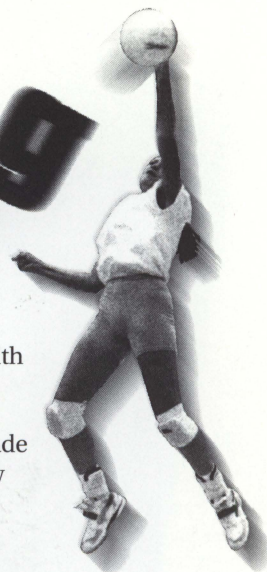
Women's Sports at UTEP —



Tia Glenn, senior on the Lady Miner track team.

Going Strong

by Frank de Santos



Whoever said sports are not for women was obviously not in tune with today's society. Women's sports are thriving throughout the country, especially on the UTEP campus.

As the 1994-95 athletic season winds down, great strides have been made by the UTEP women's athletic program. By the 1996-97 season eight new teams will be added to the conference and still greater strides will be necessary for UTEP women's athletics to remain strong and competitive.

UTEP participates in the Western Athletic Conference, which, in women's sports, includes seven other programs. Beginning with the 1996 season, the conference will expand to include 16 schools, making it the largest conference in the country. This will automatically improve the overall strength and depth of an already strong women's conference.

Currently, Brigham Young, Colorado State, Fresno State, New Mexico, San Diego State, Utah, Wyoming and UTEP participate in the WAC. Rice, Southern Methodist, Texas Christian, Tulsa, UNLV, Air Force and Hawaii will join the WAC for the 1996-97 athletic year.

The Lady Miners took a large step four years ago when they joined the conference and they have continued to move forward.

"I think our women's program stacks up with any team in the conference," said Maxine Neill-Johnson, UTEP associate athletic director. "What is exciting is our programs are all moving positively. The addition of the right coaches in the right positions makes all the difference."

Johnson cited this year's women's golf program as an example of a positive step in the right direction. After relying on a part-time coach for the past several years, the women's golf team acquired a full-time coach last fall when Jere Pelletier was hired. The results were astounding: the women won their first tournament ever, beating WAC teams and teams from other conferences around the country. They shot 66 strokes better than last season, and Nicco Chilek was the first Lady Miner to be named to the All-Western Athletic Conference team. Pelletier took WAC Coach of the Year honors.

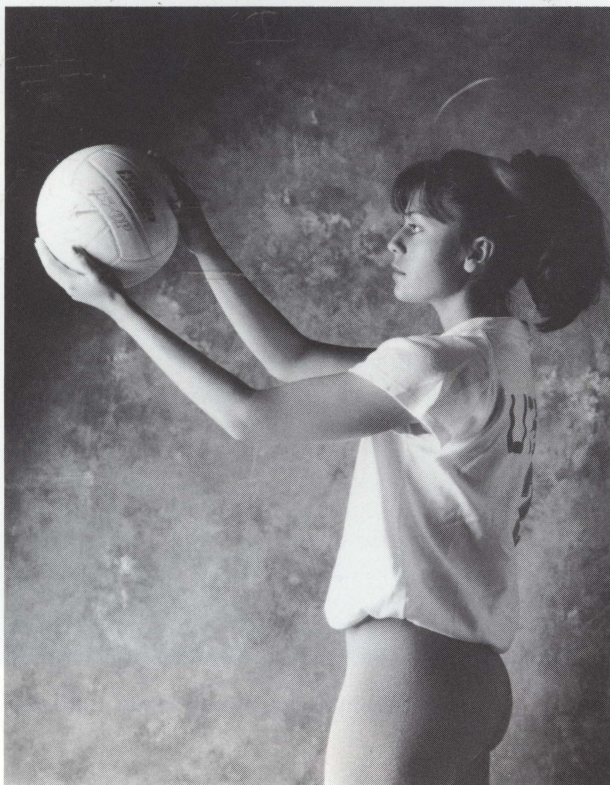
Women's athletics at UTEP is on the upswing, athletic director John Thompson said. "Our job now is to get the word out to the community on the achievements our women's teams have accomplished."

In women's track and field, senior Melinda Sargent was this year's NCAA champion in the 55-meter dash. She is the latest in a string of female All-Americans to come from the UTEP track and field program. During her UTEP career, Sargent has accumulated five All-American honors, nine conference titles and the NCAA title. She also holds numerous UTEP records.

"Melinda is a very disciplined worker," track and field coach Bob Kitchens said. "She is a great competitor."



Amber Gaume, senior on the Lady Miner golf team.



Vanessa Strange, senior on the Lady Miner volleyball team.

The women's tennis team has shown vast improvement, winning a school-record 17 matches. Head coach York Strother, who also was his team's first full-time coach, attributed the team's success to the fact that the players are getting the undivided attention of one coach, and not having to share their coach with another team.

The volleyball team has improved on its overall record and is continuing to gain on its WAC opponents. The Lady Miners participate in the toughest conference in the country and are taking their fair share of lumps as the new kids on the block.

"We just started building a foundation a few years ago while other teams in the conference were already established," head coach Norm Brandl said. "We are definitely building for the future."

Another amazing feat Brandl has accomplished during his 19 years at UTEP, aside from his 304 career wins, is his graduation rate. He thinks athletics and education go hand-in-hand and 100 percent of his four-year student-athletes have graduated.

"We use volleyball as a tool for young women to get a quality college education so they can get on with the rest of their lives," Brandl stated.

Women's basketball has done a complete turnaround since Sandra Rushing took over as head coach in 1990. Rushing has completely revamped Lady Miner Basketball to make it a competitive Division I program.

"When I first got here, things were not up to my standards," Rushing said. "With the help of the athletic department, Dr. Natalicio and my staff, I've been able to upgrade my program to where other teams in the country know what Lady Miner basketball is all about. We've still got a ways to go, but we are definitely on the right track."

Another step toward the continued building of women's athletics on the UTEP campus was the conversion of a coed rifle team to a women's team. A year ago, the National Collegiate Athletic Association allowed women's rifle as a Division I sport. At the time, UTEP's rifle team consisted of four females and one male. Since the male was in his final year of eligibility, the team was converted to an all women's sport the following year. UTEP women participate in basketball, golf, indoor and outdoor track and field, cross country, rifle, tennis and volleyball for a total of eight NCAA-sanctioned sports, while the men participate in seven.

Although progress has been made in female intercollegiate sports, the continued expansion of women's athletic

programs continues to be an important issue.

Gender equity is an issue that is being addressed by all NCAA-member schools.

"I believe the university is making an honest effort to address the issues of gender equity," Strother said. "UTEP seems to be making a conscientious effort to give athletically-interested females on campus a fair shot at competing. I think gender equity is a good, legitimate issue, but it has a lot of hurdles."

Brandl, who is only the second volleyball coach in UTEP history, said that in general, women's athletics have progressed at a much quicker rate over the last 25 years than that of men's sports. He remembered when three UTEP women's sports — volleyball, gymnastics and basketball — shared one office, had no secretary, and had only one phone with three lines.

"Things have definitely changed for the better," Brandl said. "There are so many more opportunities and scholarships available for female athletes."

The athletic department is planning for the future of women's athletics. With the conference expanding in two years and the issue of gender equity at hand, the wheels are in motion. Thompson said there are plans to add three more women's sports to the university by the year 2000.

"We plan on adding women's soccer at UTEP in the next few years and then follow with swimming and softball," Thompson said. "At the moment we will concentrate on (upgrading) women's sports, and financially, that will be a strong and difficult undertaking. That is our plan for the future and we expect to work towards accomplishing our goal."

The three new women's sports are strong in the El Paso region and are played at the high school level, which will give local athletes the opportunity to stay in El Paso and play for the hometown team while pursuing a college degree.

Thompson said he likes the way UTEP and the community are committed to supporting women's athletics.

"I think we've improved in the area of our women's sports," Thompson said. "There's been an overall better job. All the coaches have done an extremely good job. This is a true team effort, especially with the backing and support of the community and the president." ■



Sandra Rushing

Sandra Rushing is never satisfied with the status quo. She always wants something more. And that desire has led to the increased momentum in Lady Miner Basketball.

Since setting foot on the UTEP campus in the summer of 1990, Rushing has totally changed the look and character of the Lady Miner Basketball program. Shortly after being appointed head coach, Rushing established a Lady Miner booster club and moved her operations from the 5,500-seat Memorial Gymnasium to the 12,222-seat Special Events Center.

Exposure to the community was her next move. Rushing has her own weekly television show during basketball season, all home and some away games are broadcast live on KROD 600 AM, and last season, one game aired live on KTSM Channel 9 — all firsts for Lady Miner basketball.

"When I first got here, I wanted to take Lady Miner basketball to the people of El Paso," Rushing said. "I wanted to make this a successful program that the community could be proud of."

During the 1992-93 season, Rushing established a school-record 18 wins and drew a school-record 20,264 fans to the Special Events Center. Since taking control of Lady Miner basketball, Rushing and her teams have been in the win column 57 times.

As quickly as the wins came rolling in, so did the job offers from other universities. Rushing was being courted by others to run their women's basketball programs, but lucrative contracts and fringe benefits could not pull Rushing away from UTEP.

UTEP athletic director John Thompson is especially glad Rushing has made a commitment to stay with the Lady Miners.

"Sandra has done great things for women's basketball and women's sports in general," Thompson said. "When she sets a goal, she usually accomplishes it."

Rushing is satisfied with her job of coaching the Lady Miners, but hopes one day to move up the career ladder of athletics, possibly as an athletic director. But for now, all Sandra Rushing can see ahead of her is Lady Miner basketball.

SHAPING THE COURTROOM VERDICT: Social

By Christian Clarke

As the nation tunes into the non-stop coverage of the O.J. Simpson trial, NOVA tunes into the expert witnesses that have shaped the behind-the-scenes preparations of the public trial. Prosecution and defense attorneys have both applauded and drilled the experts' testimony. In searching for a handful of academic researchers to provide insight on the important role that social scientists play in the courtroom, NOVA found an abundance of qualified experts at UTEP in the fields of psychology, sociology and criminal justice. In an in-depth interview, this panel of experts explore the development and impact of the social scientist's testimony within the legal system.

• **Howard Daudistel**, chairman of the sociology and anthropology department, researches decision-making processes in the courtroom, such as how a jury reaches a verdict.

• **Harmon Hosch**, chairman of the psychology department, researches the jury decision-making process and how the jury is affected by testimony that has to be translated from another language.

• **Roy Malpass**, professor of psychology and director of the criminal justice program, serves as a defense consultant and specializes in eyewitness memory and facial recognition.

• **Salvador Rodriguez**, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology, consults attorneys on jury selection and studies the validity of a jury's composition.

• **William Sanders**, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and professor of criminal justice, researches gang violence and testifies regularly about the violence and homicide patterns of gangs.

• **John Shaw**, assistant professor of psychology, has worked both as a prosecution and defense attorney in Los Angeles and has seen the impact of a social scientist's testimony in the courtroom. This experience led Shaw to UTEP to begin his own research.

• **Martha Smithy**, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology, serves as a consultant in family violence and studies decision-making processes.

• **Randolph Whitworth**, professor of psychology, specializes in psychological competency tests determining whether a defendant can qualify as insane.

Prime time courtroom dramas have popularized the expert witness who testifies about a defendant's state of mind or the possibility of a biased photo spread that has incriminated a suspect. In an attorney's closing argument, the jury is asked to carefully weigh the evidence provided by the expert prior to delivering a verdict.

Through systematic observations, clinical methods and case histories, a group of academic researchers at UTEP represent the social scientists who have become key players in the development of the criminal justice system.

"Social scientists can offer expert testimony on very specific kinds of issues for both criminal and civil cases," said Howard Daudistel, chairman of the sociology and anthropology department. "We represent academicians who have research interests that specifically relate to the courts and criminal justice process. In general, social scientists do not start out as experts. We usually start out as researchers who are interested in a variety of issues."

Initially drawn to the courtroom to study decision-making processes in the early 1970s, Daudistel became in-

trigued by the intricate details of the legal system. He participated in a national study of plea bargaining and discovered that the majority of legal decisions did not take place in the courtroom.

"The image that is being projected by the O.J. Simpson trial is not typical of what happens to criminal defendants," he said.

William Sanders, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and professor of criminal justice, agrees. Sanders, who is an expert on gang-related issues, said most cases he testifies in do not make it to the courtroom.

"The O.J. Simpson case is so atypical, but it does show the extent of the process," said Sanders, who can sympathize with the expert witnesses drilled by the attorneys. "Last week, while I was testifying, I was beaten up like Dennis Fong."

Roy Malpass, professor of psychology, serves as a defense consultant and specializes in eyewitness memory and facial recognition. In the early 1970s, he testified in court on the facial recognition patterns among blacks and whites. This experience

Scientists Transform Research into Testimony

changed the direction of his research practices.

"Although the judge listened to my testimony, the jury was not allowed to hear it," Malpass said. "The judge said my testimony was not realistic because it was derived from color slides that were projected on a screen. He asked, 'What does that have to do with what happens to some poor guy outside a bar at two in the morning?'"

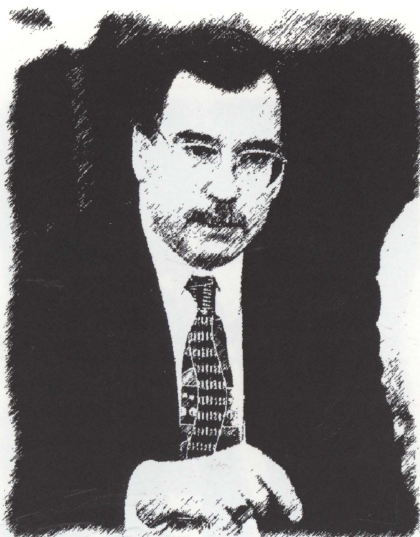
After this experience, Malpass began including realistic eyewitness identification settings in his research.

"Every time I go to court I discover a new question or some other idea that informs my thinking about the process and changes my research agenda," he said. "It is an interesting back-and-forth process. We are called in because we have some expertise, which qualifies us as experts, but those experiences always stretch our minds."

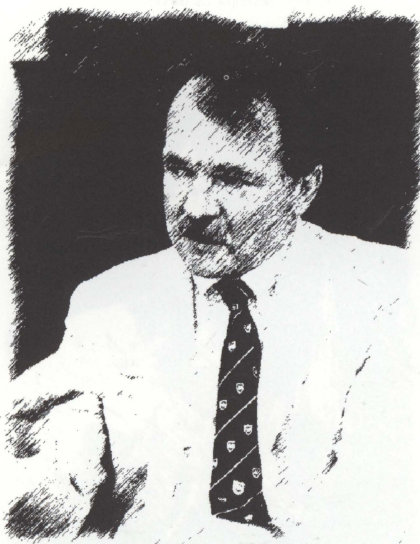
The judge's reaction two decades ago to Malpass' research represents the difference in the perceptions between forensic and scientifically-based psychology, said John Shaw, assistant professor of psychology.

"Medical experts have been testifying in court for a long time. Psychology has gained more favor through its similarities to medical techniques, but experimental psychology is relatively new and viewed with more skepticism," Shaw said.

Whereas clinical psychologists usually study individuals, experimental psychologists try to uncover general principals such as how gangs



Howard Daudistel



William Sanders

"We represent academicians who have research interests that specifically relate to the courts and criminal justice process. In general, social scientists do not start out as experts. We usually start out as researchers who are interested in a variety of issues."

—Howard Daudistel

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—John Shaw



Roy Malpass



John Shaw



Martha Smithey

operate or the way that people remember things.

"Before 1980, testimony by experimental psychologists was not generally admitted in court," Shaw said. "Now courts are admitting it, but the judges and the jurors tend to look the other way and are discounting it."

Although the testimony by clinical psychologists has been more readily accepted in the courtroom than that of experimental psychologists, the tasks of the clinical psychologist sometimes require experimental techniques. In some investigative cases, clinical psychologists are asked to study the cases of individuals whom they have never met.

For example, Randolph Whitworth, professor of psychology, had to determine whether a woman with Down's syndrome could be considered competent at the time of her death. He had to base his decision on his knowledge about patterns of human behavior instead of directly studying the woman.

Although generalities do not work well in a courtroom setting, Martha Smithey, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology, said policies that determine what techniques police use in a domestic violence or gang situation are usually based on generalities. For example, social scientists have learned that separating and counseling is usually the best method to defuse a family violence situation and lessen the revenge factor of a perpetrator.

Social scientists' expertise could also be used to construct nationwide practices that all sociologists, psychologists, researchers and police would use. This unified approach by social scientists is exemplified in Great Britain's memorandum of good practice, which determines the way police and professionals interview children during investigations, Malpass said.

In a trial setting, both prosecution and defense attorneys use social scientists to assist with constructing a favorable jury. At the early stage of the trial, the research of a social scientist is invaluable, said Salvador Rodriguez, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology. Further into the process, the effect of the expert's research becomes less dramatic.

"I received a call from [attorneys in] Austin asking me to testify on the validity of a jury, but the defendant had already been sentenced to life," Rodriguez said. "The attorneys wanted to see if I could go back and somehow reconstruct the process of the jury selection. The case was already lost and they wanted to see if I could rescue it."

Social scientists balance their role as researchers with their role as experts in a courtroom setting. When addressing juries, they steer away from using jargon terminology to ensure that the jury comprehends the material being presented.

"If you start putting technical terms into your testimony, you will lose your jury," Whitworth said. "If the members of the jury do not understand you, they will become bored. When a jury gets bored, the members will take it out on whoever is boring them."

Harmon Hosch, chairman of the psychology department, has studied the impact that expert testimony has on the jury decision-making process. By listening to a jury's deliberation to see if and how the members discuss the expert testimony, Hosch found there was a subtle and subconscious impact.

"Even though the members did not consciously talk about the expert psychologist, the testimony clearly had an effect on their behavior," Hosch said. "They talked longer about other kinds of evidence that were brought up in the presence of the expert testimony."

The impact of testimony by social scientists often goes beyond the case in which the expert testifies by helping to shape future policies, said Shaw, who has been both a prosecutor and defense attorney in Los Angeles.

"On an individual case, it is very difficult for 12 people of the community to understand what the social scientists are talking about; but even though each case may not turn out the way an expert thinks that it should, that does not mean that the impact is not important," Shaw said. ■



Randolph Whitworth



Salvador Rodriquez



Harmon Hosch

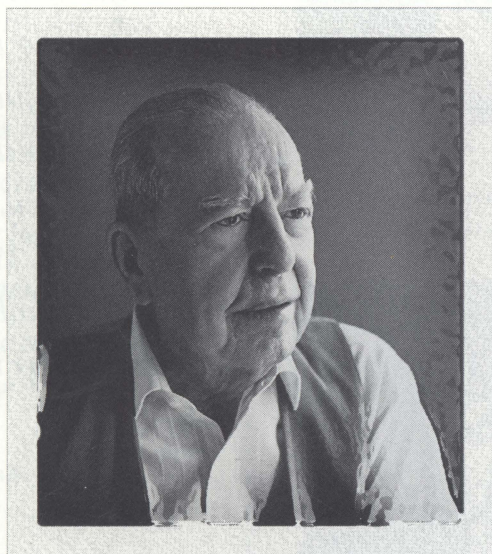
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Tom Lea



An Oral History

edited by

Rebecca Craver and Adair Margo

Texas Western Press has produced the definitive book on the life and work of internationally-known artist and author, Tom Lea. Told in his own words and illustrated with exhibition pieces and photos from his personal collection, this book serves as Lea's autobiography.

Adair Margo, owner of Adair Margo Gallery and lifelong friend of Lea, conducted the interviews and Rebecca Craver, director of the University of Texas at El Paso Institute of Oral History, edited and developed the book from this series of interviews.

Born in El Paso in 1907, Lea is the son and namesake of one of the city's former mayors. After completing high school, Lea entered the Chicago Art Institute, where he studied mural painting under John W. Norton.

Tom Lea became a war correspondent during World War II for *Life* magazine. During the war he completed a series of drawings and paintings depicting battle scenes in the North Atlantic, the South Pacific, China, North Africa and Europe. After the war, an assignment from *Life* took him to Mexico where his interest in bullfighting led to the writing of his first novel, *The Brave Bulls*.

Lea's remarkable and prolific career as an artist and author has led to worldwide recognition. He even portrayed a character in a movie made from his book, *The Wonderful Country*. Lea's most notable nonfiction effort was *The King Ranch*, designed by noted typographer and book designer, Carl Hertzog, founder of Texas Western Press.

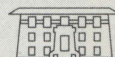
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