

Spring 1996

Nova Quarterly: The University of Texas at El Paso

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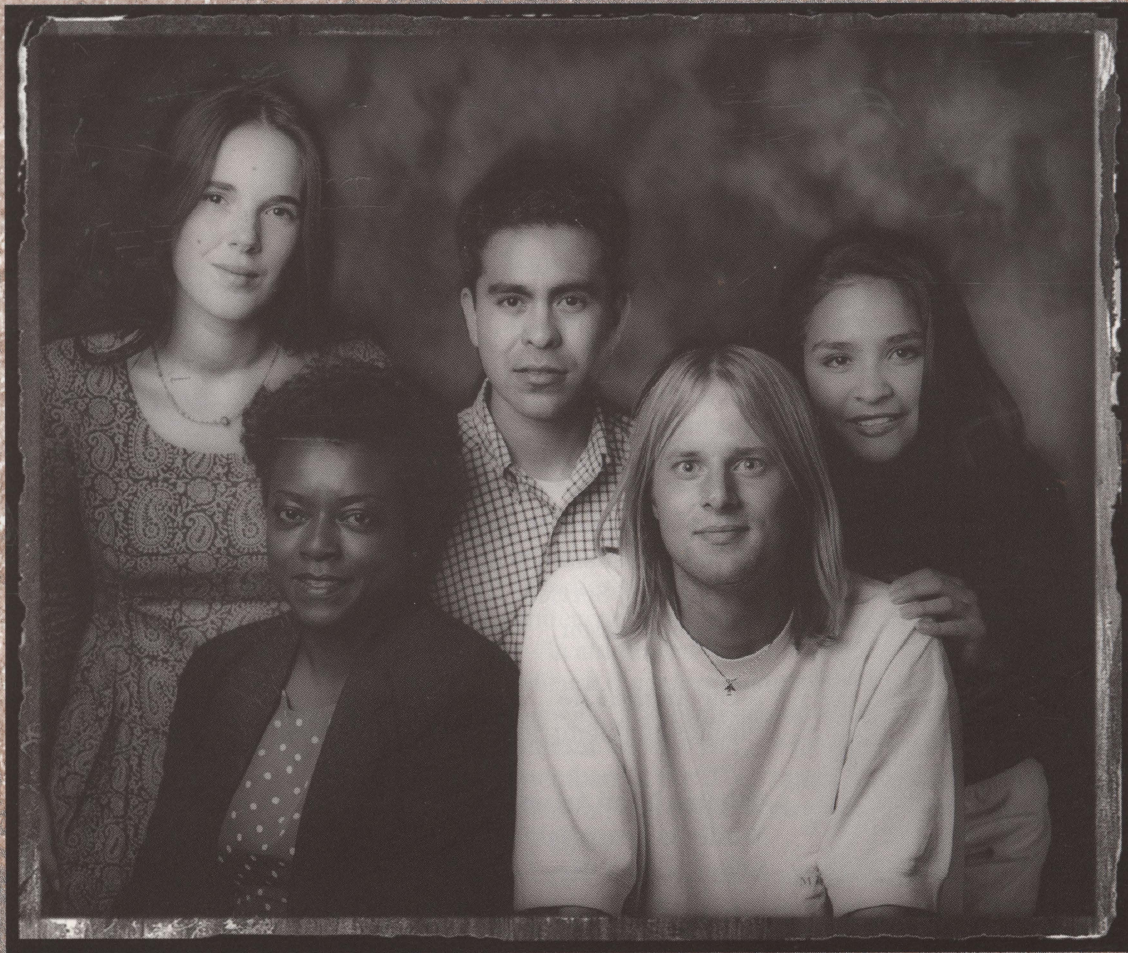
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NOVA

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



SPRING • 1996

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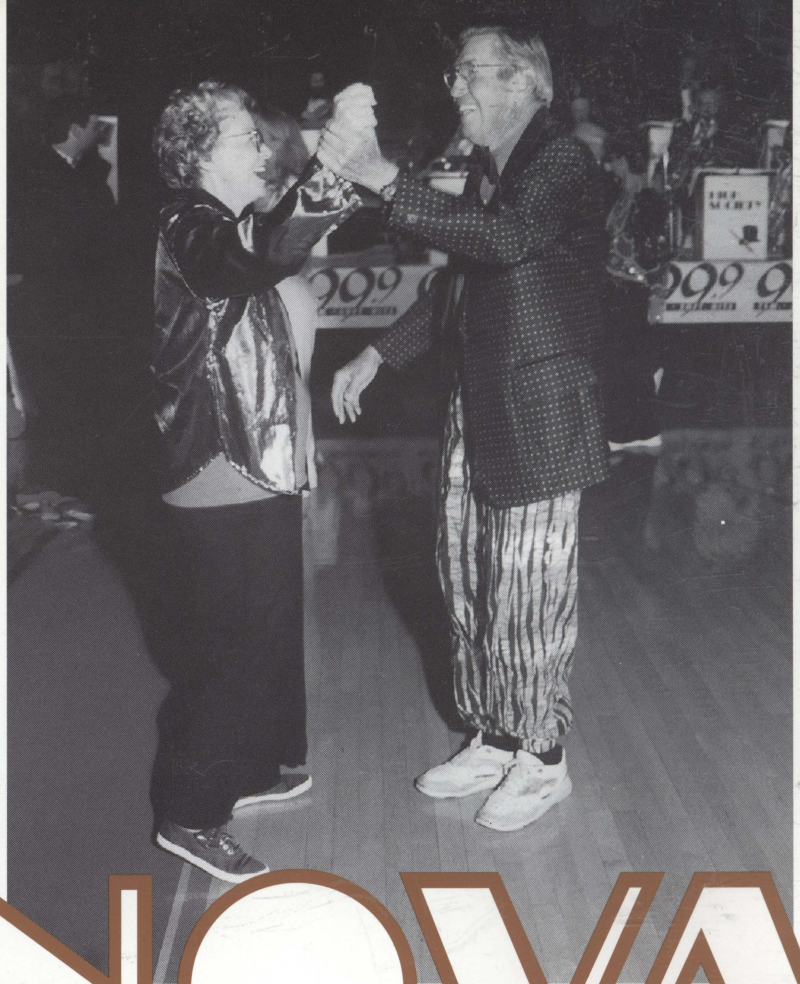
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ON THE COVER

The spirit of UTEP is captured in the faces of our students. From left: Meike Bergmann, junior, graphic arts; Shirley Ross, sophomore, English and American literature; Anthony Bernal, senior, history and philosophy; Marc Hassenewert, sophomore, German; and Cynthia Bautista, senior, journalism and French. Photo by Franklin Muñoz Jr.

Above right photo: Roy Chapman and his wife, Keith, try out their tennies to the music of High Society at the second annual Black Tie and Tennies Gala and Telethon. The annual athletics fundraiser was held Feb. 24 in the Special Events Center.



NOVA

Q U A R T E R L Y

FEATURES

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| A Lesson in Service | 2 |
| Students Translate Academic Expertise into Community Service | |
| By Nicole Greason | |
| A Day in the Life ... | 5 |
| Profiles Highlight Students' Active Lives. | |
| When A Need Arises ... | 16 |
| Students Learn Valuable Lessons by Sharing Services with Community | |
| By Christian Clarke | |

DEPARTMENTS

- | | |
|------------------------|----|
| Alumnews | 9 |
| Partners | 13 |
| Highlights | 14 |
| Faculty Profile | 21 |



FROM THE EDITOR

Remember your days at UTEP, Texas Western College or the College of Mines? The long hours spent studying and working. Football and basketball games, spirit rallies and bonfires. The camaraderie of friends sharing your college experiences.

Life at UTEP is much the same for today's students. While working hard, they are pursuing a quality education that will open many of life's doors.

This issue of *Nova Quarterly* gives you a glimpse into the lives of UTEP students today. As you will see, they face the same challenges and obstacles and have the same hopes and dreams that you, as alumni of this institution, experienced.

Community service also has been a common thread for students throughout the university's long history. From the special war effort activities during the World War II era to today's outreach in the *colonias*, this tradition is one of which we can all be proud.

And undoubtedly, these students will go on to achieve the success that many of UTEP's alumni are recognized for. While many UTEP alumni are nationally known, such as ABC news correspondent Sam Donaldson, TWC '55; Freedom Forum trustee and community activist Josefina "Pipina" Salas-Porras, College of Mines '46; actor E. Murray Abraham, attended TWC '59-62; and NCAA champion basketball coach Nolan Richardson, TWC '63, all achievements of the university's alumni are important and honored. Even recent graduates are already on their way to prominence. 1995 All American Futurity champion jockey Billy Cade Peterson and artist Sam Reveles, whose work was accepted into the Biennial Collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, are shining examples.

The UTEP Alumni Association firmly believes in the motto, "It wouldn't be UTEP without U," because the university's greatest asset is its alumni who represent the university with outstanding achievements and community service.

With help from supportive alumni, hardworking faculty and staff, and dedicated students, UTEP has accomplished many great things and will strive to accomplish even more.

The Alumni Association is exceedingly proud of the university's accomplishments and of its alumni. Many of us are taking new directions on the road to excellence and we are interested in your endeavors along that road.

An alumni survey is included in this issue of *NOVA Quarterly*. We will use the information from this survey to keep up with the personal and professional achievements of our many outstanding alumni. We also will use this information to keep in touch with you, members of the UTEP family and partners in the university's mission, and to keep you abreast of academic opportunities and

triumphs at UTEP.

Please take a few moments to complete this survey and send it to us. A prepaid return envelope accompanies the survey.

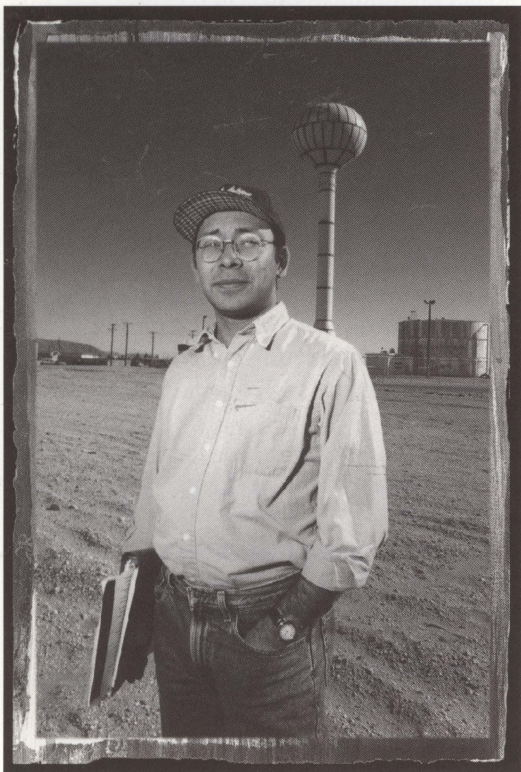
Thank you for showing your interest in UTEP. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yolanda Rodríguez Ingle, Alumni Affairs Coordinator
John R. Shaw, 1995 Alumni Association President



A Lesson Students Translate Academic Expertise into Community Service *in Service*

by Nicole Greason

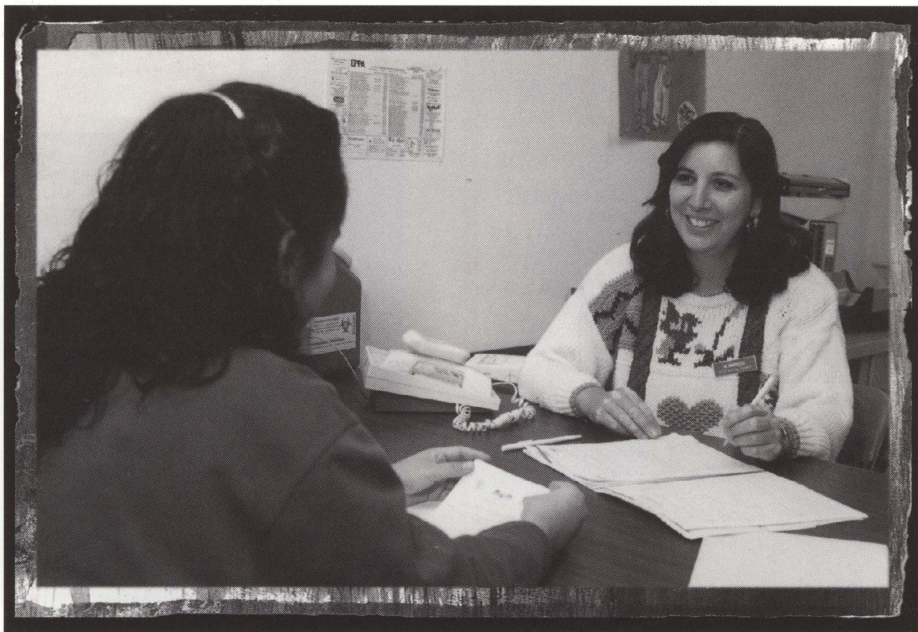


"Civil engineering encompasses the ability to look for solutions to community problems such as water contamination and air pollution. That is why I am a civil engineer. And if this technology proves useful here, it will be used in other places to help solve water quality problems."

— Jesus "Chuy" Moncada,
UTEP civil engineering graduate student

"The responsibilities of higher education boil down to two great tasks: improving the quality and productivity of instruction, and becoming more engaged as part of the solution in addressing America's many problems."

— Russell Edgerton,
President of the American Association
for Higher Education



"It is important to take time to talk to patients, explain procedures to them and make them feel at ease. I am lucky to be able to serve families, learn about their needs, promote health and prevent diseases."

— Margarita Marrero, UTEP nursing student

UTEP is tackling these two tasks head-on. With the help of faculty, UTEP students are finding answers to the question: How can our training and expertise help our community?

Whether studying to become health providers, social workers, engineers or archaeologists, students use their skills to fulfill health and social needs. Students are gaining practical knowledge and meeting academic requirements while striving to improve the quality of life in underserved neighborhoods.

Clapboard houses covered with tar paper dot the landscape in the Homestead *colonia* southeast of El Paso. From the dust-covered and mostly dry earth, residents pump salty water that is barely drinkable by human, animal or plantlife. The water's salinity is about twice the accepted standard set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

On a windy day when dirt drives itself into the eyes and the skin like so many small daggers, Jesus "Chuy" Moncada, a UTEP civil engineering graduate student, stands in the middle of a barren field adjacent to the community's elementary school. Young children traverse the lot, kicking pebbles and

dirt clods as they make their way home in the late afternoon. To Moncada, this is more than a dirt lot — it is the future site of a project that will bring the community water that is within the EPA standards for salinity.

Moncada is a member of a team of UTEP civil and mechanical engineering students who, under the supervision of professors Andrew Swift, Charles Turner and John Walton, are using their training to build a water desalinization plant for the community of Homestead. They plan to use reverse osmosis and filtration at the plant to lower the water's salinity from more than 1,000 milligrams per liter to about 500 milligrams per liter and distribute it to the area's 5,000 residents.

Along with UTEP, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Homestead Municipal Utility District, El Paso Water Utilities and Fluid Process Systems are working on the plant.

While some may see this as simply an engineering project, Moncada sees it as a way of ensuring the viability of the community and providing a much-needed service while giving students the opportunity to gain hands-on expertise in their fields.

"I do enjoy having the opportunity to gain practical experience, but even more, I enjoy the knowledge that what I am doing is something good. It is for the sake of other people," he said.

"Civil engineering encompasses the ability to look for solutions to community problems such as water contamination and air pollution. That is why I am a civil engineer. And if this technology proves useful here, it will be used in other places to help solve water quality problems," Moncada added.

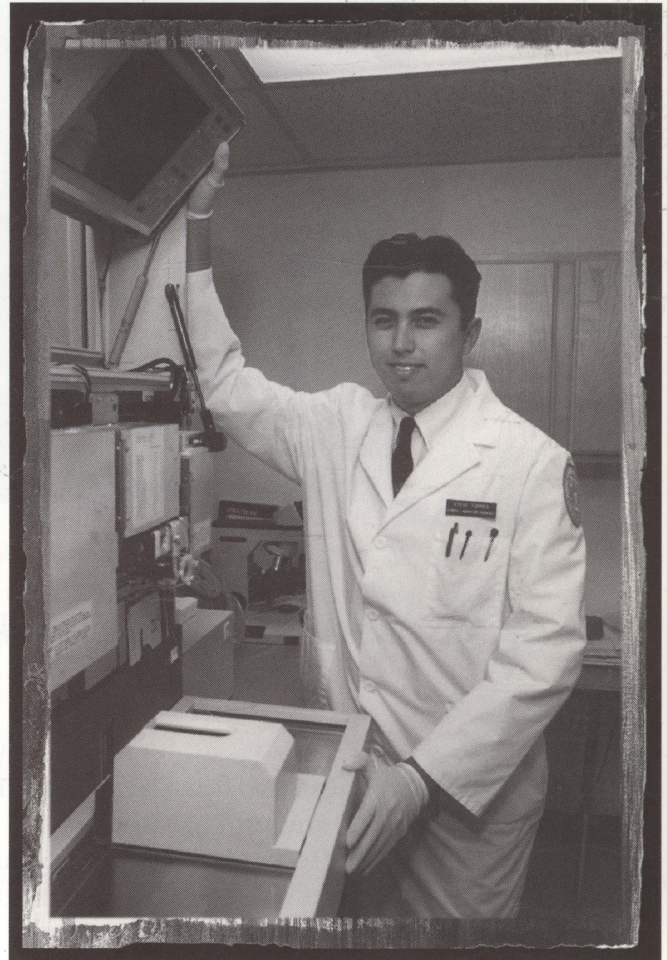
This concept of taking technical expertise that grew from classroom experience and combining it with community service is what service learning is all about.

Service learning is "the art of teaching and learning while doing unselfishly for others. It is the philosophy of caring and serving, not just fulfilling course requirements," said Eva Moya, director of community service for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation-funded Institute for Border Community Health Education.

According to Howard Berry, president of the Partnership for Service Learning in New York City, service learning is a trend that began in the 1930s when institutions of higher learning embraced the idea that academics should be interwoven with community service. Service learning has gained popularity within the past four or five years with the initiation of the AmeriCorps community service project under the Clinton administration.

"We see service learning as more than an extension of a student's [academic] major. It is a way to broaden a student's life experience and fulfill his or her desire to serve. For universities, it is a way for them to connect with their communities so that they are not intellectual islands. In service learning, there is an ebb and flow of academic instruction going out into the community to increase the quality of life," Berry said.

"As the gap between wealthy people and poor people, wealthy nations and poor nations, continues to grow and as governments continue to create a vacuum of restricted resources, there will be a great need for service. Universities can help fill that vacuum not only by bringing faculty expertise and financial resources to bear, but also by providing willing hands. And that is what academic institu-



"People are disadvantaged around here. They are sometimes afraid of seeking [medical] care because they do not know what will happen to them. I feel good about being able to educate them and help them understand and feel comfortable with their health care."

— Steve Torres, UTEP clinical laboratory student

tions have: students who want to get out and tackle the world," he added.

And like Moncada, members of his team and their faculty mentors, others from UTEP have embraced this philosophy.

It is strikingly apparent at the Kellogg Community Partnership Healthcare Clinic in Socorro, a modest community south of El Paso.

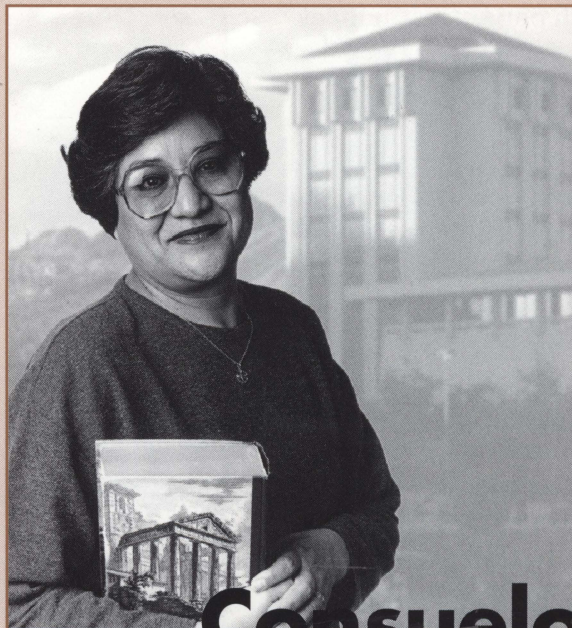
On the outside, the clinic, made up of tan modular buildings, looks as colorless and nondescript as a collection of breadboxes. Inside, there is a feeling of caring in every room, including the laboratory where Steve Torres, a UTEP clinical laboratory science student, painstakingly runs toxicology and microbiology tests on patients' tissue and blood.

The room is filled with sophisticated testing equipment such as the Paramax RX, a machine that tests blood serum, and microscopes and centrifuges, but the most important piece of equipment is neither mechanical nor technological. It is Torres' strong desire to use his skills to help the community, said Graciela Zavala, Torres' faculty supervisor.

"I actually sit down and talk with patients. When I am running tests, I think, 'I am doing this for a person, my test results will be used to help a person I know,'" Torres said.

"I get to experience patients' feelings and then I can laugh with them when they call me a vampire when I take their blood," he said.

UTEP students balance a full schedule of school, work and family obligations. In the following profiles, four students share with NOVA readers a day in their active lives.



Consuelo
Martinez

Consuelo Martinez, 48, a divorced mother of three, is a senior elementary bilingual education major. Consuelo, a Mexico native and permanent resident of the United States, decided to become a bilingual education teacher in response to the problems she encountered learning English as a second language.

Besides her hectic schedule as a student and mother, Consuelo is a work-study student in the Vice President for Student Affairs Office. Her son, Eli Eric, is also a UTEP student, studying to be an electrical engineer.

Wednesday, January 31, 1996:

- 5:00 a.m.: Woke up and studied lessons to be presented in class.
- 5:30 a.m.: Showered and got ready for school.
- 6:30 a.m.: Made breakfast for myself and children.
- 7:00 a.m.: Took my daughter, Erica, to school at McArthur Middle School, then drove my son, Edgar, to Silva Health Magnet High School.
- 7:30 a.m.: Drove to UTEP.
- 8:00 a.m.: Went to Elementary Education Block II Class: Reading.
- 11:00 a.m.: Did homework for afternoon class.
- 12:00 p.m.: Went to work at VPSA Office.
- 3:30 p.m.: Picked up daughter from school and took her home.
- 4:30 p.m.: Went to UTEP for Math 3302 class.
- 6:00 p.m.: Ran errands on my way home, bought groceries and school supplies, paid bills.
- 7:00 p.m.: Cooked dinner for the family.
- 7:30 p.m.: Ate dinner with my kids, ages 14, 16 and 18.
- 8:00 p.m.: Cleaned the kitchen.
- 8:30 p.m.: Visited with my kids and got updates on their day.
- 9:00 p.m.: Did the laundry.
- 9:30 p.m.: Did homework for my classes.
- 11:00 p.m.: Went to bed.

All jokes aside, Torres said he appreciates being in a setting that makes for one-on-one contact with patients, enhances his skills and gives him the chance to be of service in this isolated community.

"People are disadvantaged around here. They are sometimes afraid of seeking [medical] care because they do not know what will happen to them. I feel good about being able to educate them and help them understand and feel comfortable with their health care," said Torres, who is himself a Socorro resident.

"I am getting the opportunity to give back to my community and treat patients as people and not just numbers on a medical chart."

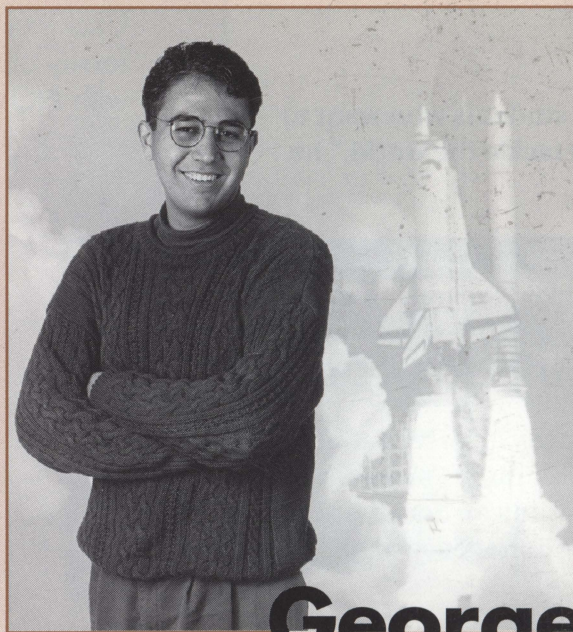
Margaritá Marrero, a senior nursing student, shares that heartfelt desire to serve.

On her first day at the clinic, Marrero quietly conferred in Spanish with a patient about the outcome of the patient's physical examination.

"It is important to take time to talk to patients, explain procedures to them and make them feel at ease. I am lucky to be able to serve families, learn about their needs, promote health and prevent diseases," she said.

Much like Moncada, Torres and Marrero, social work and archaeology students are interweaving altruism and service with their studies.

Each year, between 45 and 50 undergraduate social work students are placed at agencies, help organizations and schools throughout the community, said



George
Estrada

George Estrada, 22, an El Paso native, is a senior accounting major. As part of the UTEP Co-op Program, George worked at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston during the Spring of 1995. He returned to NASA in the summer and finished his internship in December. George says he gained invaluable experience by applying his academic training to his assignments at NASA.

UTEP is a family affair for the Estrada family. George's older sister, Patricia, graduated with an education degree in 1991; his brother, Ismael, attended UTEP; and his younger brother, Ruben, is currently attending UTEP.

Monday, December 4, 1995

- 5:30 a.m.: Woke up and took a shower.
- 6:00 a.m.: Ironed my clothes and got ready for work.
- 6:45 a.m.: Left for work (NASA).
- 7:00 a.m.: Arrived at work and began preparing a co-op presentation I have to make to the comptroller.
- 8:00 a.m.: Met with division chief and streamlining team to discuss activities for the week.
- 10:00 a.m.: Participated in a co-op tour of the new Mission Controls.
- 11:00 a.m.: Prepared a weekly activity report for the streamlining team to submit to the division chief and comptroller.
- 12:00 p.m.: Went to lunch.
- 12:30 p.m.: Went to lecture given by astronaut Mike Baker on shuttle mission experiences.
- 1:30 p.m.: Worked on streamlining activities for the week.
- 2:30 p.m.: Attended Security Assurance meeting.
- 3:30 p.m.: Left work.
- 4:00 p.m.: Jogged three miles and worked out at the gym.
- 5:30 p.m.: Went grocery shopping (for next two weeks).
- 6:30 p.m.: Arrived home and called my family in El Paso.
- 7:00 p.m.: Prepared and ate dinner.
- 8:00 p.m.: Continued my review and study for CPA examination.
- 9:00 p.m.: Paid bills, reconciled bank statement and prepared for College Fair to be hosted by UTEP Houston Alumni Association.
- 10:00 p.m.: Watched local news on television.
- 10:30 p.m.: Went to bed.

Ismael Dieppa, director of UTEP's social work program.

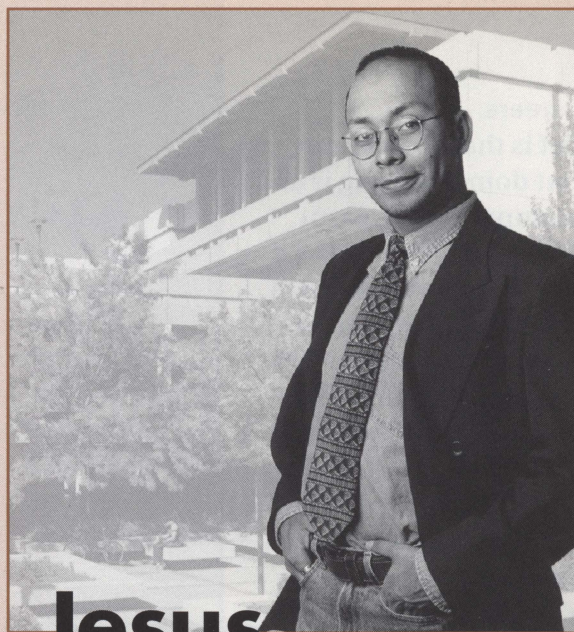
"Social work is a critical element in a community's capacity to improve its quality of life, and our students are at the forefront of that effort," he said.

From helping low-income families find winter coats for their children and ensuring proper care of the elderly to counseling battered women, people who suffer from substance abuse and prisoners, UTEP social work students are contributing to the community while honing their skills under the supervision of professional social workers, he said.

Paint brushes and dental picks are tools of archaeologists' trade, but to UTEP archaeology students, they are also community service implements.

Last summer, 22 students worked under the direction of John Peterson, assistant professor in the UTEP sociology and anthropology department, to unearth the remains of the *Rancho de los Tuburcios*, a hacienda thought to have been built in San Elizario in the Lower Valley some 30 miles south of El Paso during the Spanish presidio era between 1789 and 1821. The project, funded by the Texas Department of Transportation, not only gave students class credit but also gave them the personal satisfaction of restoring and preserving their community's history and cultural heritage.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio feels service learning is integral to rounding out students'



Jesus
Moncada

Jesus "Chuy" Moncada, 26, is an El Paso native who is the first in his family to go to college. He received his B.S. in civil engineering in 1993 and will graduate with a master's in civil engineering in May with a 3.4 GPA. Chuy has been accepted as a Ph.D candidate in UTEP's new environmental science and engineering program.

Chuy says the doctoral program began just in time for him to remain at UTEP and continue his education. "UTEP's program is very different from other doctoral programs. It is reality-based," Chuy said. "El Paso is a living laboratory on how pollution is created and dispersed."

Wednesday, January 31, 1996:

- 7:00 a.m.: Woke up and did 150 stomach crunches and other exercises.
- 8:00 a.m.: Got coffee and drove to the Fluid Process System (water treatment) near Horizon City.
- 8:30 a.m.: Met with Sal Renteria, CEO and owner of Fluid Process Systems, Inc., to review and implement design changes for the pilot desalinization plant.
- 10:30 a.m.: Arrived at school, checked mailbox at CE department.
- 11:00 a.m.: History class: Islam and the Middle East.
- 12:00 p.m.: Went to lunch and to the Southwest Aids Committee office for meeting of the Texas HIV Prevention Planning Coalition.
- 2:00 p.m.: Went back to UTEP and prepared for research meeting.
- 3:00 p.m.: Weekly research meeting. We discussed past week's progress and assigned new tasks.
- 4:00 p.m.: Prepared for E4 (environment, ecology, ethics and economics) class. Reviewed abstracts and discussion questions.
- 4:30 p.m.: Environment, Ecology, Ethics and Economics class.
- 6:00 p.m.: Environmental Biology class — first environmental science and engineering class of my doctoral program.
- 9:00 p.m.: Went to my office and worked on my thesis for a few hours.
- 11:00 p.m.: Worked on research project; updating research; writing construction plan and management schedule.
- 1:00 a.m.: Went home and ate a late dinner.
- 1:30 a.m.: Read articles for E4 class.
- 2:30 a.m.: Prepared and reviewed day planner for next day.
- 3:00 a.m.: Went to sleep.

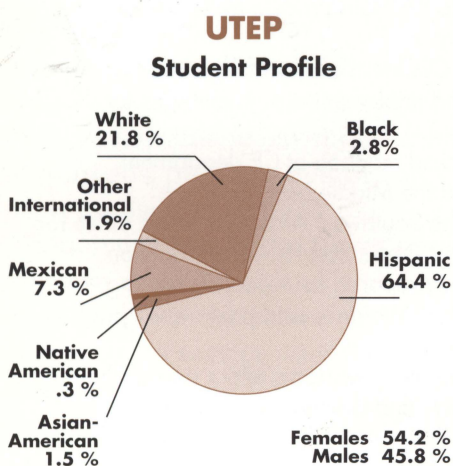
academic careers.

"The belief is that you cannot learn without doing. Serving is an important component of learning," Natalicio said.

And UTEP, set in an area where community needs are prevalent, provides a perfect setting for service, especially for students who have a stake in the community.

"Students at UTEP are people who are from this community, serving their community with true caring and passion, and with tremendous satisfaction in knowing that they are helping their neighbors," she said.

"Students today do not learn very well by sitting in a lecture hall and taking notes. They learn better by doing. If you are going to have students engage in practical endeavors while learning, shouldn't that practical experience be something that helps the community?" Natalicio said. ■



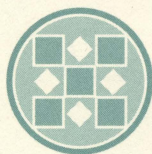
Veronica
Frias

Veronica Frias, 22, is a senior psychology major with a minor in biology. She is planning to go to medical school after she graduates in May. In addition to her studies, Veronica has been a Golddigger (UTEP dance squad) for five years. Veronica is the first in her family to go to college and is proud of maintaining her 3.82 grade point average despite her busy schedule as a student, Golddigger and work-study assistant in the News and Publications Office.

Veronica has worked hard to set a good example for her younger sister and brother, who she encourages to attend college.

Tuesday, January 30, 1996

- 6:00 a.m.: Woke up because my family was making too much noise.
- 6:45 a.m.: Got ready for school.
- 7:30 a.m.: Drove my little brother, Eddie (6 years-old) to school.
- 8:00 a.m.: Drove back home to finish getting ready for school.
- 8:30 a.m.: Left for school.
- 9:00 a.m.: Went to Speech class.
- 10:30 a.m.: Went to Genetics class.
- 12:00 p.m.: Went to work at News and Publications Office.
- 3:00 p.m.: Left work and met Olga (fellow Golddigger). Went to eat lunch.
- 3:30 p.m.: Went to JAR Construction Co. to pick up a donation they gave to the Golddiggers for travel expenses.
- 4:00 p.m.: Went back to UTEP and bought books at the bookstore.
- 5:00 p.m.: Changed into my pep rally outfit and prepared for the Don Haskins Radio Show aired at Kazi's Bar and Grill.
- 6:00 p.m.: Went to Kazi's. Did cheers during radio breaks (time-outs).
- 8:00 p.m.: Got home and changed into sweats.
- 8:30 p.m.: Ate dinner.
- 9:00 p.m.: My turn to wash dishes.
- 9:30 p.m.: Went into my room and talked on the phone to one of the other Golddigger captains about an upcoming performance.
- 10:00 p.m.: Studied for Genetics class.
- 11:00 p.m.: Read Speech textbook.
- 12:00 a.m.: Got ready for bed. Went over routine we learned yesterday for our next half time performance.
- 12:30 a.m.: Went to bed.



ALUMNEWS

by Doreen Black

WHAT IS THE UTEP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION?

The Alumni Association is an organization of former UTEP students and faculty members that promotes the interests and welfare of the university. The association's goal is to assist UTEP in its mission to achieve academic excellence by sponsoring and supporting programs, projects and activities that promote that image. The association provides opportunities for alumni and friends to come together during the year for several events such as Homecoming, Season of Lights and pregame parties.

HOW CAN I JOIN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION?

Simply send a minimum annual contribution of \$25 per person to:

UTEP Alumni Association
Office of Development and Alumni Affairs
University of Texas at El Paso
El Paso, TX 79968-0524

Please include your year of graduation or the years you attended UTEP on your check. Indicate the college, department, academic program or scholarship for which your donation is intended. A membership card will be mailed to you.

1996 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Shaw, President
Ron Rush, President-Elect
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FUN RUN/WALK

The Alumni Association's 10th annual Fun Run/Walk race will be Saturday, April 27, on the UTEP campus. This Grand Prix event is eagerly awaited by local track clubs. Organizers are targeting students and businesses hoping to draw more of the "not-so-serious" runners and walkers.

This year's race will emphasize a

B.Y.O.C. (Bring Your Own Costume) theme to entice new participants to join the "die hard" runners. Participants can also wear their organizations' colors or a company logo to identify themselves.

Applications will be available in the Alumni Office after March 25.

THE UTEP CONNECTION

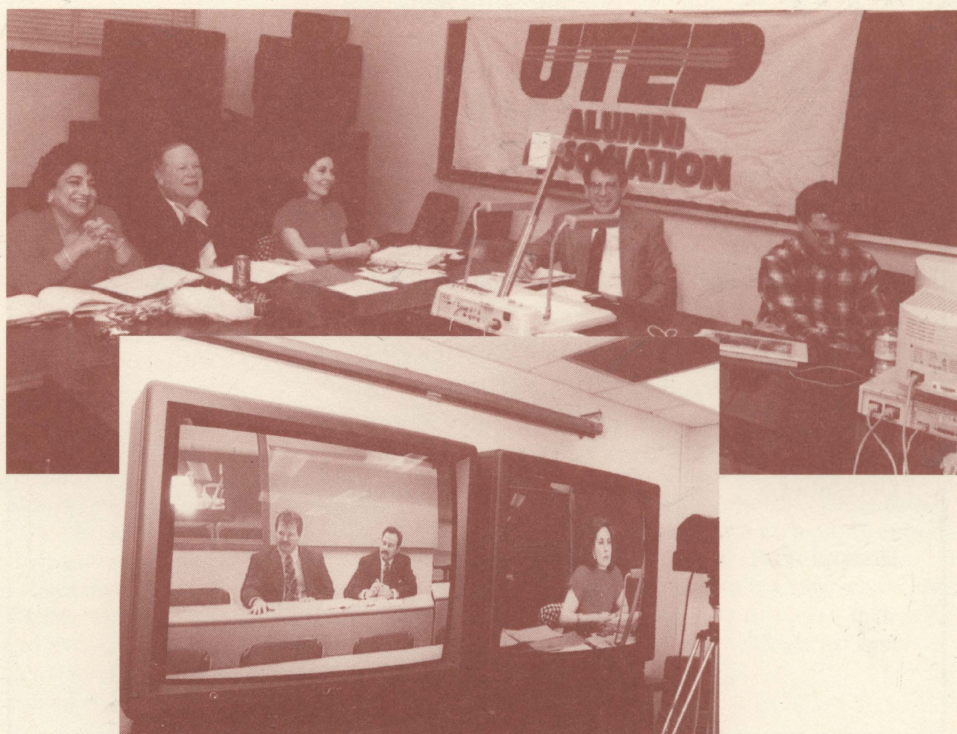
Members from the UTEP Alumni Association were able to link up with the North Texas and San Antonio chapters by video teleconference in February, thanks to the Trans-Border Information Technology Collaborative (TB-ITC). The TB-ITC is a consortium of organizations from various fields dedicated to planning the future of the information superhighway in Southwest Texas.

The video teleconference was part of a demonstration to promote the use of technology to better communicate

with UTEP alumni.

The focus of the conference was the planning of the Follow-the-Miners trip to Fort Worth on October 12 when UTEP plays Texas Christian University (TCU), a new member of the Western Athletic Conference. The North Texas Chapter will help coordinate and host a UTEP-TCU rally.

Plans are under way for a similar teleconference with the Los Angeles/Orange County Chapter and alumni groups forming in San Diego and San Francisco.



1996 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 4-14	Alumni Fund for Excellence (AFE) Phonathon
April 19	Student Association Awards Banquet Top Ten Seniors
April 22	Honors Convocation Magoffin Auditorium
April 27	Alumni Association 10th Annual Fun Run/Walk
May 18	Commencement Special Events Center
August 21	Fall semester begins
September 7 <i>new date!</i>	MINERPALOOZA
September 14	Football Pregame Party UTEP vs. NMSU Alumni Lodge
October 5	Football Pregame Party UTEP vs. Utah Alumni Lodge

OCTOBER 21-26 HOMECOMING EVENTS

October 25	Distinguished Alumni Award Reception/Banquet Student Spirit Rally
October 26	Pregame Party and Alumni Assoc. Annual Meeting UTEP vs. Rice Alumni Lodge
November 9	Football Pregame Party UTEP vs. SMU Alumni Lodge
November 16	Football Pregame Party UTEP vs. Tulsa Alumni Lodge
December 6	Season of Lights Ceremony
December 21	Commencement Special Events Center

AFE

The Alumni Fund for Excellence (AFE) phonathon was held March 4 through March 14. Volunteers from UTEP's six colleges and a myriad of student organizations called on thousands of alumni for support for the University. Contributions may be designated to any college, department or program of the donor's choice. Unrestricted gifts are reserved for Dr. Natalicio to use where there is an immediate need.

For more information, please call 915-747-5533.

ALUMNI WEB PAGE

The Alumni Association home page on the World Wide Web is in the final stages of production and when online, alumni will be able to access information on the projects and activities of the Alumni Association. Information will be updated on a regular basis. To obtain the Alumni Association's internet address or to update alumni records, send Internet e-mail to: alumni@mail.utep.edu.

The North Texas Chapter also is on the World Wide Web. David Permenter maintains the site, which can be found at: <http://www.anet-dfw.com/~utep/>. The site contains an e-mail directory and notices for upcoming events, as well as sports schedules and results.

For more information, send Internet e-mail to: utep@anet-dfw.com.

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Ralph Murillo 210-229-5924

Houston

Charley Smith 713-495-0514

Dean Allcorn 713-862-4050

San Francisco

Charlie Brown 510-548-5848

San Diego

Emma Ciriza 619-282-4741

Juarez

Javier Urbina 011-52-16-1498-22

CLASS NOTES

by Judy Jimenez

40s ▼

Raymond T. Odell (B.S.'48) was elected president (Big SIR) of Sons In Retirement, Chapter #5, in Palo Alto, Calif. Odell and his wife, Karma, live nearby in Redwood City. They have three children and 10 grandchildren.

50s ▼

James J. Edwards (B.A.'55) is the owner of Hillcrest Funeral Home in Albuquerque, N.M. **Rosa Guerrero** (B.A.'57; M.Ed.'77) has been selected as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Assistance League of El Paso. For 20 years she taught in area public schools and also taught multicultural education at UTEP.

Olga "Cookie" Mapula (B.A.'58; M.A.'73) received the YWCA 1995 Reach Award. She is currently president of the Communications Group Executive Forum.

Jaime Oaxaca (B.S.EE'57) received the National Science Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award. Oaxaca was UTEP's 1992 Distinguished Alumnus. He is vice chairman of Coronado Communications Corporation of Los Angeles.

William F. Quinn (B.S.CE '54) received the 1995 History and Heritage Award from the Texas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Quinn is the manager of the codes and standards division of the El Paso Natural Gas Co.

60s ▼

Linda Lucas Champney (B.A.'68) was awarded a national teaching certificate as part of the National Board Certified Teacher Program by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. She is a teacher in the Littleton, Colo. public school system.

Margarita B. Kanavy (B.A.'63; M.A.'69) has been selected for the 1996 Leadership El Paso Class XVIII of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce. She is currently a training specialist at the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School at Ft. Bliss.

Patricia McNamara (B.S.'61) serves as secretary of the board of directors for the Osage Tribal Museum Library and Archives.

Oscar Mercado (B.B.A.'66) was named associate in the certified public accounting firm of Robert A. Diaz. For 28 years, Mercado worked for the Internal Revenue Service.

Cynthia Nations (B.S.ED '67) was named principal at Escontrias Elementary School. She was the assistant principal at Walter E. Clarke Middle School. Nations has been with the Socorro Independent School District since 1982.

Cecilia Miles Mulvihill (B.S.Ed.'69) corporate general manager for RM Personnel, Inc., received the YWCA 1995 Reach Award.

Les Parker (B.A.'67; M.BA.'77) president of Bank of the West, was named director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, El Paso branch. **Adelaide Ratner** (attended 60s) was chosen for the Gen. James H. Polk Award for community service by the Visiting Nurse Association.

70s ▼

Irma Avila (B.B.A.'76) a teacher in the Socorro Independent School District, received the YWCA 1995 Reach Award.

Juan G. Ayala (B.B.A.'79) received the Joint Service Commendation Medal for meritorious service while serving with a U.S. Armed Forces joint task force. He is currently assigned to Headquarters Squadron 27, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C.

Antonio Baca (B.S.Ed.'79; M.Ed.'84) was named principal at the new Americas High School in the Socorro Independent School District, scheduled to open in August.

Lillian Barajas (B.A.'77) a social worker with VA Outpatient Clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs, received the YWCA 1995 Reach Award.

Louis Brown (B.S.EE '76) and his wife **Dallas Ann** (B.A. '68; M.A. '76) have relocated to Pleasanton, Calif. from Germany. He is employed at Sony Integrated Systems working on the Galaxy Direct-TV system for South America. He also worked with Radio Free Europe.

Armando Bustamante (B.S.Ed.'77; M.Ed.'81) was named principal at Escontrias Elementary School Early Childhood Center.

Mayo Dikelsky (B.A.'74) is the manager of chapter and member services for the Women in Cable & Telecommunications.

Clara Duncan-Adams (B.S.Ed.'77) received the YWCA 1995 Reach Award. She works at the El Paso Independent School District in secondary education and mathematics.

Phil Hatch (B.S.Ed.'73; M.Ed.'87) transferred from principal at Walter E. Clarke Middle School to director of athletics and activities for Socorro Independent School District.

Elsie (L.C.) Hayden (B.A.'72; M.A.'82) has authored two new books, *Who's Susan?* and *Searching*, scheduled for publication in the fall. She is an English teacher at Irvin High School.

Sherry Lantow (B.S.Ed.'73) received the YWCA 1995 Reach Award. She is director of instructional media in the Ysleta Independent School District, Office of Technology.

Brenda Morrow (B.A.'79; M.Ed.'95) received the YWCA 1995 Reach Award. She is a third grade teacher at St. Clements Episcopal Parish School.

Ernest E. Montoya (B.A.'71) received a Commissioner's Citation, one of the Social Security Administration's highest honors. Montoya has been with the SSA for 25 years and is currently manager of the office in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Ruben Ponce, Jr. (B.S.CE '79) has been named vice president of professional affairs for the Texas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers through September.

Jeanne Reynolds (B.A.'76) received the YWCA 1995 Reach Award. She is a law librarian and records center manager for Kemp, Smith, Duncan & Hammond, P.C.

Mary Ross (B.S.Ed.'75; M.Ed.'81), is leaving Escontrias Elementary School to be principal at O'Shea Keleher Elementary School in the Socorro Independent School District.

Tom Schatterman (B.S.MD '72) is working as a mechanical engineer for the Federal Aviation Administration in Chicago, Ill.

Joe Bob Shook (B.S.Ed.'70; M.Ed.'81), former director of athletics and activities in the Socorro Independent School District, was named director of secondary education.

Victor M. Vargas, Sr. (B.S.'78), boys varsity coach at Coronado High School, was selected as the 1995 Texas Region I Soccer Coach of the Year.

80s ▼

Michele Mareski-Diaz (B.B.A. '86) received the YWCA 1995 Reach Award. She is the director of Physician's Recruitment/Network Development for the Columbia Healthcare System.

Norma Dunn (B.B.A.'84) received the YWCA 1995 Reach Award. She is vice president for investor and public relations at the El Paso Natural Gas Company.

Jim Kelch (M. Ed. '83) was named principal at K.E.Y.S. Academy, which is Socorro Independent School District's alternative school.

Eloisa Samaniego (B.S. '83) is a pediatric cardiologist practicing in Boise, Idaho.

Darren Ray Thorn (B.M. '88) performed at San Diego's 18th annual Christmas program, "Christmas on the Prado." He performed "Miracle of the Forest Christmas Tree," a story written by his mother, Dolores Thorn.

John A. Wenke (B.A. '89) has been named an associate with the law firm of Ray, McChristian & Jeans in El Paso. He was a felony prosecutor in the District Attorney's office in El Paso.

Brenda Janine Yeager (B.B.A.'86) received the YWCA 1995 Reach Award. She is manager/CPA with Rister, Dunbar, Broadus Company, P.C.

Ruben Enriquez (B.S.'94) graduated from the Border Patrol Training Academy in Glynco, Ga. He has been assigned as an agent to Del Rio, Texas.

Robert P. Garcia (B.S.'94) graduated from the Border Patrol Training Academy in Glynco, Ga. He has been assigned as an agent to Del Rio, Texas. Garcia is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and is married to Abigail Rivas.

Sally A. Hurt (B.S.N.'90; M.S.N.'94) received the YWCA 1995 Reach Award. She is an associate director of nursing at Columbia Medical Center-West.

Robert J. Ortiz (B.S.'93) graduated from the Border Patrol Training Academy in Glynco, Ga. He has been assigned as an agent to the El Paso sector.

David Neal Permenter (B.B.A.'93) received a master of arts degree in international management from the University of Texas at Dallas. He is a global accounts contracts analyst for Northern Telecom. Permenter was UTEP's Paydirt Pete mascot from 1990-1993.

OBITUARIES

Doris D. Morton (B.A.'37) February 13, 1995. She was a resident of New Jersey.

John Morton "Jack" Young (B.A.'67) February 22, 1995. A resident of Boise, Idaho, Young retired from the Bureau of Land Management as district archaeologist. He is survived by his friend and companion, Mary Anne Davis; sons Joshua and Ian; mother, Mrs. John R. Young; and brother, James.

Amelia L. Foster (B.A.'37) May 4, 1995. A resident of Arizona, Foster is survived by her brother, William, two nephews, two nieces and two cousins.

Maxey E. Lumm (B.A.'64) June 14, 1995. A resident of Carrollton, Texas, Lumm was a sports official and served as District 12 director of the Southwest Volleyball Officials Association. Lumm is survived by his wife, Barbara; stepdaughter, Kathleen; brother, Jerry; sister, Linda; and four nephews and a niece.

Albert Ronke (UTEP Drama Assoc. Prof.) August 14, 1995. He had been with UTEP since 1966 as an associate professor of theater, a design instructor and acting chairman of the theater department. He is survived by his mother, Beryl, and his brother Robert.

William H. McBee (B.A.'48) Oct. 26, 1995. McBee was a lifelong resident of El Paso who worked for El Paso Natural Gas Company for 32 years. He is survived by his wife, Mary, his sister, Lois; and five nephews and seven nieces.

Marshall Hamilton (B.B.A.'63) October 28, 1995. Hamilton was a resident of Fort Worth. He was an accounting professor at Texas Wesleyan University and served in the Army National Guard for six years. In 1987, he received the Heads Above the Crowd teaching award from TWU. Survivors include his wife, Judy; son, Brian; daughter, Melody; two aunts and several cousins.

Robert Lee Millard (B.B.A.'60) November 1, 1995. Millard was a lifelong resident of El Paso. He was a member of the Catholic Church and the Mexican-American Bar Association. Survivors include his wife, Celia; son, Joe; and four daughters, Maria, Elizabeth, Sonia and Carolina; parents, Carl Lee and Elizabeth; his brother, David and sister Hazle; 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

John J. O'Keefe (B.S.M.I.'21) November 8, 1995. He was a resident of Long Beach, Calif. and is survived by his son, John.

Claude H. Herndon (B.A.'33) November 13, 1995. A prominent El Paso musician and piano teacher, Herndon was also a World War II veteran.

Gene Joseph "Butch" Dennehy III (B.A.'65) November 15, 1995. He was the owner of Dennehy Building Products. Dennehy was preceded in death by his father, Gene Jr., and his sister, Maureen. Survivors include his son, Gene IV and his daughter, Lisa; mother, Maureen; stepfather, Jack; sister, Debra; brother, Patrick; and many nieces and nephews.

Rodolfo O. Ramirez (B.M.'60) November 16, 1995. A lifelong resident of El Paso, Ramirez was employed by the Gadsden Independent School District and was assigned to Desert View School. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; son, Rodolfo Jr.; and daughters, Sonia and Elda.

Gerald "Jerry" Lee Stewart (B.A.'58) November 16, 1995. A resident of Troutville, Va., Stewart pastored churches in Norfolk, Va. and at the Peaks Presbytery until he retired in 1974. Stewart remained active preaching while working with the Social Security Administration for 18 years. He is survived by his wife, Selby; his daughter, Alise; his son, Marc; and his brother, David.

Manuel Lopez Caballero (B.S.M.I.'37) November 20, 1995. He was a resident of Chihuahua, Mexico.

Glendyne Stewart Wigley (B.A.'46) November 24, 1995. She was a resident of Seattle, Wash., and spent her life in loving service to her family. Wigley was preceded in death by her husband, Joe, and is survived by her sons, Guy and Ross; daughters, Ellen and Nora; stepdaughter, Jill Maxim; stepson, Neilo; her brother, Grover C. Stewart, Jr.; sister-in-law, Katy Armstrong; and nine grandchildren.

George Thomas Murati (M.Ed.'72) November 24, 1995. A resident of El Paso for 28 years, Murati was a retired captain of the U.S. Coast Guard with more than 30 years of service. He was a veteran of World War II, and the Korea and Vietnam Wars. Murati was active in the UTEP Alumni Association and was president of the El Paso Gem and Mineral Society. He is survived by his brother, J.D., and wife, Happy; and nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

James Theodore Petzold (B.S.Ed.'71) November 25, 1995. Petzold was a resident of Valley Mills, Texas where he was a teacher and football coach. He also was an employee of the governor's office working with state and national highway safety programs. Petzold also

was a former chief of police at UTEP. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary; four children, Tim, Jimmy, Toby and Jentry.

Felix Ricardo Vargas (B.A.'79) November 29, 1995. A lifelong resident of El Paso, Vargas was awarded the United States Army Vietnam Service Medal. He is survived by his wife, Eva; sons, Craig, Isaiah and Cullum; and eight sisters and two brothers.

Jaqueline Shields (M.A.'79) November 30, 1995. She was an assistant professor at the University of Texas School of Public Health at San Antonio. She is survived by her mother, Mrs. Jack Shields; sister, Jennifer Shields Hawes and husband, Dave; sister-in-law, Rosalind Shields; and one niece and nephew. A UTEP scholarship fund is being established in her name.

Charles W. (Lucky) Leverett (B.A.'50) December 3, 1995. A longtime El Paso resident, Leverett worked for El Paso Chamber of Commerce and the El Paso Electric Company. He was former president of the Texas Western College Alumni Association, past president of El Paso Downtown Development Association and El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame, and chairman of the Border Paisanos of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce. Leverett is survived by his wife, Mary Catherine; and daughters, Mrs. Jim (Leah) Baker; Mrs. Ellison (Fay) Crider; son, Whit; and seven grandchildren.

Jeanne Hilles Massey (Attended '50s) December 3, 1995. A longtime resident of El Paso, Massey retired from the El Paso public schools administration where she was active in rewriting curriculum and developing the Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) Program. Massey was preceded in death by her husband, Robert (UTEP Art Dept.), and is survived by her brother, David, and his wife, Susan; nieces and nephews; a great-niece and nephew.

Raymon E. Patton (B.A.'49; M.A.'53) December 3, 1995. A lifelong resident of El Paso, Patton retired in 1979 from the El Paso Independent School District after 30 years of service as a teacher, assistant principal and principal. Patton was preceded in death by his wife, Viola, his father, Elmer, and his brother, Donald. Survivors include his daughters, Keni, Mary, Kathryn, Helen and Ellen; 12 grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; his mother, Carrie; and sisters, Louise, Ruby and Mary.

Mary Allen Bischoff (B.A.'44) December 22, 1995. She was a resident of Sierra County, N.M. for 15 years. Bischoff was active in the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America in El Paso and Sierra County. Bischoff was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Jane Whitten. She is survived by her husband, Richard; her daughter, Jane; son, Richard; two grandchildren, Samantha and Joshua.

William Warren Nunn (B.A.'64) January 12, 1996. A resident of Dallas, Nunn worked for Blockbuster Entertainment. He also taught speech communication at Richland Junior College. Nunn was preceded in death by his mother, Marilee Nunn. He is survived by his father and stepmother, William and Natalee Nunn; brother, Sam; sister-in-law, Julia; and one niece and nephew.



The phrase "community builder" may not have been coined with Charles and Shirley Leavell in mind — but it could well have been.

The affection these native El Pasoans feel for their hometown is evident in their generosity and contributions toward El Paso's development.

Charles Leavell, chairman of the board of The Leavell Company, Leavell Mineral Resources, Leavell & Roberts, Inc., Leavell Properties, Inc., and New Mexico and Texas Homes, Inc., had many opportunities to locate his headquarters in more glamorous capitals of finance. Yet, he and his wife bypassed them and chose to remain in El Paso.

In his book, *The Leavell Story*, local author Bill Lynde cites the Leavells' reasons for choosing El Paso:

"Charles and Shirley Leavell preferred El Paso. They were born in El Paso, loved El Paso and its people. They raised their son and daughter there [Mary Lee Pinkerton and Charles Scurry Leavell], built a beautiful home in Red Rock Canyon, traveled the world over, yet always counted on coming home to El Paso."

And, although the Leavells' school ties are woven in the colors of other colleges and universities, they are tremendously supportive of UTEP's mission to provide a quality education and opportunity to students in the El Paso region.

"El Paso is lucky to have UTEP," Leavell said. "In addition to providing an opportunity for education for a large number of people who might otherwise not be able to move on to higher education, UTEP's research activities, health care training, and the expertise it brings into so many areas make UTEP one of this community's most



COMMUNITY BUILDERS: CHARLES H. AND SHIRLEY LEAVELL

by Bob Guidry

valuable assets."

Mrs. Leavell is equally emphatic that UTEP and the El Paso community should be mutually supportive.

"The self-interests of both the university and the community are closely tied," she said. "Closer cooperation between the two can be only beneficial to both. El Paso has gained much from the academic and research achievements the university has accomplished."

Former El Paso mayor and UTEP Development Board member Peter de Wetter, a longtime friend of the Leavells, lauds the couple's support of UTEP and their commitment to the community.

"Charles and Shirley Leavell are among the greatest leaders this community has ever had," he said. "They recognize that El Paso's young people are its best asset for the future, and they lead the way in support for those young people."

The Leavells have shown their support by endowing the Charles H. and Shirley Leavell Chair in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. The endowment is aimed at recruiting top-echelon professionals to enhance the college's

success in producing highly qualified health care professionals. They also established the Charles H. and Shirley Leavell Endowed Program Development Fund to encourage the development of new programs in nursing and health sciences.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio, in expressing her thanks to the Leavells, wrote in a message to them:

"There are not words sufficient to express our heartfelt thanks for the

generosity and the vision of your gifts; such a debt of gratitude must be repaid through action rather than words. And, toward this end, I pledge our tireless efforts to build upon the foundation that you have made possible, the strong, successful and innovative College of Nursing and Health Sciences that El Paso needs and deserves."

Besides serving on the development board for 15 years and as director of the Member Advisory Council at UTEP, Leavell also gives of his time to the community.

Leavell is a member of the Board of Acquisitions of the El Paso Museum of Art, and founder and director of the Lee and Beulah Moor Children's Home. He also is involved in the YWCA, YMCA, United Way of El Paso, El Paso Cancer Treatment and Research Center and the El Paso Symphony Orchestra.

Mrs. Leavell's involvement in the community also is impressive. She is director of Family Services of El Paso, and is involved in the El Paso Boys Club, El Paso Rehabilitation Center, United Way of El Paso, El Paso Museum Guild, Pan American Round Table, Goodwill Industries and the YWCA.

As community builders, UTEP partners Charles and Shirley Leavell certainly set an example for others to follow.



The 1966 NCAA championship team: (top left to right) Nevil Shed, Jerry Armstrong, Willie Cager, David Lattin, Don Haskins; (center left to right) David Palacio, Dick Myers, Harry Flournoy, Louis Baldwin; (bottom left to right) Bobby Joe Hill, Orsten Artis, Togo Railey, Willie Worsley. **Inset photo:** Bobby Joe Hill and Louis Baudoin show their appreciation to their fans' overwhelming support during the reunion of the team Jan. 20.

WINNING AGAINST THE ODDS...

UTEP REMEMBERS 1966 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

March marks the 30th anniversary of a game that made history for the National Collegiate Athletic Association by shattering the color barriers that had once dominated college basketball.

In 1966, an all-black starting line up from Texas Western College (now UTEP) faced an all-white team from the University of Kentucky for the NCAA national championship.

The number one-ranked Kentucky Wildcats, coached by the legendary Adolph Rupp, fell to the unknown Texas Western Miners, coached by a young Don Haskins.

Although the Miners' victory made history, Haskins says he was just doing his job. "I was so young and naive," Haskins remembers. "I had not thought of it as putting an all-black team on the court. I was simply playing the best players I had."

In January, Haskins' championship players reunited on the basketball court for the 30th anniversary of the historic game against the Wildcats. The players returned to El Paso to complete interviews for a Home Box Office

(HBO) special about the team.

The players were welcomed home with an eight-minute standing ovation by the sellout crowd during half time at the UTEP-UNM game January 20.

"This is a great feeling. It is great to be home and see how the people still support and cheer for us," Nevil Shed, squad member of the 1966 championship team, said.

Shed, who is intramurals coordinator at UT San Antonio, takes pride in the role that his team played in overcoming some of the racial hurdles that had been part of college basketball.

"Our 1966 team did something special," Shed said. "We helped change the world of basketball by opening the door for African-Americans and other minorities to do what we did."

UTEP SPONSORS PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM ON VIETNAM WAR

Nationally recognized experts on the Vietnam War will be in El Paso in March for a public symposium featuring lectures, poetry readings and music related to this turbulent era in American history.

"A Public Symposium: The History, Literature and Music of the Vietnam War" begins Tuesday, March 26, and continues through Saturday, March 30, at various locations in El Paso. The events of this citywide symposium are free and open to the public.

"The Vietnam War was the most

divisive in American history, excepting only the Civil War," said Kenton Clymer, chair of the Department of History. "While Vietnam seems to have put the war behind it, [the war] continues to have profound effects on American politics, diplomacy and society. Bringing these outstanding authorities to El Paso for this symposium will allow us to examine the war and its continuing impact."

James Fallows, Washington, D.C. editor of *Atlantic Monthly*, will open the symposium with "After the Shooting Stopped: The Vietnam War and American Society" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 26, at UTEP's Fox Fine Arts Building, Recital Hall.

Major funding for the symposium has been provided by the Texas Committee for the Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

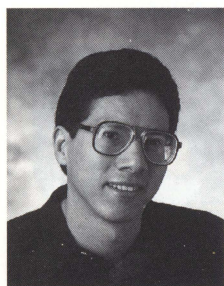
For more information and a complete schedule of events, call 747-5508.



UTEP STUDENT RECEIVES WHITE HOUSE INTERNSHIP

As politicians gear up for the 1996 presidential campaign, one UTEP student is preparing to scrutinize their every move.

Manuel Garcia, a senior communication student, is one of 12



Manuel Garcia

students in the nation selected to participate in the White House Internship Program this spring.

Although many of the interns selected are political science students, Garcia is a journalist who remains committed to an apolitical lifestyle.

"I have a negative feeling about politics in general," Garcia said. "After I complete the internship, I hope to have a better grasp about how Washington, D.C., runs. This experience will either confirm my feelings about politics or it might give me a broader scope on how things actually work."

The non-paid White House internships were created to challenge and reward a select number of college students who have demonstrated academic excellence and have displayed a commitment to public service. As part of President Clinton's emphasis on national service, interns are required to participate in a community service program during their stay in the capitol.

Interns also are introduced to the nation's capital and its personalities through monthly tours and a weekly speaker series.

EDUCATION DOCTORATE GIVES STUDENTS INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

From his fifth floor office in the Education Building, John Peper, chairman of the UTEP Department of Educational Leadership and Foundations, gazes southward out the window.

"Take a look out there. You can see the Administration Building, the Library and then Juárez."

"The close proximity of an international border to UTEP will give our students a unique experience that is virtually unavailable anywhere else," Peper said.

This bicultural setting will play a key role in attracting students to the Ed.D program which received final approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on Jan. 19. Doctoral students will be trained for administrative positions in school districts, universities, government and educational foundations.

Among the requirements for participation in the Ed.D program is that students be proficient in a language other than English, preferably Spanish.

And in order to maintain quality and individualized instruction, enrollment in the program will be limited to 12 students each year.

Under the program, 20 new doctoral courses will be added to the College of Education's curriculum by Fall 1996.

Additionally, UTEP will create a Center for Educational Leadership to develop and foster research about the problems confronted by public school educators. Also, new faculty will be added to the college's teaching ranks and students will assist in hands-on research and in a one-year internship at selected schools as part of their coursework.

WHEN

Students Learn Valuable

A NEED

Lessons by Sharing

ARISES...

Services with Community

by Christian Clarke

Each time Robert Armendariz began reading with the children participating in Project Vida's after-school reading program, one little girl would sheepishly withdraw from the circle, claiming to have a stomach ache.

"Eventually I realized that she needed help reading, so I began taking her aside and reading with her one-on-one," Armendariz, a senior English student, said. "She settled down after she realized that I was not going to force her to read. Instead, I began asking her ques-

tions about what I was reading, until she felt comfortable to begin reading herself."

"Twenty-somethings" who comprise Generation X have been labeled apathetic and lazy, but students such as Armendariz are proving that this stereotype is misleading and undeserved. Each semester, hundreds of UTEP students spend their free time volunteering at various El Paso community agencies through university-sponsored programs and student organizations.

Armendariz volunteered as a reading tutor with Project Vida as part of the university's Praxis program, which encourages students to earn classroom credit while serving their community through a variety of social agencies such as the American Red Cross, Child Crisis Center, Habitat for Humanity, Life Management Center and the Southwest AIDS committee.

Praxis, which is Greek for "action," is sponsored by the Protestant and Roman Catholic ministries at UTEP. The program gives faculty members the opportunity to include real-life, practical and hands-on experience in their

"There is a greater depth to the students after they complete their volunteer services. Many students do not realize how much they have until they work with people who are less fortunate. In the end, students come to appreciate all of the opportunities that they have been given."

— Sister Ann Francis Monedero

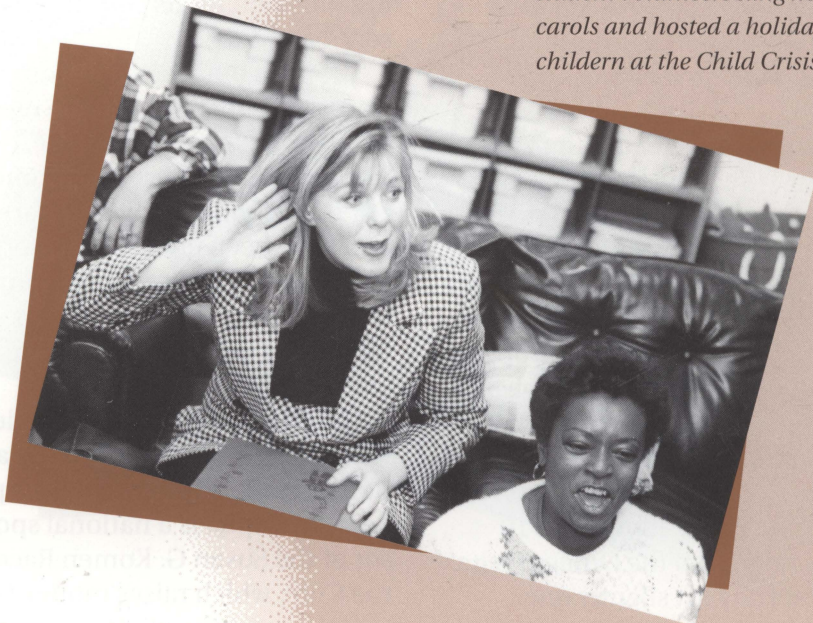
academic courses. Each of the more than 120 students who volunteer during a semester work between 20 and 50 hours at participating community agencies.

Bruce Lawson, associate professor of English, has offered course credit to students participating in the Praxis program as part of his John Milton and Literature of the Bible and his renaissance classes.

"Many of the writers we examine in these courses believe that education has important social and ethical dimensions," Lawson said.



Stephanie Cox-Cornelio, director of the Women's Resource Center and student volunteers sang holiday carols and hosted a holiday party for children at the Child Crisis Center.



"They do not see education as an end in itself, but as a tool to help people reach their full potential to actively improve the human condition."

After completing the program, students are required to write reflection papers that detail their volunteer service at the various community agencies.

"These men came out of the projects and the barrios and have been given the opportunity to go to college. Every man in this fraternity is committed to remaining connected to where he came from."

— Luis Alarcon

"Students have powerful experiences," Lawson said. "It is remarkable how answering phones for a crisis hot line or working at a battered women's shelter or hospice makes students confront views of life they otherwise would have never been exposed to."

Sister Ann Francis Monedero, director of Catholic Campus Ministries, has witnessed students' world views transformed after participating in the Praxis program.

"There is a greater depth to the students after they complete their volunteer services. Many students do not realize how much they have until they work with people who are less fortunate. In the end, students come to appreciate all of the opportunities that they have been given," Monedero said.

Recognizing the many gifts that have been afforded to them as college students, more than 10 young men from the Omega Delta Phi fraternity sat silently one

Saturday afternoon as Irma Rodriguez, house manager of the El Paso Ronald McDonald House, explained the history of the national organization.

As each story about a child with cancer was recounted, the fraternity brothers were introduced to the plight of family members who patiently observe their child's condition. Many of these families do not have the economic resources to stay in hotels during extended hospitalizations, Rodriguez explained, so many families count on the Ronald McDonald House to provide them with a home-away-from-home.

With this information, Luis Alarcon, sophomore chemistry student, and other members of Omega Delta Phi continued their weekend work of grooming the yard and cleaning the rooms that many families retreat to each year.

"The stories about the children touched the men's hearts," Alarcon said. "These children are living their childhood in a hospital. The biggest tragedy would be to isolate them from their family. In a child's recovery, the love of family provides what medical science cannot."

For three years, Omega Delta Phi has been recognized as the university's outstanding student organization for its commitment to service.

"Many of our members come from neighborhoods where men do not typically go to college," Alarcon said. "These men came out of the projects and the barrios and have been given the opportunity to go to college. Every man in this fraternity is committed to remaining connected to where he came from."

Most fraternities and sororities volunteer with a philanthropy as part of their mission. For example, Zeta Tau Alpha is a national sponsor of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, which raises money for

breast cancer research. Locally, the young women helped register participants for the race, which attracted more than 5,000 participants. Another UTEP fraternity, Alpha Kappa Lambda, joined the fundraising effort to help set up and clean up the race facilities.

"As a coordinator, it is fun to see young people interested in volunteering because they want to give something back to their community."

— Julie Suarez

"These students were able to see the big picture on race day and meet some of the survivors of breast cancer," Julie Suarez, volunteer coordinator for Race for the Cure, said. "As a coordinator, it is fun to see young people interested in volunteering because they want to give something back to their community."

Almost 300 students are members of Greek organizations at UTEP. Together, many fraternities and sororities collaborate with El Paso agencies to arrange community service projects throughout each academic year.

"Many students who are involved with the Greek system are concerned about the future," Anthony Bernal, president of the Inter-Fraternity Council, said. "Students have a large amount of energy, but they are not always given direction. Once students are given an opportunity, they seize it to produce marvelously."

In addition to volunteering with existing community agencies, many students have created their own organizations that draw attention to social issues such as the environment, poverty, AIDS and domestic violence.

Last year, UTEP students organized the Take Back the Night to increase awareness of the violence directed at women. More than 15 student organizations have joined forces to educate students and the community about all types of violence against women — from domestic violence to rape.

“We wanted to create a platform where survivors could tell their stories,” Stephanie Cox-Cornelio, former director of the Women’s Resource Center, said. “The number of women who are the victims of violence is sometimes too overwhelming and can make people numb. Take Back the Night is a for-the-students-by-the-students organization that presents some of the survivors’ stories to show that anyone can be affected.”

This month, students organized the Take Back the Night Rally with a candlelight vigil, guest speakers, a slide show and live musicians. The students also are organizing the national Clothesline Project, a display of T-shirts depicting the stories of women who have been the victims of violence, and a benefit concert later this semester.

Trevor McCarthy, a sophomore business administration student and last year’s vice-chair of fundraising, said the Take Back the Night organization is not just for women.

“Everyone has to worry that women are the victims of violence,” McCarthy said. “If any man has ever cared about a woman, then this issue has to be important to him.”

A belief in universal responsibility is what motivated students to designate a day to promote acts of kindness throughout the El Paso area. Omega Delta Phi, with the Octagon Club from the Ysleta Independent School District, presented a bill to the El Paso City Council to proclaim Saturday, Feb. 17, Random Acts of Kindness Day.

Participants encourage people to perform simple acts such as offering



Members of the Omega Delta Phi fraternity offer their assistance in maintaining a Ronald McDonald House in El Paso, a home-away-from-home for families with children being treated in local hospitals.



"Whether it be helping your neighbor, throwing out the trash or simply helping someone cross the street, we should all perform these acts of kindness. Human beings reaching out to help one another is what the day is all about."

— Shanti Frausto

a smile to a stranger, giving up one's place in line for a senior citizen, volunteering with a community service organization or taking time to mentor a young person.

"Whether it be helping your neighbor, throwing out the trash or simply helping someone cross the street, we should all perform these acts of kindness [regularly]," Shanti Frausto, freshman microbiology student, said. "Human beings reaching out to help one another is what the day is all about."

Although Random Acts of Kindness Day is officially recognized one day per year, student organizers hope to inspire other young people to take a more active role in volunteering by offering services that will improve the quality of life for the surrounding communities.

From the simple gesture of smiling at a stranger to the commitment of spending extra time to help a little girl master a popular children's story, the hundreds of hours that UTEP student volunteers offer the community translates into learning experiences that will shape the students' development and their understanding of the needs of the world around them. ■



Members of UTEP's greek organizations Zeta Tau Alpha and Alpha Delta Lambda are an integral part of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure which raises money for breast cancer research.





FACULTY PROFILE

Howard Daudistel, chair of UTEP's sociology and anthropology department, tells his students that one of the problems sociologists have as social scientists is that they are studying themselves. They are human beings *and* members of societies and the two are inseparable, so self-reflection and self-analysis are not easy tasks.

Comparably, UTEP's exhaustive self-study, conducted during the last year and a half by faculty, staff, students and members of the community, has been an extremely challenging project.

UTEP is evaluated every 10 years for reaffirmation of its accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Each SACS-member institution conducts a self-study through which it assesses its own compliance of SACS criteria, evaluating educational programs, governance, support structures, resources and educational and administrative services.

"A good self-study also will analyze its institutional weaknesses and strengths beyond the criteria, and we have tried to do that as well," said Jon Amastae, professor of languages and linguistics and chair of the SACS Steering Committee.

The responsibilities of this mammoth project fell to the steering committee and its subcommittees, utilizing the efforts of 128 people, including almost 10 percent of the university's faculty. The study required committee members to spend thousands of hours investigating and evaluating all aspects of the university's operations.

"This effort was absolutely exhaustive in the sense that it was incredibly time consuming and many, many people on this campus devoted many hours to the gathering and analysis of information in an attempt to assess our progress as an institution and think about our future," said Daudistel, who is chair of the SACS



SACS Steering Committee leaders, (left to right) Carl Lieb, biological sciences associate professor; Jon Amastae, languages and linguistics professor; Howard Daudistel, sociology and anthropology chair; and Jorge Lopez, physics associate professor, at one of the campus forums held to discuss the self-study report.

FACULTY SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY: SACS

by Timi Haggerty

subcommittee on administration. "I cannot think of another single effort on campus that has taken so much time and so many people."

The colossal job of coordinating the self-study belonged to 15-year UTEP faculty member Jon Amastae.

"Jon totally committed himself to this project for two years — this was an all-consuming task for him," Daudistel said. "He was responsible for trying to corral a diverse set of campus personnel to get the job done. It took all his time to set goals, coordinate meetings and forums and develop an on-line system to provide ready access to this information. It was just extraordinary."

UTEP President Diana Natalicio agreed that Amastae's efforts were essential in fulfilling the mission of the self-study.

"All of us at UTEP are grateful to Jon for accepting this challenging assignment," she said.

Evelyn Posey, education director for the English department and editor of

the self-study report, said she was greatly impressed by the willingness of so many people to jump in and help with the project.

"I just cannot say enough about the amount of work that the committee members put into this," she said. "Most of the people involved did this in addition to their regular work load, so it was quite an investment, and I think everyone involved should be commended."

The combined efforts of these faculty and staff members resulted in some notable findings. Among the most significant strengths the study

identified are the opportunities that UTEP provides its undergraduate students to participate in externally funded research and to work one-on-one with faculty.

"Other research institutions do not offer these opportunities for their undergraduates," said Alan Dean, assistant dean of science and chair of the SACS subcommittee on faculty and research. "There are many important activities in which we are involved that other institutions would look upon as truly remarkable."

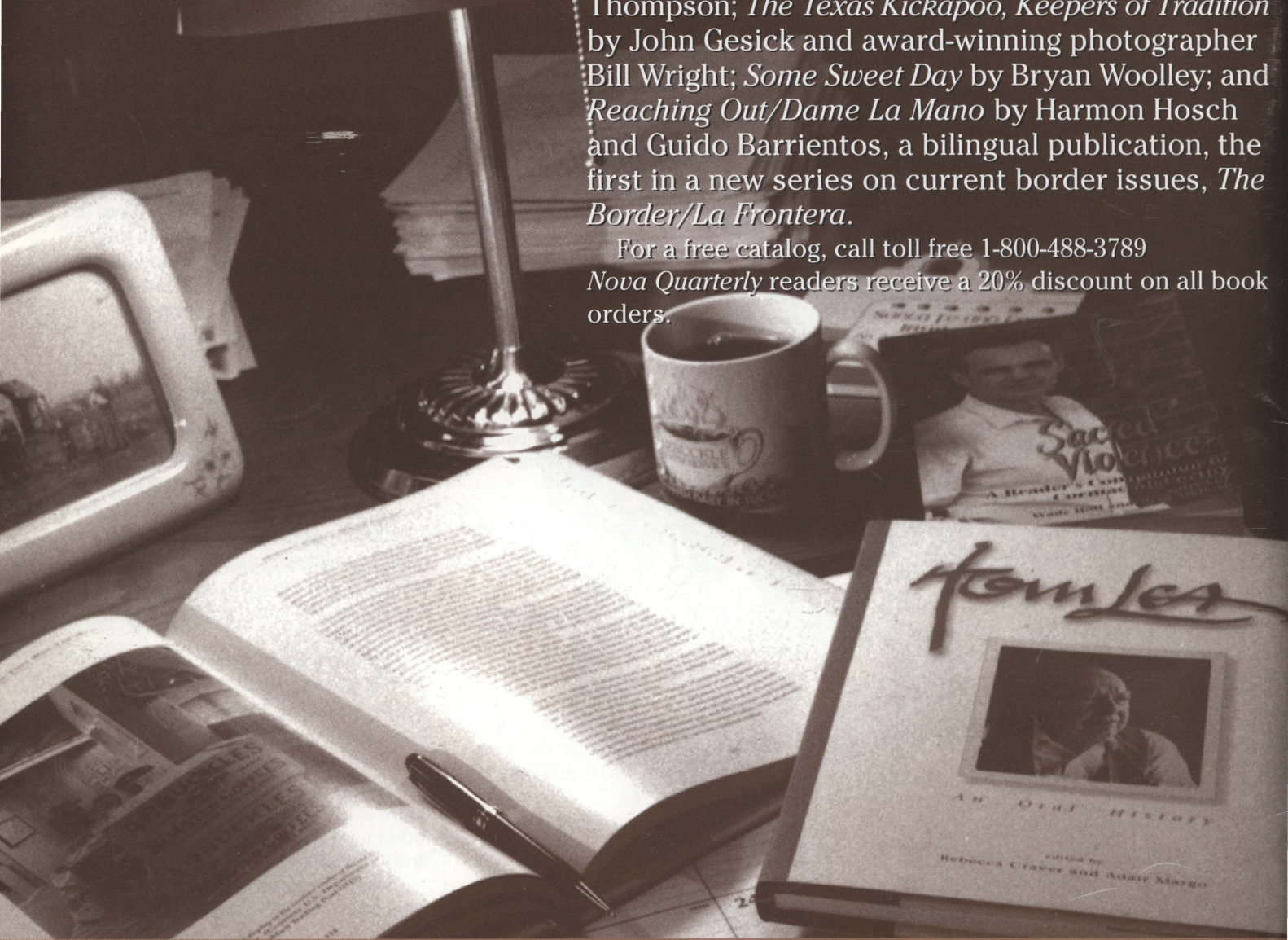
The results of the extensive study — focusing on UTEP's vision and mission, resources and institutional effectiveness — will be submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools this month in preparation for the arrival in late April of a site-visit team. This team will analyze and determine the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the self-study report.

"The utility of this report in the accreditation process will not be its only value," Amastae said. "It also provokes authentic and continued examination of our institutional life and is worthy of our investment and commitment. We will continue examining ideas of consequence about the university and its future."

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