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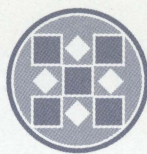
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NOVA

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



WINTER • 1996



FROM THE EDITOR

The recent attacks on affirmative action — Hopwood v. the State of Texas and the passage of California's Proposition 209 — have led to serious political debates about the necessity of race-based quotas. Many universities are grappling with the implications of these decisions and what they will mean for minority programs and the students they serve. The politicizing of the issues of diversity and affirmative action threaten higher education's ability to address the issues of access and its efforts to serve an increasingly diverse student population.

Fortunately, these recent decisions do not affect UTEP's admissions policies since the university serves a majority Hispanic population. While today's student population closely mirrors the demographics of the region from which UTEP draws more than 85 percent of its students, it was only ten years ago that the university's student population first reflected this majority.

During the past decade, significant progress has been made in increasing minority access to colleges and universities nationwide and in ensuring these students' success. Maintaining this progress is doubly important for El Paso's historically underrepresented region, where more than half of UTEP's students are first-generation college students. Nationally, there remains a lack of minority students in graduate programs with even fewer obtaining doctorates. UTEP — through funds provided from the South Texas Border Initiatives — has been addressing this problem with the development and initiation of new graduate and doctoral programs. Four new doctoral programs have been instituted over the past four years, and a new doctoral program in biological sciences is awaiting final approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in January. At the university's winter commencement, minority students will be among those who will receive the first doctorates in two of these new fields, psychology and materials science and engineering.

As politicians and lawyers debate the value of affirmative action programs, the persistence of low minority income levels combined with rising tuition rates, presents new challenges in providing higher education to historically underserved populations. The fear that race-based scholarships deny other deserving students of financial aid is not based in reality. The fact is that in America today, less than one percent of all graduate and undergraduate scholarships are race-based, and scholarships that include race as a component account for less than five percent of all scholarships.

Higher education leaders must move this debate out of the political arena, actively promote an understanding of the need for inclusiveness, and come up with creative solutions to keep the doors to higher education open for all students who have the talent and want the opportunity to pursue a college degree.

Corporations and businesses require a continuous flow of talented, skilled employees, and most American firms recognize the value of a diverse work force. Given that within ten years, more than half of that work force will consist of minorities and another 35 percent will be women and new immigrants, it is clearly evident that if educational opportunities are not provided to all Americans, this nation will not be able to go forward and compete in a global market.

In today's world, diversity should not be seen as a problem, but as its greatest opportunity to make the nation strong and vibrant. This was clearly evident at this year's Homecoming celebration, the "International Colors of UTEP." University students from across the world, from India to Mexico, offered their talents and the richness of their cultures to the El Paso community. As an Asian-American, I take great pride in working within a university community that celebrates diversity and has a mission of offering excellent academic opportunities to all who wish to further their dreams.

UTEP political science student Magdoline Asfahani's poignant portrayal of her experiences as a child of immigrants growing up in America in the Dec. 2 *Newsweek* editorial section "My Turn" sums up these sentiments well:

"The America that I love is one that values freedom and the differences of its people. Education is the key to understanding. As Americans we need to take a little time to look and listen carefully to what is around us and not rush to judgement without knowing all the facts. ... It is our collective differences that unite us and make us unique as a nation. It's what determines our past and our future."

— Kathleen Rogers, Editor

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ON THE COVER

*1996's Season of Lights featured more
than 150,000 glittering lights.
Photography by David Flores.*

*Above right photo:
The International Student Programs
Office's float showcased the many
countries represented in UTEP's
student body during the 1996
Homecoming Parade.
Photography by David Flores.*



NOVA

Q U A R T E R L Y

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The ART OF LEARNING

UTEP'S FINEARTS PROGRAM

is an integral part of El Paso's distinctive cultural climate. From the haunting sounds of steel drums to the spicy rhythms of *Zarzuela*, students are given the opportunity to perfect their art and provide dynamic cultural and artistic offerings to this diverse community.

From the few samplings highlighted in this issue of *NOVA Quarterly*, it is clear UTEP students are developing and refining their talents and skills in an innovative and creative environment with the support of highly talented faculty.

Of course, the best judge of the success of these programs is the quality of their graduates, as evidenced in the stories of UTEP alumni who have gone on to receive national acclaim and recognition for their talents. Success stories like these are proof that UTEP provides a grand first stage for students to begin reaching for the stars and achieving their dreams.



THE ART OF ENTERTAINING - THEATER AT UTEP

by James Braden

One of UTEP's missions is to enhance El Paso's quality of life and one very visible way it fulfills that mission is through the performing arts. Through public performances by the Union Dinner Theatre and the Department of Theater Arts, students get an audience — and El Paso is enriched by traditional, contemporary and sometimes experimental entertainment.

Gregory Taylor sports many titles that match his talents. As producer, director, sometime actor and chief spark plug behind Union Dinner Theatre productions, he heads a staff and cast that has achieved regional and national recognition. The theater began in 1983, and Taylor says it's the only regularly scheduled college-connected dinner theater in the country.

"It all began on a whim, really. If the theater department hadn't said no to a show (*Joseph and the Amazing*



Technicolor Dreamcoat') I wanted to do, the Union Dinner Theatre might never have happened," said Taylor. "I went to what was then the Student Programs Office and got permission to put on the show. We made it a dinner theater so we wouldn't compete with the theater department's shows."

Now, 62 shows later, the Union Dinner Theatre can count on full houses for every production. The theater specializes in the famed musicals of lyricist Tim Rice, who has written what many call the definitive musical dramas of recent years. The theater's 184 seats have been regularly sold out for such Rice musicals as "Evita," "Jesus Christ Superstar," and "Chess."

In fact, the theater's production of "Chess" beat out 844 college theater troupes to be selected as one of six shows to perform at the Kennedy Center for The Performing Arts in 1989. And some of its former actors

are seeking their fame and fortune in bigger markets: Selena Stair in Chicago; Scott and Christen Susong in New York; and former music director, Cody Ritchie also is working in New York.

While the Union Dinner Theatre is a place to hone one's theatrical crafts, the Department of Theater Arts is the place to learn those skills. Charles Fensch, chair, says the department's strong points are in its writing and film studies program, the state-of-the-art University Playhouse, and the innovative Studio Theatre.

"Call the Serpent God to Me," a play with strong local relevance. Written by UTEP graduate student, Elena Carrillo, the drama focuses on a Hispanic girl in El Paso coping with family oppression and abuse. Wright nominated the play for the 1996 competition of the 21st Century Playwrights Festival in New York City, where it was honored as one of ten outstanding student scripts and submitted to professional theater companies for production consideration.

The theater department also continues to build on its strong



Scenes from the Union Dinner Theatre production of "Tommy" presented Oct. 11 - Nov. 3.

"We're moving more strongly into playwriting. Michael Wright is heading that program and has created the Winterworks and Playworks competitions to encourage playwriting," Fensch said.

This spring, as part the University Playhouse offerings, Wright will direct

history through the accomplishments of onetime students who make names for themselves in the business. Of course, the department's most famous graduate, El Paso native F. Murray Abraham, who won an academy award for his role in "Amadeus," heads the growing list. ■



ZARZUELA AT UTEP: ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF OPERA

by Steve Kunert

A romantic tale may meander through moody melodies or a zany plot may zigzag between zesty rhythms. The possibilities are as endless as they are delightful when it comes to *zarzuelas*, Spanish folk operas that now enliven UTEP's music scene.

Zarzuela originated in 17th-century Spain, but a new age of popularity has recently arisen in the United States. One of its hotbeds is in UTEP's Department of Music, where *Zarzuela* at UTEP was formed last year. The university organization is dedicated to the performance and promotion of the art form, and is striving to make the university and the city of El Paso a nationally known center for the study and presentation of the lively operas.

"The vibrant combination of singing, acting, dancing, costumes and scenery make *zarzuela* one of the most enjoyable art forms," Victor Chacon, UTEP's director of opera, said. "Better yet, since our primary focus is on students and their artistic development, there isn't a better vehicle than *zarzuela* for honing the performance and technical abilities of young artists."

Zarzuela at UTEP utilizes the skills of professionals for major roles in its productions, so UTEP students who perform in the supporting roles receive the added bonus of attaining direct knowledge from accomplished artists.

One such professional is artist-in-residence, Pablo Zinger, an expert in Latin American and Spanish music and an internationally known conductor, pianist and recording artist. Zinger's talents and vision are a perfect fit for the music department as UTEP positions itself as a national leader in producing *zarzuelas* and other Hispanic music events.

"The study and performance of Hispanic music is not only a culturally worthy enterprise, but also a rapidly growing field with new opportunities available for musicians," Zinger said. "UTEP is at the forefront of a promising musical growth industry. *Zarzuela* and other Spanish and Latin American music are gaining popularity because of changing demographics in the United States and because of the increasing recognition of the richness of Hispanic musical forms."

Zarzuela is the catalyst for an expanding array of study and performance the music department intends to incorporate into its curriculum, fostered through the establishment of a Hispanic Music Institute.

"The institute will enable our students to study and develop their talents in a rich variety of Hispanic musical forms, such as flamenco dancing, *folklorico*, bilingual theater and so on," Chacon said. "With the success of *zarzuela* leading the way, the institute is now becoming a reality."

The Hispanic Music Institute is slated to begin with a four-week program next summer to train ad-



Scenes from "*La Verbena de la Paloma*" performed last summer.

vanced students and performers, and to educate university and conservatory teachers from throughout the United States about Spanish and Latin American music performance, history and development. The long-term goal is to expand the institute's program to a year-round endeavor, with *zarzuela* as the integral part of the curriculum. University instructors, as well as visiting internationally renowned singers, instrumentalists, composers and scholars will participate with students in performance events and present seminars on the repertoire and aspects of Hispanic music.

Zarzuela at UTEP produced the well-received "*La Verbena de la Paloma*" last summer. Work is underway on "*Luisa Fernanda*," considered an outstanding work of Spanish theater, for presentation to El Paso audiences next summer.

Senior music major and *zarzuela* performer, Nina Hedderich, sees a bright future for *Zarzuela* at the university.

"The organization has excellent professionals and instructors working together as a team," she said. "They challenge you to rise to the highest standards — and they do it by example. Pablo Zinger, for one, always pushes himself just as hard as he asks students to push themselves."

Victor Chacon envisions for UTEP the success and notoriety garnered by Indiana University, the recognized leader in university-produced opera:

"UTEP will be to *zarzuela* what Indiana is to opera." ■



UTEP FILM STUDIES PROGRAM IS A HOT TICKET

by Marina Lee

Ask Cynthia Farah who directed "Citizen Kane," what recurrent theme runs through Alfred Hitchcock movies, which supporting actress won the Oscar in 1980, or how much the top flick grossed at the box office last week. Chances are PG (pretty good) that she'll have the answer immediately — followed by an interesting explanation. If by some remote possibility you stump her, she'll get back to you right away with the correct information.



Cynthia Farah directs UTEP's film studies program.

As she tells her students, "You don't have to know all the answers, just know how to find them." The popular instructor who directs UTEP's film studies program is more than an average movie buff who loves popcorn and sneak previews.

A photographer, film critic, author and scholar, Farah received her bachelor's degree in communications and film from Stanford University and her master's in English and American literature from UTEP. After graduating from Stanford, where she also attended the Stanford Broadcasting and Film Institute, Farah worked as a



Marie Rose: A Star on the Rise

by Timi Haggerty

*When you wish upon a star,
Makes no difference who you are,
Everything your heart desires
Will come to you.*

— Jimminy Cricket, from Walt Disney's *Pinocchio*

Marie Rose has been on the rise to stardom since her graduation from UTEP in 1991. The bright, determined screenwriter and actress left El Paso upon receiving her M.A. in theater arts to seek fame and fortune in Hollywood.

After four years of pounding the pavement and paying her dues, the card-carrying member of the Screen Actors Guild is rocketing into one of the industry's most elite inner circles: Walt Disney Studios.

Rose is one of Disney's newest protégés, the winner of one of four coveted screenwriting fellowships awarded last year. Rose, UTEP's Outstanding Graduate in Theater Arts in 1991, won the one-year fellowship contract with Disney Studios' Touchstone Pictures for her screenplay entitled "Divine Intervention." The action fantasy features a guardian angel who persuades a cynical police detective to protect a young, future world-leader from the forces of darkness. "Divine Intervention" was selected from more than 3,000 film and television script submissions.

The play is Rose's first, but before receiving the fellowship, she earned her "bread and butter" money reading screenplays for Regency, Mel Gibson's Warner Brothers film company.

"After reading so many bad screenplays, I learned what not to do," Rose explains. "I knew I could do better, so I sat down to write 'Divine Intervention.'"

Acting, however, has always been Rose's first love, and she has already had more than her 15 minutes in the spotlight. The effervescent thespian has acted in a number of commercials in El Paso and in California, she had a small, brief role in TV's "L.A. Law," and she can even claim a starring role in a feature film. Rose played opposite Francesco Quinn, Anthony Quinn's son, in a "shoot-em'-up" movie titled "Stand-up," which found foreign distribution.

Rose also has auditioned on Broadway in New York and worked with "The Groundlings," an improvisational group from which actors are often recruited for NBC's famed "Saturday Night Live" late-night television show.

In El Paso, Rose is remembered most fondly by her nickname, "T.J.," and as UTEP's own celebrity of the stage during the late '80s. For a time, she starred in practically all of the university's Playhouse and Studio Theatre productions.

"I can't stress enough how wonderful the theater arts program at UTEP is," Rose says. "I stumbled on it myself as an undergraduate, not knowing what a treasure lay there. The Playhouse and Studio Theatre are two of the best kept secrets in El Paso and the acting world, and as a professional actor, I have never worked at a better facility since my days at UTEP."

production assistant for director Otto Preminger.

When Farah premiered UTEP's film program in 1994 in the theater arts department, she introduced three basic courses: Introduction to the Art of the Motion Picture; Cinematic Directors and Genres; and Film Theory and Criticism. This year she expanded the curriculum to include: African-American Filmmakers; American Avante-Garde Film; Documentary Film; and Women and Film.

Farah believes all students at UTEP — regardless of major — will benefit from studying films. "Whether you're interested in watching films with greater insight, or a career in films, a film studies minor can provide an excellent foundation," Farah affirms. "Students majoring in virtually any subject at UTEP can benefit from understanding the relationship between motion pictures and politics, theater, history, art, education,

psychology, sociology and numerous other disciplines."

The film studies courses are taught in a specially equipped classroom with a large screen monitor, laser disc and VCR units, and a Dolby surround sound system. Studying in such an atmosphere may sound like fun, but Farah is serious about the educational value of her classes.

"We teach students to read literature critically. Unfortunately, today more young people are watching videos and film than reading books," Farah said. "We need to teach them how to watch movies critically, to learn to what extent they're being manipulated by filmmakers, to understand the director's motives and what is factual in a film and what isn't. Movies reflect so many aspects of our culture and can affect how we feel about historical and social events — the impact is significant. A better educated and more discerning

audience is important."

For Jessica Santascioy, a 1994 UTEP graduate in psychology, the film studies program is a godsend. She is auditing Farah's classes as she prepares to pursue an MFA in film. She has applied for graduate work at some of the country's top film schools, including UCLA, Columbia and NYU.

"I wish the program had been offered when I was getting my undergraduate degree, but I appreciate Cynthia letting me audit the classes. She has been so accessible and a true mentor to me," Santascioy said. "Having this program at UTEP will help students, especially Hispanics and women, open all kinds of doors in what is basically a male-dominated industry."

To Farah, sharing her lifelong passion for film in an academic venue is a dream come true. To her students, it's learning the complex reality of creating art on the big screen. ■

THE SCIENCE OF MAKING MUSIC... UTEP STUDENTS ENGINEER STEEL DRUM PERFORMANCE

by Christian Clarke

After World War II, folk artists in Trinidad learned how to make metal sing through the creation of steel drums. Today, UTEP students are learning to play the 20th-century musical novelties and studying the science that produces the metal's mysterious and haunting voices.

For more than 50 years, steel drums — formed out of discarded 55-gallon oil drums — have captured the fascination of music lovers throughout the world. UTEP's steel drum band, Pandemonium, now brings these pulsing rhythms to El Paso.

"I did not know what to expect when I first saw the drums, which used to be old trash barrels," said Michelle Gutierrez, sophomore biology student who plays cymbals in UTEP's percussion program. "The individuals who saw these drums (and saw their musical potential) had brilliant, creative minds. When you touch the steel drums, they sing. It is absolutely amazing!"

Pandemonium's inaugural performance in November featured calypso music from Trinidad and Tobago, where steel drums are called pans. The group provided a packed audience with an inspirational evening that not only showcased the musical talents of UTEP's finest and most innovative percussionists, but also exposed the musical and scientific passions of the

university's top engineering and science graduate students.

Students and faculty members also presented a brief overview of the university's steel drum research program in the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering.

The research team includes Russell Chianelli, chair of the chemistry department, and Dwight Russell,



From left: research team leaders Larry White, Larry Murr and Dwight Russell try out their skills on the steel drums.

associate professor of physics, who study the composition and acoustics of the tuned metal instruments. The team is digitally recording and archiving the sound produced by the popular, but unusual drums in order to preserve the acoustic signal and characterization that is lost after the instruments are deformed and dissected for study.

"Musical instruments are great, metallurgically speaking," said Elizabeth Trillo, a Ph.D. candidate in materials science and engineering and former flutist. "Whereas most musical instruments already have been analyzed, no one knows how steel drums work."



Christine Kennedy, of the steel drum research team, plays the bass steel drums.

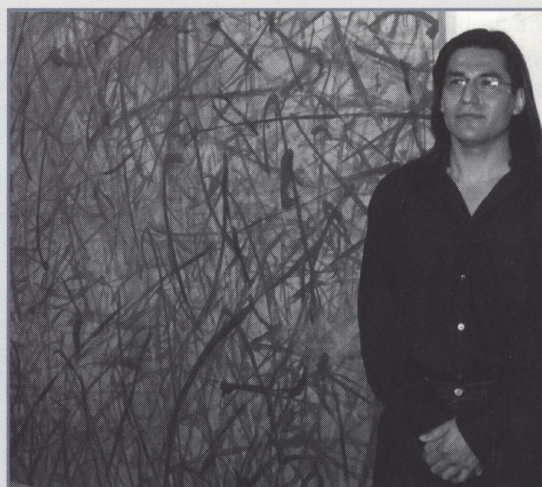
For Trillo, whose doctoral research includes studying the corrosion aspects of stainless steel drums used to store hazardous materials along the border, the interdisciplinary steel drum research team has provided her with a less toxic method for analyzing the drums.

Upon first glance, the sleek black finish of the steel drums masks their original role as oil drums. Once touched by the skillful hand of a percussionist, the metal of the drum speaks through beautiful notes whose delicate nature defies the harsh techniques used to manufacture the pans.

After beating the top of the drum into a hemisphere with a six-pound sledgehammer, the drum is turned over and the notes are pounded into

Sam Reveles: Confrontations on Canvas

by Timi Haggerty



"I begin my paintings with a specific direction in mind, something concrete," UTEP alumnus Sam Reveles says. "Then, at some point, I let go and let the energy take me by surprise — letting it become like a wild animal."

The primal fierceness of Reveles's abstract expressionist works has made him one of New York's hottest artists. A *Flash Art News* review of his paintings exhibited at the SteinGladstone Gallery in 1992 comments that Reveles's works exude "instinct and a primitive sureness. ... There's something incredibly *animalistic* about his work — indeed, the surfaces look like the scooped and marred bottom of a caged animal's pen."

Reveles draws on a broad palette of influences — including Islamic art, Hindu paintings of gods and sexually charged Indian paintings — to establish the mood and tone of his paintings. Lifting images from other paintings to begin his own pieces, he then proceeds to paint over, erase and scrape away the borrowed images, choreographing his own artistic sparring match with them.

"My work is about confrontation. You don't see the underlying paintings anymore because I've painted over them — I'm having a confrontation with the art — but there's still this charge, this electrical energy, that keeps me focused so I know where the painting is coming from, though it begins to show me something unexpected," Reveles explains. "And since being Mexican is at the center of me, I am confronting all these cultures through me and who I am. There's an energy and a hotness to it, and I love that."

To maintain perspective on his art and to keep in touch with his heritage, Reveles returns to his roots in El Paso each summer. The Sun City is home to his family ("the center of my power") and UTEP is where he began to fully explore his artistic energies.

While enrolled in UTEP's fine arts program, Reveles began to interact with such internationally acclaimed artists as Rachele Thiewes, professor of art and renowned jewelry metalsmith; Randy Walz, the university's first full-time gallery director and now a painter in New York City; and Mark Perlman, a painting professor, now teaching at Sonoma State University.

"They provided a great environment for learning and introspection," Reveles says.

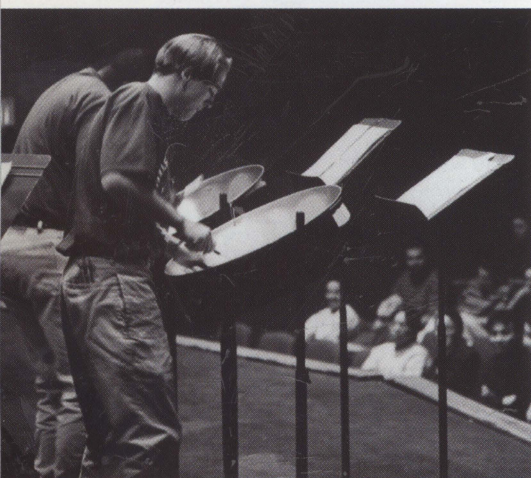
The Riverside High School graduate, who lives in Manhattan and has a studio in Brooklyn, earned a B.F.A. from UTEP in 1985 and an M.F.A. from the Yale School of Art and Architecture in 1987.

Reveles's paintings have been exhibited in St. Louis, Los Angeles, Mexico City, London and New York. One of his greatest achievements was being included in the prestigious Whitney Museum of American Art's "Whitney Biennial" last year.

"Sam has made an important early impact with his work," Thiewes notes. "He has already gained an incredible reputation and I think it's just going to continue to grow. He has a wonderful career ahead of him and the doors have only just opened."

the metal with another hammer. All steel drums are handmade by craftsmen who demonstrate surgeon-like precision as they configure each note zone on the individual pans.

Each week, engineering, science and music students meet to exchange research and skills at a steel drum performance lab. During the lab, music students coach the engineering and science students on how to play the drums; in turn, the engineering and science students and their faculty mentors teach music students about the physical properties of the drums.



UTEP's steel drum band, Pandemonium, at their inaugural performance Nov. 18.

Music floats down the halls of the Fox Fine Arts Center during the weekly lessons, where associate professor of music Larry White conducts the steel drum band that produces sounds akin to a full range of orchestral instruments.

Nearby, Larry Murr, chair of the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, is seen tapping his finger enthusiastically. As a child, Murr was fascinated with percussion instruments, but since he claims he was a trouble-maker, he spent more time standing in the corner than learning how to read music in class.

Now, as an experienced metallurgical engineer, Murr places UTEP's steel drum research at the top of his list of favorite projects. "This is the most exciting thing I have ever done. I love my work, but a widget only can be so interesting. I am thrilled to work with the steel drums project because music is one of the most important elements in reaching the soul." ■



Melissa Carrillo: A Dialogue Between Film and Illustration

by Timi Haggerty



In both life and art, Melissa Carrillo exhibits an assured handling of unpredictable materials and techniques.

A 1989 UTEP graduate with a B.A. in journalism, the self-described "photographic artist" creates unusual, abstract "paintings" through the manipulation of emulsion (the light-sensitive coating on film) and a blending of traditional etching and painting techniques.

Carrillo's work — which has been exhibited in New York and Paris — pursues mythic themes and explores varying realms of consciousness and levels of reality.

"I incorporate shrouded imagery that creates translucent layers of intertwining tones and textures that are layered with associations," she says. "Curiosity has led me into areas of art history, mysticism, mythology, the history of science, religion, philosophy and classical antiquity, which are all brought together and designed to reflect my view that everything in life is connected."

Her innovative, intuitive and imprecise treatment of Polaroid film requires an improvisational Freudian-inkblot approach. She develops a previsualized image by transferring the design created from a Polaroid negative to a plaster, watercolor paper or other receptive surface. When the image starts to dry, she incorporates mixed media techniques — painting, pencil, charcoal — to create a final image.

"It's in that moment, when I'm manipulating the emulsion and its resultant image, that I'm actually creating a piece," Carrillo explains. "The image will be different every time."

Carrillo began to develop her vision while a student at UTEP, where she seized the opportunity to acquire a diverse liberal arts education, drawing from the fine arts, philosophy, literature, as well as photography and mass communication, in order to develop her unique style of self-expression.

"UTEP is a good institution," Carrillo says. "Certain professors here, particularly Rachelle Thiewes [professor of art and internationally acclaimed jewelry metalsmith] and the late Harley Strauss [visiting professor of photography], made a real difference in my life, and these people have always been an inspiration to me."

After graduating from UTEP, Carrillo studied visual art at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif. She also has studied in Paris under the direction of fashion photographer Pierre Yves Mahe and fine art photographer Maryjean Yiano Crowe.

The El Paso native celebrated the opening of her second exhibit at the Agora Gallery in New York City in November, and her work will be shown at the DeBlois Gallery in Newport, R.I., in June 1997. She plans to return to UTEP as a graduate student in the master of arts in interdisciplinary studies program, after which she hopes to gain a position with the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American Art in Washington, D.C., as an art educator, historian and curator.



ALUMNEWS

by Yolanda Rodríguez Ingle

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.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The Alumni Association continues to venture onto the information superhighway. To ensure all alumni are able to view the "Web Page," the Alumni Association has signed an agreement with Huntleigh Telecommunications, Inc. to provide internet access at a reasonable cost to El Paso UTEP alumni.

For information regarding this service, to update your records, or to request information about upcoming events and projects, contact the alumni office:

Toll Free Number: 800/687-8004

Phone Number: 915/747-5533

E-mail address:

alumni@mail.utep.edu

SEASON OF LIGHTS

The UTEP campus glistened with holiday spirit on December 6 as alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of all ages watched while thousands of lights draping the trees and surrounding buildings were lit. The holiday lighting is part of a university tradition dating back to the 1960s, when the campus streets were lined with luminarias on Christmas Eve.

This year, more than 150,000 sparkling lights illuminated the campus. UTEP President Diana Natalicio opened the popular commu-

nity event in the parking lot of the Union Building West. Since the Union was inaugurated as the newest building to glow with lights, Natalicio invited the guests inside to enjoy the holiday repertoire of the Cathedral Boys Choir around a Christmas tree decorated by children from area schools.

UTEP's Alumni Association hosted the reception. Holiday cookies, cocoa and cider were enjoyed by all as children lined up to have their picture taken with Santa.

ALUMNI FUND FOR EXCELLENCE

Once again it is time for the annual Alumni Fund for Excellence phone-a-thon (scheduled for February 24 through March 6). The presolicitation mailings from your college will be mailed in January. Please send your annual contributions to help us get the campaign rolling.

As funds are being generated to benefit UTEP academic programs, food and prizes will be available for the callers. If you would like to volunteer as an individual caller or as part of a group, contact Marcia Cohen at 915/747-5533.

1997 ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Newly elected Alumni Association Board Members and Executive Committee were announced during the Distinguished Alumni Reception at the UTEP library during Homecoming. Three members of the 1996 Board were re-elected as part of the 1997 slate of directors: Thomas M. Meece (B.B., 1969), Michelle McCown Johnson (B.B.A., 1987) and Donna Neessen (B.S., 1970). In addition, three new board members joined the ranks: Keith Fong (B.S., M.S., 1991), Paul "Rusty" Gibbs (B.B.A., 1968), and Pete Payan (B.B.A., 1971).

Executive Committee

Ralph Adame, President
Linda Troncoso, President-Elect
Larry Trejo, Vice President
Thomas M. Meece, Treasurer
Ron Rush, Past President

Directors

Michael Bernstein
Enrique Bustamante
Linda East
Keith Fong
Paul "Rusty" Gibbs
Patty Gonzalez

Michelle McCown Johnson
Marcia McNamee
Ramy Martinez
Donna R. Neessen
Pete Payan
Pamela Pippen
David Womack

FOLLOW THE MINERS

UTEP President Diana Natalicio, Athletic Director John Thompson, Associate Director for Marketing Robert Stakes, Alumni Coordinator Yolanda Rodriguez Ingle, and El Paso alumni were joined by loyal UTEP alumni and friends at football games this fall.

Fans traveled to San Jose from San Diego, Long Beach, Los Angeles, and San Francisco to root the Miners on against San Jose State. Texas fans showed similar support traveling from Houston, San Antonio, Austin and Corpus Christi to Fort Worth for the UTEP-TCU game. Before the game, the North Texas Chapter welcomed UTEP alumni with a delectable feast.

Alumni Chapter Contacts:

North Texas	
Michael Quimbey	972/888-7370
Los Angeles	
Lou Moreno	310/433-3998
San Antonio	
Joe Loya	210/691-4110
San Francisco	
Charlie Brown	510/548-5848
San Diego	
Emma Ciriza	619/282-4741

If you are interested in establishing a UTEP Alumni Chapter in your area, please call Yolanda Rodríguez Ingle at 915/747-5533.

HELP US BRAG ABOUT UTEP GRADUATES

Do you know an alumnus who has distinguished himself or herself in their personal lives or professions? An alumnus who shows loyalty, pride and interest in UTEP? Why don't you nominate your special person for the Distinguished Alumni Award or as a Gold Nugget from their respective college?

Send your nominations to Yolanda Rodriguez Ingle at the Alumni Office, Administration Annex, UTEP, El Paso, TX 79968-0524. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, in case we need additional information about your nominee.

UTEP HOMECOMING: AN INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

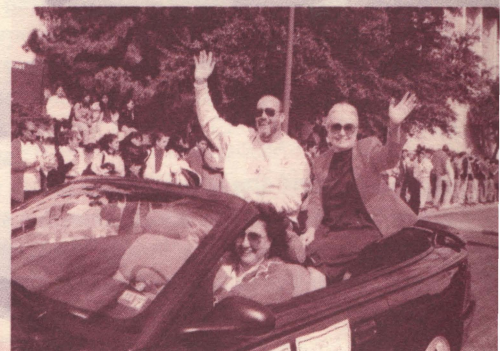
This year's homecoming theme, "The International Colors of UTEP," celebrated the world's diversity. During homecoming week, the UTEP community enjoyed the culture — food, music and traditions — of countries such as Germany, Spain, Italy, India, England, France and Mexico.

The sounds of the UTEP band marching down University Avenue were complemented by the music of local high school bands and mariachis. Colorful floats designed by numerous student organizations added to the excitement and pride of UTEP's Homecoming.

The annual Distinguished Alumnus Award reception honored Richard Pearson, CEO of Tri-State Broadcasting KTSM AM/FM/TV. The Alumni Association also introduced a new tradition: the honoring all previous Distinguished Alumnus recipients with a gold medallion as a visible token of recognition and achievement.

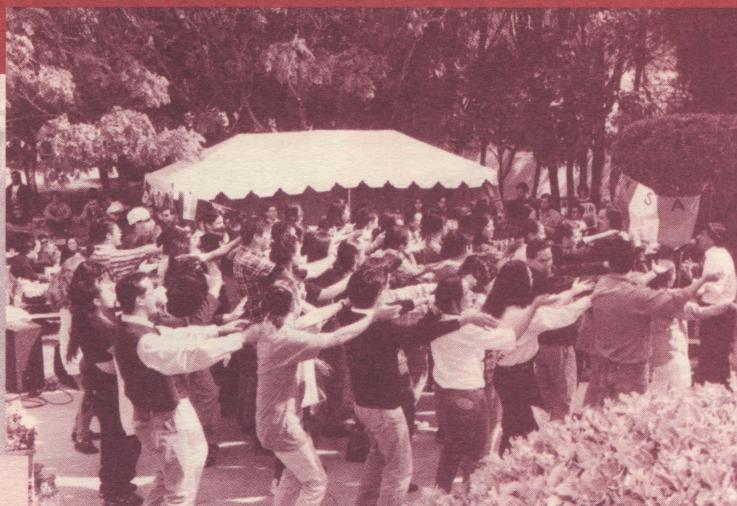
Golden Grads festivities had an air of camaraderie and fun as graduates of the class of 1946 danced to the "Macarena."

Ron Rush will be missed next year with the completion of his second year as the Homecoming Chair.



HOME 96 coming

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



CLASS NOTES

by Judy Jimenez

50s▼

Mimi Gladstein (B.A.'59; M.A.'66), UTEP professor of English, won the Richard W. and Dorothy Burkhardt Award for her outstanding contributions to the study of John Steinbeck.

60s▼

Diana Guerrero (B.A.'66; M.Ed.'72), UTEP director of admissions, was named vice president for enrollment management, admissions and financial aid for the board of directors of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

Nolan Richardson (B.A.'65) was honored by the El Paso Independent School District board of trustees during a dedication ceremony for a Northeast middle school named after him.

Mark C. Terrell (B.B.'67) has assumed partner responsibilities at KPMG Peat Marwick LLP in St. Petersburg, Fla. He is also the national director of KPMG's Public Utilities Practice.

70s▼

Colleen Alexander (B.S.N.'76) was recognized as one of El Paso's outstanding nurses by the El Paso Chamber of Commerce.

Cynthia D. Corman (B.A.'75) is division manager for Information Systems and Networks, Inc. in Washington, DC. She also was promoted to Captain in the U.S. Navy Reserves, where she will serve as commanding officer of the Naval Reserve Material Data System Group in Virginia.

Juan C. Garay (B.B.A.'77) has opened his own law practice and is board-certified in civil trial law.

Leticia Paez (B.S.'74; M.A.'76) was elected vice president of the Western Region of the YWCA.

J. James Rohack, M.D. (B.S.'76) is president of the American Heart Association, Texas Affiliate, Inc.

80s▼

Cathy Benavidez (B.S.W.'87) was elected the delegates assembly representative of the Texas National Association of Social Workers.

Susan Ferree (B.S.N.'87; M.S.N.'90) is a lieutenant of the Zuni Public Health Service Hospital at the Zuni Indian Reservation in New Mexico.

Robin Grambling (M.B.A.'84) was named executive director of UTEP's Family and Closely Held Business Forum.

George F. Hutchins (B.S.'86) has completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot in South Carolina.

Jody Mullings (B.B.A.'84) was promoted to senior vice president and team leader at Texas Commerce Bank in El Paso.

Rodolfo Ramirez (B.B.A.'84) is the new Adult Protective Services Program Administrator for the Upper Rio Grande Region of the Texas Department of Protective & Regulatory Services. **Maria F. Rollin** (M.A.'85) was named to the 1996 *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

Joe Sayklay (B.B.A.'82) was promoted to senior vice president and team leader at Texas Commerce Bank in El Paso.

Teresa Souza (B.A.'85) was selected as the news and public information representative in El Paso Electric Company's Corporate Communication Department.

Lucinda Vargas (B.B.A.'81) is an economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

90s▼

Therese Arevalo (B.S.N.'92) is a volunteer aboard the *Elissa* in Galveston, assisting in everything from teaching to general maintenance aboard the ship.

Martha Brown (B.B.A.'91) received her M.B.A. from Louisiana Tech University.

Sandra V. Fletcher (B.S.W.'84; B.S.N.'93) is a volunteer for the Mercy Medical Airlift of Texas which provides free medical airlift for patients unable to finance their transfer.

Alfonso Flores (B.S.N.'95) has completed the officer indoctrination course at the Naval Education and Training Center in Rhode Island.

Luis Saenz (M.A.'95) received the Media Award from the Texas Public Health Association.

Yvette Torres (B.B.A.'96) is a volunteer with the El Paso Juvenile Detention Center.

OBITUARIES

Ruben Sandoval (B.B.'66) June 19, 1996. Sandoval was one of the best-known civil rights lawyers in Texas. He is survived by his sons, Emiliano and Ruben, Jr; daughter, Velia; grandchildren, Mercedes and Joshua; parents, Ernest and Elvira; brother, Ernesto, Jr.; and sisters, Irene and Carmen.

Joe Franco (B.A.'50) June 20, 1996. Franco was a highly decorated U.S. Navy veteran of WWII and worked in the liquor and wine industry for 39 years. He was preceded in death by his father, Milton and his mother, Olaya; daughter, Grace; brothers, Robert and Milton, Jr; and sister, Rosalie. He is survived by his wife, Grace; and sisters, Ola and Gloria.

Wayne Edwin Duncan (M.A.'52) June 20, 1996. Duncan was a resident of Ruidoso for 25 years, and an elementary and high school principal in El Paso. He is survived by his wife, Genevieve; son, Edwin; and daughter, Jeanette.

Rene L. Lopez (B.S.ME.'67) June 24, 1996. Lopez was founder of Compa Industries in California, and a pioneer in forming strategic alliances and joint ventures. He was involved in many business and civic organizations. He is survived by his wife, Edna; sons, David and Daniel, Armando, Michael and Sammy; brothers, Armando, Hector and Victor; sister, Raquel; and grandchildren, Lukas, Shelby and Alec.

Kimberly R. Curlin (B.A.'89) July 9, 1996. Curlin was a resident of El Paso since 1957, and was the director of community and government affairs at Paragon Cable. She was involved in numerous business and civic organizations. Curlin is survived by her husband, Bruce; parents, Wilkie and Warren; brother, Randy; and sister, Melodie.

Jon L. Muir (B.B.A.'91) July 12, 1996. Muir was a lifelong resident of El Paso and an associate of G. P. Graham Capital Management. He was a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the National Association of Underwriters. He is survived by his wife, Yvette; children, Ashley and Jonathan; parents, Lloyd and Barbara; sisters, Nicki and Joyce; brother, Major Richard Chavez and grandmother, Jean.

Dru Hunter John (B.B.A.'76) July 16, 1996. John was a resident of Wichita, Kansas since 1989. He was a sports writer for the *St. John News* in Wichita and a member of the board of directors for the St. John Hospital District. He was preceded in death by his brother, Mason. He is survived by his wife, Lisa; stepsons, J.J., Ted and Harold; parents, Dorothy and Milton; and grandmother, Grace.

Rose A. Avner (B.A.'53) July 22, 1996. Avner was a substitute teacher at Coronado High School and was a lifelong resident of El Paso. She is survived by her husband, Robert; son, Malcolm; daughters, Eileen and Deanne; and a grandchild.

Annie "Louise" Megason (M.A.'56) July 23, 1996. Megason was a longtime resident of El Paso and a Texas teacher for 30 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Taylor; and a son, James Robert. She is survived by her son, John; daughters, Annie, Margaret and Mary; grandchildren, Tom, Robert, Brant, James and Megan; and great-grandchildren, Taylor and Sara.

Kenneth L. Abrams (B.A.'50; M.A.'51) August 14, 1996. Abrams was a lifelong resident of El Paso. He was the maintenance department supervisor for the El Paso Public Schools. He retired from Region XIX Educational Service Center after 15 years of service. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine; daughters, Lezlie and Marsha; mother, Mrs. Ollie Skeetoe Abrams; grandchildren, Kenneth, Jennifer, Angela, Anna and Christopher.



FACULTY PROFILE

By the time Larry White was in the eighth grade, he knew that he never wanted to become a lawyer or fireman. Growing up listening to the Beatles and other rock bands of the 1960s led White to pursue a career in what he calls the last frontier of musical instruments — percussion.

Since White arrived at UTEP 17 years ago, the associate professor and assistant chair of the music department has worked relentlessly to enhance area music lovers' understanding and appreciation of the unique and varied musical contributions of percussion instruments.

As a timpanist and principal percussionist with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, White has first-hand experience with the important role percussion plays in all types of music — from classical to contemporary, from a Tchaikovsky symphony to a John Philip Sousa march.

"What is Beethoven's *1812 Overture* without the cannon blast?" asked White. "Percussion is not merely the icing on the cake, it is an integral part of any musical performance. It establishes the heartbeat of the music. Without a steady beat from the percussion section, there will be a shaky performance."

White began his music studies at an early age with piano and violin lessons arranged by his mother, a voice coach. But when his attention tuned into the music of the 60s, the two classical instruments could not hold White's interest, and he embarked on his musical career in junior high school as a drummer for garage bands in North Carolina.

White was fascinated by the hundreds of different instruments



LARRY WHITE **WHITE DRUMS-UP** **SUPPORT FOR** **PERCUSSION PROGRAM**

by Christian Clarke

available to him as a percussionist, but he gained a particular affinity for the marimba, a type of bass xylophone. This passion for the marimba continued throughout high school and college and into his professional career.

After completing his bachelor of arts in music at East Carolina University, White received his master's degree from Baylor University. Prior to joining the UTEP faculty, he was a visiting professor at Virginia Tech University.

In 1991, through the Texas-London Seminar, White taught at the University of London and introduced the British to his passionate flair for the marimba. At UTEP, he established the Marimba Pops, a popular musical group that has performed extensively throughout the city for thousands of El Pasoans at events such as "Music Under the Stars."

White directs all of the activities for the university's 30-member

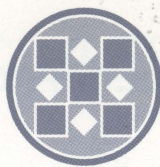
percussion program, which includes the nationally recognized UTEP Drum Line, the eclectic marimba ensemble, and the recently created steel drum band, Pandemonium.

In addition to a busy university schedule, White remains active in the national community of musicians as an adjudicator for the Heritage Festivals and the Bowl Games of America and regionally, as a judge for the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest, the University Interscholastic League and numerous band and marching festivals throughout the Southwestern United States.

A typical day for White includes early morning workshops or recruitment efforts with area high school marching bands; visits to local newspapers and television stations to promote upcoming department performances, individual lessons with UTEP students, and practice time for his own development as a performer.

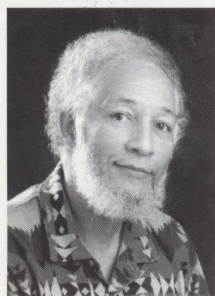
Four years ago, White received the university's highest teaching honor, the Chancellor's Council Award for Teaching Excellence. In 1989, UTEP's drum line under White's supervision took first place nationally at the Bands of America marching festival.

"White is a hardworking, productive faculty member who has built a strong percussion program, which is active locally and nationally," Ron Hufstader, music department chair, said. "White is a go-getter who is popular among the students. He sets high standards for them, which they continually meet to become successful musicians."



DAILEY BUILDS AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

In the early 1900s, American social reformer and political activist W.E.B. DuBois predicted that the problems of



Maceo Dailey

the next 100 years would be determined upon the basis of race. For Maceo Dailey, director of UTEP's new African-American studies program, this

turn-of-the-century prediction resounds just as clearly today.

"DuBois' analysis only fails in its mathematics," Dailey said. "Not only has the problem of the color line defined the 20th-century, it will carry over into the 21st-century."

As director of the interdisciplinary program dedicated to African-American studies, Dailey will work with academic departments to provide courses that study racial issues and unravel the history of this important segment of the population.

"I am firmly committed to the premise that if this nation is going to progress and reveal its true genius, then we must understand the beauty and importance of different groups of people," Dailey said.

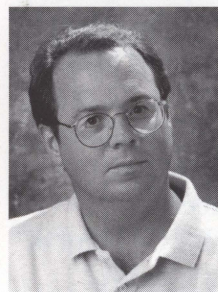
As Dailey reflected upon the relatively young field of African-American studies, which has existed only since 1968, he observed some striking parallels between Hispanic and African-American political goals and activities.

"There is an appreciation among people who share a common struggle and commitment to progress and development," Dailey said. "There needs to be an exchange of ideas between all groups, including Hispan-

ics and African-Americans, to see where their histories intersect and have common connections."

Dailey received his bachelor of science in history and social sciences from Towson State University in Maryland. He received his master of science in American and European history from Morgan State University in Maryland and his doctorate in American and African-American history from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining the UTEP faculty, Dailey was an associate professor at Atlanta's Morehouse College, which is the alma mater of Martin Luther King Jr.

UTEP PROBES PUBLIC POLICY THROUGH NEW CENTER



Dennis Soden

At a postelection forum in November, newly elected officials, including Texas Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, joined UTEP political

scientists and community representatives to discuss federal and state policy changes resulting from the election and their impact on the region.

The forum was hosted by the university's Public Policy Research Center, which pulls together the multidisciplinary talents of UTEP faculty members to research, analyze and interpret issues that not only impact the El Paso-Juárez area, but also affect the nation.

The newly established center provides public policy makers with expert and impartial research about issues, from educational and healthcare reform to the development of strategies necessary to create a competitive workforce.

The research center, which is partially supported through a grant from the Cimarron Foundation, offers objective, non-partisan data collection and analysis to stimulate and strengthen public policy inquiry in areas such as general economic policy, international trade and social infrastructure development.

"El Paso is a living laboratory for social, political and economic research within a binational and multicultural context," Dennis Soden, director of the center, said. "UTEP's faculty members have the research capabilities, language skills and cultural awareness to fully explore policy decisions and their impact on the region."

KIDS VOTING



UTEP accounting student Bianca Ornelas, left, helps 5-year-old Lamar Elementary kindergarten student Crystal Lopez cast her vote during the 1996 national elections Nov. 5. Ornelas and Lopez were participating in Kids Voting USA, a national program created to introduce children in grades K - 12 to the electoral process while also stimulating increased voter turnout among parents.



CATHERINE CROWELL BELK ART SCHOLARSHIP FUND

For 27 years, Catherine Crowell Belk attended art classes at UTEP, where she practiced her love of painting. Belk's concern for animals and their habitats and her visions of the pains and joys in human relationships were the subjects for many of her oil and watercolor paintings. Belk passed away in 1994, shortly before she was to receive her master of fine arts degree, which was awarded posthumously that year.

The art scholarship was created by Belk's four children, and income from the endowment is used to support graduate or undergraduate students in art with preference given to female students returning to UTEP after a hiatus in their studies.

"UTEP was mom's inspiration," her son, Mac Belk, said. "She loved the art faculty she worked under, and despite serious illness in the last few months of her life, she kept going to class and working at her art through her final days."

Associate professor of art Sally Segal, taught Belk in her painting classes and remembers her as an independent, spirited individual.

"Catherine Belk left us with many colorful, meaningful creations in the form of children, friendships and paintings — wonderful bits and pieces of her spirit and glimpses of her soul," Segal said.

TWO WOMEN, TWO ENDURING LEGACIES IN ART

by Steve Kunert

*"If art is to nourish the
roots of our culture,"*

John F. Kennedy said in a

speech shortly before his

death in 1963, "society

must set the artist free to

follow his vision wherever

it takes him."

In that spirit — giving aspiring artists greater opportunity to pursue their visions and to display their works in public — two permanent endowments were established in recent years for the benefit of art students at UTEP. Families inspired by two women's love for and involvement in art created the endowments to honor the memories of their relatives, Catherine Crowell Belk and Arlene Smith McKinnon.



ARLENE SMITH MCKINNON ENDOWMENT FOR ART

Arlene Smith McKinnon held a lifelong interest in art and wanted people of all ages to recognize the wonder of life and the beauty in works of art. McKinnon's love of art spurred her daughter, Valerie and husband, UTEP computer science professor Andy Bernat, and their two children, to establish the endowment.


The purposes of the fund, established in 1993, are to recognize the quality of student art at UTEP and to create a permanent collection of art by students for display on campus.

"Mom believed in art in public places and as a part of our daily lives," Valerie Bernat said. "And she understood the struggles faced by beginning artists."

An accomplished professional woman, McKinnon studied photography, traveled extensively and enjoyed viewing the world from hot air balloons.

Valerie Bernat, in speaking to students who receive the award in her mother's name, echoed the sentiments of those who create endowments in the arts at UTEP:

"Thank you for the gift your art makes to the university community. You'll be leaving this special place better in a visible, enduring way."



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO CONVOCATION ADDRESS FALL 1996

As delivered by President Diana Natalicio

Last year on this occasion, I spoke at some length about the major societal changes that are profoundly affecting higher education in the United States. Economic and demographic changes, changes in public and policy-makers' attitudes about and support for higher education, re-engineering, globalization, and new technologies. I pointed out then that UTEP is better positioned than most universities, not only to cope with these changes, but to capitalize on them.

1995-96 presented its own set of challenges to higher education. Last year will be remembered for the Fifth Circuit Court's decision concerning race-based admissions policies and the broad implications of that decision for universities in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Together with other challenges to affirmative action, this decision threatens to reduce opportunities for those populations that have been historically underrepresented in higher education.

UTEP's student demographics, which mirror those of the region from which we draw more than 90% of our enrollment, present a different and far healthier picture. They are the result of this university's authentic commitment to serve this region well, not the result of special admissions policies designed to ensure diversity. As is often the case, UTEP was well ahead of national trends, though we sometimes fail to recognize our own leadership role.

complex at the north end of the campus, in Charlie Davis Park. The sight of this extraordinarily beautiful new facility, a sparkling diamond in the desert, is truly breathtaking.

Several days later, I joined other members of the UTEP community, the architect, and all of the workers who are responsible for the construction of the new Undergraduate Learning Center for a "topping out" celebration. We all watched as the large construction crane picked up and set in place the uppermost portion of that building's roof. A small evergreen tree, which accompanied the roof section on its journey to the top of the tall tower, proudly proclaimed the achievement of this major milestone in the construction of our beautiful new campus facility.

Such construction milestones have been numerous at UTEP during the past year. In fact, there is probably more construction and renovation activity underway on this campus now than at any other single moment in our history. Thanks to the Texas Legislature and its funding of the South Texas/Border Initiatives, we are not only constructing the Undergraduate Learning Center, but also renovating a number of major campus facilities, including two heavily used stalwarts, the Liberal Arts and Physical Science buildings. The splendid new \$5 million Swimming and Fitness Center was funded entirely by a recreation fee established and paid for by UTEP students.

As we think about these new facilities, our thoughts and our conversations shift to the future tense. We consider how they will be used by students in years to come, and we try to anticipate future needs as we plan and design them.

Nearly 80 years ago, similar planning was underway as the Texas School of Mines began the construction of this campus. The first campus building, Old Main, was built in 1917 in what has become UTEP's signature



Diana Natalicio



"The sight of this extraordinarily beautiful new facility, a sparkling diamond in the desert, is truly breathtaking."

Several weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit for the first time UTEP's recently completed Swimming and Fitness Center, which is part of a growing recreational

architectural style, "Border Bhutanese."

Through the eight decades of this university's history, we have consistently sought to build on our architectural origins, creating a campus coherence which is the envy of many of our colleagues across the country. So, even as new buildings carry us toward the future, they draw heavily on our past.

In addition to these major construction and renovation projects, many other campus facilities were remodeled and repaired this year to accommodate new or growing programs, to comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, and to ensure the long-term health and attractiveness of our physical plant. Portions of the newly acquired Stanton Building, adjacent to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, have been reconfigured for UTEP's Development Office, for the cooperative Master's program in Public Health, and for the new cooperative program in Pharmacy. This facility promises to provide growth space for many years to come, particularly for UTEP's many new health professions programs.

As part of our commitment to provide improved access to the disabled, UTEP has during the past several years completed more than \$2.5 million in ADA-related improvements to the campus, including this year the installation of elevators in the Fox Fine Arts and Union buildings. Our campus grounds continue to be a source of pride not only to the dedicated Facilities Services staff members who care for them, but to all of us who enjoy the beauty of the campus and the compliments of our many visitors.



"Our students in particular always communicate well not only their talents and skills, but also their pride in being at UTEP..."

UTEP welcomed a steady stream of visitors to the campus during 1995-96, including such distinguished speakers as UTEP alumnus/ABC newsman Sam Donaldson, Nobel Laureate Leon Lederman, Chief NASA Scientist France Cordova, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Science Ken Olden, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, and Texas Governor George W. Bush. In addition, UTEP was pleased to host a meeting of the University of Texas System Board of Regents in February, creating a special opportunity for us to acquaint new

Regents with our campus, our programs, and our strong community support, and share with all Regents and UT System staff our pride in the progress that has been achieved since their last visit. I am pleased to tell you that they were very impressed with what they saw and what we have accomplished.

Many staff, faculty and students are involved in hosting special visitors to UTEP, and they are in many ways the key to the success of these visits. Our students in particular always communicate well not only their talents and skills, but also their pride in being at UTEP and their aspirations to make us very proud of them as alumni. Most visitors that I talk with cannot stop singing the praises of UTEP students they meet —



1996 Season of Lights

many offer them graduate/professional school or job opportunities on the spot!

A large team of visitors, representing universities throughout the southeastern U.S. and led by Dr. Don Zacharias, president of Mississippi State University, came to the campus in late spring as a culminating event in the decennial review of UTEP's accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The review process itself began more than two years ago with the design of a comprehensive self-study of all aspects of UTEP's operations by a team of more than 50 faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends under the able — and tireless — leadership of Jon Amastae, professor of languages and linguistics, and supported by Sally Andrade and the staff of the Center for Institutional Evaluation, Research and Planning. In designing and conducting the self-study, a variety of strategies were used to elicit broad-based input from the campus and El Paso communities, and what we learned both reinforced our pride in our many accomplishments and provided us with helpful insights into how we can be an even greater resource in the future to the

students and the region we serve.

Although the final outcome of the SACS re-accreditation process will not be announced until December, preliminary feedback from the visiting committee is highly positive. In fact, while visiting committees normally add recommendations to those identified by the institution, in UTEP's case committee members reduced our self-reported recommendations from 28 to 21, demonstrating once again that we are our most severe critics!

Three additional accreditation site visits were conducted at UTEP during the past year by professional accrediting bodies in Engineering, Business, and Teacher Education. All three colleges received high marks

from their respective visiting teams for the quality of their academic programs and their commitment to our regional mission.



"With a demonstrated student demand for these programs and a sustained need for their graduates, UTEP is now prepared to assume full responsibility for them."

Academic program development at UTEP, particularly at the doctoral level, continued to be a priority during 1995-96. UTEP's sixth and newest doctoral program, in Educational Leadership and Administration, was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board this past spring and has enrolled 15 outstanding students this fall. We welcome Dr. John Daresh, who brings his extensive experience to UTEP as director of this new program and chair of the Educational Leadership and Administration Department.

Enrollment in the Ph.D. program in

Environmental Science and Engineering has grown to 21 students, as Dr. Chip Groat re-joined UTEP as director of this program and of the Center for Environmental Resource Management. Twenty-nine students are currently enrolled in UTEP's doctoral program in Psychology. One student will complete the Ph.D. degree in Psychology

settings. With a demonstrated student demand for these programs and a sustained need for their graduates, UTEP is now prepared to assume full responsibility for them.

Another professional career, pharmacy, will soon be accessible to students in this region, thanks to start-up funding from the

"... a rare opportunity to embark on fundamental changes in undergraduate science and engineering education at UTEP..."

One of the most exciting moments of the past year occurred when we received word that UTEP had been designated by the National Science Foundation as a Model Institution for Excellence (MIE), one of only six universities recognized nationally. This designation and the five-year, \$12.5 million grant it conveyed offer us a rare opportunity to embark on fundamental changes in undergraduate science and engineering education at UTEP, with a goal of developing successful models which can be extended to other programs on the UTEP campus and to other universities across the country. MIE focuses our collective attention on how best to create conditions which maximize student learning. Vice Presidents Steve Riter and Richard Padilla serve as co-PI's of this important program, reflecting the critical partnership between academic and student affairs required to achieve MIE goals, and Andy Bernat is the program director.

The MIE grant was one of a large number awarded to UTEP last year, as we continued our highly successful record of attracting external funding for research, educational programs, and student support. 1994-95 data provided by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board reveal that UTEP ranked fourth in annual sponsored projects expenditures among 37 public universities in Texas, exceeded only by Texas A&M, UT Austin, and the University of Houston. Annual sponsored projects expenditures increased by 10 percent over 1993-94, to more than \$39.2 million. This is an extraordinary accomplishment, one in which all of us can take great pride.

With support from a variety of sources, four new research centers successfully began their operations during 1995-96: the NASA-funded Pan American Center for Earth and Environmental Studies (PACES), the Air Force Office of Scientific Research-supported FAST Center for Structural Integrity of Aerospace Systems; the U.S. Army-supported Center for Electronics Manufacturing (CEM), and the UTEP Anthropology Research Center, initially supported by a major contract from Ft. Bliss.

All of these centers provide outstanding research opportunities to UTEP students, and many involve pre-college students as



Students researchers led by Professor Chitta Baral (middle right) won third place in a national robot contest.

this fall, and four students have received highly competitive fellowships from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. Finally, with 28 students currently enrolled, the doctoral program in Materials Science and Engineering is nearing maturity, with four students expected to complete their degrees this year, while more mature programs in Computer Engineering and Geological Sciences continue to be productive.

Two other doctoral program proposals are expected to be considered by the UT System and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board this year. In Biological Sciences, faculty members have developed a Ph.D. program with a specialization in Environmental Pathobiology which will complement the applied Ph.D. degree in Environmental Science and Engineering. A proposal for a History Ph.D. capitalizes on UTEP's location and faculty expertise in U.S.-Mexico border history.

Preparations were made during the past year to begin to transfer to UTEP responsibility for cooperative programs in Physical and Occupational Therapy. These programs, which have been offered in cooperation with the UT Medical Branch in Galveston, have created career opportunities for students in this region and satisfied some of the need for health care professionals in regional hospitals and other health care

Texas Legislature, strong support from local pharmacy professionals, and the cooperation of the UT Austin School of Pharmacy. Student interns from UT Austin gained practical experience in El Paso clinical settings during the past year, and we are pleased that Dr. Lloyd Young has joined UTEP as director of this new cooperative program.

It is interesting to note that with the medical training provided in El Paso by Texas Tech, and the broad range of health science programs now offered by UTEP, El Pasoans finally have access to health professions career opportunities and comprehensive health care which have historically been unavailable in this large metropolitan area.

Several of UTEP's interdisciplinary programs are expected to move in new directions as they greet this academic year with new leadership. The African-American Studies program welcomes its first director, Dr. Maceo Dailey, who also holds a faculty position in the History Department. Women's Studies will be directed by Dr. Shelley Armitage, who served as a visiting faculty member in UTEP's English Department prior to accepting this administrative assignment and a faculty position in English. And, anthropologist Duncan Earle assumes the directorship of the Inter-American and Border Studies program.

well. For example, last year 15 undergraduate and 12 graduate students worked at PACES on a variety of projects, including geological studies of northern Mexico using LANDSAT imagery, analysis of ground water in the El Paso-Juárez area, programming language development, and a fascinating study of the northward migration of Africanized bees. Collaborating with the Rio Grande Council of Girl Scouts, PACES also offered a program for more than 30 sixth, seventh, and eighth grade girls who learned about science through a variety of hands-on activities, including a rocket launch in the Sun Bowl. As a former Girl Scout, I too had the thrill of launching a rocket especially made for me!

New sponsored project awards totaled more than \$32 million last year, the third consecutive year in which we have generated more than \$30 million in grants and contracts that help strengthen UTEP's infrastructure, research, and instructional capabilities. A number of UTEP faculty were the recipients of major NSF grants this year: an interdisciplinary team led by Nicholas Pingitore in Geology, David Carmichael and John Peterson in Anthropology, and Jorge Gardea in Chemistry received a grant from the Academic Research Infrastructure program to acquire a new x-ray microfluorescence laboratory for research in geology, archaeology, and environmental science; Jorge Lopez in Physics received a grant to establish a computer-based laboratory for UTEP's Modern Physics course; and two new faculty members in Biological Sciences, Elizabeth Walsh and Douglas Allchin, received grants to pursue their scientific research in molecular biology and the history of science, respectively.

In Electrical and Computer Engineering, Gregory Lush received a NASA Faculty Award for Research to pursue his work on the processing of Cadmium/Tellurium solar cells.

In the College of Education, Lawrence Ingalls and Elena Izquierdo received a major grant from the U.S. Department of Education for Project LISTOS, which is designed to prepare special education personnel to work with children and youth from linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds.

The grant awards to Jorge Lopez and Elena Izquierdo are particularly gratifying because both of them are UTEP alumni who went on to earn doctorates and teach elsewhere prior to returning to UTEP as members of this faculty. I am especially proud of Elena Izquierdo's accomplishments

because she completed her master's degree thesis in linguistics under my supervision — it seems like just yesterday!

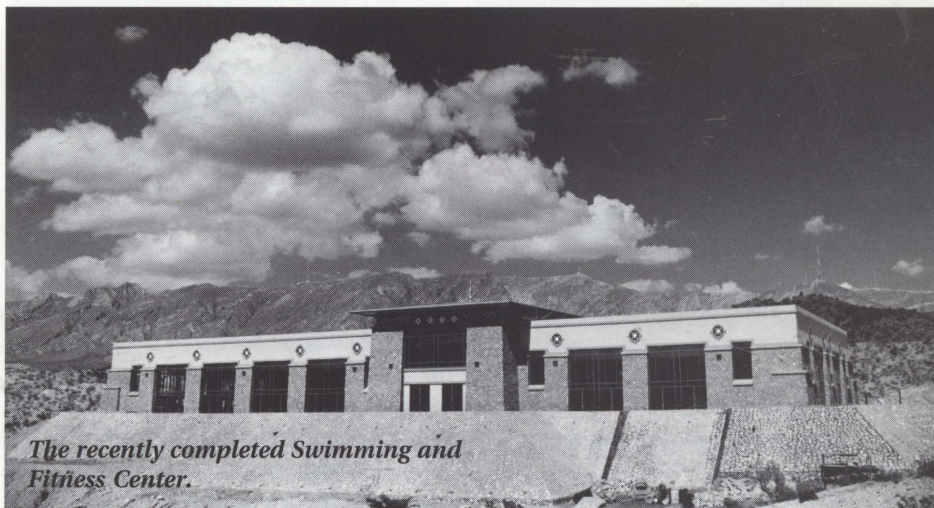


"We are extremely grateful to our many friends in this community whose generosity supports a host of programs and special initiatives..."

UTEP's success in private fund-raising also continued to set new records in 1995-96, thanks to the superb coordination provided by Jan Cavin and the staff of the Development and Alumni Office. For the second consecutive year, UTEP was selected by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) to receive the 1995 Circle of Excellence Award for exem-

last year. The Association's alumni affinity credit card realized a \$22,000 profit last year, and all proceeds will be invested in the expansion of their beautiful Season of Lights project.

Projects such as the Season of Lights not only strengthen bonds between UTEP and its alumni, but also build bridges between UTEP and the surrounding community. In fact, UTEP is recognized nationally for our successful efforts to serve as a resource to this community. Community programs in Continuing Education, under the able direction of Conni Quintana, offer more than 500 personal and professional development classes each year, ranging from bird watching to World Class Manufacturing. The Center for Lifelong Learning continues to grow and prosper, and it has received national recognition as a model program. The Fine Arts departments, the Dinner



plary performance in fundraising. Private giving increased 10% overall last year, compared to a .3% increase nationwide in donations to higher education. We are extremely grateful to our many friends in this community whose generosity supports a host of programs and special initiatives and greatly strengthens our resolve to be worthy of their confidence in us. The Alumni Fund for Excellence grew by 32% — compared to a 3.2% increase nationally — and 16% more alumni were contacted during the campaign this year.

The Alumni Association has been active on a number of other fronts, publishing the first-ever alumni directory, fostering the development of new alumni chapters in San Diego, San Jose, and San Francisco, and organizing a number of campus events including the annual Minerpalooza celebration, which drew almost 5,000 participants

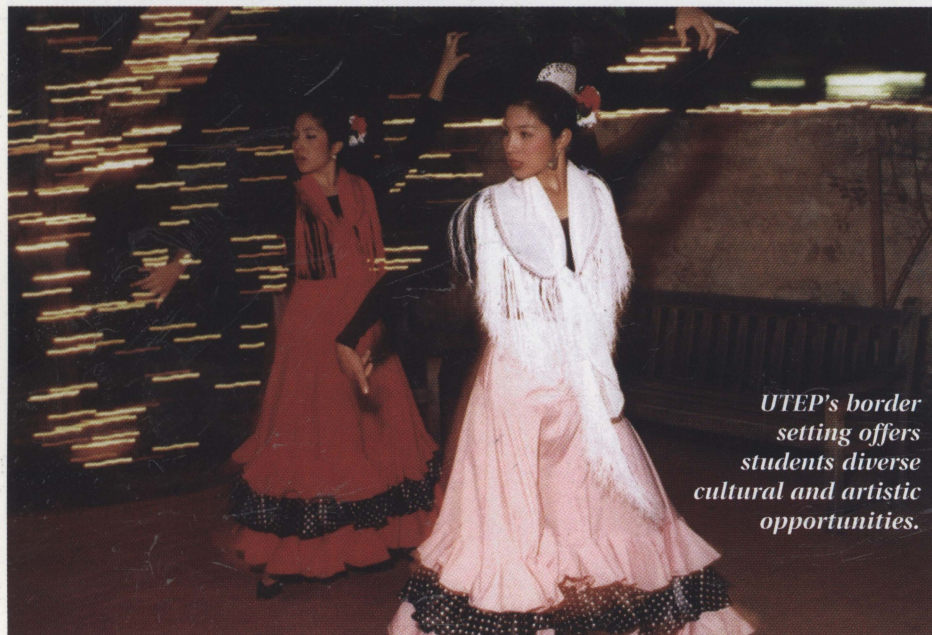
Theatre, the Centennial Museum, the Library, Union Programs, and the Special Events Center bring to local audiences musical and theater performances, films, exhibits, and special lectures and presentations, often collaborating with other community organizations, such as the El Paso Symphony, Pro Musica, the El Paso Museum of Art, and the City's Arts Resources Department. Special congratulations to the Dinner Theatre for its production of "Metropolis" which was ranked among the top ten in a national competition of 900 college productions last year.

UTEP's intercollegiate athletics program also provided entertainment opportunities to the El Paso community through its many competitive events in men's and women's sports, and stimulated our collective pride in the exciting athletic performance of Coach Bob Kitchens' nationally ranked track teams,

and the academic success of many student athletes who completed their degrees and were named to the all-WAC academic team. We are also delighted to report that the intercollegiate athletics' budget picture has greatly improved, thanks to the fine work of Hank Humphreys, associate director of intercollegiate athletics, and the support of Juan Sandoval, vice president of finance and

College of Business, the Family Business Forum, Franchise Center, and Center for the Study of Western Hemispheric Trade have clearly demonstrated the commitment of Dean Frank Hoy and business faculty and staff to the economic development of this region.

Faculty, staff, and student expertise, UTEP's intellectual capital, contributes



UTEP's border setting offers students diverse cultural and artistic opportunities.

administration. The coming year ushers in major changes in academic advising and support for student athletes, the inauguration of UTEP's new women's intercollegiate soccer program under the direction of Coach Veronica O'Brien, and the Western Athletic Conference's expansion from 10 to 16 teams.

"Once again, UTEP finds itself in the forefront of a national movement toward what is called 'service learning.'"

Community leaders increasingly recognize UTEP as a major player in regional development. The Institute for Manufacturing and Materials Management (IM3) and the Texas Centers for Border Economic Development, both under Manny Pacillas' fine leadership, have played a significant role in regional planning and infrastructure building. For example, the recently established Manufacturing Assistance Center, supported by the Texas Department of Commerce, provides technical assistance to small and mid-sized manufacturing operations throughout this region. In the

significantly and broadly to this community's well being. Higher education institutions throughout the United States have come to recognize the importance of sharing their knowledge and skills with the society that surrounds them, and students represent both major resources and primary beneficiaries of such partnerships. Once again, UTEP finds itself in the forefront of a national movement toward what is called "service learning." We are at the forefront because our vision and mission have for some time included a strong regional focus, and because faculty and staff members have recognized the powerful role of service in student learning, particularly in a setting such as ours, where students can contribute their developing skills to their own community.

Thanks to the vision and determination of Dean Pat Castiglia, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences has been a leader in academic outreach efforts with the establishment of four primary care clinics in El Paso County. Students in nursing and other health professions programs augment their classroom learning through the active provision of health care and health education to historically underserved populations. The clients are served, and the students

learn. The Kellogg Foundation, a primary sponsor of this community partnership, has been so impressed with the success achieved by the clinics that they have invited UTEP to broaden the scope of this activity beyond health, a challenge being led by Dean Howard Daudistel in the College of Liberal Arts and Dean Frank Hoy in the College of Business.

The College of Education has also sought to increase its active service learning opportunities for prospective teachers through partnerships with area school districts. Dean Arturo Pacheco is nationally recognized for his leadership in fostering the simultaneous reform of K-12 and teacher education. Students gain valuable practical experience in the schools earlier in their academic programs, and schools benefit from the added personpower available to work with their children.

Other academic programs have also recognized the value of incorporating service into the learning process. Archeology students, under the supervision of John Peterson, and biology students directed by Bill MacKay are working in El Paso's Lower Valley and at Ft. Bliss on projects of direct relevance to this region. Civil Engineering students who year after year surveyed the UTEP campus — perhaps when the legendary Cap Kidd and his dynamite inhabited the campus, the earth really did move! — but now they survey and prepare topographic maps of the Mission Trail. More and more UTEP students recognize that they have expertise to share with their community, and more and more faculty are finding ways to create meaningful active learning opportunities for their students, an effort that will be greatly reinforced by the Model Institution for Excellence initiative.

"Students are, after all, the heart of the university..."

As the emptiness of the campus in early August is replaced by throngs of students at the beginning of the fall semester, a new energy surges through the buildings and grounds. Students are, after all, the heart of the university; indeed, they are our primary reason for being here. Students come to us with their dreams and aspirations, their talents and motivation, their opportunities and their constraints. And, it is our responsibility — I would say our privilege — to foster their personal and professional development.

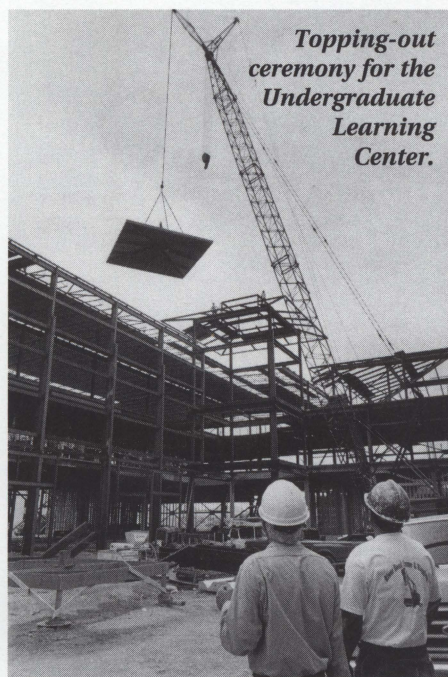
Enrollment growth, which had been increasingly hard to manage in a context of declining state appropriations, has leveled off not only at UTEP, but at institutions across the state and region. A decline in the number of high school graduates, rising higher education costs, and reductions in financial aid have all likely contributed to enrollment declines here and elsewhere. But, all projections indicate that enrollment in higher education will rebound strongly beginning in 1998.

Enrollment is important to UTEP because El Paso is an undereducated community, and 85% of the students we serve come from El Paso County. Our goal must be to encourage more and more residents of this region to choose to pursue post-secondary education and, once that choice is made, to ensure that our academic programs foster student learning and success.

Recognizing the role that the pre-college experience plays in students' preparation for higher education, UTEP has been an active partner in the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, ably directed by Susanna Navarro. Joined by Governor George W. Bush, the Collaborative publicly released this year a set of academic standards at three grade levels (4th, 8th, and 12th) in seven academic disciplines, which all children in all schools will be expected to achieve. Simultaneously, UTEP has adopted a new set of admission requirements which will be phased in over the next six years, thereby ensuring that all students will be better prepared tomorrow for college — or the workforce — than they are today. Outreach programs such as Upward Bound and the Mother-Daughter Program directed by Sandra Braham and Jose Tinajero, also help develop the skills, aspirations and self-confidence of pre-college students in this region.

Since cost has become a major factor in students' decisions about where to enroll and UTEP's tuition and fees are approximately twice those at the El Paso Community College, we have made a commitment to establish even closer ties with the College to ensure that students who wish to pursue baccalaureate degrees have the information and the encouragement they need to transfer. To that end, UTEP's Enrollment Services have developed and distributed articulated degree plans which clearly spell out the pathways to successful transfer, and they have established a transfer center at the community college to provide EPCC students the information they need about UTEP.

Realizing that student retention involves far more than academic programs, the Division of Student Affairs has focused considerable attention during the past year on improving students' experiences while at UTEP. With support from the MIE grant, student orientation programs have been revamped and coordinated with programs in academic affairs. Dean Sylvia Rodriguez has



Topping-out ceremony for the Undergraduate Learning Center.

identified better integrated and more customer-sensitive service as a primary goal of offices within Enrollment Services. Study Skills and Tutorial Services, under the able direction of Gladys Shaw, continues to receive national recognition for its innovative programs. In a new cooperative agreement, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences has assumed responsibility for the management and delivery of health services in the Student Health Center, with an expectation of improved primary health care for all UTEP students and valuable hands-on training for nursing, nurse practitioner, and other health professions students.

Student success is our primary goal, and UTEP's students demonstrate day after day that we are achieving that goal — and then some. Our students regularly bring us national recognition through their performance at major conferences and competitions, students such as those in computer science and engineering mentored by Professor Chitta Baral, who recently finished among the top three in their first appearance at a national robot contest, ahead of some of the top robotics teams in the country.



"Together we have built a strong university . . . and together we will continue to help shape this region's future."

Partnerships are the key to all that we do at UTEP. We partner with school districts and the community college, with civic and cultural organizations, with other colleges and universities, with foundations and federal agencies. But, our first and foremost partnerships are with our students. We must focus on their learning, their development, their success. As we celebrate the beginning of yet another academic year, let's take a moment to recall all of the many partners who helped each and every one of us reach our goals, and reaffirm our commitment to reciprocate by creating similar opportunities for our students, commitments such as those reflected in a letter received several weeks ago from a recent history graduate who wrote:

"Again and again and again, History faculty took special time out of very busy schedules to sit with me and guide my decisions, to listen very carefully to my dreams, goals, and desires, and to give me options I could not have known about on my own. They spoke very frankly and honestly about difficulties I would have and the rewards I could reap. Most of all, people in the History Department convinced me that I could do what I really did not think I could do."

Or the enduring commitment of Stephanie Cox-Cornelio, former director of the UTEP Women's Center, whose husband's transfer took her from UTEP to West Point. Stephanie recently wrote:

"I have to admit that I miss UTEP terribly. Mostly I miss our students and all of their unique gifts! . . . reflecting on UTEP student life, I am overwhelmed at how much students [at UTEP] do because they are working for an education and a better way of life . . . they are something special!"

They are indeed special, as are UTEP's faculty and staff members who give generously of their time and expertise to foster the achievement of our students' goals and aspirations. Together we have built a strong university which has served this community well, and together we will continue to help shape this region's future. ■

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