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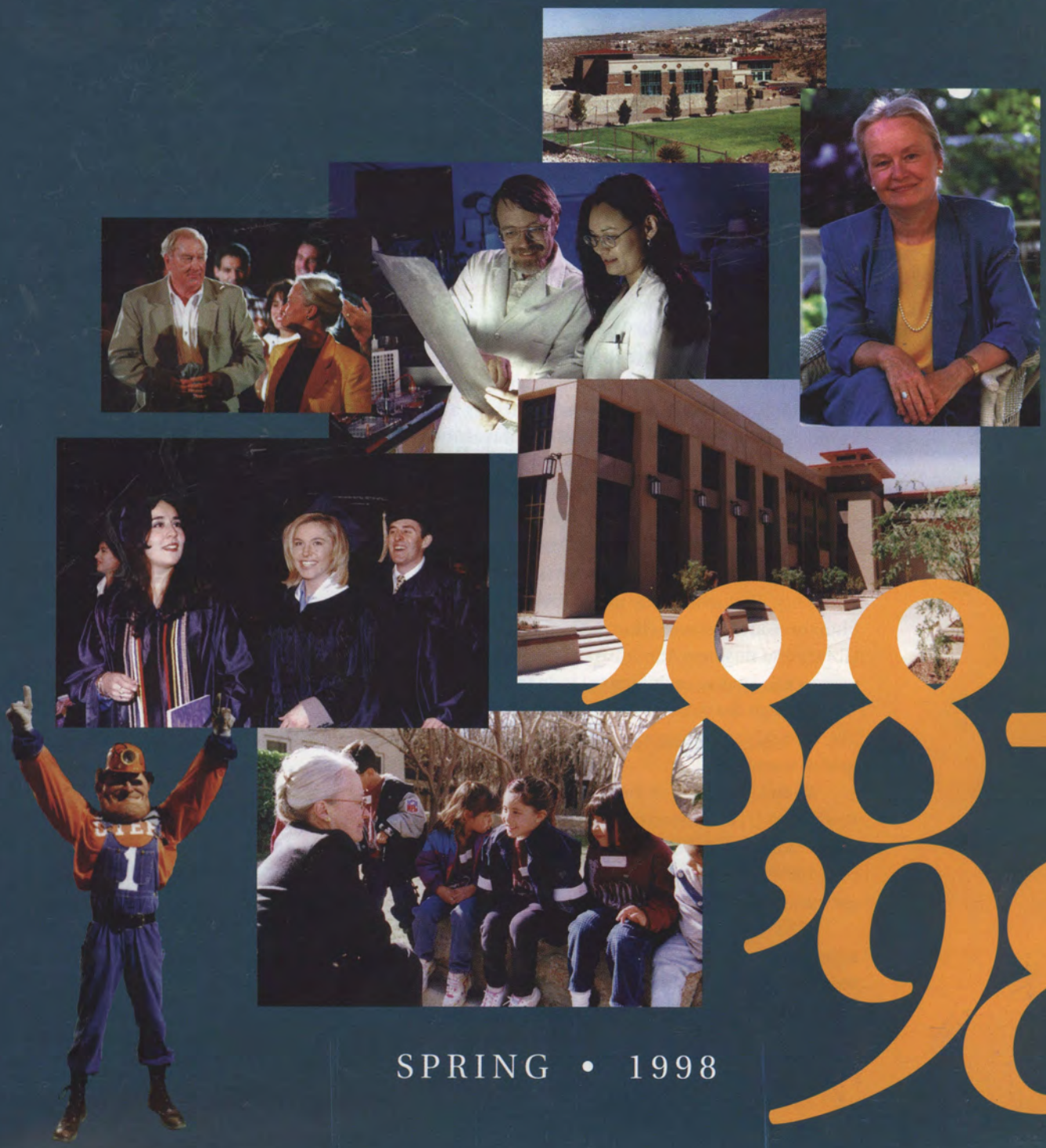
NOVA

QUARTERLY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



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SPRING • 1998

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of *NOVA Quarterly* focuses on UTEP's amazing decade of growth under President Diana Natalicio's leadership. As you'll read in a special insert, UTEP has experienced an extraordinary evolution during this decade. And in a profile on Dr. Natalicio, you'll learn what makes her the outstanding president she is: her commitment, compassion and understanding of what's important at UTEP — its students.

While this issue focuses on the past ten years, I can personally reflect on 20 years of change at UTEP. Since 1978, I have worked at UTEP and on *NOVA* magazine — first as a graphic artist and now as editor. As I look back at old issues, the contrast between the university then and now is amazing, yet the quest for excellence and service to the community are themes replayed throughout the years. When I reread a June 1981 issue which featured an article on then Dean of Liberal Arts, Diana Natalicio, it reminds me that even then she had a keen understanding of what was important at UTEP.

As dean, she focused on the diversity of programs and encouraged faculty members to work together as a team on matters that affected the college. She understood the importance of UTEP's relationship with the community and the idea of community service and outreach. Besides cultural and artistic programs, the college addressed special needs through the Speech, Hearing and Language Center and the Child Behavior Clinic. Promising new programs such as industrial psychology and Spanish language theater were initiated to provide relevant educational experiences for the people of this region.

In 1979, the university achieved a landmark when Gary Massingill received the university's first doctorate in Geological Sciences. Now, UTEP proudly boasts seven doctoral programs, with an eighth in history in the works.

During the late 70s the University Library went on-line and offered computerized searches that offered immense assistance to university researchers. Today at UTEP, the Internet and distance learning bring the world into the classroom with the touch of a button.

In 1980, the university celebrated reaching a fundraising milestone — the Excellence Fund raised $1 million in a single year. Last year, the university unveiled the ambitious $50 million Legacy Campaign aimed at ensuring UTEP's future and providing a solid foundation to allow the university to offer the region excellent educational opportunities and community service programs.

The early 80s also were a time of defining the university's identity. From changing the school colors (orange and white to orange, blue and white) and song ("The Eyes of Texas" to "Miners Fight") to calling ourselves UTEP instead of UT El Paso, a groundswell movement was afoot to redefine the university. Fortunately, the university also reclaimed its single most identifying characteristic — its Bhutanese architecture. After deviating from this style, the university embraced it again with the new Library and Business Administration Building. The Undergraduate Learning Center, opened this fall, utilizes this ancient architectural style to house the latest in modern technology.

Through the years, UTEP has undergone many changes and has grown both in size and perspective. I would say, so have people, such as myself, who have been at the university, as students, faculty or staff members.

When I first came to the university, just out of college, my ambitions were narrowly focused. Working at UTEP offered me an education that enriched me beyond my expectations and extended opportunities to learn and grow in ways that I had never dreamed. And, like President Natalicio says in her profile, I could not have done it alone. I have worked for and with extraordinary people who have encouraged and sometimes pushed me to take on new challenges and expand my talents.

UTEP is a place that takes a student who sometimes does not even know what his or her talents or capabilities are and shapes them into leaders who will have a lasting impact on this community and the world. That is what UTEP's mission is all about — making it possible for an individual and a community to reach their highest aspirations and dreams.

— Kathleen Rogers

NOVA

QUARTERLY

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ON THE COVER

The past ten years have marked a period of remarkable strides for UTEP. Under the visionary leadership of President Diana Natalicio, the university has moved to the forefront of education, becoming a model for tomorrow's university where scholarship paired with community outreach enriches the fabric of the region. Cover design: Bobby Daniels

Above Photograph:
The Rio Bosque Wetland Park was officially dedicated March 11. UTEP and Ducks Unlimited, a wetlands conservation organization, have completed the first phase of the construction of the waterfowl sanctuary and public park.

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"It's all about our
they are the reason

students— we are here."

UTEP President Shaped by a Lifetime of Opportunity

by
Christian Clarke

For UTEP President Diana Natalicio, life is about being a team player.

Throughout her personal and professional life, Natalicio has been supported by individuals —family members, teachers, colleagues and friends —who created opportunities for her to grow and develop. At UTEP, the president relies on the talents and commitment of the students, faculty and staff to move the university forward.

"I have never accomplished anything alone. There are many people at UTEP who do the good things that the university is recognized for. As president, I am fortunate to work with a great group of people who work together to carry out our initiatives," Natalicio says.

From UTEP's faculty members who maintain high standards in the labs and the classrooms, to the staff members who support every aspect of the institution, Natalicio depends on a team of dedicated individuals who rise to the occasion of what it means to serve students.

Although the average tenure of a university president is between five to seven years, Natalicio celebrated her 10th anniversary as UTEP president in February. With a decade of service behind her, Natalicio continues to burn the midnight oil to guarantee that UTEP offers its students the same opportunities and encouragement the president has received her entire life.

Let the Games Begin

Born in 1939, Natalicio was raised in St. Louis during a period she describes as a "carefree time." A happy childhood helped shape her into a self-confident woman with a strong sense of security. Her parents, William and Jo Siedhoff, ran a small dairy business and instilled a strong work ethic into their first child.

After school, her dad's milk truck became a source of joy-riding delight for neighborhood kids, including Sharon Croissant, who has been friends with Natalicio since kindergarten. "Even as a kid, she was popular and well-rounded," Croissant says of the president. "She was always the first one picked for team sports and was on the academic team for the 'Quiz Down' radio show."

Although Natalicio loved school, she always geared up for the gusto-filled games with her brother Bill —fr om playing basketball in the alley to

Diana Natalicio early milestones: (top left) eighth-grade graduate; (above) high school graduate; and (left) a new assistant professor arrives at UTEP.

"That was when I first understood that wanting to do something and being good at it, though important, were not sufficient conditions for success. I learned that others had to do their part to create opportunities, and no one did that for me in baseball."

practicing the rudimentaries of cross-hill skiing in Carondelet Park.

Raised in the home of the St. Louis Cardinals, the Siedhoff children could not help but be drawn to baseball. The pair spent hours playing catch —she took the mound as pitcher and he played catcher. Although Bill claims full credit for developing his older sister's pitching technique, he admits she had natural talent that allowed her to hold her own with the neighborhood boys.

"There weren't many girls in the neighborhood, and Diana could do anything that the boys did," Bill says. "I don't really remember seeing her playing with dolls —I am sur e she did — but her interests were much closer to ours."

Despite being an exceptional athlete who loved baseball, Natalicio sadly watched as her playmates began to be divided along gender lines — boys were encouraged to play organized sports and girls were relegated to the sidelines as cheerleaders and fans.

"That was when I first understood that wanting to do something and being good at it, though important, were not sufficient conditions for success," Natalicio says. "I learned that others had to do their part to create opportunities, and no one did that for me in baseball."

By the time Natalicio reached high school, her focus shifted from baseball and books to social pursuits. Sporting cashmere sweaters and saddle shoes, Natalicio and her friends partook of thedances, parties and social activities that were the hallmarks of teen life in the 1950s.

"Diana had a great sense of humor and was gregarious," Croissant says. "She was always part of the 'in' crowd and academics came easy to her. It didn't surprise anyone that she was voted most likely to succeed."

First-generation College Student

Few students in Natalicio's blue-collar, public high school in St. Louis planned on attending college. After graduation, the future university president became a secretary, but soon decided that she needed to continue her education to pursue another career.

At St. Louis University, Natalicio learned that her high-school preparation was inadequate to allow her to compete with her peers, many of whom had been educated in private prep schools. As other students rehashed their high-school readings, she struggled with such classics as Dante's *Inferno,* to which she had never been exposed.

Natalicio sat silent in class. Even when she knew the answer to a question, she avoided making eye contact with professors.

"In part, my fear of public speaking related to the lack of confidence in my academic preparation for college," she says. "In larger measure, this reflected my determination never to suffer the embarrassment of a public mistake. Although I had reluctantly accepted the notion that I was capable of making an error, I was not yet ready to share my flaws with others."

Rather than endure the pain of a public speaking class, Natalicio opted to enroll in an oral interpretation of literature course. As she watched gifted speakers deliver emotional performances that brought their classmates to tears, the only tears Natalicio could stir up during her presentations were her own.

Despite her silence, Jesuit professors such as Rosario Mazza and Ray Sullivant encouraged and pushed Natalicio to succeed. She vividly remembers how the two teachers effectively engaged their students: "My Spanish professors made language and literature come alive! They were amazing. They mesmerized me with their knowledge of the subject matter and I became absolutely hooked. I just could not drink enough from the fountain of learning."

Four years after enrolling at St. Louis University under-prepared to compete academically, Natalicio graduated *summa cum laude* with a B.S. degree in Spanish. Through her own diligence and with the support of caring faculty she not only graduated with honors, but was on her way to study in Brazil.

Explorando um Novo País e Descobrindo-se ... Exploring a New Country and Discovering Herself

When Natalicio's flight to Brazil was called at the St. Louis airport, she hugged her parents and nervously said good-bye. Natalicio walked slowly across the tarmac to the airplane that would take her on her first flight and her first trip away from home.

"My knees buckled, partly under the weight of my over-packed bags, and partly out of fear of the unknown world I was entering," she says. "I wanted to do an about-face and return to my familiar life. But, I chose to go on to what would become the most educationally enriching and personally satisfying year of my life."

When she arrived in Rio de Janeiro, Natalicio thought the plane had delivered her to the wrong destination because she barely understood anything people were saying. Although Natalicio recalls being overwhelmed

This issue, NOVA Quarterly *salutes UTEP faculty members who spend countless hours fostering student success by maintaining high standards both in and out of the classroom. The following profiles capture the stories of faculty members who were once students at the university and who have returned to their* alma mater *as teachers in their own right. These individuals are profiled with the faculty mentors who encouraged them to continue their education and inspired them to touch the lives of others.*

Jim Holcomb and Tim Roth: A Profitable Merger

by Timi Haggerty

After spending two years at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Jim Holcomb set out to discover his *true* vocation. Deciding on a career in law, he tried out two majors at UTEP, attempting to find the one that would garner him the best GPA and acceptance into a good law school.

"Then I took Tim Roth's economics class, and I was just captivated," Holcomb recalls. "I became an economics major."

After earning a B.B.A in economics and finance from UTEP, he received his master's in economics from Texas Tech University and Ph.D. from Texas A&M — Roth's *alma mater*.

Since returning to UTEP to teach, the associate professor of economics has made many important contributions to the university through administrative and leadership roles, including associate dean for academic programs, Graduate Council chair and director of business graduate programs.

Holcomb, who describes his teaching style as "laid back," has established a reputation at UTEP as an approachable instructor who relates incredibly well to his students. Those who enter Holcomb's classroom afraid of economics, leave not only comfortable with it, but appreciative of its global importance.

"I would venture to guess that Jim has caused a number of his *own* students to change their majors to economics," Roth asserts. "I know I would have liked to encounter more professors like Jim when I was a student."

Holcomb's accomplishments at UTEP have been a great source of personal pride to his mentor, who gains satisfaction knowing he played a role in Holcomb's success.

"I saw something of myself in Jim Holcomb," Roth says. "There are a lot of things that give you satisfaction in academics, but there are few things that equal the knowledge that someone you had as an undergraduate not only blossomed, but ended up in the same department as you."

Roth is still a great influence on Holcomb. A UTEP professor since 1970, Roth has earned a reputation as one of the world's premier economists. He served as a consultant to President Reagan's Cabinet Council on Economic Policy and as executive director of Reagan's Steel Advisory Committee. He also was the senior economic advisor to former secretary of commerce Malcolm Baldrige and the senior economist for the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee. Last year, he was appointed to the Texas Growth Fund board of trustees by Gov. George W. Bush.

"He's very well known as an economist and as a political expert — he has a very wide following," Holcomb says. "And though I'm not a student anymore, I still go to him for direction, and I'm still as impressed as I ever was."

by her surroundings, fellow Fulbrighter Shepard Forman says she emerged as the focal point of the group's activities in Rio.

"This was a stunning and accomplished group of people who came together with excitement — and Diana stood out. All of the Fulbrighters came to like and respect her because of her personality, openness and intelligence," he says.

Forman and the others left for São Paulo, but Natalicio remained in Rio with the Aguiar family. Each member of the family was warm and patient while assisting the young American to master Portuguese. Through the process of trial-and-error, Natalicio learned to take herself less seriously and shed her self-imposed model of public perfection.

"I realized that unless I started speaking, I would spend a year in silence," she says. "As I struggled with the language, I learned that making a public mistake was not as painful as I had imagined. I began to enjoy myself and even laugh at myself."

After living in Rio, Natalicio set out on her own to discover the rest of the country. Forman, who accompanied her on some of these trips, says she was genuinely interested in the Brazilian people and the problems they faced.

"Throughout her travels in Brazil, she treated all of the people she met — from the Fulbrighters to the villagers — with the same degr ee of interest and respect," he says.

The more she traveled, the more Natalicio became entranced by Brazil and its people. "I absorbed the language and culture in intoxicating doses," she says. "I was overwhelmed by the beauty of the country and the openness of its people."

After returning to the United States, she spent most of the 1960s as a graduate student at UT Austin. When she completed her master's degree, she accepted a Gulbenkian fellowship in Lisbon, Portugal, and spent several weeks in the Cape Verde Islands. Without formal training in linguistics, she began to develop her own tools to decipher the structure of the Creole language.

Photos taken by Natalicio during her Fulbright year in Brazil.

"My knees buckled, partly under the weight of my over-packed bags, and partly out of fear of the unknown world I was entering. I wanted to do an about-face and return to my familiar life. But, I chose to go on to what would become the most educationally enriching and personally satisfying year of my life."

She returned to UT Austin to pursue a doctorate in linguistics, which was a field in transition —Str ucturalism was struggling and Noam Chomsky's transformational grammar was gaining adherents. "We were all caught up in the excitement of serving as warriors in the linguistic revolution, and linguistics became a new passion for me," she says.

At the end of her exhilarating studies, she reluctantly realized that she had to leave Austin to pursue an academic career. When her friends and peers heard that Natalicio's first academic appointment was in the West Texas city of El Paso, she says, "They acted as if I was headed for the last stop on the stage coach line to nowhere."

An Administration Begins

When Natalicio arrived at UTEP as a part-time, visiting assistant professor in 1971, she was taken aback by the desert terrain, but was charmed by the people of the bilingual, binational metropolitan

area of El Paso.

She and her husband at the time, Luiz, a Brazilian whom she met in Austin, felt at home in El Paso and enjoyed making trips into Juárez for authentic Latin American cuisine.

As faculty members at UTEP, their personal development was intertwined with their lives at the university, which was in the midst of the social changes of the 1970s. From streakers to civil right activists and war protesters, the campus was alive with political and intellectual activities.

Natalicio became interim chair of the modern languages department after the previous chair accepted a Fulbright in Romania. As she began her ascent into administration, she expressed the appropriate disdain for the position and vigorously asserted that her tenure as an administrator would be short.

But, she enjoyed the work and later accepted the invitation to become associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts. She continued through the ranks to become dean of the college and vice president for academic affairs.

"Diana accepted administrative positions primarily out of duty rather than personal ambition," Luiz says. "She wanted to make a difference in the lives of her students. She always has been a champion for children and has done everything she could do to affirm them as individuals who have roles to play in society."

In addition to her administrative work at UTEP, Natalicio also enjoyed spending time with her family, playing the piano and gardening — she maintained a rather impressive vegetable grove with kale, tomatoes, lettuce and squash.

"Diana is an extremely hard worker, but she is not obsessive," Luiz says. "She has always been able to maintain a sense of balance in her life among her personal and professional interests."

At the university, Natalicio's personal and professional interests began to mesh. In addition to pursuing an academic career, she found that she was

Dan Cooke and Ann Gates: Making it through the Program

by Walli Haley

Ann Quiroz Gates might not have gone to graduate school or become a computer science professor had it not been for the support and encouragement of one of her *own* professors, UTEP Computer Science Chair Dan Cooke.

Although Gates had worked in the computer science field for a number of years, she was eager to develop a theoretical background. She returned to UTEP to earn a computer science degree.

"At the end of one of my courses, Dan Cooke pulled me aside to ask me what my plans were. He encouraged me to go to graduate school and offered me a position as a research assistant. His urging inspired me to apply to graduate school," Gates recalls.

Cooke remembers Gates as an excellent student capable of advanced studies. Since mentoring is not a one-way street," he says, "Throughout the research process, we learned from each other and influenced each other."

Gates credits her mentor not only with recognizing her abilities, but with supporting her belief that she could make a difference in her community by returning to her *alma mater* and becoming a role model for her students.

"I attended a lecture about the low number of Hispanics and women with doctoral degrees in the math, science and engineering fields." she says. "This motivated me to pursue a doctoral degree and, later, as a professor, to make a difference in this area by mentoring students."

Cooke continued to mentor Gates throughout her doctoral studies at New Mexico State University.

"He helped me through the times when I felt like quitting," Gates says. "I'm not sure that I would be here today without his support."

Gates received her Ph.D in computer science in 1994.

Today, Gates is involved in developing the Affinity Research Group model. This project, funded by National Science Foundation, is aimed at increasing the number of students from underrepresented groups who go to graduate school.

"Using this model, Dr. Cooke and I have established the Software Engineering Affinity Laboratory which currently supports and involves 12 students in research," Gates says. "Our goal is to expand the pool of students that gain research experience by creating an environment that develops, nutures, and supports the practice of research."

Cooke finds his relationship with Gates rewarding professionally and personally.

"The greatest reward was watching her move from being a student to being a professor: watching her stand on her own, make her own decisions and stand by her own convictions," Cooke says. "It also is a pleasure to have the opportunity to work with her as a colleague."

Gates encourages her students to succeed the same way Cooke encouraged her — by valuing their strengths and abilities.

"And I tell them, by all means, do what makes you happy," she says.

Congratulating graduates at commencement, meeting with political figures, attending athletic events and meeting with the media are just a few facets of presidential life.

"People sometimes mistake passion for rigidity, but I am not wedded to my ways at all. I am extremely passionate about this university and I am committed to working with others to make it the best possible place it can be."

able to make a difference in the lives of her students.

"From the moment I arrived at UTEP, I had an instantaneous connection to the students," Natalicio says. "Many of the students are not from affluent families and many are the first in their families to attend college. They have an impressive work-ethic and view their education as a chance for having a better life."

Although she had no intention of leaving UTEP, Natalicio applied for positions at other universities to maintain a broader perspective and a competitive edge.

"Throughout my career, I have constantly tested myself to make sure that I was doing my best," Natalicio says. "I enjoy competition. I never want to limit myself or become parochial in my thinking."

President Natalicio

When Haskell Monroe retired in 1987, Natalicio became interim president and a candidate for the position. During the search process, one critic labeled the internal candidate as "provincial" and argued that she had a limited understanding of higher education issues.

Ironically, once named president, Natalicio embarked on an aggressive campaign to build the university's infrastructure to position the institution as a national leader in higher education.

As the first woman president of UTEP, individuals questioned how Natalicio would manage the university and its athletics programs. Although the number of female university presidents has tripled from five to 16 percent in the past 20 years, women leaders continued to face situations that their male colleagues did not.

For example, some speculated whether the unmarried president would move into the Hoover House. In fact, Natalicio had her own doubts. She loved her cozy Kern Place home and was reluctant to move into the spacious Hoover House. Whereas other presidents had their wives cater to the social activities and maintenance of the house, Natalicio hired the university's first full-time house manager.

From the moment Luz Anchondo began managing the affairs of the Hoover House, Natalicio encouraged her to assume responsibility for the house and make the functions her own. Each week, Anchondo works with a team of individuals — from the President's Office to Facilities Services

— to organize all of the details that make Hoover House events memorable.

"It is amazing how comfortable Dr. Natalicio makes people feel at receptions," Anchondo says. "She opens the doors of the Hoover House and makes everyone feel welcomed. People always comment on how approachable she is and what a great sense of humor she has."

Throughout her tenure, Natalicio has turned to humor to defuse any tense situations. When asked for a business card, Natalicio presents a one-of-a-kind baseball card with her educational "stats" and a picture of the president pitching the first ball at an El Paso Diablos game.

"Humor is a powerful icebreaker," she says. "It puts people at ease when they are unsure about how to approach a situation. Once people relax, it is easier to concentrate on the pressing issues at hand."

In addition to strategically charting the university's national course in higher education, Natalicio pays careful attention to on-campus details. She notices table arrangements, catches spelling errors and remembers most people's names —nothing escapes her. Detractors call her a micro-manager, but Natalicio merely cares about each aspect of the university. Although she tries to balance numerous university perspectives, she understands that criticisms come with the territory.

"People aren't always going to agree with you," Natalicio says. "In a job like this, you have to be ready for criticism because no one is going to like every decision that you make."

As president, Natalicio does not believe in making decisions in a vacuum. Instead, she maintains close relationships throughout campus to ensure she listens to a variety of opinions before making any university-wide decisions. She welcomes meetings, phone calls and e-mails. Each day, Natalicio receives and responds to more than 50 e-mail messages from UTEP's faculty, staff and students.

Maria Amaya and Patricia Castiglia: Nurturing a Healthy Relationship

by Walli Haley

Support, encouragement and sound advice are the hallmarks of any mentoring relationship. UTEP nursing professor Maria Amaya and dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Patricia Castiglia amply demonstrate that one can be mentored at any age, and that learning is a process without end.

Amaya was an established faculty member when she met Castiglia, a woman who would significantly influence her professional life. Amaya, who began teaching at the college in 1986, views her relationship with Castiglia as quietly supportive and nurturing, yet one that has contributed powerfully to her professional growth.

It was Castiglia who gave Amaya and other UTEP faculty the support they needed to develop the college's first advanced practice program, the family nurse practitioner program.

"That's when I really got to know her," Amaya says. "She's been the inspiration for my own creativity in developing the program."

The nurse practitioner program plays a vital role in serving women in El Paso's poorest areas where many women have little or no access to healthcare: a situation that also is currently being addressed by the Kellogg Community Partnership Program.

The Kellogg program includes four school-based health centers in Socorro, Fabens, Montana Vista and San Elizario. Amaya practices at the Socorro clinic, providing primary healthcare services, including physical exams, treatment of minor illnesses, and health promotion.

Amaya points out that Castiglia was instrumental in securing this special program, which offers hands-on training to healthcare students as well as services to the community.

"At that time, in 1991, only five Kellogg Community Partnership grants were awarded in the entire nation," Amaya says. "Those clinics are there because of Dean Castiglia's leadership."

It is not only the dean's professional accomplishments that Amaya holds in high regard. Amaya notes that the dean has a special way of dealing with people that allows them to develop their full potential.

"Dean Castiglia, like a good mentor, identifies opportunities for faculty to network and link with other professionals," Amaya says. "For example, she nominated me as a candidate to serve on the Standards Committee of the Council on Collegiate Nursing Education. This not only benefited me professionally, it allowed the department input into the development of national accreditation standards by which nursing programs will be evaluated."

Castiglia's support also has helped Amaya progress in her research on women's health issues and environmental health — research that seeks solutions to environmental health problems unique to the El Paso-Juárez border area.

Amaya also is working to develop programs to teach families how to lessen the risk of childhood lead exposure, which is endemic in El Paso.

"Selfishly, I take great pride in Maria's accomplishments," Castiglia says. "She has blossomed professionally and is respected not only locally, but nationally. My part in her success is truly small, but I like to think my support may have come when it was most needed."

"People sometimes mistake passion for rigidity, but I am not wedded to my ways at all," Natalicio says. "I am extremely passionate about this university and I am committed to working with others to make it the best possible place it can be."

Identity Check ... Creating the Best UTEP

The "Harvard on the Border" bumper-stickers of the 1980s were hardly representative of the region UTEP was designed to serve. Instead, Natalicio felt it was important to move beyond the bumper-sticker rhetoric and come to terms with the university's reality.

"UTEP was not another 'vanilla variety' university. During this time, we were in denial of who we were and whom we served," Natalicio says. "As UTEP began to change, it proved we were capable of preserving the values and standards of a model institution without being defiantly indifferent of our surroundings."

As an academic institution whose primary mission was to provide a quality education for the people of the region, the university began to capitalize on its unique binational setting.

For more than a decade, student enrollment trends have evolved to closely reflect the demographics of the El Paso region —UTEP is now the largest Hispanic-majority institution in the United States. For Natalicio, UTEP's student demographics and competitive academic programs give the university a unique niche in higher education.

"At UTEP, we strive to balance the need to create educational opportunities for an undereducated area while raising expectations and empowering the region with relevant academic programs and research," Natalicio says. "UTEP has been successful because we have honestly defined who we are. This puts us ahead of most universities because we are addressing the student population of the future."

In addition to mirroring the demographics of the city it serves, UTEP has developed innovative educational programs —fr om raising educational standards to providing healthcare services through community-based research and initiatives.

UT System Chancellor William Cunningham says he relies on Natalicio's counsel and judgment regarding higher education issues affecting UTEP and the state. In addition to effectively articulating a clear vision for UTEP, Natalicio cares for the welfare of each member of the university community.

"Diana Natalicio is an extraordinarily capable academic leader, and UTEP has been fortunate to have her as president during the past 10 years of challenge and achievement. She has an intimate understanding of the needs and interests of all of the constituencies of a university —faculty, students, staff, alumni and others —and is able to draw them together in the pursuit of common goals," Cunningham says. "These leadership qualities make her a great leader not only for UTEP, but also for the state and the nation."

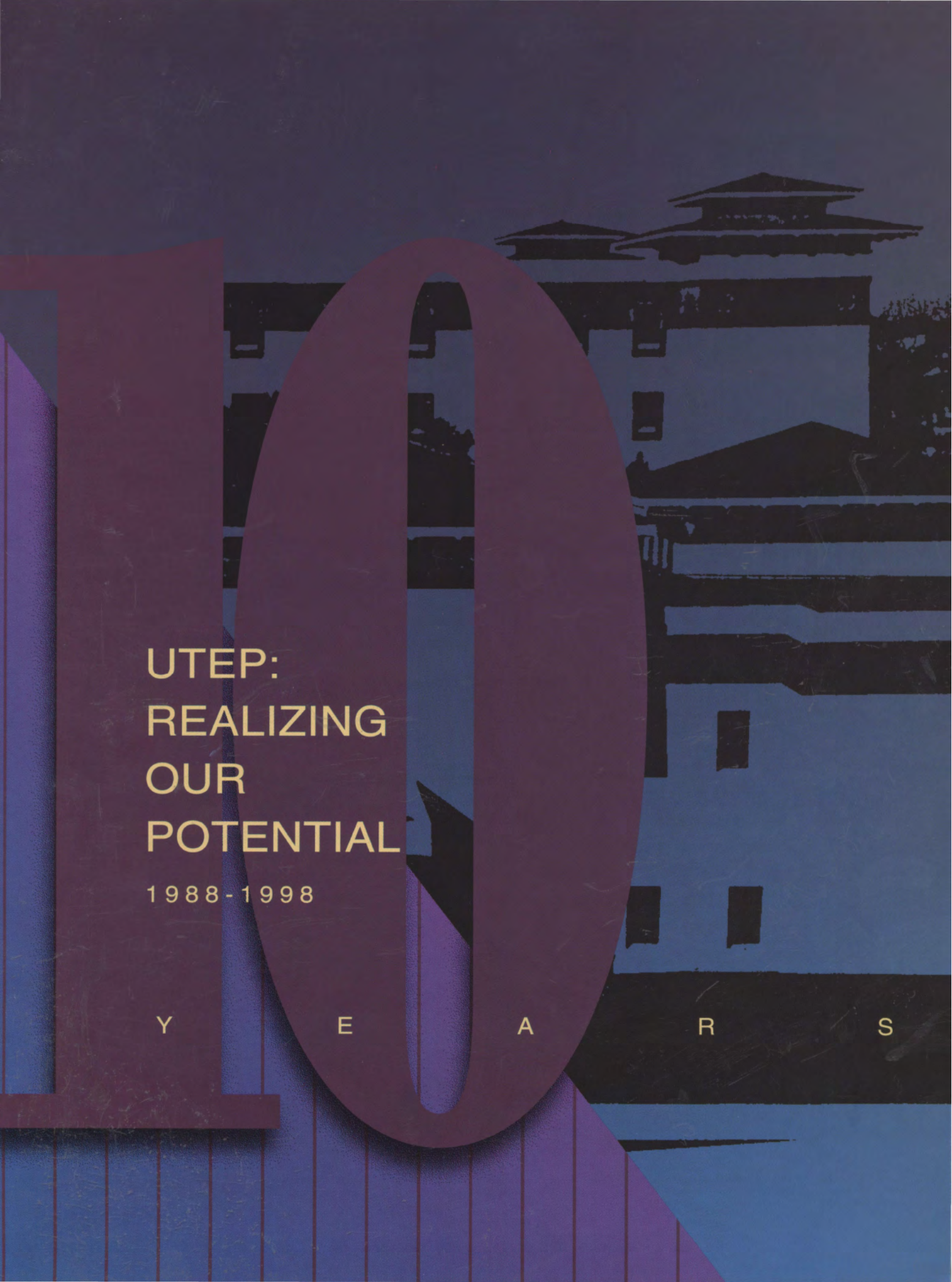
Throughout the country, UTEP's stature is continually rising due to its ability to create educational opportunities while simultaneously developing the region's economic and cultural life.

"The university is gaining a much-deserved nationwide reputation as a

"UTEP's achievements are due to the hard work of many talented and dedicated people working together over an extended period of time. No one, however, has been more important than President Natalicio. Her keen vision and wise leadership have been central to UTEP's proud record of success."

— Don Evans
Chair, UT System Board of Regents

The success of the university is a reflection of university and community-wide support and involvement. (Right) UTEP nursing students work in underserved areas and provide much-needed healthcare while completing their academic training. (Left) Community support played a major part in the university's winning of a prestigious award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. (Above right) Building attendant Juanita Padilla (far left) earned a general equivalency diploma as part of a new program created to encourage university staff to further their education.


10
UTEP:
REALIZING
OUR
POTENTIAL
1988-1998
Y E A R S

Greetings:

Congratulations to the students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of UTEP on a decade of educational growth and development, and to President Diana Natalicio for leading that progress during the past 10 years.

As the only four-year, state university in far-west Texas, UTEP plays an integral role in helping prepare students for changes occurring in our population and economy. The university's outstanding record in recent years is a positive sign that UTEP recognizes and accepts this important responsibility.

By the year 2008, the majority of Texas children will be Hispanic, and the future of our state depends upon giving those young people access to quality higher education. UTEP, the largest Hispanic-majority university in the United States, provides a model of accessibility to other Texas colleges and universities about to undergo this demographic shift.

I commend UTEP for aggressively seeking students of all ethnic and economic backgrounds, with a special emphasis on students from the local area. Not only has UTEP been successful in recruiting a student body representative of the El Paso region, but the university also has initiated programs to prepare prospective students for college course work. Programs such as the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence and their Standards of Academic Excellence — which I was proud to participate in unveiling in 1996 — increase the number of students qualified for college admission. As a result of such effort, UTEP leads all universities nationwide in the number of Hispanic graduates in health care fields and is second in the nation in the number of Hispanic business, engineering and physical science graduates.

As part of the largest binational metropolitan area in the world, El Paso plays an important role as Texans deal with the changing national and global economies. Improving relations between Texas and Mexico is a primary goal of my administration, and I am pleased that our partnership, based on mutual respect and friendship, has never been stronger. That relationship continues to grow more important as the implementation of NAFTA progresses.

As a driving force in the El Paso region, UTEP is helping our state and our nation address issues of employment, trade and international partnerships. UTEP offers students unique opportunities for hands-on study in fields related to NAFTA, such as environmental science, manufacturing engineering and international trade programs. At the same time, UTEP's geographical location and steady development of new graduate programs allow the university's faculty and students to conduct research and participate in programs that benefit the public health and economy on both sides of the border.

I applaud UTEP's community outreach programs that aim to provide resources and relief to an area suffering from high unemployment. The university community has responded to the pressing social needs of El Paso's poor and unemployed through such programs as school-based health clinics, self-help projects to improve water quality, and seminars on family-owned businesses.

I commend President Natalicio and all UTEP officials for positioning the university to play a leadership role in Texas, and I encourage you to seek new opportunities to prepare your students to become our leaders in the future. Best wishes for continued growth and success.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush
Governor of The State of Texas

UTEP: REALIZING OUR POTENTIAL

by Marianne Johnson and Christian Clarke

From its distinctive Bhutanese architecture to the neatly framed mission statement hanging on every department wall, the University of Texas at El Paso demonstrates a level of cohesiveness not often found on university campuses. The unity manifested in physical appearances, however, is merely a reflection of a shared vision of regional responsibility that permeates virtually every aspect of the university community.

"UTEP's institutional strength is founded on its growing awareness and responsiveness to the human and economic development needs of the region it serves," President Diana Natalicio said. "We aim to extend the greatest possible educational access to an area that has been geographically isolated and economically and educationally limited in opportunities for many of its people."

The only four-year university within 300 miles in Texas, UTEP is a comprehensive institution located in the largest binational metropolitan area on the U.S.-Mexican border.

Although other Texas institutions continue to grapple with the ramifications of the *Hopwood vs. the State of Texas* ruling that struck down race-based admissions, UTEP has become a model for change due to its aggressive and successful recruiting efforts to attract a diverse student body that reflects the region the university serves.

As the largest Hispanic-majority university in the United States, UTEP plays a significant role in preparing the next generation of professionals and future leaders. This role was recently affirmed by U.S. Department of Education reports that rank UTEP second in the nation for the total number of bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanics. UTEP ranks first in the nation in Hispanic graduates in health

'88

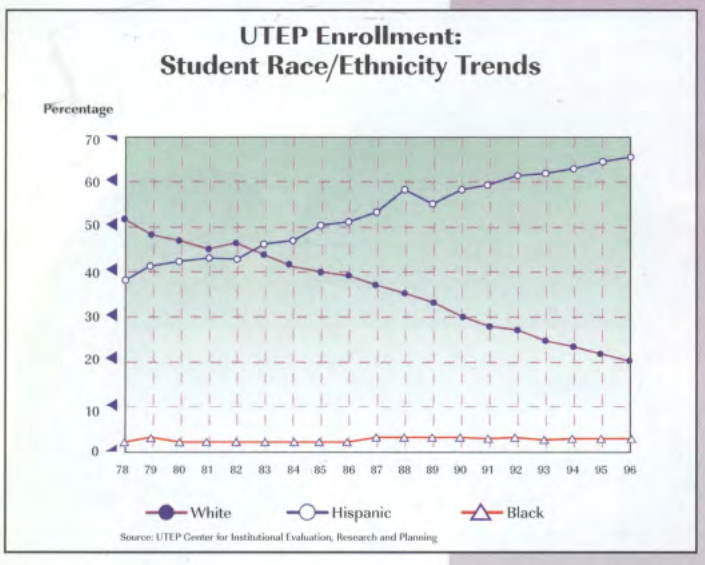
"Most places are the same where ever you go; what separates them is their leaders. In this aspect, UTEP proudly claims many notable successes — among them the UTEP Development Office. I have worked on the Miner Miracle Campaign and other fundraising efforts for the university and my experiences have made me very proud to be associated with this institution."

Keith Fong, a product design engineer at Delphi Automotive Systems, received two bachelor's degrees from UTEP — a B.S. in mechanical engineering in 1988 and a B.S. in metallurgical engineering in 1989. He also holds an M.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of New Mexico. He has been a UTEP Alumni Association board member since 1997.

Metallurgical and materials engineering graduate student Alicia Ayala studies the high-velocity impact on an aluminum sample for NASA.

"My experience at UTEP was a positive one, to say the least. The scholarships I received while I was an undergraduate helped me tremendously from a financial standpoint. After working eight years, I can look back now and say with certainty that the college education I received was distinctively outstanding. The academic environment is unique, allowing students to discover and adapt to multicultural diversities."

Peter Chan, a water/wastewater department manager at Rust Environment & Infrastruction Inc. in Phoenix, earned his B.S. degree in civil engineering at UTEP in 1989 and, a year later, received his master's in civil engineering.



sciences and second in business, engineering and physical sciences.

As one of the few minority institutions in the nation with a robust research agenda, UTEP has recruited outstanding faculty committed to student learning and who introduce students to nationally competitive research opportunities relevant not only to the needs of this community but to issues of national and international concern.

UTEP has created a niche for itself in a vast expanse of higher education options. Because the university has capitalized on its unique binational and multicultural setting, its students gain educational experiences not available on most university campuses.

"Ten years ago UTEP was one of the few universities in the country addressing the population of the future," Natalicio said. "Today, we receive a lot of national attention because we have defined who we are and honestly committed ourselves to provide opportunities for the people we serve."

UTEP STUDENTS:

Gems for the Academic and Professional World of Today

At commencement, an elated crowd of UTEP graduates and their families smile proudly as the Don Haskins Center resounds with applause. This day is a culmination of hard work, persistence and dreams.

For more than half of the students receiving their diploma, the event goes beyond the acknowledgment of a milestone in an individual's life; it is a day greatly anticipated by parents and grandparents for whom a college education seemed either impractical or impossible. The graduate they honor represents the first generation of their family to receive a college diploma.

For more than a decade, student enrollment trends at UTEP have evolved to closely reflect the demographics of the El Paso region. Nearly two-thirds of UTEP's students are Hispanic, 85 percent of these students are from El Paso County and another eight percent are from Mexico, most commuting daily from Ciudad Juárez.

"At UTEP we recognize the critical need for higher education opportunities in our historically underserved binational region," President Diana Natalicio said. "We

have a special responsibility to ensure that our programs and our institutional policies and procedures enhance achievement rather than serve as a barrier to it."

Like many students from the region, Angel Mendoza is the first in his family

Angel Mendoza, Student Association president, greets the crowd at the 1997 Homecoming football game.

to attend college. In the fall of 1994, he was admitted to UTEP on provisional status. As part of UTEP's mission to enhance student achievement, Mendoza was encouraged to join the Student Support Services Program, which provides academic assistance to low-income, disabled or first-generation college students.

"The program helped me become a better student," Mendoza said. "It taught me organizational and study skills and provided academic tutoring and counseling. Staff members encouraged me to participate in cultural events and to seize leadership opportunities."

Today, Mendoza is a highly successful student who represents his peers as UTEP's Student Association president.

From faculty members who volunteer their time in public-school classrooms to student-support measures on campus, the university remains focused on its most important element — student success.

The university's dedication to fulfilling its mission was reinforced in 1995 when the National Science Foundation identified UTEP as one of only six institutions in the nation as having the potential to serve as a catalyst for change in our nation's higher education system. As a Model Institution for Excellence, the university received a $12.4 million grant to embark upon fundamental changes in undergraduate science and engineering education. MIE allows UTEP to create academic models to reinvigorate and foster innovation in the nation's higher education system.

UTEP's reputation for providing top-notch educational and research opportunities has been recognized by such aspiring scholars as Alicia Ayala, who was the center of media attention in 1992 after turning down a scholarship to MIT to attend UTEP. As an undergraduate, Ayala distinguished herself as an outstanding student and researcher in metallurgical and materials engineering. In 1996, she graduated *summa cum laude* and chose to continue her graduate studies at UTEP.

Gary Massingill, UTEP's first doctoral graduate, received his Ph.D in geological sciences in 1979.

"I came to UTEP as a 17-year-old physics major. I was going to study hard, earn a scholarship and transfer to a 'bigger and better' institution. After my first semester at UTEP, I changed my major and my mind. UTEP was where I wanted to study. Dr. Natalicio had just become president and the image of our institution and the quality of my experience began to change for the better. I became extremely involved in student activities, focused on my grades and received opportunities that many students at other universities would never receive."

Gary Edens holds a B.B.A. in marketing from UTEP. He is director of UTEP's Student Development Center and sits on many faculty/student committees.

Efren Gutierrez, doctoral candidate in computer engineering, is hooded by his major professor David Williams at the December 1997 commencement ceremony.

"I was extremely privileged to interact with Dr. Natalicio from my early years at UTEP. Her academic and administrative mentoring frequently proved valuable in my pursuits, and her genuine interest in student success afforded me some unique opportunities, including the opportunity to serve as chair of the statewide UT System Student Advisory Group in 1990-91."

Jack Johnston, a past president of the UTEP Student Association, holds a bachelor's degree in marketing and management from UTEP and a master's degree from the London School of Economics. He is a first-year manager in the Leadership Development Program at SBC Communications in Chicago.

Biological sciences doctoral student Minerva Cutter examines a DNA sequencing gel with assistant professor Stephen Aley.

"While earning my bachelor's degree, I gained valuable research experience that I am now using as part of my master's thesis," Ayala said. "UTEP has so much to offer. The opportunities at this university are tremendous if you choose to take advantage of them."

Like Ayala and Mendoza, countless students have looked to UTEP in the realization of their highest dreams and aspirations. As they are recruited by highly competitive industries and receive national recognition for their success, the importance of the university mission is affirmed — one student at a time.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:

Quality Researchers Fuel Expanding Graduate School

As the region experiences rapid economic growth and technological advances, the need for El Pasoans to pursue an education beyond an undergraduate level increases. During the past ten years, UTEP has answered this need by developing its graduate programs, especially at the doctoral level.

The university's graduate school, which enrolls more than 2,300 students, offers 53 master's and seven doctoral programs. With only one doctoral program at the beginning of the decade, the implementation of six new Ph.D. programs in the past eight years demonstrates the ambitious nature of UTEP's goals and achievements. This intense

Student enrolled in UTEP's psychology doctoral program are prepared to work with bilingual populations.

graduate program development activity was made possible by the Texas Legislature's support of the South Texas/Border Initiatives and UTEP's well-regarded research strengths in a variety of academic areas.

• Computer engineering (1990) builds on the strengths of the university's computer science and engineering programs to prepare students for teaching and research careers in this exciting and expanding field.

• Materials science and engineering (1993) prepares students to discover and recover natural resources and develop new resources to replace scarce materials. Almost half of the first 22 students who enrolled in the program were Hispanic — six were women. This is a remarkable achievement when compared to enrollments in engineering and science doctoral programs throughout the nation.

• Psychology (1993) prepares students to work in an applied setting with bilingual populations. Doctoral candidates, who are required to demonstrate competence in both English and Spanish, gain extensive experience in bicultural field placements in business, government agencies and mental health programs.

• Environmental Science and Engineering (1995) offers an interdisciplinary program that trains students to become environmental scientists capable of solving problems that require experience from a number of fields.

• Educational Leadership (1996) prepares the educational leaders of tomorrow to implement innovative reform measures throughout the region. Doctoral candidates understand the importance of unifying diverse populations to achieve academic excellence.

• Biology (1997) uses the El Paso-Juárez area as a living laboratory for studying disease-causing agents. The program focuses on pathobiology, which is the study of disease caused by infectious agents and environmental pollutants.

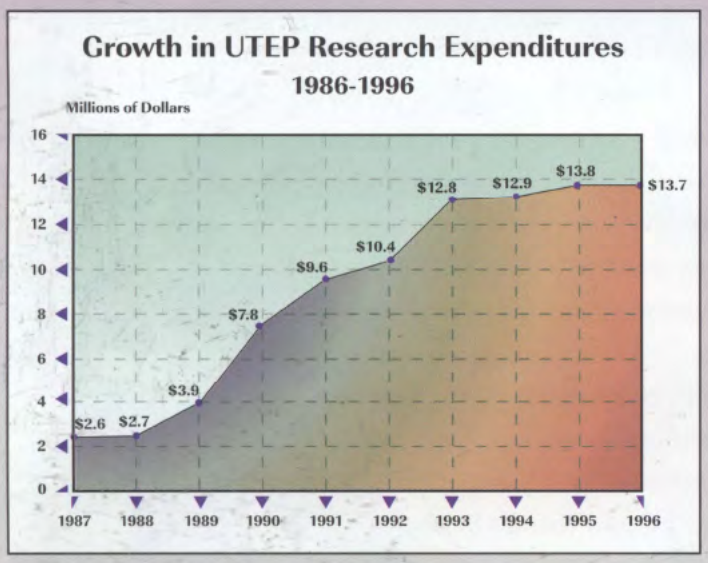
UTEP continues to expand educational opportunities for its students, and a doctoral degree in history has been proposed for authorization this year.

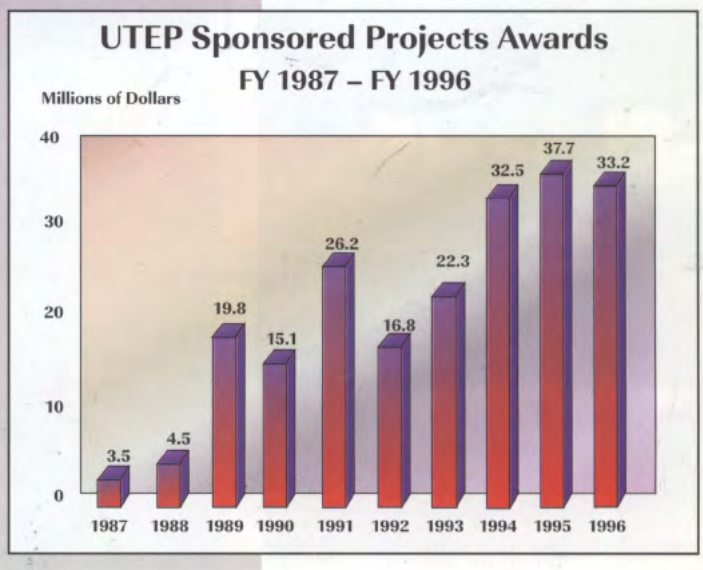
"At the graduate level, we have focused on areas that are crucial to the people of this region — including engineering, education, health, the environment and business," Charles Ambler, associate vice president for graduate studies, said. "By addressing regional concerns to explore national and international issues, UTEP will continue to ensure that our students are able to pursue meaningful careers both locally and beyond."

(continued after next two pages)

"UTEP provided a close-knit academic environment that allowed me to become involved in a variety of university activities. I can now appreciate attending a university that provided smaller classes, but that still had a challenging academic program."

Diana De Santos earned her B.S. in accounting at UTEP and graduated from Harvard Law School in 1997. She is now a tax attorney with Locke Purnell Rain Harrell in Dallas.





1988
- Diana Natalicio Named UTEP President
  Materials Center for Synthesis and Processing Established
- The National Science Foundation Recognized UTEP with a Minority Research Center of Excellence Grant
- Texas Centers for Border Economic Development Established

1989
- Manufacturing Engineering Master's Degree Approved
- Special Education Master's Degree Approved
- Center for Environmental Resource Management Established
- Center for Highway Materials Research Established
- Minority Research Center of Excellence Established

1990
- Computer Engineering Ph.D. Enrolls First Students
- Center for Lifelong Learning Established
- Minerpalooza Festival Created
- University Childcare Center Established

1991
- Nurse Midwifery Master's Degree Approved
- Institute for Border Community Health Education Established
- Geology Building Renovated
- Burges Hall Renovated
- Season of Lights Created

1992
- Public Health cooperative Master's Degree with UT Houston Health Sciences Center Approved
- Nursing Administration Master's Degree Approved
- Alliance for Minority Participation Established
- El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence Established
- Material Research Institute Established
- Border Biomedical Research Institute Established
- Miner Foundation Established

1993
- Women's Health Care Nursing Master's Degree Approved
- Creative Writing Master's Degree Approved
- Materials Science & Engineering Ph.D. Enrolls First Students
- Psychology Ph.D. Enrolls First Students
- Family and Closely Held Business Forum Established

1994
- Family Nurse Practitioner Master's Degree Approved
- Community Health Nursing Master's Degree Approved
- Franchise Center Established
- Black Tie and Tennies Begins

1995

- Kinesiology Master's Degree Approved
- Environmental Science & Engineering Ph.D. Enrolls First Students
- UTEP is designated a Model Institution for Excellence by the National Science Foundation
- Anthropological Research Center Established
- Center for the Study of Western Hemispheric Trade Established
- Center for Organizational Research Established
- Center for Electronics Manufacturing Established
- FAST Center for Structural Integrity of Aerospace Systems Established
- Pan American Center for Earth and Environmental Sciences Established
- Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center Established
- Stanton Medical Building Acquisition
- UTEP Divides Commencement into Two Ceremonies

1996

- Swimming and Fitness Center Opened
- Educational Leadership & Administration Ph.D. Enrolls First Students
- African-American Studies Program Established
- Old Main, Physical Science and Liberal Arts Buildings Renovated
- Public Policy Research Center Established

1997

- Don Haskins Inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame and Special Events Center is renamed Don Haskins Center
- Physical Therapy Cooperative Master's Degree with UT Medical Branch Administration Transferred to UTEP
- Biology Ph.D. Enrolls First Students
- UTEP Launches $50 million Legacy Campaign
- Academic Center for Engineers and Scientists Established
- Undergraduate Learning Center Opened

1998

- Rio Bosque Wetland Park Dedicated
- UTEP Celebrates its 100th Commencement
- UTEP Senior Days Established

"I attended UTEP during the beginning of Dr. Natalicio's tenure and had the pleasure of speaking with her at different university functions. I always admired her willingness to take time to interact with individual students. Undoubtedly, it is Dr. Natalicio's understanding of the needs of her students that has enabled her to direct the university in a direction that will keep it competitive with other colleges around the country."

Marco Rosales holds a bachelor of science in criminal justice from UTEP and a J.D. degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He is an assistant district attorney in El Paso.

RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROJECTS:

Decade of Growth Touches Students and Community

By seeing the world through a variety of perspectives and solving real-world problems, UTEP has attracted funds in research and sponsored projects that may help students such as Claudia Hernandez earn their college degrees.

As a student at Eastwood High School, Hernandez participated in the university's Upward Bound program, which helps students improve their grades and successfully enter college. Now, the sophomore education student participates in UTEP's Student Support Services, which provides academic assistance to first-generation college students from low-income families.

"In addition to financial and academic support, both programs have given me the motivation to keep going," Hernandez said. "When I'm having problems or struggling though my classes, I know that I'm not alone. That makes a big difference."

Electrical engineering student Albert Vega (center) demonstrates a electroluminescence device to Upward Bound students Aimee Black (left) and Rocio Samaniego (right).

This type of personal attention to student needs stems from an increase in the amount of extramural funding the university has received during the decade since the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects was created. Since 1989, UTEP's total sponsored projects expenditures have grown from less than $9 million to almost $32 million — an increase of more than 261 percent.

For Sandra Braham, director of Upward Bound, the growth in funding allows the university's programs to work together to increase student success and provide services to the community.

"As programs grow, the university develops a closer relationship with the community it serves because we are able to provide services in a variety of areas," Braham said. "Many UTEP projects support and reinforce one another. These programs offer different roads of support that help students grow. This way, students receive detailed, long-term assistance that prepares them for college and helps them graduate."

For example, Upward Bound students are able to meet their science requirements by participating in the university's summer science and engineering institutes. Once at UTEP, these students may continue to receive support through UTEP's Student Support Services Program, which picks up where Upward Bound left off.

In addition to receiving support from sponsored projects, students gain valuable hands-on experiences in research laboratories that focus on technical excellence and encourage students to work alongside faculty and staff members. This year, the university is reporting more that $17 million in research expenditures to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

During the past decade, UTEP faculty members have become prolific grant writers who successfully compete for numerous research awards. This university activity fueled the establishment of 25 centers on campus, seven of which cut across

colleges.

The Center for Environmental Resource Management, one of these research hubs, administers more than 70 projects that allow student researchers to address the mounting problems that threaten the health, safety, well-being and economic development of the Southwest border region.

"Not all universities are interested in applied research, but UTEP is committed to conducting research that helps solve real problems in the area," Chip Groat, director of CERM, said. "There is a spirit on campus — from the administration down to the individual researchers and project directors — that helps attract external funds to the university."

COMMUNITY IMPACT:

Extending the Circle of Influence

An integral element of the educational experience offered at UTEP is the opportunity for students and faculty to fulfill the university's commitment to respond not only to the educational but the social, economic and cultural needs of the area.

The past decade has witnessed a remarkable expansion in community programs and services offered by the university. A multitude of experiences awaits UTEP students, faculty and staff as they extend their educational reach beyond the classroom walls and seek to influence the lives of a diverse and multicultural population.

Caring for the Needs of a Community

A mother and her children walk along a long, dusty road to receive immunizations at a clinic in the *colonias*. Inside the clinic, a boy believed to have serious behavioral problems actually is diagnosed as being legally blind.

In a region where residents often lack such basic living needs as electricity, clean water and proper waste disposal, UTEP's College of Nursing and Health Sciences provides primary healthcare access at public school-based clinics while teaching students an important lesson in community service. Established in 1990 with major funding from the Kellogg Foundation, the clinics and corresponding health-education home visits serve more than 1,000 patients each month.

"The philosophy of our college is in concert with the university mission," Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences Patricia Castiglia said. "This community is a great multicultural educational resource. Working in the clinics allows our students to evolve into caring professionals while providing much-needed healthcare to the people of this region."

The Kellogg program is just one example of how UTEP — in partnership with many private, government and community agencies — works to develop creative solutions to provide residents of

"When I was a freshman at UTEP, I became involved in the Leadership Development Program. That was a turning point in my life. I had always been shy, but the leadership program gave me confidence and taught me that college is more than just school, it's getting involved. It challenged me to learn more about my university and my community and taught me the importance and satisfaction of giving something back."

Ricardo Jordan, a former Student Association senator and past president of Omega Delta Phi, received his bachelor's degree in English literature at UTEP. He will graduate with a law degree from the University of Texas at Austin in May.

Nursing student Mike Kacsmar examines six-week-old Ashley Marie at the Fabens school-based clinic as her mother, Elizabeth Yzquierdo, looks on.

"In my interactions with Dr. Natalicio, I have always sensed an unparalleled support for UTEP and its students. She is uniquely aware of the cultural and social issues that are an integral part of the university, yet has extended her involvement in academia and policy-making to a national level. It is this distinction that makes her an asset to this academic institution. I hope to see her continue as a student advocate and role model throughout the upcoming years."

Liliana Woo, who received a B.S. in microbiology at UTEP, will graduate from Harvard Medical School with the Class of '99.

Rosa Juárez and her daughter, Jessica, are alumnae of the first class of the Mother-Daughter Program.

underdeveloped areas with permanent relief in their challenging circumstances. Through service learning, students apply their academic training to address issues in the area:

- Residents in the Homestead *colonia* quench their thirst with high-quality water due to the diligence and vision of UTEP engineering students who toiled in the dust for months to create a water desalinization plant. The technology being developed at the *colonia* may be used to help solve water quality problems elsewhere.
- The historical legacy of the San Elizario area is being unearthed as a group of UTEP students search for archeological evidence of the city's presidio, which is the oldest colonial landscape in Texas. Discovering this vital historical link will shed light on the wonderful past of San Elizario, which is the cradle of the area's history.
- The construction of an oasis for migratory waterfowl along the U.S.-Mexico border nourishes rare educational opportunities in a habitat designed to sustain vital regional wildlife. The Rio Bosque Wetland Park, a 372-acre public wildlife refuge, incorporates service learning into research that addresses community issues.

Education: A United Force for Change

In 1992, UTEP took a leading role in forming the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, which is an umbrella organization housed at the university that brings together the city's education, community, business, and civic leaders to work toward a common goal of high academic standards and achievement for students at all educational levels.

Within two years of unveiling a list of

standards for academic excellence with Texas Governor George Bush, the Collaborative garnered the praise of prestigious education publications and El Paso was recently heralded by the *New York Times* as an "educational bright spot in the nation."

A phasing in of the new standards of learning by the year 2004 prepares students to meet the simultaneous ramping up of UTEP admission requirements.

Since UTEP produces nearly 70 percent of the teachers and administrators in the region, the College of Education is uniquely positioned to play a key role in advancing the Collaborative's goals. Traditional teacher preparation methods have been replaced by a field-based, clinical model in which student interns enroll as cohorts and engage in a significantly greater amount of classroom field experience.

"We have become a national model for educational renewal," Arturo Pacheco, Dean of the College of Education, said. "University-wide responsibility for teacher preparation, the integration of technology, made possible by grants from such agencies as the National Science Foundation, and our partnership with local schools are producing a new era of learning and achievement for the children of El Paso."

Making Success a Family Affair

Rosa Juárez and her children have beaten the odds — she earned a master's degree in bilingual education and her daughter and son are currently enrolled at UTEP. In a state where approximately 43 percent of Hispanic girls drop out before finishing high school, UTEP's Mother-Daughter program changed the lives of each member of the Juárez family.

Founded in 1986 by a small group of dedicated university and community volunteers, the Mother-Daughter Program targets sixth-grade girls from families with no college graduates.

Today, the nationally recognized program has encouraged more than 2,000 sixth-grade girls and their mothers to pursue higher education by providing successful role models and information about career choices and financial aid options.

The desire of many mothers to improve their own education was an unanticipated benefit of the program. Inspired by her daughter's involvement, Juárez became the first mother in the program to receive her college degree. As an employee for Region XIX, she now shares her enthusiasm and knowledge with teachers and students throughout El Paso.

"Meeting successful Hispanic women while participating in the program gave me the hope and courage to believe in myself," she said. "In turn I have empowered my own children and students with the belief that they can accomplish anything."

Josefina Tinajero, assistant dean of the College of Education and director of the Mother-Daughter Program, is frequently invited to share the program's success with communities across the nation.

"The influence of the program extends far beyond the girls who are formally involved," Tinajero said. "The motivation and knowledge the mothers and daughters gain is passed on to other children in the family and eventually to the neighborhood and the community at large."

Enriching the Entertainment and Cultural Life of the City

For anyone who has ever heard a fellow El Pasoan complain that there is nothing to do in the Sun City, UTEP's cultural and artistic programs prove they simply aren't looking in the right place.

Whether

"I admire the cultural diversity fostered at UTEP. The university has traded well on its natural advantages: its proximity to Mexico; low tuition rates, even for out-of-state or international students; the beauty of the campus; and the nationally and internationally acclaimed faculty. Also, when I was a student, UTEP President Diana Natalicio, who is a linguist, encouraged the expansion of the languages and linguistics department to include Russian and other not-so-native languages. I benefited directly from the outstanding Russian program and UTEP's Study Abroad Program."

Joan Osborne graduated from UTEP in 1990 with a B.A. in economics and in 1996 with an M.S. in economics. Today, she is the director of administrative services for the West Texas Community Supervision and Corrections Department.

'97

"In the summer of 1993, I had the opportunity to meet former UTEP track stand-out (and Hall of Famer) Bert Cameron from Jamaica. When I told him that I would be attending his alma mater, *he smiled and told me that El Paso would grow on me. Those words were almost prophetic. UTEP will always have a place in my heart because it represents an important transition in my personal maturity. My experiences at UTEP were a catalyst for learning the importance of friendships and camaraderie, and the necessity of being focused on the more important goals in life."*

Barbados-native Obadele Thompson, a track-and-field athlete who competed in the 1996 Olympics, earned his B.B.A. degree in economics from UTEP. He continues to train with UTEP's Head Track and Field Coach Bob Kitchens.

experiencing the zesty melodies of the Spanish folk operas performed by Zarzuela at UTEP or listening to an internationally renowned lecturer, El Pasoans find an array of cultural and artistic offerings as diverse as the community it serves.

Students have the opportunity to perfect their arts while fulfilling an integral element of UTEP's mission — to enhance the quality of life in El Paso.

Actors and audiences alike benefit from theater department and Union Dinner Theatre productions that bring Broadway musicals and tales of life in urban Hispanic neighborhoods to the stage.

The Don Haskins Center was proudly renamed for UTEP's basketball coach who reached his 700th career victory and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. The center is not only home to the Miner basketball teams but serves as a concert hall for popular national and international recording artists.

From Dallas Cowboy pre-season scrimmages in the Sun Bowl to art exhibits, recitals and the pulsating rhythms of Pandemonium, the university's steel-drum band, UTEP serves as a vital center for intellectual, cultural and artistic enrichment.

UTEP DEVELOPMENT:

Creating a Legacy

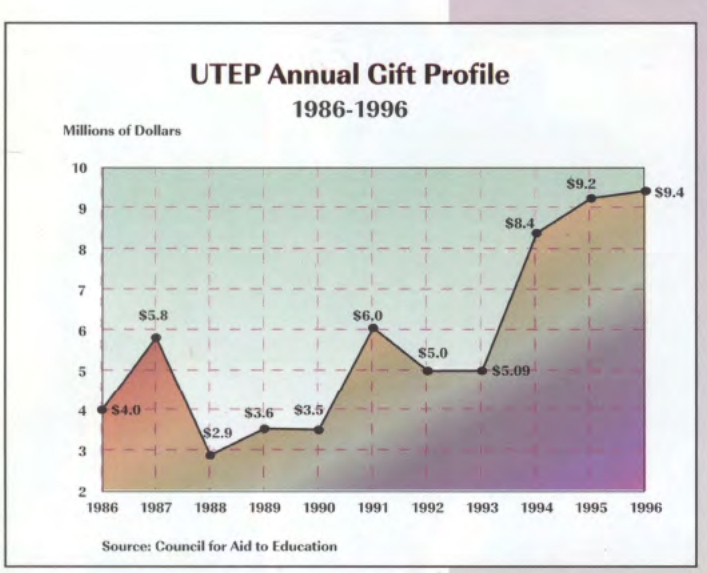
Ten years ago, UTEP's administration envisioned creating a university capable of empowering an underserved region with educational opportunities, community services and technological advancements. Although achievable, this reality required long-term financial support.

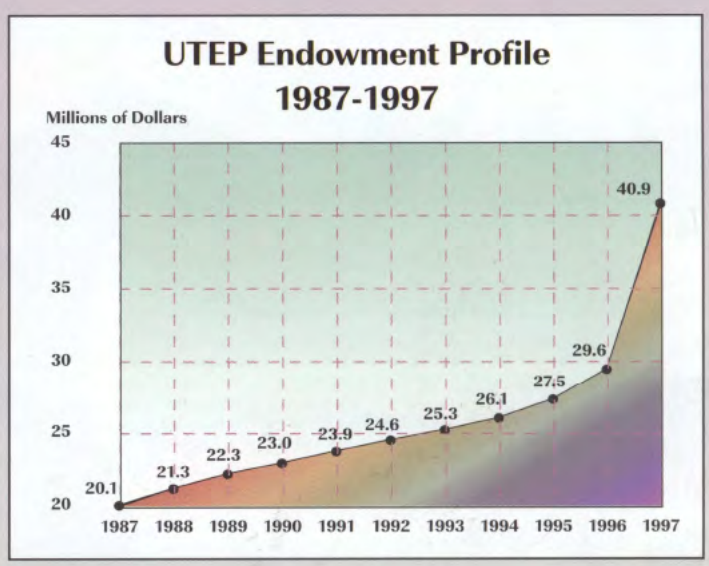
Since then, UTEP's expansion of the Development and Alumni Affairs office has resulted in a steady increase in annual giving to the university — from $5.8 million in 1987 to $9.4 million in 1997.

The superior fundraising efforts of the office also have garnered national attention. For an unprecedented three years in a row, UTEP has been honored with the prestigious Circle of Excellence in Educational Fundraising Award from the Washington D.C.-based Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Throughout the decade, the growing sophistication of the development office prompted the university to set its sights on even higher aspirations.

In 1994, a group of thoughtful citizens and President Diana Natalicio envisioned a future UTEP, undaunted by economic turbulence and erratic





Balloons cascade over celebrants at the kick-off of UTEP's Legacy Campaign, May 1997.

state funding. Their vision manifested itself in a diligent, multiyear fundraising campaign to increase UTEP's only permanent source of support — its endowment.

These leaders carefully assessed UTEP's needs and determined that for the learning community to prosper, its endowment also must grow to support the institution's needs. As a result, they embarked on an unprecedented fundraising effort realized in the $50 million Legacy Campaign, an initiative to triple the university's endowment to $75 million.

Since the campaign was launched in 1997, corporations, foundations and individuals who understand that the future of UTEP is inextricably woven into the fabric of the El Paso community have responded with extraordinary support. President Diana Natalicio attributes the university's growth in its external funding during the past ten years and the success of the Legacy Campaign to the powerful commitment of a large and dedicated group of community volunteers.

"In addition to their own generous financial contributions to UTEP, these volunteers have devoted their talents and time to helping the university achieve its annual fundraising goals and build an endowment that will serve as a solid foundation for our future institutional development," Natalicio said. "We are honored by their endorsement of our aspirations and grateful to them for their major role in the success that we have achieved."

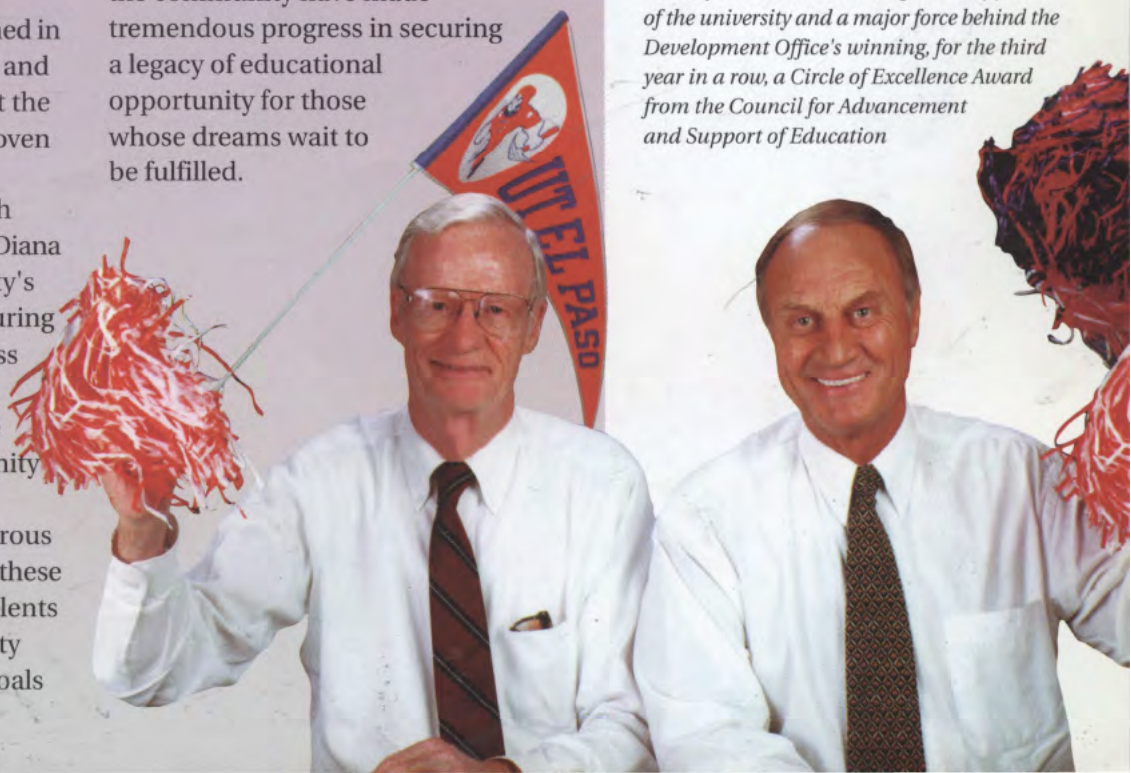
Today, the Legacy Campaign provides a nearly $40 million foundation for the future of UTEP. Although, much work remains to achieve the goal by Aug. 31, 2000, working together, the university and the community have made tremendous progress in securing a legacy of educational opportunity for those whose dreams wait to be fulfilled.

'98

"UTEP gave me the educational preparation I needed to become a strong leader in our community. Through UTEP's challenging academic curriculum, I have become a competitive and marketable professional. My goals include strengthening my clinical background in an acute care setting and beginning my endeavors in graduate school here at UTEP. I compliment Dr. Natalicio and her administration because they have been true student advocates. They have maintained an open door policy to student needs and concerns at all times."

Joe Hernandez will graduate from UTEP this May and then enter the College of Nursing and Health Sciences' family nurse practitioner graduate program. He currently works as a nurse technician at Providence Memorial Hospital's Critical Care Unit.

Peter de Wetter (left), chair of UTEP's Legacy Campaign, and Jim Phillips, chair of UTEP's Development Board, are long-time supporters of the university and a major force behind the Development Office's winning, for the third year in a row, a Circle of Excellence Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education



'99 The next decade ...

"I had no plans to go to college until I heard Dr. Natalicio give a speech in which she related her experiences as a young woman dissatisfied with her job and with the lack of opportunities available. She said it was then that she decided to further her education. Knowing that the president of the university understood my situation made me feel very close to her. This experience showed me the opportunities available to me at UTEP and made me want to succeed."

Angel Mendoza, president of the UTEP Student Association, is working toward his bachelor's degree in history.

leader in providing educational services to a diverse and rapidly growing urban population," Don Evans, chair of the UT System Board of Regents, says. "UTEP's achievements are due to the hard work of many talented and dedicated people working together over an extended period of time. No one, however, has been more important than President Natalicio. Her keen vision and wise leadership have been central to UTEP's proud record of success."

For community leader Adair Margo, UTEP's achievements make the institution one of the driving forces in the development of the Sun City. During a recent commencement address, she challenged UTEP graduates to find the gems of the world — gems such as those unearthed in El Paso.

"The rest of the world is incomplete without our participation," Margo says. "El Paso has sometimes been ignored, but people such as Diana Natalicio are everywhere talking about El Paso and its university. Wherever I go across the country, people tell me, 'I think the world of your president.' *That* is refreshing."

Margo credits Natalicio with refocusing UTEP's mission to accurately reflect and serve the El Paso community. For recognizing the changing demographics throughout the state and the country, Margo calls Natalicio a visionary and a builder.

As a member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Margo participates in the statewide dialogue about the implications of the *Hopwood vs. the State of Texas* ruling that struck down race-based admissions.

"There is a post-Hopwood syndrome that makes universities wish they were more reflective of their communities," Margo says. "In El Paso, we do not have to worry about this because our university is firmly footed in its soil to serve its people."

Alan Dean and Jorge Lopez: Developing Potential

by Walli Haley

For Jorge Lopez, returning to UTEP was to come full-circle. Lopez was a UTEP undergraduate when physics professor Alan Dean encouraged his student to become a physics professor himself.

From the age of 14, Lopez knew that he wanted to be a physicist — though he didn't know his interest would extend to teaching.

He credits three teachers with keeping him firmly on the path toward reaching his goal: "One was my middle school teacher, another was my high school teacher and the other one was Alan Dean."

Lopez, who grew up and attended school in Juárez, received his bachelor and master of science degrees in physics at UTEP.

"All I knew was that I liked physics and thinking," Lopez says.

"Then, Alan pushed me into graduate school. I had never heard of anybody getting a Ph.D. I didn't know people could study so much."

Dean remembers Lopez as a top student.

"I first met Jorge when he took my senior introductory quantum mechanics class," Dean says. He was by far the best student in the class so when he wanted to work with me on his master's thesis, I was happy. He was the student that we all hope for — give him a little help and an approximate direction — and he's off and running, thinking of things that we don't. He's clearly the best student I ever had."

Lopez returns the compliment to Dean, saying, "I admired Dr. Dean because he was a free-thinker, plus he didn't wear a tie!"

Dean's influence on Lopez also extended to his choice of graduate school. He earned his doctoral degree in physics from Texas A&M, his mentor's *alma mater*.

After receiving his Ph.D., Lopez worked at the prestigious Neals Bohr Institute in Copenhagen, conducting research in nuclear physics. Two years later, he returned to the United States to continue his research at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab in Berkeley, Calif., and at California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo. Although he bought a house just a few miles from the beach, the lure of returning to his roots and to his *alma mater* proved too strong to resist. Lopez jumped at the first opportunity to return to UTEP in 1990.

"I had my eyes on UTEP ever since I was a student," Lopez says. "When I came back it felt very natural, except that everyone was a little older."

Since becoming a UTEP physics professor, Lopez has received a grant from the National Science Foundation to study nuclear reactions. Another NSF grant allows Lopez to create computer simulations that reproduce classical physics experiments performed in the 1920s and 1940s — experiments that gave scientists their modern view of physics. The simulated experiments will be used as educational materials.

Today, Lopez still maintains a professional relationship with his mentor through the Partnership for Enhancing Teacher Education project — where Dean serves as associate director.

Looking back on their long friendship and at Lopez' accomplishments, Dean says, "I was very lucky to be Jorge's thesis advisor — and I'm very proud of Jorge."

Taking UTEP and its Students to the National Stage

"Flight 1772 departing to Washington, D.C., is now boarding."

Although Natalicio remains closely connected to the university and the students it serves, she spends much of her time in airports traveling across the country to ensure that institutions such as UTEP are injected into the national dialogue about higher education.

In addition to her duties as UTEP president, Natalicio has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the NASA Advisory Council, the U.S.-Mexico Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange and the Fogarty International Center at the National Institutes of Health.

President Bush appointed her to the Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, President Clinton appointed her to the "America Reads Challenge" Steering Committee and the National Science Board — of which she is now vice chair.

In 1995, she joined some of the country's top scientific, engineering and education leaders as a member of the board that directs policy for the National Science Foundation, an independent, U.S. government agency responsible for promoting science and engineering programs.

Dick Zare, chair of the National Science Board, says Natalicio immediately impressed her fellow members as a person who engages her mind before she speaks and who speaks only when she has something to say.

"Always sensible and sensitive, Diana Natalicio is a delight to have as a member of the board," he says. "She is a most caring individual who sees the human side to technical problems and challenges."

He says she serves as a "special glue" that holds the diverse members together. She uses a combination of tact, firmness and persuasion to contribute to the vitality and productivity of the board.

"President Natalicio is a charismatic representative of the university and helps other board members realize the importance of institutions such as UTEP in setting national policy," Zare says.

Throughout the country, as workforce diversity continues to be a high priority for most employers, UTEP is becoming well-known to recruiters as a rich source of highly talented and academically well-prepared graduates.

"President Natalicio is a charismatic representative of the university and helps other board members realize the importance of institutions such as UTEP in setting national policy."

— Dick Zare
Chair, National Science Board

(Above) Natalicio receives a presidential citation while being sworn-in as a National Science Board member in 1995. UTEP students have excelled in major national contests as well: after only their second year of competing, a team of computer science students (top left) won first place in a national robotics competition; two teams of UTEP students (left) tied for first place in the Disney Imagineering competition.

A Shared Background

At commencement, Natalicio pays attention to each of the more than 1,200 names of students who walk across the stage. As she personalizes her "congratulations" to one student, she listens for the next student's name.

This attention to detail is important to both the students and to Natalicio. "Commencement should not be an anonymous event. It represents the culmination of years of hard work. Each student deserves a special moment in the spotlight," she says.

The individual achievements of UTEP's students have always been the driving force behind Natalicio's commitment to strengthening the university.

From developing the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects to expanding the Development Office, Natalicio has worked tirelessly to support the university's efforts to create educational opportunities for all students.

"We are far less interested in assessing the 'quality' of students when they enter UTEP than we are in measuring their competence when they leave the university," Natalicio says. "With the assistance of our nationally competitive and committed faculty members, many UTEP graduates complete their degrees with extensive hands-on research that distinguishes them in the marketplace."

Natalicio, recognized as a well-educated and erudite leader, is a role model for UTEP students who share a similar background with the president.

"Talent is uniformly distributed across gender, class and racial lines. We owe it to ourselves to aggressively recruit and educate students from a variety of backgrounds in order to maximize the talent available to society," Natalicio says. "At UTEP, I want to give students the same chances that I had —the gr eat educational opportunities that I had."

Guido Barrientos and Josie Tinajero: Reaching out to Students

by Timi Haggerty

Guido Barrientos says that if he were to sit down and write a book of his memoirs as a university professor, he would call it *Touching Lives*.

Barrientos mentored numerous students throughout his tenure at UTEP, including Josefina Tinajero, assistant dean of UTEP's College of Education.

"He most definitely touched my life," Tinajero says. "He had a great impact on me because he was the passionate teacher I wanted to become."

As a freshman at UTEP in 1967, Tinajero took an introductory psychology course taught by Barrientos, an associate professor of psychology.

"I vividly remember being in his class because he was so dynamic and passionate about what he was teaching," Tinajero recalls. "He was an inspiration. He represented the kind of person and teacher that I aspired to be. Also, because he is Latino, he represented what was possible for me."

Barrientos, a native of Guatemala who has taught at the university since 1968, remembers with equal affection the intelligent and promising young woman who sat attentively at the front of his class.

"I tend to have large classes, but a professor always notices the students who make the grades — and Josefina always came through with flying colors. You couldn't help but notice her," Barrientos recalls. "As a professor, you want to believe that when you lecture, someone is listening — that someone will have a little appreciation for what you say — so you focus on a student whose intellect you respect. I would focus on Josefina."

After receiving her bachelor of science in elementary education at UTEP, Tinajero earned her M.Ed. from UTEP, and Ed.D. from Texas A&I at Kingsville (now Texas A&M). Since accepting a faculty position at her *alma mater*, she has become a nationally known expert in the field of bilingual education, a widely respected faculty member and administrator, and a champion for the young people of El Paso.

"I always knew she would go places and be outstanding," Barrientos says. "I have followed her career with interest and not been surprised to hear of her many accomplishments."

Tinajero is the director and founder of the extraordinarily successful Mother-Daughter Program, which inspires Hispanic sixth-grade girls and their mothers to set career goals and make education a priority. This program has become a national model that many other communities now emulate. In 1994, she implemented a Father-Son Program to create similar opportunities for El Paso boys.

Through her most recent program, Project BEEMS — Bilingual Education with Emphasis in Math and Science — Tinajero has obtained federal funding from the U.S. Department of Education to improve the quality of bilingual instruction in El Paso schools, as well as to increase the number of teachers who earn master's degrees in bilingual education.

Tinajero's work to advance bilingual education resulted in her appointment last year to the board of the National Association for Bilingual Education and to her election as president of the association.

"I have emulated throughout my life and my career a lot of what Dr. Barrientos imparted to me as a student," she says. "There is a part of him that I will always have in me helping me to reach out to students. He touched my life, and I hope that, in turn, I have touched others."

After listening to Natalicio speak at a high-school forum, Angel Mendoza realized that a college education was within his reach. Although he was admitted to UTEP on provisional status, Mendoza has become a successful student who was elected Student Association President last year.

"Dr. Natalicio is solely responsible for inspiring me to get a college degree," Mendoza says. "Knowing that the president of the university understood my situation made me feel very close to her. Dr. Natalicio showed me the opportunities at UTEP and made me want to succeed."

During commencement ceremonies, Mendoza sits with the stage party and watches UTEP graduates receive their diplomas. This hard-working, talented student looks forward to his own graduation when he will proudly cross the stage, shake hands with the president and revel in the moment Natalicio says, "Congratulations Angel."

UTEP and the Next Generation

Outside the UTEP administration building, Natalicio greets a group of kindergartners visiting the campus. As she bends down to speak with the children, they begin asking important questions about the university and its president:

"Are there any *boy* presidents at UTEP?"

"Do you know President Clinton?"

"How many languages do you speak?"

Natalicio is beaming. As the children begin to leave, she reminds them that UTEP will be waiting for them when they graduate. "If we don't see you here after graduation, we *will* come looking for you."

The children laugh, but this is a serious matter for Natalicio.

"I love speaking with children. They are so full of hopes, dreams and ambitions," she says. "But somewhere down the road, the light dims and they do not seem as excited about the future."

This is when UTEP is able to make a profound difference in the lives of the area's children. Through programs such as the Mother-Daughter Program, Upward Bound and the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, the university is working hard to ensure that students are encouraged to achieve their greatest potential.

"In this undereducated region, it is important that we encourage our young people to finish high school and earn a college degree," Natalicio says. "When we increase educational opportunities and expect a high-level of achievement, our students perform marvelously."

Throughout the community, Natalicio is recognized by students and parents alike as a leader committed to student success. While showing

"We are far less interested in assessing the 'quality' of students when they enter UTEP than we are in measuring their competence when they leave the university."

Keenly aware of the university's true constituency — its students — Natalicio is actively involved in all levels of education. From kindergarten students to current UTEP students, she encourages all to pursue higher education.

"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."

Natalicio to her table at a local restaurant, a student taking the semester off assures the president that he will be returning to the university soon. On another occasion, a mother greets Natalicio at a grocery store with a warm hug and a sincere "thank you" for making UTEP something in which the community can take pride.

These are the moments that move the president. Whether she is speaking with university administrators and faculty or meeting with legislators in Austin, Natalicio remains keenly aware of the university's true constituency — its students.

"Students come to us with their dreams and aspirations, their talents and motivation, their opportunities and their constraints," she says. "And it is our responsibility —I would say our privilege — to foster their personal and professional development."

Throughout her own life, Natalicio has benefited from the efforts of those who cared enough to create opportunities for her to succeed. Today, she honors those kind gestures as a member of a university community that works to ensure the success of the next generation of life's team players.

Diana Natalicio and Elena Izquierdo: Interpreting the Language of Learning

by Christian Clarke

A child sits silently in class unable to find the language to describe the daisies and orchids drawn on the chalkboard. Instead, the child's thoughts drift outside the window to the butterfly that floats among the flowers. Without uttering a word, the native Spanish speaker considers the unique characteristics of the flowers — *margaritas y orquídeas.*

As a student at UTEP in the 1970s, Elena Izquierdo sympathized with the challenges that non-English speakers faced while trying to learn science, math and history — all of which were taught in English. Now, the assistant professor of teacher education has returned to her *alma mater* with one goal: to build a bridge to the classroom that is wide enough for all students to cross.

"Sometimes children learning English are misclassified as special education students," Izquierdo, assistant professor of teacher education, says. "This classification is often detrimental to the self-esteem and future development of the children. As educators, we owe it to ourselves and our students to learn more about language acquisition by non-English speakers."

Izquierdo's own role as an educator was not always so clearly defined. After her parents insisted that she attend college, Izquierdo enrolled at UTEP with no intention of completing a degree. But, the future educator discovered a world of learning that inspired her to research how language provides or denies opportunities.

This process began when she studied with linguistics professor (now UTEP President) Diana Natalicio. As a female professor, Natalicio represented everything Izquierdo aspired to become — a well-traveled, intelligent educator who underscored the importance of revealing the practical applications of academic knowledge.

"When I sat in Dr. Natalicio's contrastive analysis class, I was so impressed with how dynamic she was," Izquierdo recalls. "She was so passionate about the subject matter that I became fascinated with how linguistics affects education."

After completing her undergraduate degree, Izquierdo continued her research in applied linguistics as a graduate student at UTEP. During the toughest times when a thesis seemed to be an impossibility, Natalicio stressed that *not* completing a thesis was the true impossibility.

"I knew that Elena had so much to contribute to the education of non-English speaking children, and it was unthinkable that she would not complete her master's degree," Natalicio says. "The master's thesis challenged her self-discipline and commitment, but she successfully completed her studies because she was determined to make a difference in the lives of others."

Izquierdo analyzed how the processes native speakers of Japanese, Spanish and Persian use when learning English. Although not all predictions hold true due to such variables as education and literacy levels, this Georgetown University alumna educates El Paso teachers about the importance of learning how students translate the academic material presented to them.

"El Paso is becoming a leader in education because everyone — from the school districts to UTEP — has embraced the richness of the different cultures that make this city unique," Izquierdo says. "This is a lesson I learned while I was studying under Dr. Natalicio and it is a lesson that I continue to teach my students today."

BUSH SPEAKS AT UTEP'S CENTENNIAL COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATION

In commemoration of UTEP's 100th commencement, Texas Governor George W. Bush will address more than 1,200 graduating students May 15 at the Sun Bowl.

During his term, Bush has made education his number one priority. During two Texas Legislative sessions, he has worked with members of the Legislature to enact reforms to improve public schools, increase the state's share of funding for schools and provide increased educational opportunities.

"I am delighted that Governor Bush will be able to be with us for UTEP's 100th commencement," UTEP President Diana Natalicio said. "His participation will make this occasion even more special."

EL PASO RECEIVES HIGH MARKS AS NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL BRIGHT SPOT

El Paso area school districts are raising student achievement.

Quality Counts '98, a report by the highly respected journal, *Education Week*, cites the work of the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence in setting high academic standards and focusing on student achievement as a model to improve student success. Reporting on the publication of the study, the *New York Times* described El Paso as an educational bright spot in the nation.

UTEP has been an active partner with the collaborative, which is an umbrella organization housed at the university that brings together the city's education, community, business, and civic leaders to improve teaching and learning at all levels, from kindergarten through the university.

"Obviously, we are very proud of this recognition of our schools. Hundreds of educators, parents, civic and business leaders who come together through the Paso Collaborative to make success for all students a communitywide priority, can be immensely proud," said Susana Navarro, executive director of the collaborative. "We also are absolutely clear that our work is by no means complete, and that we all need to stay focused in order to keep moving forward."

The El Paso Collaborative For Academic Excellence

Quality Counts '98, one of the most comprehensive reports on urban education, found that most urban schools fail to provide their students with the skills and knowledge they need to reach even minimal levels of competency in reading, mathematics and science.

The study reported that more than half of the fourth and eighth graders in urban schools have "below basic" academic skills. Worse still, schools serving high concentrations of low-income children perform at even lower levels, with about two-thirds of the students failing to reach even the "basic level" on national tests.

In contrast, student achievement levels in the El Paso, Ysleta and Socorro school districts have risen steadily in the past five years. The communitywide focus on achievement has led to improved academic performance and has helped close the gap between white and minority achievement.

For example:

- In the last year, the number of schools in the three districts identified by the state as "low-performing" on the TAAS tests has dropped from 15 to 0. At the same time, the number of "recognized" and "exemplary" schools has risen from just 2 to 41.
- The pass-rates on both the reading and math sections of TAAS have improved dramatically for all students in the area since 1992. While achievement among all groups has increased, it has increased to the greatest degree among Hispanic and African-American students.

"What we've been able to accomplish so far in El Paso isn't the result of magic. It's the result of everyone coming together, working relentlessly and focusing single-mindedly on what matters most — high academic achievement for all students," said Diana Natalicio, UTEP president and chair of the collaborative.

UTEP NAMES STULL AS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

As UTEP's head football coach in 1988, Bob Stull led the Miners to their first post-season bowl game in 21 years. Now the former coach has returned to UTEP as the university's new athletic director.

Stull, who was associate athletic director at the University of Washington, has 27 years of experience at the Division 1-A level. For half this time, he held direct management responsibilities – 10 years as a head football coach and three years as an assistant or associate athletic director.

At UTEP, Stull will oversee the university's $7 million Intercollegiate Athletics Department, which has a long tradition of providing the El Paso community with competitive men's and women's athletic teams.

NEIMAN-MARCUS CHAIRMAN SPEAKS AT HERTZOG LECTURE

Mark Argetsinger believes book designers must reflect the words and ideas captured on the pages of any book. By remaining true to these elements in *An Oak Flora: Flower Illustration from the Fifteenth Century to the Present Time,* Argetsinger was honored with the Carl Hertzog Award for Excellence in Book Design in February.

Before the award presentation, Argetsinger and book enthusiasts listened to Stanley Marcus, chairman emeritus of Neiman-Marcus, who delivered the biennial Carl Hertzog Lecture. Marcus, renowned for his vast knowledge of fine book printing and great love of books, was a lifelong friend of Hertzog.

In the 20 years that Hertzog served as founding director of Texas Western Press, he developed a reputation as a premier printer whose books were eagerly sought for their design and typography as well as their literary merit.

The Carl Hertzog Award recognizes book designers, printers and publishers throughout the United States. The competition, overseen by the Associates of the University Library, is open to presses and publishers of all types and sizes.

Stanley Marcus speaks at the 1998 Carl Hertzog Lecture.

The award-winning book, *An Oak Flora: Flower Illustration from the Fifteenth Century to the Present Time,* was designed by Mark Argetsinger.

UTEP ENROLLMENT PROFILE CHANGES

UTEP's enrollment profile is changing as the university becomes one of the top academic choices for outstanding students from the freshman to the doctoral level.

During this academic year, 1,954 first-time freshman enrolled at UTEP, representing a 5.4 percent increase over last year. Hanks, Montwood, Franklin, Eastwood and Coronado high schools provided the largest groups of students.

A growing number of outstanding students, including high-school valedictorians, Presidential Scholars and other high achievers are choosing UTEP over other institutions. Of the first-time freshmen enrolled at the university this year, 42 percent were in the top 25 percent of their high school classes, including nine valedictorians from the El Paso area. These students indicated that the quality of the UTEP faculty, the many academic and research opportunities, and the university's low tuition made UTEP their number one choice.

Irma Rubio, director of UTEP recruitment, said there is a strong interest in UTEP by El Paso's top high school students.

"The university has been successful recruiting these competitive students because we offer attractive scholarship and financial aid packages," Rubio said. "This fall, 189 Presidential Scholars enrolled at UTEP, a 14 percent increase over the 166 enrolled in Fall 1996."

At the doctoral level, spring enrollment has increased by 6.5 percent. This increase reflects UTEP's evolution into a comprehensive university offering a broad range of programs at all levels.

Star-struck Students Learn About Space

U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes (left), astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria and NASA Administrator Dan Goldin field questions from inquisitive second- and third-graders at Mesita Elementary School. Members of the third-grade class were selected to have their names imprinted on the microchip to be carried on the spacecraft Stardust. Reyes and Goldin were in town for "Tilting the Balance: Climate Variability and Water Resource Management in the Southwest," a conference hosted by UTEP's Pan American Center for Earth and Environmental Studies and sponsored by NASA.

LEGACY LEGEND

Larry Jones: On A Medical Mission

By Walli Haley and Don Keel

Biologists are known for growing specimens in a petri dish, but Larry Jones grows something much grander: El Paso's future physicians. Jones, a UTEP biology professor for more than 25 years, has pledged $300,000 to the Legacy Campaign to establish a professorship to groom biology students for medical careers.

"One of my greatest satisfactions is advising pre-med students. I've seen them grow and mature, go on to medical school and then return to El Paso to practice medicine," Jones says. "Can you imagine what a wonderful feeling that is?"

After Jones received his doctorate from Oregon State University, he was offered positions at other institutions that would have kept him strictly in research. Jones believes that research and teaching should not be mutually exclusive or the sole domain of graduate students.

"I love teaching. What puts a spring in my step is seeing a student grasp scientific thinking to make a discovery! That's why I came to UTEP: to research and teach undergraduates. For me, the two aspects are not mutually exclusive."

At UTEP, faculty members are committed to placing undergraduates in research positions. And, since UTEP undergraduate students are involved in conducting research, they are more prepared to successfully enter medical or graduate schools.

"Medical schools love our graduates because they are already familiar with the research environment and techniques. This is partly why our graduates do so well in medical school," Jones says.

It's not only medical schools who recognize UTEP graduates. The Hughes Medical Institute has helped UTEP students get accepted to medical school by offering them stipends to conduct research with faculty while they are still undergraduates.

"We now have a wonderful research infrastructure because we have been able to attract millions in grants to buy state-of-the-art research equipment which our undergraduate have access to," Jones says.

"When I got here, we had very little and we have worked hard to make it grow. Our work has paid off and now we have a terrific research environment for our graduate and undergraduate students."

Jones is justifiably proud of his career at UTEP. The recipient of the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Achievement Award for Outstanding Teaching, Jones says he remains excited by teaching and research at UTEP.

"At UTEP, teaching is primary, and the interaction between professors and their students is the main agenda. UTEP also is more personal than other universities in dealing with its students. Here, professors' doors are open. Students can come in at any time. That is so significant," he says.

Jones' love for his work is evident in the legacy that Jones has planned for UTEP. He believes in the institution, its goals and what it means to this community. "My commitment to the campaign is my way of giving something back to UTEP, which has given me such a good life. I hope the individual who holds my professorship will feel as strongly as I do about UTEP and its students."

For Jones, creating the Larry P. Jones Distinguished Professorship has unexpected benefits.

"I was really surprised to learn how powerful a planned gift could be. It enabled me to do much more than I would have ever thought possible," he says. "Now I feel I have contributed something that will benefit generations of UTEP students long after I'm gone."

LEGACY
campaign

ALUMNEWS

by Martha Saldaña-Wolf

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. By sponsoring and supporting UTEP programs, projects and activities, the association assists the university in its mission to achieve academic excellence. The association brings alumni and friends together throughout the year for events such as pregame parties, Homecoming, Season of Lights and the Top Ten Seniors Banquet.

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
The 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.

100TH COMMENCEMENT

This spring is a special time to graduate because it is the 100th commencement ceremony.

The Alumni Association and External Relations are using this landmark event as the kick-off of a new tradition — Senior Days. Graduating Seniors are invited to join members of the Alumni Association at the Alumni Lodge for an Open House, featuring food, sodas and music. Senior Days are currently scheduled for the fourth week of April.

PASSING THE BATON

The UTEP Alumni Association kicked off the new year with a vow to celebrate tradition and UTEP. This year's president, Linda Troncoso, is known as the KCOS lady for her untiring efforts in fundraising for the PBS station. Linda graduated from UTEP with a B.A. in journalism in 1969. She taught journalism at Riverside High School for four years and worked at the Texas Employment Commission.

In addition to her work on the alumni board for the past six years, she is a member of the Auxiliary for the El Paso Rehabilitation Center, honorary lifetime member of the Texas PTA, board member of the Young Matron's Auxiliary, member of the Board of Trustees for the El Paso Public Television Foundation, former chair of the Community Advisory Board at KCOS, and past president of El Paso High Alumni Association. She is a member of the Texas Leadership Class, a handful of Texans trained to be leaders in the state.

Other members of the leadership for the Alumni Association are:

- President-elect — Larry Trejo
- First vice president — Thomas Meece
- Second vice president — Michelle McCown
- Treasurer — David Womack
- Secretary — Pat Dominguez.

Board Members include Tanny Berg, Michael Bernstein, Enrique "Kiki" Bustamante, Paul M. Cunningham, Linda East, Keith Fong, Paul "Rusty" Gibbs, Patty Gonzalez, Marcia McNamee, Pete Payan, Pam Pippen and Luis Villalobos.

The Alumni Association has pledged to reach out and encourage more involvement by ex-UTEP students. Anyone interested in being active within the Alumni Association is encouraged to contact Alumni Affairs Coordinator Martha Saldaña-Wolf at 747-8600.

MINER FUN RUN

Spring is here and the UTEP Alumni Association has been busier than ever. In the past the Lady Miners held a fun run on the heels of the Alumni Association's Miner Stampede.

This year, the two UTEP entities have joined together to bring a bigger and better-sanctioned 5K race to the El Paso community May 2. For registration information, call the Alumni Association at 747-8600.

TASS TROUBLES

Just say TAAS ... and you will see grown people cry.

The Alumni Association recognizes that the TAAS can be challenging and stressful for Texas children and teachers, so the organization wants to offer a solution.

Teachers in the El Paso area are invited to attend a TAAS stress reliever May 8 at the UTEP Swimming and Fitness Center. The afternoon will be filled with food, prizes, fun and most importantly no mention of the TAAS test. Area school teachers are welcomed to kick back, relax and let us entertain you.

To reserve your spot at this stress-free zone, please call 747-8600.

CLASSNOTES

By Judy Jimenez

60s▼

Ken Flynn (B.A. '69) is a business reporter with the *El Paso Times.*

Frank Hoy (B.B.A. '67) received the Leavey Award for Excellence in Private Enterprise Education for developing UTEP's Franchise Center.

Fred Nelan (B.B.A. '65), a CPA, is counsel to the public accounting firm of Lauterbach, Borschow & Company P.C.

70s▼

Juan Ayala (B.B.A. '79) assumed command of the U.S. Marines wing support squadron 271, in Cherry Point, N.C.

Charles Edgren (B.A. '74) is an *El Paso Times* reporter.

Ralph Klenik (B.S.M.E. '71) is manager of technical services for Hoegnaes Corporation in Riverton, N.J.

Harriet May (B.S. '71) received the 1997 YWCA Reach award.

Ronald Miller (B.A. '72) specializes in employee benefits and personal finance at Compass Benefits Inc.

Lorraine O'Donnell (B.S.Ed. '75; M.Ed. '85) received a doctorate in educational administration and development from New Mexico State University. She is the first female principal at Clint High School.

Santiago Rodriguez (B.A. '70; M.Ed. '73) is dean of El Paso Community College's Mission del Paso, an education center in the Lower Valley scheduled to open this spring.

Sharon Warwick (B.A. '71) was named National Middle School Art Educator of the Year by the National Art Education Association.

80s▼

Deborah Alvarez (B.B.A. '89) is a controller at John D. Williams Company Insurance.

Victor Ayala (B.A. '84) is team leader with American Express Travel Related Services in Albuquerque, N.M. He also volunteers with the city's Catholic Social Services that offers citizenship programs and assists Cuban refugees.

Laura Balentine (B.A. '87; M.P.A. '91) is executive director of the Children's Miracle Network in El Paso and Southern New Mexico.

Guadalupe de la Vega (B.B.A. '81) was inducted into the Philanthropy in Texas Hall of Fame for her work as the founder of the Mexican Federation of Private Health and Community Development Association.

Jennifer Dudley (B.A. '83) received the 1997 YWCA Reach Award.

Andres Franco (B.S. '86) is a United Airlines pilot instructor for Boeing 767's.

James Hobbs (B.S.N. '81) is vice president of nursing at Columbia Medical Center-West.

Lea Nesbit (B.A. '89) is director of marketing for AutoTester Inc. in Dallas.

90s▼

Robert Boyd (B.S.C.E. '91; M.S.C.E '95) was named 1997 Young Engineer of the Year by the El Paso Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers.

Laurie Gallardo (B.A. '94) is the public relations/marketing director for Planned Parenthood of El Paso.

Paul Goldean (B.B.A. '94) specializes in business litigation with Strasburger & Price, L.L.P.

Alberto Gonzalez (B.S.M.E. '94) is deployed to the Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf aboard the destroyer U.S.S. John Young.

Greg Haan (B.S.C.E. '95; M.S.Env.E. '97) is an environmental engineer with the Texas Water Development Board in Houston.

Sally Hurt (B.S.N. '90; M.S.N. '94) is vice president of nursing at Columbia Medical Center-East.

Juan Lozano (B.A. '95) is a reporter with the *Albuquerque Journal.*

Adair Margo (NG) was inducted into the Philanthropy in Texas Hall of Fame for her work with the Mexican Federation of Private Health and Community Development Association.

Deborah Martin (B.A. '91) is an entertainment writer for the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times.*

Laurie Muller (B.A. '75) is the news editor for the *El Paso Times.*

Salvador Nares (B.S. '92; M.S. '96) is the second Baylor College of Dentistry graduate student to earn one of four coveted Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Awards from the National Institute of Dental Research.

Ruben Ortiz (B.B.A. '92) earned his M.B.A. and J.D. degrees from Washburn University. He is a legal clerk at the Malcolm McGregor law office.

Leta Powell (B.B.A. '92) is an associate of the Sprouse, Mozola, Smith & Rowley law firm.

Cezar Quiambao (B.S.N. '91) is director of respiratory care for Providence Memorial Hospital.

Jerry Venable (B.A. '90; M.A. '92) is director of human resources for Rio Vista Physical Rehabilitation Hospital.

Liliana Woo (B.S. '95), a graduate student at Harvard Medical School, received the Southwest Association of Hispanic American Physicians scholarship.

OBITUARIES

Dru John (B.B.A. '76) July 16, 1996. John, a resident of Kansas, was a retired administrator at Eastwood Medical Center. At UTEP, he was a starter on the football team and an assistant line coach. He is survived by his wife, Lisa; one son; and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Milton John.

Allan Fine (B.S.E.E. '51) Feb. 1, 1997. Fine, a resident of Pittsburgh, retired from Westinghouse Corporation after 38 years of service. He is survived by three children; four grandchildren; and one sister.

Ned Moore (B.B.A. '57) July 26, 1997. Moore, a resident of Houston who retired from the U.S. Army, worked for Shell Oil Co. for almost 40 years. At UTEP, he was a member of the basketball team. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; daughter, Terri; son, Steve; brother, Dee; and six grandchildren.

Claude Hames II (M.B.A. '80) Oct. 2, 1997. Hames, a resident of Coppell,

Texas, was a financial manager for GTE. He is survived by his wife, Velina; sons, Claude III and Thomas; daughter, Annie; mother, Elizabeth; sister, Marion; and grandmothers, Mary Lemons and Annie Stanfill.

Cecil Lovett (B.A. '78) Oct. 14, 1997. Lovett, a resident of El Paso for 23 years, was an elementary school teacher. He is survived by his wife, Sylvia; daughters, Sharon and Zsa Zsa; parents, Arthur and Mary; brothers, Leanard, James, Jimmy and Arthur; and sister, Bertha.

Carmen Jemente (B.S. '54; M.Ed. '73) Oct. 18, 1997. Jemente, a native of Pueblo, Colo., was a teacher for more than 30 years. She was a member of the National Education Association and the El Paso Teachers Association. She also was a charter member of Kappa Delta Pi. Jemente is survived by her husband, Carlos; daughters, Carmen, Frances and Lily; brothers, Moises and David; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Judson Williams (retired faculty) Nov. 14, 1997. Williams lived in El Paso for more than 50 years. He was dean of students and chairman of the communication department of Texas College of Mines (now UTEP). In addition to serving on the UTEP Development Board, he received the university's Medallion of Merit and its *El Gran Paseño* Award. He also was honored with the Humanitarian Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Conquistador Award. He is survived by his wife, Jackie; daughters, Judith, Jeanne and Jerith; son, Judson; and 11 grandchildren.

A. "Chuck" Fuentes (B.S.M.I. '49) Nov. 14, 1997. Fuentes, a resident of Los Angeles, retired from the investment business. He was a U.S. Marine pilot in WWII and a member of APO fraternity. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and two sisters.

Alice Cummings (B.A. '46; M.A. '49) Nov. 15, 1997. Cummings, a resident of El Paso since 1942, retired after almost 40 years of teaching. In addition to serving on the El Paso Teachers Federal Credit Union Board of Directors for more than 20 years, she was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Order of the Eastern Star. She was preceded in death by her husband, William; and sons, Richard and Thomas. She is survived by son, William; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

Kathryn Potter (M.A. '50) Nov. 21, 1997. Potter, a resident of El Paso for more than 50 years, was a retired teacher. She was preceded in death by her husband, Herbert. She is survived by daughter, Julie.

Francisco Colorbio (B.S.E.E. '83) Dec. 8, 1997. Colorbio, a lifelong resident of El Paso, was an electrical engineer with the civil service. He is survived by his wife, Isabel; son, Francisco; and sister, Irma.

Thomas Lot (B.A. '38) Dec. 12, 1997. Lot, a resident of El Paso for more than 50 years, was the first person to join the U.S. Army through the Ft. Bliss Induction Center. In addition to joining his father in the farming business, he worked for the Popular Dry Goods Store. He is survived by his wife, Peggy; sons, James and Thomas; and daughter, Linda.

Maude Folsom (B.A. '46; M.A. '51) Dec. 13, 1997. Folsom, a lifelong resident of El Paso, was a retired school teacher. She was a member of the El Paso Teachers Association and Alpha Delta Kappa sorority. She is survived by brothers, Oscar and Howard; daughter, Georgia; sons, Glen, Dale, Alan and Victor; and five grandchildren.

Mary Pickett (B.A. '49) Dec. 23, 1997. Pickett was a public school teacher. She is survived by daughters, Terry and Jenny; one brother; and two sisters.

Jack Redman (B.S.Ed. '77; M.A. '83) Dec. 26, 1997. Redman, a resident of El Paso for 30 years, completed military tours throughout Europe, Vietnam, Korea and Japan with the U. S. Army. He received the Bronze Star and was commander of the Military Order of World Wars. Redman, formerly an assistant history professor at UTEP, was also a member of the UTEP Alumni Association and the National Geographic Society. He is survived by his wife, Janice.

William Rhey (B.A. '53) Jan. 3, 1998. Rhey, a lifelong resident of El Paso, was the owner of Skyline Furniture. He is survived by his wife, Ellen; son, Gregory; sisters, Elizabeth and Yvonne; and brother, Charles.

NEWS ABOUT YOU ...

Do you ever wonder what happened to your ex-classmates and friends? We're sure a lot of our readers do ... so update us on what's going on in your life or send in any interesting news you may have about a former classmate. Fill out this form and send to:

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