

Fall 2001

# Nova Quarterly: The University of Texas at El Paso

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FALL 2001

# NOVA

Q U A R T E R L Y

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

## BIENVENIDOS

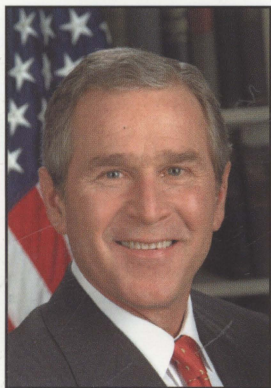




# WELCOME TO MEXICO







## THE WHITE HOUSE

### WASHINGTON

I am pleased to have this opportunity to share my thoughts on the relationship between the United States and Mexico and the important role that our border communities play in the development of our two countries.

The bonds between the United States and Mexico grow stronger each day. Under the North American Free Trade Agreement, trade has flourished and Mexico has become our second-largest trading partner. This means new jobs and higher wages in both countries, and it means more choices and lower prices for our consumers.

As neighbors, we are tied together by history, by families, by common values and by culture. The United States now has one of the largest Spanish-speaking populations in the world and is an important producer and consumer of Latin music, literature and culture. At the same time, Mexico is welcoming American businesses, products and ideas. These ties offer us an unprecedented opportunity to construct a new partnership, one that will improve the lives of people in both Nations.

When I became President, Mexico was the first country I visited. There I met with my good friend, President Vicente Fox, on his ranch near Guanajuato. President Fox and I held very serious discussions about how we can work together to strengthen the relationship between our two Nations on issues ranging from trade and energy to education and fighting illegal drugs. Migration is a major concern to both of us; and we agreed to create a high-level working group that now is looking at creative ways to address this complex phenomenon.

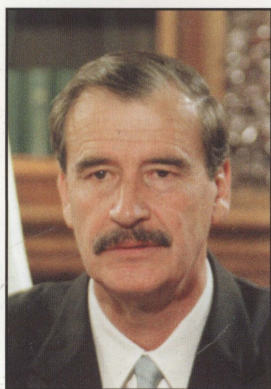
Border communities, such as the El Paso/Ciudad Juárez sister cities, play a key role in the relationship between the United States and Mexico. They form the region where our two Nations merge. Increasingly, the border is being transformed from a line that divides the United States from Mexico into a region that binds them together. Thousands of trucks carry hundreds of billions of dollars in trade across the border every year. Hundreds of thousands of jobs have been created in the border region's *maquiladora* industry; and great opportunities for further growth exist in serving and supplying these *maquiladora* plants. A million people a day cross the border to work, shop, visit family and friends, go to school, and attend cultural events, and more are crossing each year. The border is one of our fastest growing regions, playing an ever-greater role in the development of both our Nations.

President Fox and I recognize the important role education plays in building the successes of our respective Nations. At Guanajuato, we agreed to launch a new initiative to increase cooperation in this important field. As a major university in the region, The University of Texas at El Paso is an important participant in this initiative. UTEP should be proud of its efforts to create high quality, academic opportunities for students on both sides of the border.

Geography has made the United States and Mexico neighbors, and cooperation and mutual respect will make us partners in fulfilling the promise of a better tomorrow. Best wishes.

George W. Bush  
President of the  
United States





Es para mí muy grato dirigirme a la comunidad académica y estudiantil de la Universidad de Texas en El Paso. Me entusiasma el diálogo con universitarios dispuestos a construir un nuevo entorno de relaciones para nuestros dos países, cualquiera que sea su disciplina o ámbito profesional. Es este, sobre todo, un momento en el que debemos reconocer la importancia de la creciente interacción entre nuestras naciones.

La Universidad de Texas en El Paso se ha distinguido por albergar a gente emprendedora, que trabaja fuerte para mejorar su futuro, el de su país y el de su entorno regional. Para muchos mexicanos, la Universidad ha representado una verdadera opción educativa de excelencia, al grado que cuenta con una de las más altas matriculaciones de estudiantes mexicanos. Su carácter plural la ha convertido en un punto de referencia obligado para quienes desean efectuar una inmersión en la compleja dinámica fronteriza.

México está viviendo momentos de profunda transformación y los mexicanos estamos construyendo una relación excepcional con los Estados Unidos. Se genera hoy una red intensa de intercambio, de intereses e influencias mutuas, con la alta responsabilidad de impulsar y consolidar la región fronteriza.

Los contactos entre nuestros dos gobiernos han adquirido un nuevo vigor e importancia a medida que vamos reconociendo los valores y los retos que compartimos, así como las ventajas que cada uno puede aportar en la construcción de vínculos mutuamente benéficos.

La frontera es ahora universalmente identificada como una zona de cooperación, de empuje económico y de amplias posibilidades para el desarrollo armónico y equilibrado de los dos países.

Estamos convencidos de la importancia que tiene para ambos el fomento del desarrollo de las zonas adyacentes a nuestra frontera común, a través de una adecuada planeación binacional y de programas bilaterales específicos, tales como la promoción de la cultura, la información científica y la presentación del patrimonio histórico común.

Con el propósito de desarrollar la región de la frontera Norte, en México hemos contemplado la agilización y facilitación de operaciones de comercio exterior, mejorar la infraestructura ferroviaria y carretera, así como ampliar la capacidad de generación eléctrica. También pretendemos crear y capacitar a grupos de protección a migrantes. El fenómeno de la migración ha llegado a convertirse en uno de los temas prioritarios y de más complejo tratamiento en la agenda bilateral. Más aún, es un tema de alcance mundial en este inicio del Siglo XXI y la solución que le demos bien podría servir para mitigar el impacto que ocasionan las migraciones en otras regiones del mundo.

Los migrantes contribuyen significativamente a la cultura y la economía de los dos países. Por ello es necesario avanzar en la atención de este tema. Resulta fundamental que las políticas en la materia reflejen las necesidades y valores comunes, a fin de que los migrantes reciban una protección jurídica adecuada, un trato humano y digno, y que se defiendan sus derechos humanos fundamentales.

Nuestros pueblos nos han dictado el camino. Corresponde a nuestros gobiernos crear las condiciones que aseguren el florecimiento de una relación armónica, equilibrada, que aproveche las sinergias y haga propicio el terreno para el desarrollo pleno de nuestras potencialidades.

Vicente Fox Quesada  
Presidente de los Estados  
Unidos Mexicanos



# NOVA

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

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Contents © 2001 by

The University of Texas at El Paso

NOVA Quarterly (ISSN # 1041-6900)

is published quarterly by:

The University of Texas at El Paso

University Communications

500 West University Ave.

El Paso, TX 79968-0522

Periodicals Postage Paid at

El Paso, Texas

Volume 38, No. 1; No. 147

POSTMASTER:

Send changes of address to:

NOVA Quarterly

The University of Texas at El Paso

1100 N. Stanton Street

Suite 201

El Paso, TX 79902

NOVA Quarterly is sent without  
obligation to alumni and friends  
of the university.

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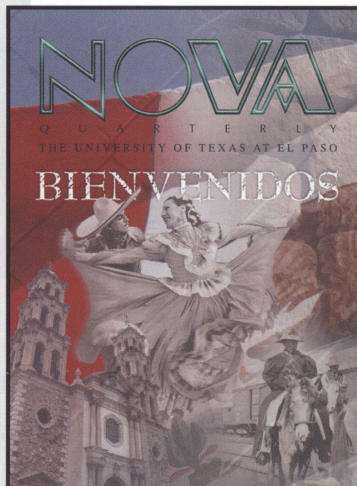
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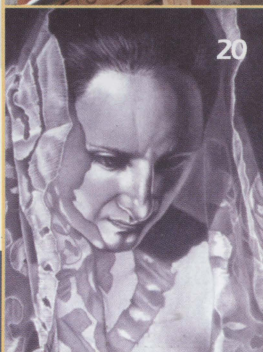
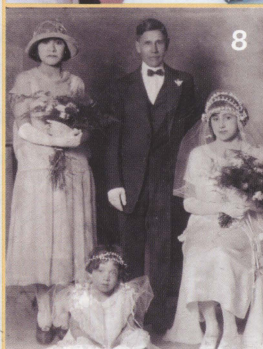
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By Christian Clarke Cásarez



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at <http://www.utep.edu/nova>.



# Welcome to Mexico



*"To the south, the Union has a point of contact with the empire of Mexico, and it is thence that serious hostilities may one day be expected to rise."*

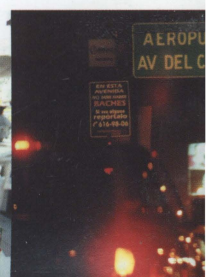
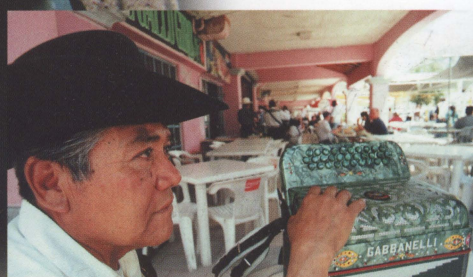
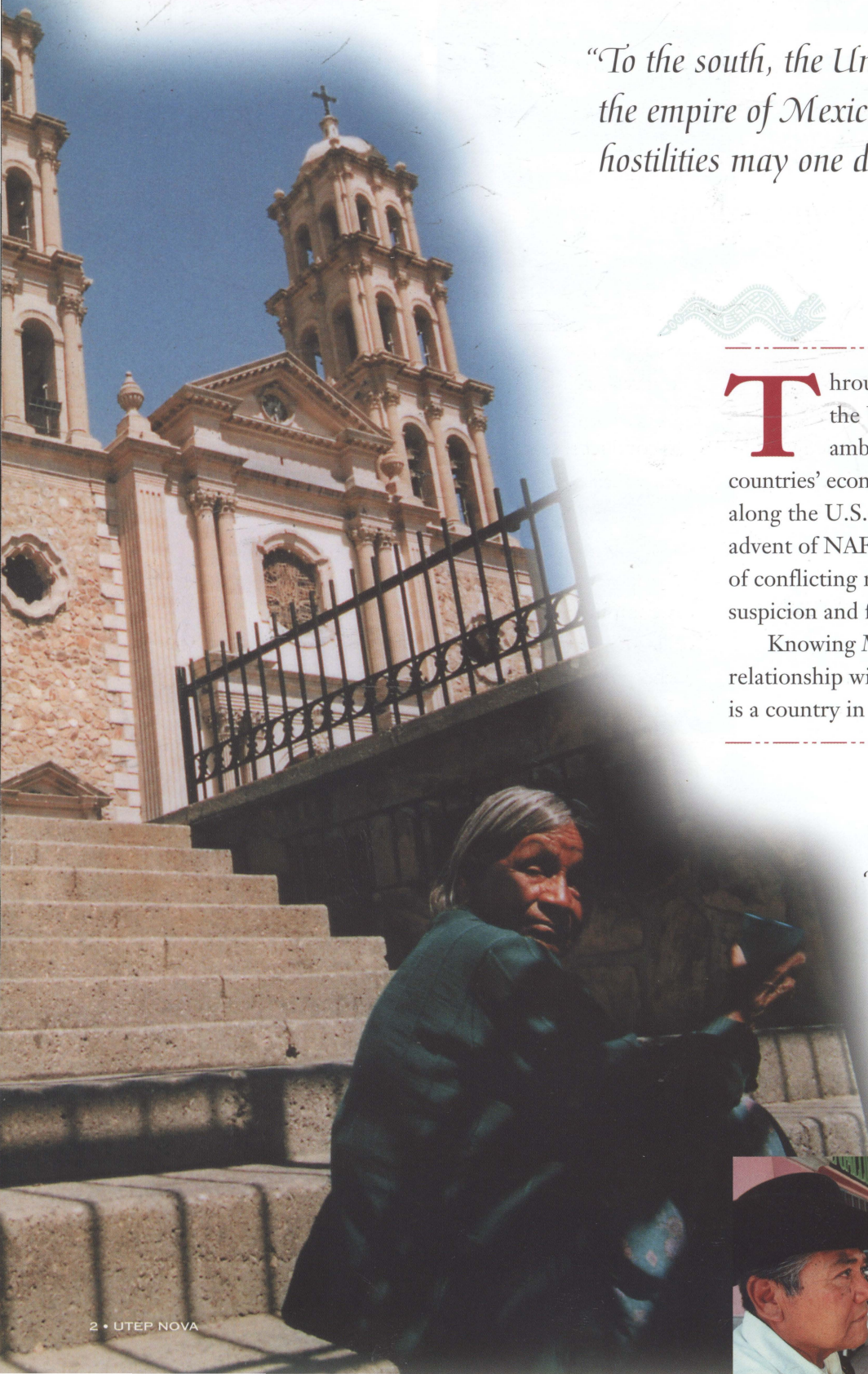
— Alexis de Tocqueville

Throughout their shared and conflicted histories, the United States and Mexico have been ambivalent about their relationship. Although the countries' economies and cultures are inextricably connected along the U.S.-Mexico border — increasingly so with the advent of NAFTA — their perspectives often are bred out of conflicting realities, ranging from uneasy co-existence to suspicion and fear.

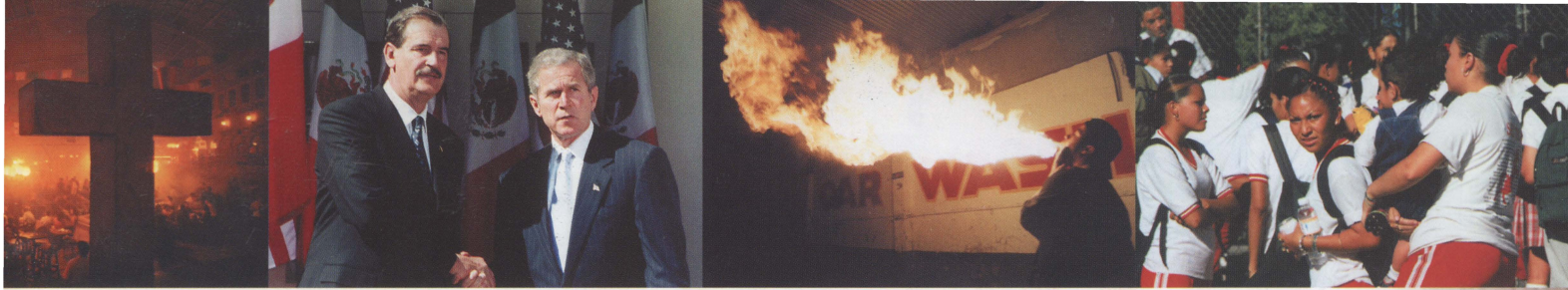
Knowing Mexico and understanding the United States' relationship with its southern neighbor is not easy. Mexico is a country in transition. Last year, its people voted for

*"Poor Mexico, so far from God  
and so close to the United States."*

— Porfirio Díaz







*"Today, Mexico and the United States are bringing out the best in each other — in commerce, in culture, and in our shared commitment to democratic values. We're building a relationship that is unique in the world, a relationship of unprecedented closeness and cooperation."*

— George W. Bush

change. Now, the National Action Party, or PAN, must deliver on its promise of democratic reform.

At UTEP, researchers have first-hand knowledge of Mexico's transformation and its evolving relationship with the United States. Together, El Paso and its Mexican sister city of Ciudad Juárez form the largest binational metropolitan area in the world — a rapidly growing metropolplex of more than 2 million people. More Mexicans study at UTEP than at any other university in the United States.

UTEP has become a model for U.S.-Mexico collaboration — developing partnerships, degree offerings

and research centers focused on issues affecting Mexico. Each day, university scholars join cross-border commuters to conduct research in Northern Mexico — from the modern *maquiladoras* to the impoverished *colonias*.

There are as many Mexicos as there are realities in the United States: wealth and poverty, prosperity and recession. But in Mexico, these extremes seem more vivid. The country is complicated, simultaneously real and Quixotic. *NOVA QUARTERLY* introduces readers to the UTEP researchers who pose the intellectual and social questions that reveal the changing faces of America's neighbor.

*"I am aware that for many Americans, and for many Mexicans, the idea of trusting their neighbor may seem risky, perhaps even unwise. But circumstances have changed. We are now bound closely together."*

— Vicente Fox





# The New Americans

By Christian Clarke Cásarez

*The sun was five fists off the jagged horizon when they were ready to go once more. Don Victor was in the lead with the little white mule, and Esabel and Victoriano and Lupe were in the rear with their mother. María was in the middle and she had her child strapped to her back.*

*"Don't look back," said Don Victor. ...*

*But no one could help themselves. ...*

*There came a cloud of dancing color, flying into the canyon — tens of millions of butterflies, filling the canyon in a dancing tapestry of light, dazzling the early morning sunlight in flashing colors of red and orange and bright gold.*

*"Look!" yelled Lupe, making the sign of the cross over her heart.*

*"God is with us," said their mother. "He's come to tell us goodbye."*

From *Rain of Gold* by Victor Villaseñor

Whenever Victor Villaseñor tells the powerful story of his family's migration from Mexico through El Paso del Norte to their new home in California, captivated listeners travel into the immigrants' journey — a grand and intimate history of pain and promise, degradation and redemption.

In *Rain of Gold*, which holds a privileged place in the pantheon of Latino literature, Villaseñor transports readers to a period when his characters identified each other as "dirty Mexicans" or "tricky gringos." Despite the tensions, the children of the Mexican Revolution fled their war-torn country after *el grito de independencia*, drawn to the American promise of opportunity.

The universal narrative captures the imagination and stirs the emotions with its simple message: immigration is essential to the American experience. It is the underpinning of the story of the United States, a country of immigrants.

For more than a century, Mexicans have moved northward; but the Mexican Revolution inspired a larger scale of movement that continues to transform the Southwestern United States and the rest of the country.

El Paso — whose name was once shared with its sister city in Mexico, Ciudad Juárez — has served as the "Southwest Ellis Island" for these immigrants who arrived in the United States by foot, rather than ship or plane. These "new Americans" followed distinct paths — originating from Mexico, South America, Asia or the Middle East — but they shared similar experiences.

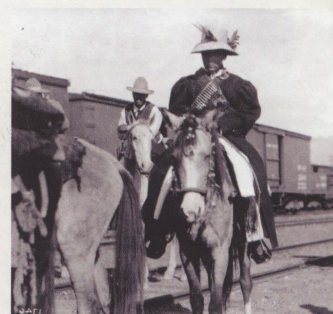
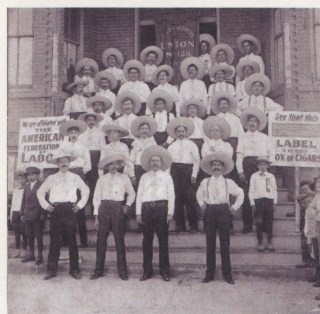
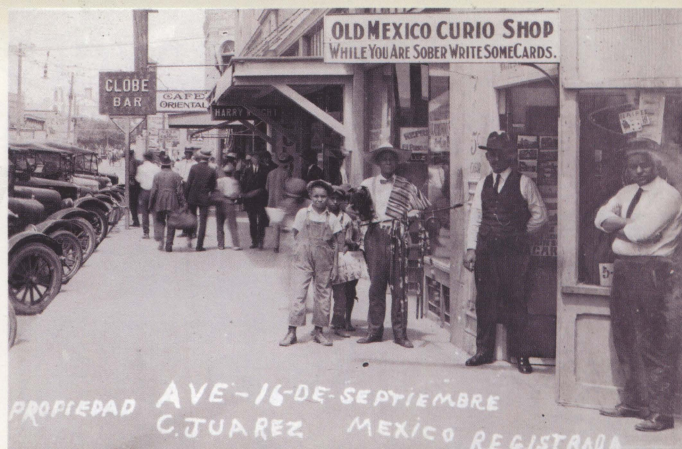
Although the turnstiles at Ellis Island are dormant, the story of immigration continues to unfold in El Paso, historically the largest "port-of-entry" for Latin Americans, especially Mexicans. Today, more than 20 million people in the United States trace their origins to America's neighbor to the south. Increasingly, Mexican-Americans across the country are delving into their past, exploring how they fit into American society and U.S. history.



The Paso al Norte Immigration History Museum and Research Center will celebrate this important history, becoming an international storehouse of memory for Americans, Mexicans and other northbound travelers. The planned national institute provokes the imagination with its promise to create a meaningful monument where the past meets the present and immigrants meet their descendents.

Plans are well underway for the museum that will attract scholars and tourists, alike. The Ford Foundation has provided start-up funding for the ambitious enterprise. In March, scholars, archivists, museum managers and community representatives from both the United States and Mexico came together to develop the mission of the international endeavor. This summer, policymakers joined UTEP alumni such as Sam Donaldson to launch the national museum from the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

“As a nation, we have enthusiastically embraced the notion of celebrating the arrival of European immigrants through Ellis Island. But, we do not have a similar monument or place that honors the history of those immigrants who crossed the country’s southern border,” UTEP President Diana Natalicio says. “The Paso al Norte History Museum will tell the stories of the dreams, aspirations and desire for a better life that brought — and continues to bring — immigrants to the United States.”



# Immigration is essential to the American experience. It is the underpinning of the story of the United States, a country of immigrants.



Pullman conductor Charles Armijo and his family traveled through the mountains of the Chihuahuan Desert, fleeing the Mexican Revolution. They crossed into El Paso on a streetcar long before the advent of the border patrol and barbed wire.

“There were no restrictions then about Mexicans coming over. They were free to come in and go out without a passport, without anything else,” Armijo remembers.

Today, the border crossing is quite different. State checkpoints display signage that reminds travelers of the penalties associated with smuggling “aliens.” The unfriendly language is outdated, hardly reflecting the country’s new reality — Mexican-Americans are the fastest-growing population in the United States.

The language is born out of the early history of the border patrol when recruits were given a .45 single action revolver and little else. New recruits were simply told, “Just look for aliens,” Wesley E. Stiles, one of the first officers along the Texas-Mexico border, recalls.

At times, the atmosphere was tense. When Mexicans crossed the Santa Fe bridge, the Public Health Service held inspections — offering baths, delousing and vaccinations. Clothing and baggage were fumigated. During the early morning examinations, officials made distinctions between “desirables” and “undesirables.”

Many border patrol agents did not speak Spanish, which led to numerous misunderstandings. J.C. Machuca remembers an





# The immigrants were attracted to America by the promise of better jobs — a better life



incident in which an agent wanted a newcomer's name, but incorrectly asked in Spanish, "What is *my* name?" Confused, the immigrant replied, "Well, who knows, sir." Not realizing his error, the agent said, "How stupid can these people be? They don't even know their own names."

In 1917, the U.S. Congress passed laws restricting immigration and erected barriers — literacy tests, medical exams and taxes — to limit the flow of new Americans. The laws did not dramatically curtail migration from Northern Mexico, which had the highest enrollment of children in public schools and the highest adult literacy rates in Mexico.

In fact, El Paso and Ciudad Juárez grew faster than any other border community from Matamoros, Tamaulipas, to Tijuana, Baja California. Between 1910 and 1920, the twin cities' population almost doubled from 49,000 to more than 97,000.

The immigrants were attracted to America by the promise of better jobs — a better life. In El Paso, the smelter was the largest employer, offering many newcomers steady employment.

For Mónica Perales, a UTEP alumna and Ph.D. candidate at Stanford University, the stories of those who labored in the shadow of the smelter are deeply personal. Three generations of her family

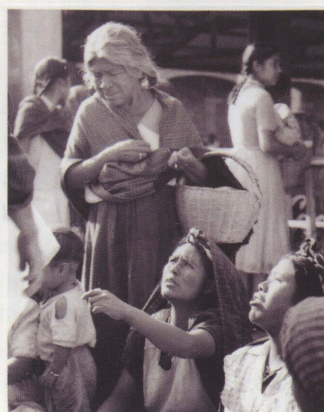
— from her grandfather to great-great-grandfather — worked at the American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO).

Although many workers lived in the now-closed Smeltertown, Perales grew up in the neighboring community of Buena Vista where her grandfather Lorenzo built a two-room house in the 1920s.

"The history of the smelter is part and parcel of the city — part and parcel of who I am — but it is not simply a local story," says Perales, whose research at Stanford is based on studies she began in El Paso. "This history offers a sense of origin for Hispanics across the country. It tells the story of Americans who shared a common bond that was rooted in their ethnicity, immigration and work experience. This has implications for academic studies in the United States and throughout the world."

Once in the United States, Mexican-Americans developed distinct *barrios*, or neighborhoods. In El Paso, the most well-known is the *Segundo Barrio*, or Second Ward, where colorful, well-kept homes sheltered close-knit families.

Guadalupe Rodríguez never locked the front door of his powder blue home, which remained open to all *familia* and *compadres* in need of a place to stay.



Photographs courtesy of the following UTEP Library Special Collections: the Manuel Carrillo Collection, the El Paso Herald-Post Records, the Cleofas Calleros Papers, the Belen Robles Personal Collection, the Huthsteiner Family Papers, the Aultman Photography Collection, and the Patricia Bowman Seminar Paper.





After living in the United States for almost 50 years, Rodríguez finally secured a green card, using his long work history as proof of residence. In 1965, the 61-year-old Chihuahua native passed the citizenship test, casting off his “illegal” status.

Four years ago, his grandson, Raúl A. Reyes, traveled to El Paso to visit the family home. “Maybe I was looking for Grandpa. Or maybe I was just trying to reconnect with his legacy, as intangible as it is powerful,” the Harvard law graduate and New York City broadcaster wrote in *Texas Monthly*. “In his lifetime he weathered adversity with dignity. Despite decades of hard work and mostly physical labor, he was never beaten down.”



Although he only attended school through the fifth grade, Rodríguez believed in the power of education. As a young man, he worked as a grocery clerk and Western Union messenger to support his siblings’ education. As a father, he sent each of his children to college. After graduating from UTEP, each migrated from El Paso, settling into the Los Angeles suburbs, where the next generation of *familia* began their lives.

For Luisa Elberg Urbina, the promise of opportunity remains America’s greatest ideal. After fleeing the Pinochet regime in 1977 with her three young sons, the then 28-year-old Chilean settled into life in Germany for almost two decades, working in factories, cleaning homes and selling clothes at flea markets to make ends meet.

Six years ago, the U.S. Army brought her to El Paso with her husband, a Sergeant Major. Although she sometimes misses the cobblestone streets of Europe, she treasures her newfound opportunities.

“In the United States, education is a reality for everyone,” Elberg, who graduated from UTEP with degrees in psychology and German in 1998, says. “In other countries, ‘destinies’ are predetermined, leaving many people marginalized. But, in America, choices dominate. You can be anything you want to be. That’s amazing.”

Each day, America’s promise welcomes immigrants across the bridges connecting the sister cities of El Paso-Ciudad Juárez, where America’s story continues to be written.

The U.S. Census Bureau projects that within two generations, one quarter — nearly 100 million — people living in the United States will have origins in Spanish-speaking countries. And, although the Mexican presence within the political geography of the United States pre-dates the American, this history has been hidden from the collective consciousness.

The Paso al Norte Immigration History Museum and Research Center will surface these stories of the new Americans, who continue to bring their hopes and dreams to the United States, which remains the world’s largest country of immigrants. ■

## Coming Home: Border Daughter Leads National Museum

By Heather Feldman



Houze

Marguerite Rivera Houze knows the stories of immigration along the Mexican borderlands well. Her own family’s story begins there.

Her father Arnold Rivera traveled by train across Mexico with his mother, sister and brother to reunite with his father, who had fled the country earlier to avoid execution following the Mexican Revolution.

Houze, a former deputy assistant secretary for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration at the U. S. State Department, remembers her immigrant father’s histories and the images his memories painted.

“I grew up with stories of my father’s life in Mexico and was fascinated by what I heard,” Houze says. “His was a dramatic story. There was always an allure to those tales.”

It is a legacy that left its imprint on Houze, who would go on in adult life to formulate policy, and manage programs related to refugee protection, humanitarian assistance and migration in Europe, the Middle East and the Americas.

She has come full circle, moving back to El Paso to serve as executive director of the Paso al Norte Immigration History Museum and Research Center — the first of its kind in the country. The national institution will tell the personal history of immigration along the southern border of the United States.

The museum will include a public research center, providing the community with access to records and genealogy information, photograph and oral history archives, exhibits and artifacts, and outreach and education components. Museum visitors also will be encouraged to contribute their own family history.

“The museum should be a place where people can identify with the stories and faces they see there, and leave their own stories behind,” says Houze. “This museum will be rooted in the telling of stories.”



Rivera



*Oral Traditions:*

# *La Vida Vocal*

*By Heather Feldman*

*“We left Chihuahua in November of 1911 and didn’t arrive in El Paso until January of 1917. We didn’t have time to bring anything with us, just the clothes on our back. We were afraid ... because we had heard that on occasions the soldiers attacked the trains ...”*

*—Aurora Mendoza*



*Stephenson-Flores Collection*



In many ways, *Paso del Norte* is a country unto itself. Its history is borne from the hearts of men and women whose nationalities are as varied as the avenues that brought them to the intersection of the United States and Mexico.

Each has a story, or history, to share that is as winding and unpredictable as the Rio Bravo that brings together cultures and countries.

At UTEP, researchers are collecting these rich stories at the Institute of Oral History. During the past three decades, UTEP has amassed one of the largest series of oral histories in the country. The nationally recognized collection delves into border life through the eyes of founders, immigrants, revolutionaries, soldiers, teachers, miners — the mothers, fathers and children of the border.

"Oral histories provide a personal window to the past," Kristine Navarro, who oversees the institute, says. "Researching documents is important, but there is something special about hearing about people's lives in their own words."

Working one-on-one or with small groups, Navarro and other oral historians gently draw out memories from their subjects, armed only with questions,

scrapbooks and photo albums. Built on a foundation of mutual rapport, the give-and-take interview process builds the framework of a life, with all the joys and sorrows that fill its many rooms.

As Carolina Herrera, a member of a local church group, speaks about her childhood, she is unable to continue when she begins to tell a story about her older brother Santiago who passed away a few days earlier. This poignant personal moment prompts other group members to discuss their own families and the losses they have endured.

"For some people, sharing these stories can be a healing process," Navarro says.

At the institute, the personal interviews are tape-recorded, then transcribed, indexed and catalogued for use by researchers, scholars, authors and students. More than 1,000 tapes and transcripts are available at the Special Collections Department of the UTEP Library.

Listening to first-person accounts is invaluable to historians such as Yolanda Chávez Leyva, who turns to oral histories to tell the immigration story of women and children. These experiences are often rendered invisible in historical literature.

"To fully tell the story of Mexican immigration is to tell the terrible and the wonderful, the painful and the joyful,"

Leyva says. "To tell the story is to include the invisible, and to remember that we must do more than superficially celebrate Mexican immigration. We must remember that it has often come at a high human cost."

When the assistant professor of history began studying 20th-century Mexican children along the border, government documents and newspaper articles describing their lives were incomplete. She wanted to understand how people remembered their own childhoods.

María Elena García-Connolly describes the culture shock her family experienced during their first days in El Paso:

"We came to the United States on Halloween, 1916. And my mother thought this place was crazy — all these kids dressed in black like witches running back and forth on the street. My mother said 'What in the world is happening?' So one of my aunts told her, 'oh, this is *la noche vibre*. It's Halloween.'"

At the institute, these colorful and historically relevant details illuminate the everyday lives of people who experienced a tremendous amount of change after arriving in the United States. Their vivid and poignant descriptions breathe life into documents and statistics, telling a more complete history.



J.R. Sanchez Collection



Robles Collection



El Paso Herald-Post Records

Visit the Institute of Oral History on the web at: [dmc.utep.edu/oralh](http://dmc.utep.edu/oralh).





**Jorge Gardea Torresdey**  
Environmental Science

**Jorge López**  
Physics

**Paul Maxwell**  
Internet 2


**Diana Natalicio**  
Higher Education

# MEET THE EXPERTS

At UTEP, research and relationships are key to understanding the culture, politics, science, business and language of Mexico.

The university has *convenios*, or agreements, with Mexican universities such as *La Universidad Autónoma Nacional de México* and *Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey* and with





**Greg Ramos**  
Theatre

**Robert Posthuma**  
Management

**Emma Pérez**  
History

**Mike Huerta**  
Engineering

agencies, including the U.S.-Mexico Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (COMEXUS) and *Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología* (CONACyT), the Mexican counterpart to the National Science Foundation.

Each day, UTEP experts travel into Mexico, developing new research and

sharing their intellectual capital with the educational institutions, governments and people of both countries. American and Mexican researchers collaborate, tackling cross-border issues, including transportation, archaeology, water quality, violence against women and migration patterns.



# Just Visiting for the Day: The Border in Print

By Jon Amastae

Driving along the Texas highway separating the United States from Mexico, a New England journalist asks, "Where's the border?" Scanning the roadside, she searches for some physical evidence of the boundary.

But there is none. The famous Rio Grande that runs through El Paso is not all that *grande*. There is no Berlin Wall or span of desert dividing the two countries. The trickle of water and chain-link fences are not formidable barriers.

That's the point. The border is not an imposing structure that separates North from South — us from them. Instead, it is a meeting place of ideas, customs and people whose interactions serve as a barometer of economic and cultural pressures facing both the United States and Mexico.

But each time a new herd of journalists descends upon this foreign territory, Americans learn less about the border and more about their own ideas. Media paint a less-than-livable portrait of life on the edge of America, parachuting in for the border topic du jour — drugs, immigration or NAFTA-induced recession.

Two years ago, the media lugged their camera bags and rigid perceptions to Ciudad Juárez, proclaiming the impoverished town a dumping ground for victims of the drug wars. The unconfirmed

reports of mass "narco-graves" made good news copy, combining drugs and death into one simple story.

As the dust settled, authorities revealed the graves contained about a handful of the estimated hundreds of cartel casualties. But there were no media left to file the account. After following the story for one week, the border feeding frenzy ended as quickly as it began.

Although parachute journalists are nothing new, their often-distorted portrayals have a destructive effect on border communities already struggling for their fair share of political attention and resources.

When national and international media focus on dope-and-death journalism, politicians follow suit by creating policies based on suspicion and fear. This neglects the serious issues that face border communities: schools, safety, health and economic development.

A few mercantile-minded media have explored the costs associated with NAFTA's promises of economic growth, but these stories fade against the larger backdrop of the more dramatic news bites.

The steady stream of snap-shot assessments that portray the region as an exotic and dangerous world apart only delays the process of honestly dealing with the border, which is essential to the future of both countries. It is a model, for better or worse, of binational development and deserves sustained not sensationalized coverage.

## Mexico: Beyond the Soundbites



Every morning at UTEP's Center for Inter-American and Border Studies, American newspapers lie unopened as Jon Amastae finishes reading his favorite Mexican news sources.

Amastae is a knowledgeable spokesman who is passionate about Mexico — its people, culture and politics.

And, when media from *Nightline* to the *Washington Post* want to learn more about Mexico and the borderlands, they call upon Amastae who offers a unique, on-the-border perspective.

In a world where old meets new, English meets Spanish, North meets South, Mexican meets American, Amastae is committed to meeting Mexico on its own terms, understanding that the country's complex reality is rarely captured in international news accounts.

"There is an obsession with images of life on the frontier that are based on the shoot-them-up images of the Old West. Unfortunately, that factors into how people view Mexico," Amastae says.

"The media often portray Mexico as a chaotic world apart. It isn't," he says. "For border communities such as El Paso, Mexico is an asset, not a liability. We are one community with real concerns — schools, safety, health — that are lost in many news accounts. The dramatizations might make good copy, but they don't create good policies. We know, because we live here."





# Biomedical Brigade

Diseases don't recognize borders and mosquitoes don't carry passports. So, when it comes to the battle for better health, biomedical scientists Todd Primm, Kristine Garza, Eppie Rael and Siddhartha Das are on the front line in both the United States and Mexico.

At the Border Biomedical Research Center — funded by more than \$7 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health — researchers work in the trenches, tackling infectious diseases, environmental health issues and neurological disorders. UTEP scientists combine field and lab work, whether they are wading into rivers to safeguard water supplies or using snake venom toxins to cut off the blood supply in tumors.

They also share practical advice, cautioning *fronterizos* against purchasing over-the-counter antibiotics in Mexico, a practice that may increase in light of the recent threats of biological terrorism.



photo by Christ Chávez

## History Makers

The power plays of Mexico's historical characters — from Maximilian to Madero — are as dramatic as the popular *novelas*, or soap operas, that dominate evening television.

In the United States, segments of the Chicano movement continue to draw inspiration from Mexican revolutionaries Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata. Mexican-Americans also stage rallies and fundraisers in support of the Zapatistas, modern-day "Land and Liberty" activists in the indigenous community of Chiapas where Subcomandante Marcos lives as both man of the masses and myth.

The history of Hispanics in America has always been set against the backdrop of Mexico, especially in the borderlands. But textbooks traditionally have ignored Mexican-Americans, even though they are the fastest-growing segment of the population.

UTEP's one-of-a-kind doctoral program in borderlands history challenges this incomplete picture, which excludes the more than 20 million Americans who trace their roots to Mexico. UTEP's history program boasts five Mexican and Chicano historians whose scholarship paints a fuller portrait of history: Samuel Brunk, a renowned Zapata scholar; Ernesto Chávez, who examines the Chicano movement; Cheryl Martín, who studies colonial Mexico; and well-known Chicana historians Emma Pérez and Yolanda Chávez Leyva.







# Retail Roundup

The success of border businesses is based on the power of the peso. Retail sales, which are expected to reach \$16.5 billion within two decades, is critical to the twin sisters' economy.

During the 1995 devaluation of Mexican currency, downtown El Paso businesses faced heavy losses. Since then, the market has rebounded, but competition for Mexican consumers remains stiff.

UTEP marketing experts John Hadjimarcou and Frank Hoy study the tactics of downtown

retailers to attract customers from Mexico — from the colorful merchandise displays to the street-side vendors who shout sale information to lure customers away from other doorways.

## Good Neighbor Policy

As political scientist Irasema Coronado watches the ebb and flow of the Rio Grande, she understands there is no line separating Mexican water from American.

There was a time when radio talk shows on both sides of the border were flooded with callers complaining about the pollution from "the other side." But, the finger-pointing has decreased as more

residents recognize that cross-border issues require cross-border solutions.

Coronado knows binational cooperation will turn the tide on environmental issues that cannot be contained within one country's borders. A member of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board, Coronado encourages collaborations that transcend the perceived boundaries.

## Human Engineering

As a mechanical engineer, Ryan Wicker usually leads research projects on engines and alternative fuels. But, his most important work to date involves blocked aortas.

Wicker is the director of UTEP's Border Biomedical Manufacturing and Engineering Program, a cutting-edge laboratory where researchers develop anatomically correct artificial models of human hearts, livers and other body systems.

This human-centered engineering is expected to dramatically alter the way doctors approach surgical procedures and how medical researchers analyze blood flow and internal structures.







## Who's Reading?

Communication specialists Patricia Witherspoon and Thomas Ruggiero are reading the reach of newspapers among young adults on both sides of the border.

Television remains a powerful force as more viewers tune into top-rated *Noticias 26* on Univision, which dominates markets in both El Paso and Ciudad Juárez. Online media outlets such as *stantonstreet.com* also continue to grow, erasing the hold newsprint once had on the country, particularly among 18- to 24- year olds. These younger news junkies may be getting all that is fit to print from a screen, leaving the ink stains to their parents.



## Water Savvy

From bathing to drinking, clean water is essential for a healthy life.

The Center for Environmental Resource Management organizes the "When Water Works for Health" program that has offered more than 1,000 residents information on disease transmission and disinfecting techniques.



## Caring for Children

Beverly Argus-Calvo and Nancy Tafoya believe the most important time in a child's development is before the age of three.

The education researchers are part of the "Begin at Birth" initiative, which calls for parents to read, sing and play with their babies to stimulate learning and creativity.

As more women enter the workforce, the need for additional child-care providers increases. Working with the *Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez*, the professors train day-care providers for the Mexico border town whose population continues to grow.



## Nursing Exchange

At UTEP, nursing educational programs span the border as students join their peers from the *Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua* to explore educational and research exchanges between the two countries.





## City Services

Decentralization in Mexico has been a mixed blessing.

Political scientist Steven Barracca delves into governmental reform to reveal how dispersing power and funding from the centralized system in Mexico City has affected municipalities such as Ciudad Juárez.

Throughout the country, many *ayuntamientos y cabildos*, or municipal

governments, are still grappling with reforms put into place almost two decades ago. Now, cities must struggle with the financing pressures for water and electricity services needed by ever-growing populations.

This is especially critical in the sister cities of El Paso and Juárez, as the region's total consumption of water is predicted to reach 50 billion gallons per year by 2015.

## Zapotec Memoirs

In *Mexican Memoir*, anthropologist Howard Campbell reveals the bohemian art and intellectual landscape of the Zapotecs, one of Mexico's indigenous communities that comprise 15 percent of the country's population.

Politicians, poets and painters became Campbell's guides, sharing their insider's perspective on grassroots political organizations in varied settings — from the *cantinas* to the tourist-populated *velas*, some of Mexico's oldest and most colorful fiestas.

Campbell describes the southern Mexican community as both traditional and modern. Although many of the Zapotecs continue agricultural work in the corn and mango fields, others are lured to the industrial economy dominated by PEMEX, the Mexican national oil company.

## Hidden Toxins

From the *mercados* to super-*mercados*, toxic chemicals may be among the unlisted ingredients in the packaging of some popular

Mexican products, including bread and candy.

Health scientist Maria Amaya and geologist Nicholas Pingitore lead the Border Basket Study, an international collaboration between UTEP and the *Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez*. Researchers discovered that many commonly purchased items along the U.S.-Mexico border contain dangerously high levels of toxic chemicals. For example, oregano, ceramic salsa bowls and even the ink on bread wrappers may contain high levels of lead.

During the second phase of the project, researchers will measure lead exposure, especially in children. The study will be funded, in part, by a \$1.7 million grant from the National Institute for Environmental Health.

"The final phase — elimination of exposure to lead — is an economic and legislative issue, not a scientific one," Pingitore says. "It involves removing lead from anything that touches food products, etc., which is what we've done in the United States."

A  
PERSONAL  
ACCOUNT OF  
ANTHROPOLOGY  
AND RADICAL  
POLITICS IN  
OAXACA

# MEXICAN MEMOIR

HOWARD CAMPBELL





## Policymakers

Language, culture and politics come into play at the Institute for Policy and Economic Development where Dennis Soden and Mike Acosta oversee research on hemispheric issues — from studying the lending practices of local banks to examining NAFTA Intermodal issues.



## Women's Health

In *colonias* — poor developing communities on both sides of the border without potable water and sewer systems — women serve as caretakers, cleaners, cooks, companions and household coordinators. But without basic health care services, these nurturers are at risk.

Brenda Smith, who studies the quality of life in the colonias, works to educate women who are at a greater risk for illnesses such as hepatitis, dysentery and diabetes due to pollution and substandard housing.



## Court Costs

As immigration- and drug-related arrests grew by 125 percent throughout the latter part of the 1990s, federal cases began to tax the border legal system.

Political scientist Kristine Brenner and a team of university researchers across the United States estimated that the cost to border counties from California to Texas was \$108 million — a burden few communities could shoulder.

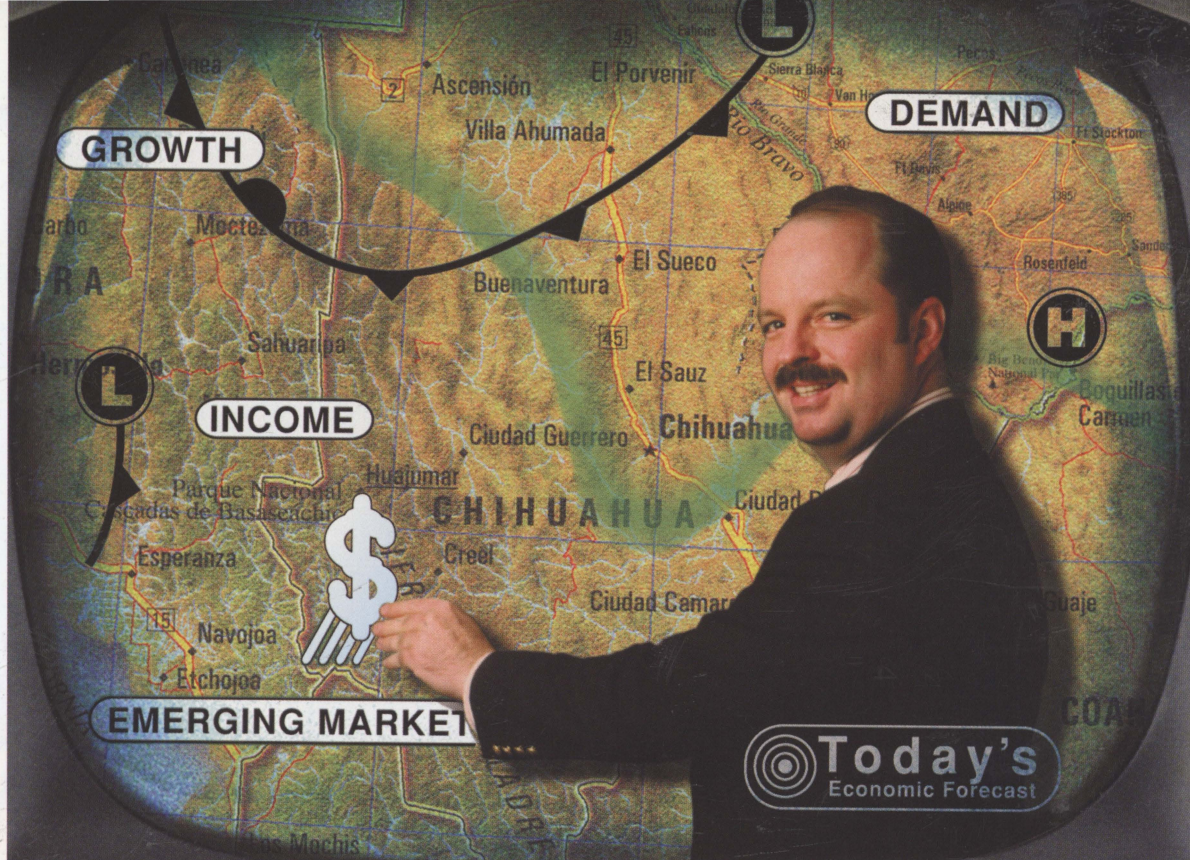
The local governments used the one-year figure to seek reimbursement funds from the U.S. federal government.



## Native Tongues

As a college student, 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 associate professor of teacher education builds dual-language education models that offer all children the opportunity to learn at the highest levels.





# Economic Forecast

Tom Fullerton predicts the highs and lows of the region's economic forecast. National media often turn to the economist for his insight into Mexico, which is the leading trade partner with the United States behind Canada with more than \$120 billion in across-the-border exports.

Tom Fullerton follows Mexican trade winds to

Fullerton created the Border Regional Econometric Model to offer a clear picture of binational trends. His forecast:

- As the *maquila* sector in Ciudad Juárez continues to grow to more than 300 plants by 2020, total employment will reach 560,000. Hourly wages in the Mexican border city will reach \$7.
- As the assembly sector expands throughout the Northern state of Chihuahua, cargo vehicle to El Paso will increase. Within two decades, more than 1.85 million trucks will clear U.S. customs annually.

## Law and Border

UTEP is creating a new generation of lawyers who have cross-border insight into international business, immigration and politics.

As director of the Center for Law and Border Studies, Robert Webking oversees the Law School Preparation Institute. Since its creation three years ago, the number of UTEP students attending Top 50 law schools has tripled.

"More Mexican-Americans are seeing themselves in law school," says Webking, who was named Texas Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. "They will become part of a new and more culturally diverse generation of lawyers who will make great contributions in communities throughout the United States and Mexico."

Engagement

Law and Border



# Food for Thought

The U.S.-Mexico border region may be rich in culture, but, unfortunately, it is also rich in fat. El Paso is ranked as one of the most overweight cities in the United States. Karen Coleman, assistant professor of psychology, is working to tip the scales in a healthy direction.

For two years, Coleman has followed 1,000 students, measuring their height and weight, gauging how well they implement recommended health programs and how much moral support they receive from their parents.

The educational exercise is working. One local school district removed soda vending machines from its cafeterias to encourage students to quench their thirst with healthier alternatives such as water and fruit juice.



photo by Chad Puerling

## Building the Mexican Professorate

After Irene Cano Aguilera received her Ph.D. in environmental sciences and Engineering from UTEP in 1998, she returned to a faculty position at the University of Guanajuato.

She is a member of the prestigious Mexican System of Researchers and advises Mexican President Vicente Fox on environmental issues. The UTEP alumna has been instrumental in sending additional Mexican students to graduate degree programs at UTEP.

During the past five years, the number of UTEP Mexican graduate students has increased by about 50 percent, reflecting the university's commitment to contribute to the development of higher education in Mexico.

"Currently, less than 10 percent of faculty in Mexican universities hold doctoral degrees," Charles Ambler, dean of the Graduate School, says. "The Mexican government has made increasing the number of doctorally-trained faculty, especially in the technical fields, a critical priority in its broader economic development agenda."

UTEP has a *convenio*, or agreement, with CONACyT (the Mexican counterpart of the U.S. National Science Foundation) to bring promising graduate students to UTEP. A new scholarship program funded by the State of Chihuahua also will support graduate students who will then return to Mexican universities. Collaborations between UTEP and regional Mexican universities bring additional students to UTEP, where they develop U.S.-Mexican research projects.

## Pledging Allegiance

In the United States, most American children begin the school day by reciting the pledge of allegiance. In Mexico, students enjoy weekly flag ceremonies, complete with color guard and uniformed students who sing the national anthem.

UTEP researchers Kathleen Staudt and Susan Rippberger examine how public school teachers help children form a national cultural identity in the United States and Mexico.

Although there are many similarities between the countries, the system is more formal in Mexico, where 94 percent of primary school children are enrolled in the public schools — a highly centralized system whose funding and curriculum is determined at the federal level.



## Strong Signals

Sergio Cabrera, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, believes in sending strong signals across the U.S.-Mexico border.

Cabrera specializes in digital signal processing, which forms the technological foundation for mobile phones, modems and multimedia personal computers. Last year, Texas Instruments awarded the university's well-respected DSP team more than \$1.4 million for their cutting-edge communications research that involves both American and Mexican students.

The Sonora native also works with researchers from Mexico City, securing funding from the U.S. National Science Foundation and its Mexican counterpart CONACyT.

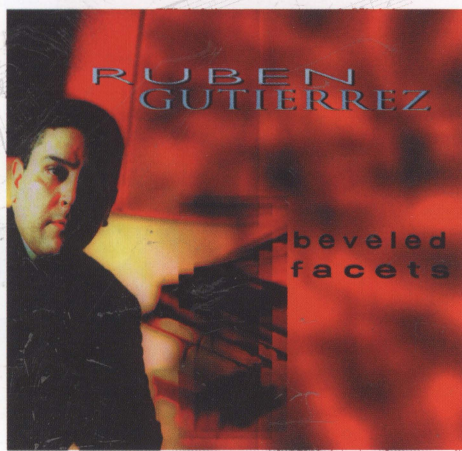
## Mexico in Degrees

UTEP offers academic programs that focus on cross-border issues. At the undergraduate level, the university offers degree programs in Latin-American and border studies and translation and interpretation. At the graduate level, there is a master's of fine arts program in creative writing and doctoral programs in borderlands history and environmental science and engineering. Certificate programs in international manufacturing and bilingual professional writing are available, as well.



# The Muse of Mexico

## Latin Rhythm Master



Mix a little R&B and Samba with “The Way You Look Tonight” and what you get is a lot of Ruben Gutierrez. The El Paso native has established himself as one of the country’s rising Latin Jazz piano virtuosos, blending Afro-Cuban rhythms, traditional American Be-Bop and improvisational wizardry.

Gutierrez’s musical knowledge and striking talent meld in his first solo project, *Beveled Facets*. The album is a stunning display of musicianship, passion and kinetic energy. The fiery mix of Latin rhythms, smooth salsa and soothing standards evokes a fresh and satisfying feeling that strikes just the right chord.

## Arte Intimo: Designing a Fantasy

Book designer and graphic artist Antonio Castro has roots on both sides of the border. The Ciudad Juárez native draws on his bicultural roots to create art that reflects his dual identity. Castro’s most recent works include large-scale charcoal drawings exploring relationships. The charcoal series is deeply felt and personal art that illustrates his shifting view of his own family after having been away for several years.

The assistant professor of art honed his graphic design skills at the Manhattan firm of Parham Santana where he designed posters and video packaging for American Movie Classics and the Bravo cable network.

Castro returned to El Paso where he designed a children’s book, *Nico Visits the Moon*, published in both English and Spanish by Cinco Puntos Press. He also is designing a book, *Elegy in Blue*, for author and poet Ben Sáenz that deals with the border, family, stereotypes and identities.



“Mónica”  
Charcoal on canvas.



# The People's Prose

Benjamin Alire Sáenz, associate professor of English, is a passionate storyteller who has gained a national reputation for works that are drawn from the U.S.-Mexico border, including the novel, *Carry Me Like Water*, and the bilingual children's story, *A Gift from Papá Diego*.

## Work

By Benjamin Alire Sáenz

*for the workers in the Juárez maquilas*

On the border, we live in a desert of translation.  
Our words are difficult and dry. How do you say rain?  
How do you say river? How do you say *the sand on which I*  
*Walk is thirsty as a white sun?* How do you say *I live*  
*in Juárez?* Como se dice *Vivo en El Paso?*

To live

Is to dream of the river. How can you live without  
The river? How can you live without dreaming? To dream  
Then to laugh. To live in houses made of harvests  
And abundance—bread and wine, asadero y chorizo,  
Corn and chile. To live in houses where each  
Room is for resting, for reading. For remembering.  
Vivir. And live not only to work, but to live with  
Time enough to rest in longing arms of lovers, of  
Husbands, of wives, to live with time enough  
To speak with neighbors of things that matter  
*Did the premature baby born to the woman down*  
*The street survive the endless night? Did you*  
*View Doña Elena's body at the funeral home? How*  
*Did she look? Did they remember to put in her*  
*Teeth? Were the flowers I sent displayed?*  
And as the neighbors answer our hungry questions, to  
Have the time to listen well, and then stoop to help  
Them cut the flowers in their gardens, blooming  
With the labor of hands they have learned  
To use with grace. Hands. We have no use for wings,  
Do not envy angels. Hands. In Spanish: manos. We want  
To live. To live with time enough to wonder at the great  
Mysteries: why trees grow leaves, why stars light up  
The skies. To live not only to work. To live with time  
Enough to cook, to eat, sit, shoes off, sipping on coffee  
Warm as the evening sun. Then listen to the strings  
Of a guitar that plays outside the window  
Softly as the whispers of the dead. The dead  
We love. We want to live.

But to live, we must work. that word,  
Work. In Spanish, trabajo. That is another dream. Dream. In  
Spanish, sueño. My grandfather lived believing that work  
Was holy. For him, if a man was not worker, then he was not  
A man. I have no argument with my grandfather. He's ninety-six  
Years old. That man has worked enough. For him, these are days  
Of rest. But we, *we* are still struggling with that damned word  
Work. I don't say work is killing us. I *do* say *we want to*  
*Live and we cannot live without work.* Why then do you refuse  
To pay us for our labor? The stars do not belong to the rich, do  
Not belong to the managers of maquilas where we waste our bodies  
Working. But they, *they* have the time to sit in awe  
Of the quiet desert nights, listening to the chollas struggling  
To bloom. And us? Listen, work is not what's killing  
Us. Listen. It is not the work. But we cannot live on the crumbs  
You pay us for our blessed labor. Sorry. This is inexact. I  
Live on a border. I am attempting to translate the words  
I have borrowed and stolen, words now imprisoned  
Somewhere between my throat and the suffocating air.

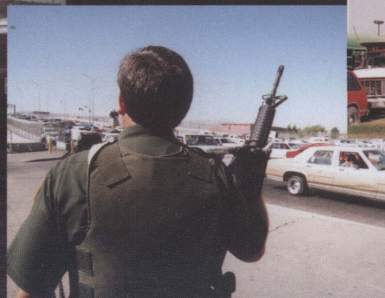
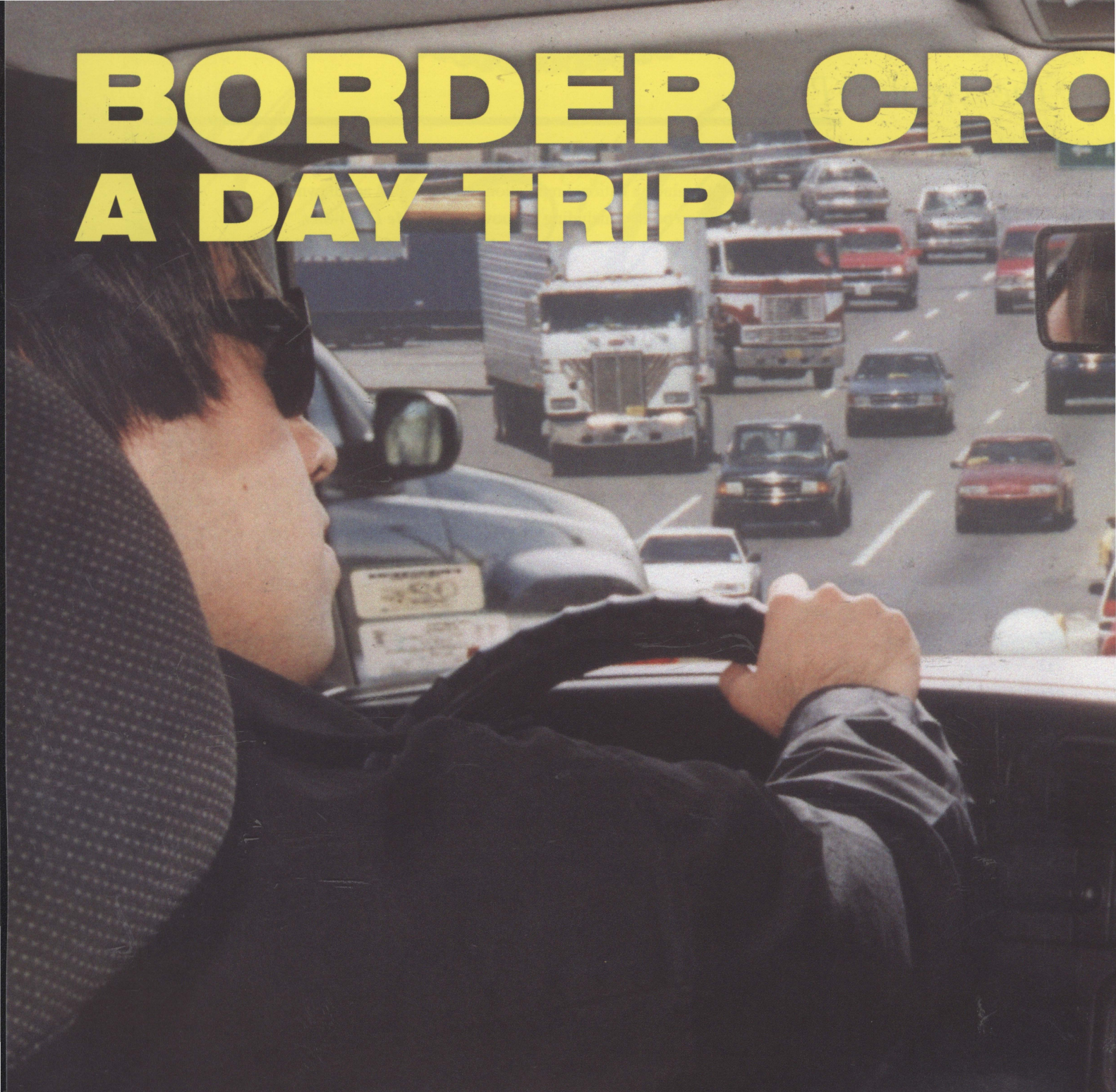
I want to live. I want to open  
My mouth and scream: *Work! We are dying! Work!*  
I feel myself disintegrating, becoming nothing but  
Pure rage. But rage is cheap and common as desert  
Dirt. Rage turns into hate sure as rain  
Turns the clay into mud. You think I want  
To hate? You think I want to be mud? I only want  
To breathe. *I want to breathe.* I want to listen  
To my heart as it beats like a piece of music  
In a silence that waits to be broken. I want  
To breathe. How do you say that in any language?





# BORDER CROSSING

## A DAY TRIP





# SSING:

By Christian Clarke Cásarez

CIUDAD JUÁREZ, CHIHUAHUA, MÉXICO – Carlos Cheu begins his day simply enough. A much-dreaded alarm clock beckons him to breakfast with his family. But, once he leaves home, there is nothing simple about his journey. Everyday, the Mexican national begins a commute across the U.S.-Mexico border, where North meets South and a “superpower” meets a “developing” country.

Carlos is one of more than 1,700 Mexicans who study at UTEP, which has the highest enrollment of Mexican nationals in the United States. Although some students travel from the interior of Mexico, most commute daily from Ciudad Juárez. The northbound vehicle and pedestrian traffic is significant and the number of bridge crossings is expected to grow to 70 million annually by 2020.

Usually, Carlos navigates his way through the heavy morning traffic, facing a one-hour commute across the international bridge. Since the attacks on New York and Washington, D.C., security along the border has been heightened. Now, he and many Juárezenses park their cars on the Mexican side of the border, walk across the bridge and catch trolleys and buses to avoid the up to three-hour delay.

The delays don't faze Carlos.

A true border son, he is used to change. He moves between two languages, two cultures, two worlds with ease. At times, the dual nature of his reality is lost on him as he switches between English and Spanish with little notice.

Other times, the stark contrast is too bold to miss.

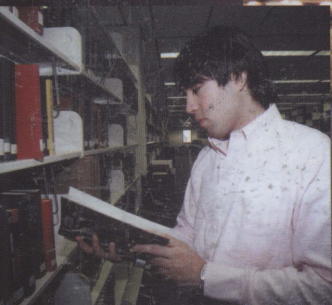
Street vendors peddling colorful candies and car visors line his commute. To his left, a young boy sells *chicle*, or gum, for a dime. Straight ahead, an elderly woman and her son offer Mexican dolls for a dollar.

He drives by the super-modern *maquilas* of Delphi and RCA. When he passes the American consulate, the busiest in the world, Carlos explains why he was drawn to UTEP for his education: “The American promise of opportunity is powerful. For many Mexicans, El Paso represents a chance to have the best of both worlds — it is where progress and tradition meet and mix comfortably.”

And, Juárez represents an economic resource for El Paso, where Mexican consumers support border businesses from banks to shopping malls. For Carlos, a finance and marketing senior, the sister cities' economic interdependency makes this region a great place to study international businesses.

When Carlos, a future binational marketer, considers product placement, he thinks broadly, drawing upon American and Mexican ideas. In the United States, billboards flank the freeways and commercials clutter the airwaves. Mexico has its share of television bombardments, but advertising meets the masses closer to home. Colorful ads for soda pop are positioned next to political ads painted on the concrete walls along main streets and in neighborhoods.

“I discover something different between Mexico and the United States almost every day,” Carlos says. “Other times, I don't notice the differences — well, except for the bridge.” ■





# MEXICANS AT UTEP

In 1914, there were 27 students in the first class of the State School of Mines and Metallurgy (now UTEP), including one Mexican who enrolled in mining engineering. Since then, Mexicans have continued to make their mark on the university. Some highlights:

**1969** — UTEP creates a course of study — now known as *Programa Interamericano Estudiantil* (PIE) — to facilitate students' transition by combining initial disciplinary classes in Spanish with intensive English-as-a-Second-Language instruction.

**1986** — The Mexican Student Association is established.

**1987** — Recognizing that El Paso's economic prosperity is inextricably connected to development in Mexico, the Texas Legislature creates PASE (*Programa de Asistencia Estudiantil*

*Para Mexicanos*) that allows Mexicans with financial need to pay in-state tuition.

**1994** — UTEP students elect José de la Rosa as their Student Association President. He is the first Mexican national to serve as the official voice of the student body. Later that year, Monica Contreras is selected editor of *El Minero*, a Spanish-language student newspaper.

**1995** — As the peso devaluates, UTEP students from Mexico face tough choices about their college education as their financial resources are cut in half. Some students "stop-out" for a semester while others reduce their class loads.

**1997** — UTEP students create "Encounter: A Binational Forum" to explore cross-border issues such as NAFTA, immigration, narcotics and security.

**2000** — Arturo Barrio, president of the Student

Government Association, is elected chair of the Student Advisory Council for the UT System, which advises the chancellor on issues from student rights to tuition and fees. His uncle is former Chihuahua Gov. Francisco Barrio, who serves as President Vicente Fox's comptroller general.

**2001** — Patricio Martínez, governor of the Mexican state of Chihuahua, signs a *convenio*, or agreement, to create 50 scholarships for Chihuahuan students to attend UTEP.

**Today** — With 1,700 students, UTEP has the largest enrollment of Mexican nationals in the United States. On average, this represents 13 percent of all Mexicans studying in the country. These students primarily choose degree programs in the colleges of business administration, liberal arts and engineering.

## Mineros, Welcome Home

Yolanda Rodríguez Ingle collects Mexican crafts — and stories. Each colorful collectable brings back memories of a childhood home built by a strong mother and charismatic father.

"Mexico is where my family's story begins," the assistant vice president for alumni relations says. "When my parents came to the United States, they brought with them values and Mexican *dichos*, or sayings, that centered our family."

One proverb, in particular, motivates Yolanda, who reaches into Mexico to connect UTEP with its alumni:

*"El que tiene un buen vecino tiene un buen amigo.*

*He who has a good neighbor has a good friend."*

Yolanda's work with the UTEP Alumni Association to create chapters in Juárez and Chihuahua drew applause in the United States where the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) awarded its 2001 Seal of Excellence to the university. The national honor, which is the organization's top prize, distinguishes the university as a model for other alumni associations.

"UTEP is well known for providing educational access and opportunities to Mexican students who work in the United States or return to Mexico with a high level of skills," Yolanda says. "They remain an important part of our campus community. And, it is our job to welcome them home."



**Mi Familia:** Yolanda Rodríguez Ingle's father and mother (seated second and third from the left in the middle row) immigrated to El Paso prior to her birth. Yolanda (not pictured) was the youngest of nine children who have fond memories of their patriarch, a stunt double for Rudolph Valentino.



## FEDERICO AND ARTEMIO DE LA VEGA: CITIZENS WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

By Walli Haley

Federico de la Vega and his son Artemio are citizens who know no boundaries. The elder de la Vega, a 69-year-old businessman, was born in Ciudad Juárez, but crossed the border each day to attend grade school in El Paso.

"The Rio Grande was not meant to separate two people, but instead to unite them," he says.

After earning a bachelor's degree in engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Federico returned to Mexico where he launched a string of successful businesses, including a lucrative chain of convenience stores, the multimillion dollar, international Carta Blanca beer distributorship and a construction company.

From a sprawling, tree-covered estate in the heart of Juárez, de la Vega talks earnestly about education and creating more opportunities for people on both sides of the border.

"It's only through education that people can raise their standard of living," he says.

Federico does not say this lightly. He was instrumental in the establishment of the *Universidad Autónoma de Juárez* and the city's campus of the prestigious *Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey*. His benevolence also extends to UTEP where he gives generously to fund scholarships, including the Artemio de la Vega Memorial Scholarship, a four-year award for Mexican-nationals.

The universities in Juárez annually produce only one-third of the graduates needed to fill the professional caliber jobs available in the city. In addition to the Juárez graduates who work as managers, accountants and engineers in plants such as Delphi and RCA, hundreds of UTEP graduates stream across the border to fill those positions each year.

Federico wants to boost the number of graduates on both sides of the border who have the necessary skills to fill the growing demand for professionals.

He predicts there will be more students from Juárez who will go to UTEP and more UTEP graduates who will work in Juárez.

Federico has witnessed his city grow from a sleepy village in the early 1930s and '40s to Mexico's fifth largest city with an estimated 1.5 million. Some city officials estimate that Juárez is expanding by three city blocks each week. But in spite of its explosive growth – the city's population is expected to double within 20 years – and the influx of new businesses, Juárez is still a city without a well-defined middle class.

It is this disparity that Federico is intent on addressing through his businesses.



*Federico de la Vega*

"Some people say we need to get rid of the rich, but I say it's better to make more people rich," he says from his sumptuous living room lined with fine art collected during world travels.

The de la Vegas live a philosophy of hard work and service on a grand scale and they have succeeded spectacularly.

But in spite of his obvious financial success, Federico is most proud of his wife and three grown children. "I'd rather be with them than anywhere else."

His wife, Guadalupe, is well known for her

community spirit as the founder of FEMAP, a Mexican federation of private health and community development organizations created in 1973 to respond to both reproductive health issues and economic development concerns. Now in its 28th year, FEMAP's informational and educational services have reached 1.2 million people.

Federico's son, Artemio, graduated from UT Austin in 1988 with a degree in marketing and business administration.

Artemio's business, the de la Vega Group, brought the 20-screen Tinseltown movie theaters to El Paso and is now developing the Las Palmas shopping center nearby.

Like his father, Artemio is a strong believer in the power of education as a catalyst for building economic opportunity.

The younger de la Vega's mission is to enhance the viability of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez as leading communities on the border and he says UTEP can be the cornerstone both cities build on.

"UTEP is the institution that everyone can look up to and listen to – it's an institution that everyone loves and respects."

Artemio learned about love and respect from Federico.

"My father is the guy who I'm trying to follow and learn from. I admire the man he is. He knows how to help people without expecting anything in return. With him, there is no game-playing, no hidden agenda."

The respect for and pride in his father are part of the de la Vega legacy. Federico also makes it a point to live up to his own father's wise counsel, "*ser sencillo y humilde*," which means to be humble, not arrogant, to be simple," he says.

Perhaps this is why the de la Vegas are so modest about their impressive achievements. Their generous gifts to fund student success on both sides of the border not only help students reach educational goals, they're the first step in enriching the very fabric of their lives and the lives of their families for years to come.



**50s** **Dr. Laurance N. Nickey** received the 2001 James E. Peavy Memorial Award for Distinguished Contributions to Public Health in Texas. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the Texas Public Health Association.

**Olga "Cookie" Mapula** (B.A. '58; M.A. '73), owner and president of Technology and Communications Gateway Inc. in El Paso, was a panelist at the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City Conference in Boston. Mapula also was appointed to the CEO Advisory Board.

**60s** **Alicia M. Meier** (B.A. '69), director of operations for the Amigo Airshow, was named to the board of directors of the Central Region Council of Air Shows.

**Willie Vasquez** (B.A. '65), formerly a fullback and linebacker for Texas Western College (now UTEP), was inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Steve Vickers** (B.B.A. '68) is president and chief executive officer of the U.S. Consolidated Federal Credit Union in Denver.

**70s** **Nate Archibald** (B.S.Ed. '77), a former UTEP basketball player who was voted one of the 50 greatest players in NBA history, was inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Syril L. Beinhorn** (B.S.Ed. '69; M.Ed. '74) retired after a 31-year career as a public school teacher in Denver.

**Patricia A. Duran** (B.S.N. '79; M.S.N. '97) is the administrative director of Post Acute Services at Del Sol Medical Center in El Paso. She has been with the health care system for 15 years and served as director of medical/surgical services.

**Robert LeRoy Giron's** (B.A. '73) poetry collection, *Songs for the Spirit*, was published by Gival Press. Poems from *Metamorphosis of the Serpent God* were recognized in Texas and Virginia competitions.

**80s** **Ellen Renee Charles-Butler** (B.S.N. '81) is a full-time missionary with the Rafiki Foundation. Stationed in Antananarivo, Madagascar, she leads Bible study/fellowship classes and works for a women's center.

**Tom Fullerton** (B.B.A. '81), assistant professor of economics at UTEP, was named to the Western Blue Chip Economic Forecasting Panel, a regional consensus organization managed by the Bank One Economic Outlook Center at Arizona State University.

**Douglas V. Meed** (B.A. '87), a former soldier, sailor, journalist and foreign service officer, has written five books and numerous magazine articles about Texas and the Southwest border region. His latest book, *The Fighting Texas Navy, 1832-1843*, was published by the Republic of Texas Press.

**Fred Reynolds** (B.S. '84), a former UTEP basketball standout, was inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Ricardo Rubalcava** (B.S.N. '81) is the ambulatory surgical director for Providence Eastside Center in El Paso.

**90s** **Marco Bencomo** (B.B.A. '99) is the assistant vice president of John D. Williams Insurance Co.'s Select Commercial Division in El Paso.

**Roberto A. Blanco** (B.B.A. '98) was named one of New York Life Insurance Co.'s Top 100 mutual fund sales agents in the west-central region.

**Estrella Escobar** (B.A. '93) is assistant vice president for institutional advancement at UTEP. Her responsibilities include governmental affairs, media relations and special projects for UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

**Maj. Carlos L. Olivo** (B.A. '91) is the Marine/Naval attaché to the United States Embassy in Managua, Nicaragua.

**Phyllis Caves Rawley** (B.A. '92) was appointed to the Texas State Board of Nurse Examiners by Gov. Rick Perry.

**Wendi J.W. Williams** (Ph.D. '99) completed a visiting professor position with Lewis-Clark State College in the Pacific Northwest, where she led geology fieldtrips to Mount St. Helen's and other Cascade Range volcanoes. She is an assistant professor of Earth Sciences at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

¿Eres ex-alumno de UTEP y Mexicano? Te invitamos a formar parte de nuestro grupo: La Asociación de Ex-Alumnos Mexicanos de UTEP.

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[exutep@hotmail.com](mailto:exutep@hotmail.com)

**00s** **Armando Saldivar** (B.A. '00) is a reporter and news anchor for CBS Channel 7-KOSA in Odessa, Texas.

**O B I T S** **L.W. "Mac" McConachie** (M.A. '51) Sept. 2, 2000. McConachie, a resident

of Austin and Dallas, was executive vice president of the Texas High School Coaches Association for 35 years. McConachie started the association's *Texas Coach* magazine in 1957 and its annual all-star football and basketball games. After his retirement, he was inducted into the Texas High School Hall of Fame.

**Eloise C. Smith** (B.A. '57) Jan. 31, 2001. Smith, from Huntington Beach, Calif., retired as a teacher from the Socorro and Ysleta Independent School Districts.

**Jack Bertram Chapman** (B.A. '48) March 18, 2001. Chapman, a resident of Gallup, N.M., was a radio and television broadcaster for KTSM-TV and Radio. He was in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He was president of the New Mexico Broadcasters Association and was named a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International. He was on the board of directors of the National Association of Broadcasters, the Southwestern Sun Carnival and Merchants Bank, which later became SunWest Bank.

**Lt. Col. Charles G. "Jerry" Flack, ret.** (B.A. '57) April 11, 2001. Flack retired from Texas Utilities after residing in the Dallas area. A decorated helicopter pilot in Vietnam, he retired from the U.S. Army Reserves as a lieutenant colonel.

**Lloyd S. Sheffield** (B.B.A. '55) April 11, 2001. Sheffield was a practicing attorney and member of the El Paso Lions Club. He was a 32nd degree master mason with the El Paso Lodge No. 130 and the Scottish Rite. He sang harmony with the El Paso Border Chorders. He served with the U.S. Navy during World War II and later with the U.S. Naval Reserves.

**Forrest Keith Jackson** (B.S. '86) April 15, 2001. Jackson, a resident of Austin, was a physics and math teacher at Radford School in El Paso.

**Tulia Faye Winton** (M.A. '53) April 27, 2001. Winton was a retired teacher with 45 years of service in primary schools. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and the American Association of University Women. She was a highly awarded author and poet.

**Denus A. Cotsonis** (B.S.Ed. '63) May 1, 2001. After his retirement from the



U.S. Army in 1962, Cotsonis worked as a special education teacher until the early 1980s.

**Roy J. Silva** (B.A. '42; M.A. '52)  
May 1, 2001. Silva was a retired teacher and assistant principal with the Ysleta Independent School District.

**Kathryn Elizabeth Hagendoorn Vaughn** (B.A. '51; M.Ed. '61) May 13, 2001. Vaughn, a teacher, was the first school counselor in the Ysleta Independent School District. She was a Girl Scout leader who founded camps in New Mexico. She was president of the Parent Teacher Association at Alta Vista Elementary School and a member of the El Paso Historical Society and the Silver-Haired Legislature.

**John George Maloof** (B.S.Ed. '71; M.Ed. '78) May 26, 2001. Maloof was a resident of Albuquerque, N.M., for the past nine years.

**Margaret Lorene Cowherd Old** (B.A. '38) May 26, 2001. Old was a member of the El Paso Art Association, the Texas Fine Arts League and the Delta Kappa Gamma Society. She was a student of widely acclaimed art teacher Vera Wise, and her watercolor works have been shown in national, state and local jury exhibitions. She retired from Crockett Elementary School and was honored by the Pilot Club.

**Louise Lacy Barratt** (B.S.Ed. '64) May 30, 2001. Barratt taught at Bel Air High School for 17 years before leaving to pursue painting. She was a member of the Alla Prima International Water Color Society and Diversity in Visual Arts, a group of noted women artists from El Paso. That artistic collaboration culminated in *Desert Echo: Women Illuminate the Sacred*, a book of illustrated poetry. Barratt's works are on display at the Dallas Women's Museum, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, and in corporate and private collections throughout the United States.

**Lawrence Hamilton** (M.A. '60) May 31, 2001. Hamilton was a lifelong scholar who served at several universities, school districts and other educational institutions.

**Ralph A. Murillo Jr.** (B.A. '70) May 31, 2001. Murillo started his career with the U.S. Small Business Administration in El Paso, then moved to San Antonio as assistant district director for the Minority Small Business and Capital Ownership Development. He established his own business, Disability Employment Opportunity Inc., which became a National Industries for the Severely Handicapped Work Center. Murillo was the recipient of the El Paso Job Corps Award, the Texas Governor's Citation for Outstanding Services Rendered in the Interest of the Handicapped, and the U.S. Small Business Administration National Bicentennial Award.

**Luis Roberto Peña** (B.S.C.E. '90) May 31, 2001. Peña lived in Albuquerque, N.M., where he owned the Pentex Construction Co.

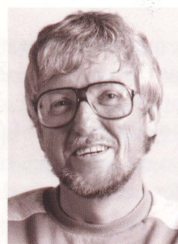
**Maria Padilla Orasel** (B.A. '71) June 4, 2001. Orasel, a resident of New York City, was the director of the Minority and Women's Business Development Corp. She also was a board member of the Association for Enterprise Opportunity.

**Adele M. Lillebo** (M.Ed. '85) June 8, 2001. Lillebo retired from H.E. Charles Middle School and taught at La Union Elementary School in New Mexico.

**James Thomas Vincent** (B.S. '79) June 9, 2001. Vincent taught at Austin and Coronado high schools. At Coronado, he was the science department chair, the Academic Decathlon and High Q coach, and the technology resource facilitator. He served in the U.S. Army at the Letterman Army Institute of Research in San Francisco.

**Anna Jane Derrick Millican** (B.A. '50) June 12, 2001. Millican was a resident of High Rolls, N.M. She taught English and literature in El Paso, Las Vegas, Albuquerque and Honolulu. After retiring she taught beginners in the Enchanted Quilters of Alamogordo. She won county, state and international quilting awards, and published numerous "how-to" articles in national quilting magazines.

**Bruce Grenfell Bixler**, June 17, 2001. Bixler served with the U.S. Army 160th Infantry Regiment, 40th Infantry Division, in Korea and Japan, earning the Army Medal of Commendation for Bravery. Following his military service, he joined the accounting firm of Bixler & Co., LLP, in 1954. He was active in numerous civic organizations, including the Kiwanis of El Paso, Gideon's International,



**David Lynn Hall Sr.** (B.A. '61) April 11, 2001. Hall was a UTEP professor of philosophy, who was a recognized scholar and author in the fields of Chinese

philosophy and postmodernism. During his tenure, he was chair of the Department of Philosophy and director of the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies program. A graduate of Texas Western College, Hall earned a Ph.D. from Yale University.

the Sons of the American Revolution, the El Paso Masonic Lodge No. 130, Knights Templar, the El Maida Shrine and the Military Order of World Wars.

**Janice "Sunshine" Newton Williams** (B.S.Ed. '60) June 18, 2001. She was a longtime resident of El Paso.

**Robert Michael Dickason** (B.S.Ed. '67) June 22, 2001. Dickason, who retired from the CIA, was a resident of Leesburg, Va. The Vietnam War veteran was a part-time teacher.

**Kevin Steffek** (B.M. '86) July 1, 2001. Steffek, of Riesel, Texas, was a music teacher at public school districts in Texas. He formed the Steffek Polka Band and was choir director at St. Eugene's Church in McGregor, Texas.

**Kathy Jo Simpson** (B.S.Ed. '75; M.Ed. '89) July 4, 2001. A teacher, Simpson opened the Glen Cove Elementary School library in the 1970s. She was voted the school's Teacher of the Year in 1993.

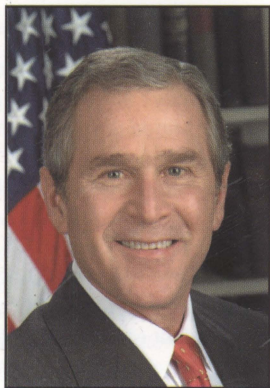
**Geraldine "Jerry" Abrams** (B.S.Ed. '66) July 8, 2001. Abrams taught in the Ysleta Independent School District, retiring after 19 years of service.

**Luis Alfonso Uribarri** (B.S. '62; B.S.E.E. '69) July 15, 2001. Uribarri was an electrical engineer with NASA. In 1969, his name was placed on the moon as a part of the Apollo 11 project. He retired from Fort Bliss as a civil service electrical engineer. He coordinated the Mt. Cristo Rey Illumination Project. Uribarri was a member of the National Rifle Association, the Ysleta Gun Club and the Arroyo Shooters Club. He was the first Texas Metallic Silhouette champion and a Florida State Metallic Silhouette champion.

**Eugene A. Tevington** (B.B.A. '77) July 16, 2001. Tevington, a resident of Houston, served in the U.S. Army for 20 years and was a veteran of the Korean War. He received the American Campaign Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the National Defense Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster. The retired sergeant first class opened his own accounting business, Adler Business Service, which he operated for 22 years. He was an IRS Enrolled Agent and a member of the Texas Association of Public Accountants, serving as first vice president of the association's People's Chapter in Houston.

**Michael John "Coach" Anderson** (B.S.Ed. '76) July 21, 2001. Anderson was a resident of Galveston, Texas, and Chaparral, N.M. The former UTEP football player taught at Santa Teresa High School in New Mexico, where he was the varsity football offense coordinator and baseball coach. His team won the First-Time Team All District Championship for Baseball. Anderson was a member of the Coaching Association of New Mexico.





## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Los lazos entre los Estados Unidos y México se hacen más fuertes cada día. Bajo el Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte, el comercio ha florecido y México se ha convertido en nuestro segundo socio comercial. Esto significa nuevos empleos y mejores salarios en ambos países, así como más opciones y precios más bajos para nuestros consumidores.

Como vecinos, estamos unidos por la historia, por las familias, por valores comunes y por la cultura. Los Estados Unidos tienen ahora una de las poblaciones hispanohablantes más grandes del mundo y es un importante productor y consumidor de cultura, música y literatura latina. Al mismo tiempo, México le está dando la bienvenida a los negocios estadounidenses, a nuestros productos e ideas. Estos vínculos nos dan la oportunidad sin precedentes de construir una nueva asociación que mejore las vidas de los pueblos de ambas naciones.

Cuando asumí la presidencia, México fue el primer país que visité. Ahí me encontré con mi buen amigo, el Presidente Vicente Fox, en su rancho cerca de Guanajuato. El Presidente Fox y yo sostuvimos conversaciones serias acerca de cómo podemos trabajar juntos para fortalecer la relación de nuestras dos naciones en temas que van desde el comercio y la energía hasta el combate a las drogas ilícitas. La migración es un asunto importante para ambos; hemos acordado crear un grupo de trabajo de alto nivel que está buscando maneras creativas de afrontar este fenómeno complejo.

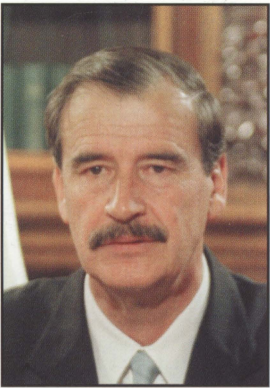
Las comunidades fronterizas, como la de las ciudades hermanas El Paso/Ciudad Juárez, juegan un papel clave en la relación entre los Estados Unidos y México. Ellas forman la región donde nuestras dos naciones se fusionan. De ser una línea que separa a los Estados Unidos de México, la frontera se está convirtiendo, cada vez más, en una región que nos une. Miles de camiones transportan cada año cientos de miles de millones de dólares en comercio a lo largo de la frontera. Cientos de miles de empleos se han creado en la industria maquiladora de la región fronteriza; y existen grandes oportunidades para mayor crecimiento a través del suministro y mantenimiento de estas plantas maquiladoras. Un millón de personas cruza diariamente la frontera para trabajar, hacer sus compras, visitar familiares y amigos, ir a la escuela y asistir a eventos culturales, y cada año son más los que cruzan. La frontera es una de nuestras regiones de crecimiento más acelerado, cumpliendo un papel cada vez más importante en el desarrollo de nuestras dos naciones.

El Presidente Fox y yo reconocemos el importante papel que juega la educación en la construcción del éxito de nuestras respectivas naciones. En Guanajuato, acordamos lanzar una nueva iniciativa para aumentar la cooperación en este importante campo. Al ser una de las universidades de mayor importancia en la región, la Universidad de Texas en El Paso es un elemento muy valioso en esta iniciativa. UTEP debe estar orgullosa de sus esfuerzos por crear oportunidades académicas de alta calidad para estudiantes de ambos lados de la frontera.

La geografía ha hecho vecinos a Estados Unidos y México, y la cooperación y el respeto mutuo nos convertirán en socios para cumplir la promesa de un mejor mañana. Mis mejores deseos.

George W. Bush  
Presidente de los  
Estados Unidos





It is with great pleasure that I address the faculty and students of the University of Texas at El Paso. I enthusiastically embrace the opportunity to engage in dialogue with those in the university community, regardless of their discipline or profession, who are willing to help build a new framework for relations between our two countries. Above all, this is a time when we must recognize the importance of the growing interaction between our nations.

The hallmark of The University of Texas at El Paso is its enterprising people, who strive to better their own future as well as that of their region and country. For many Mexicans, UTEP has offered a realistic option for excellence in education, as evidenced by the fact that its large enrollment of Mexican students. In its pluralism, it has become a focal point for all who wish to immerse themselves in the complex dynamic of the border.

Mexico is undergoing a time of profound transformation, and we, the Mexican people, are forging an extraordinary relationship with the United States. An extensive network of interests, mutual influences and opportunities for exchange is emerging, with the grave responsibility of consolidating the region and moving it forward.

Contacts between our two governments have become more vigorous and meaningful as we begin to recognize not only the values and challenges we share but also the particular contributions we can each make toward strengthening mutually beneficial ties.

The border is now universally identified as an area of cooperation, of economic vitality and boundless possibilities for the balanced and harmonious development of both countries.

We are convinced of the bilateral importance of encouraging development of the borderlands through careful binational planning and specific bilateral programs such as promoting culture, scientific information and the preservation of our common heritage.

To further the development of our northern border, in Mexico we propose to streamline and simplify foreign trade, improve rail and highway infrastructure, and expand our capacity to generate electrical power. We intend as well to form and train advocacy groups to protect migrant populations. Immigration has become one of the most pressing and complex topics on the bilateral agenda. Moreover, it is a subject of worldwide significance as we enter the twenty-first century, and the solutions we find here may well serve to lessen the impact of these problems in other parts of the world.

Immigrants contribute notably to the culture and economy of both our countries, and we must therefore focus on these issues more directly. It is of fundamental importance that policies in this regard reflect our common needs and values, so that migrant populations can enjoy proper legal protections, be afforded dignified and humane treatment, and see their fundamental human rights upheld.

The people of our two nations have shown us the way. It is now the task of our governments to ensure that conditions are right for a balanced and harmonious relationship to prevail, one which embraces synergy and prepares us to make the fullest use of our potential.

Vicente Fox Quesada  
President of Mexico

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LA R



# MESSAGES from the BORDERLANDS: MEXICO and the U.S. SOUTHWEST

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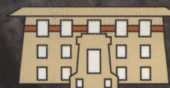
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