

Spring 2001

Nova Quarterly: The University of Texas at El Paso

The University of Texas at El Paso University Communications

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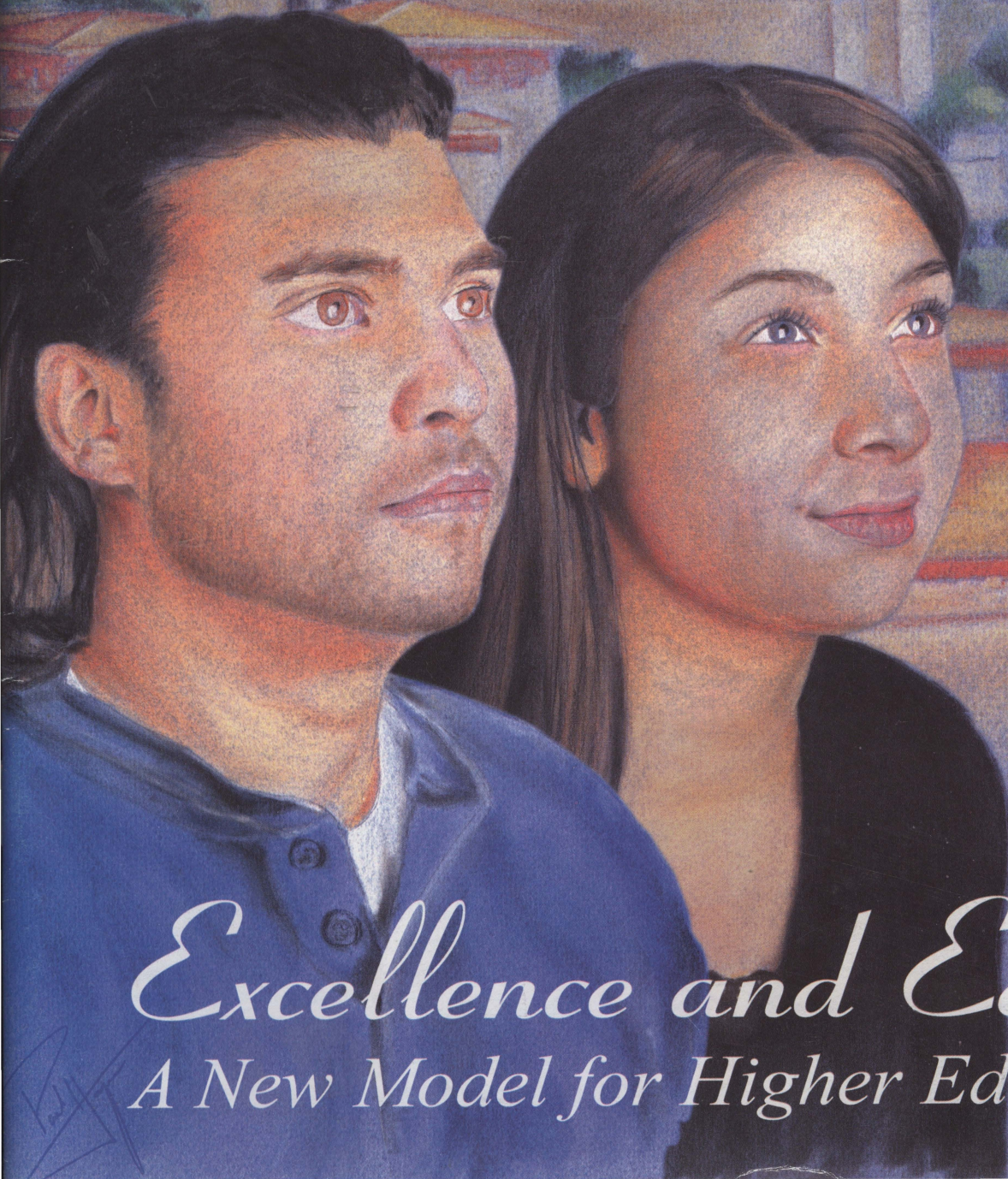
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SPRING 2001

NOVA

Q U A R T E R L Y

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



Excellence and Equity
A New Model for Higher Education

The Texas Legislature has convened for its 77th biennial session. My assistant, Richard Adauto, and I are once again making frequent trips to Austin to inform legislators of UTEP's accomplishments and future needs, and to ensure that they are aware of the critical role that UTEP plays in providing both access and excellence to the residents of this large and fast-growing metropolitan area.

Texas is facing major changes in its economy and in the diversity of its population. To compete successfully with other states in the global economy of the 21st century, Texas must seek to raise the educational attainment level of its increasingly diverse population, and improve the state's national competitiveness for federal research and development funds.

To accomplish these goals, Texas must recognize the potential and expand the capacity of public universities in its major metropolitan areas: Houston, Dallas/Ft. Worth, San Antonio and El Paso. Central to our legislative agenda is the importance of increased funding for large, urban and demographically diverse universities such as UTEP.

A series of recent and impressive achievements identify UTEP as a leader among Texas higher education institutions and leaves us well positioned for elevation to top-tier status among the state's universities. Our success in securing awards for sponsored research is documented:

- UTEP ranks second only to UT Austin among UT System academic components in contract and grant funding; and
- UTEP ranked first among all academic institutions in the state in the ratio of federal-to-state research funding, generating \$7 in federal funds for every \$1 of state investment.

In addition, increased enrollment, national recognition for our academic and outreach programs, and designation as a Doctoral/Research-Intensive university in the Carnegie Classification reflect our success in meeting the challenges of a new era in U.S. higher education.

All of this has been accomplished while UTEP maintained its strong commitment to its mission of creating quality educational opportunities for residents of this region.

UTEP's competitiveness for research funding and our commitment to providing opportunities for students who have been historically under-represented in higher education make us a compelling model for the future of Texas — an institution committed to both excellence and access.

As we meet with members of the Legislature, we can make a strong case for each of the specific funding priorities we have identified. At the heart of our request is the need



for research and academic infrastructure development funds that will enhance our educational programs and increase our competitiveness for federal research dollars.

Other funding priorities include increased salaries for faculty and staff, additional student financial assistance, support for the highly successful Entering Student Program and the Paso al Norte Immigration History Museum and Research Center.

The Legislature also will consider requests for Tuition Revenue Bond funding for facilities this year. UTEP's top two priorities are a new biosciences teaching and research building and infrastructure upgrades across the campus. We also have requested funding to renovate and expand the Liberal Arts and Academic Services buildings, to construct an addition to the library to accommodate all of UTEP's U.S.-Mexico-related activities, and to renovate the Engineering Building after the PUF-funded addition to that facility has been completed.

The success of our efforts to secure additional funding from the Texas Legislature for UTEP's important regional mission will rest in large measure with the El Paso legislative delegation. On behalf of UTEP's students, faculty, staff and alumni, I thank members of the delegation for their commitment to support our efforts to serve this community.

— Diana Natalicio
President

NOVA

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

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Editor: **Christian Clarke Casarez**

Assistant Editors: **Heather Feldman** and
Cindie M. Powell

Production Coordinator: **Bobby Daniels**

Art Director: **John Downey**

Staff Writers: **Walli Haley** and **Sonny Lopez**

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Production Assistant: **Kathleen Thorpe**

Photography Director: **Laura Trejo**

Photographer: **Javier Vicencio**

Contributing Photographer: **Chad Puerling**

Associate Vice President for University Communications:
Rich Morrison

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By Diana Natalicio

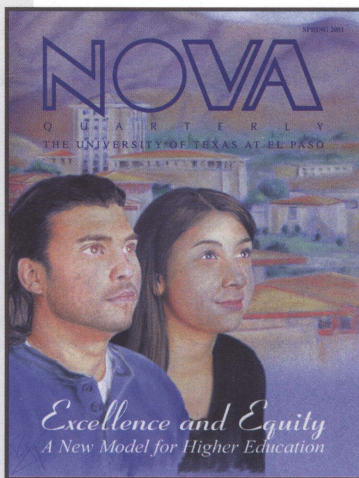
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Cover design by Paul Huereque.

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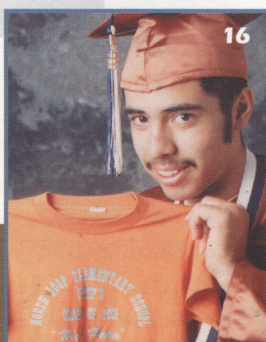
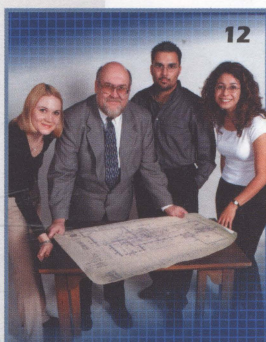
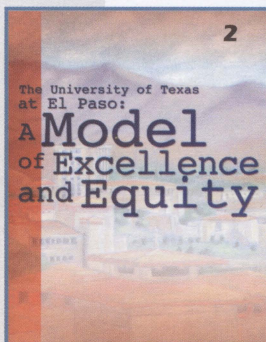
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By Noel Alphonse and Ana-Maria Valero

See *NOVA Quarterly* on the World Wide Web at
<http://www.utep.edu/nova>.



The role of higher education in the state's human and economic development is the subject of ongoing discussion throughout Texas.

Recommendations by the Special Commission on 21st Century Colleges and Universities, formed in 1999 by then-Lt. Gov. Rick Perry, comprise the core of the new governor's reform proposals to make higher education more accessible and affordable. The commission brought their study to UTEP in June 2000, when President Diana Natalicio testified that UTEP should be used as a model for the future of higher education in Texas — institutions that combine academic and research excellence with access to higher education for large populations, including underrepresented minorities, in the state's urban centers.

At UTEP, there have been numerous conversations about what role the university might play in a future reconceptualization of Texas higher education. "Tier One" is the label that often has been used to characterize UTEP's institutional aspirations. As is often the case, however, this label does not mean the same thing to all who hear and say it. In an effort to clarify what is intended when this term is used in official statements, Natalicio has prepared a statement on UTEP as a "Model of Excellence and Equity" to promote a common understanding of the use of the term "Tier One" — and to serve as a clear statement of this university's guiding principles.

The University of Texas
at El Paso:

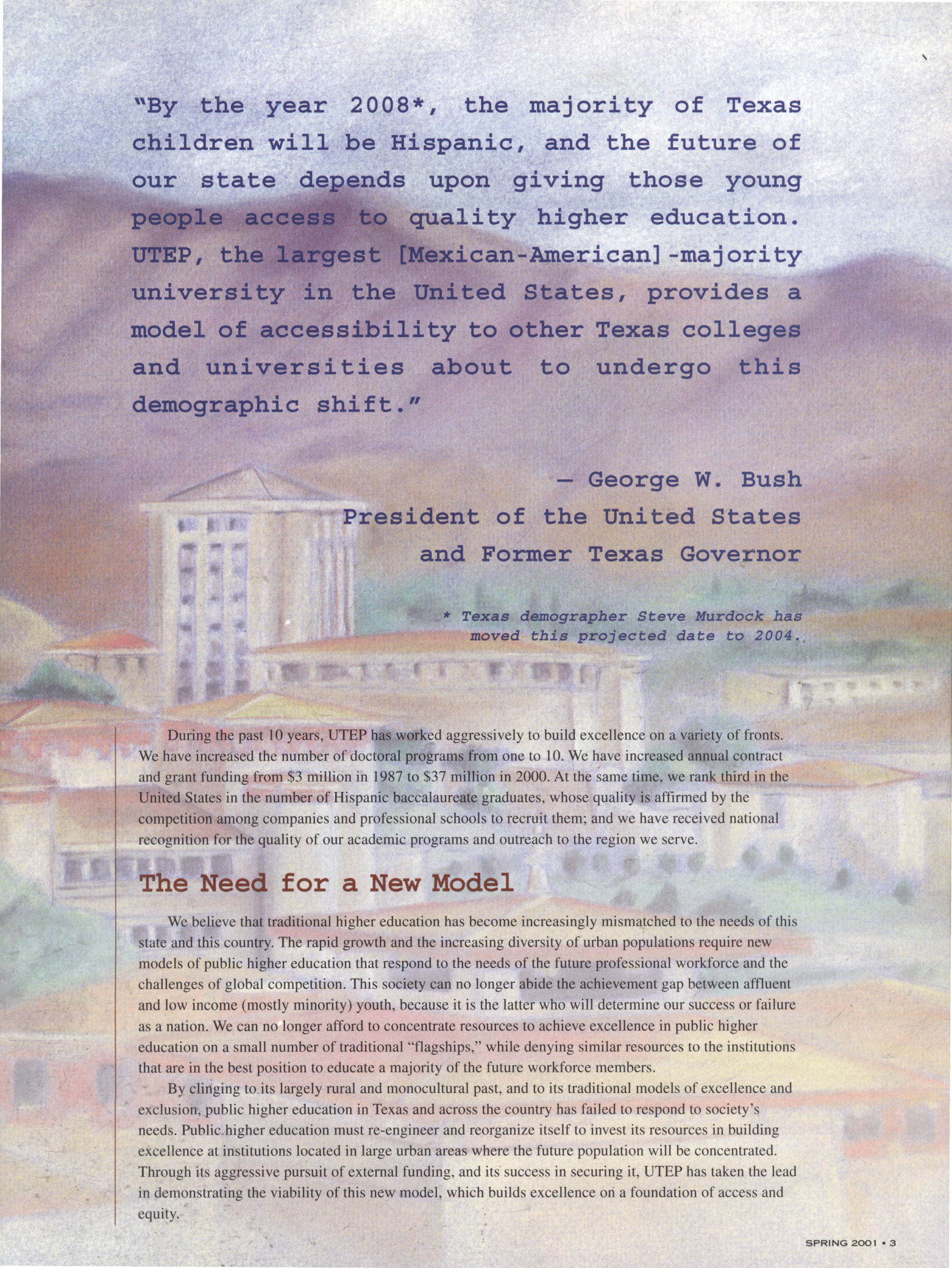
A Model of Excellence and Equity

by Diana Natalicio

UTEP's Model of Excellence

The University of Texas at El Paso is in the forefront of creating a new model of excellence in higher education. We are committed to changing the stereotype of urban and minority institutions, which are sometimes praised as models for access and equity, but seldom, if ever, for academic and research excellence.

Rejecting the notion that excellence and equity cannot coexist on a single campus, particularly one whose origins place it in the equity category, UTEP demonstrates that excellence can be built without sacrificing the values upon which the institution's commitment to access rests. We know that underrepresented minorities, as individuals and collectively, can compete successfully, if provided with enriched opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate education. We know, too, that building excellence within an equity context can be done, because UTEP has already made great strides in doing it.



"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 [Mexican-American]-majority university in the United States, provides a model of accessibility to other Texas colleges and universities about to undergo this demographic shift."

— George W. Bush
President of the United States
and Former Texas Governor

** Texas demographer Steve Murdock has moved this projected date to 2004.*

During the past 10 years, UTEP has worked aggressively to build excellence on a variety of fronts. We have increased the number of doctoral programs from one to 10. We have increased annual contract and grant funding from \$3 million in 1987 to \$37 million in 2000. At the same time, we rank third in the United States in the number of Hispanic baccalaureate graduates, whose quality is affirmed by the competition among companies and professional schools to recruit them; and we have received national recognition for the quality of our academic programs and outreach to the region we serve.

The Need for a New Model

We believe that traditional higher education has become increasingly mismatched to the needs of this state and this country. The rapid growth and the increasing diversity of urban populations require new models of public higher education that respond to the needs of the future professional workforce and the challenges of global competition. This society can no longer abide the achievement gap between affluent and low income (mostly minority) youth, because it is the latter who will determine our success or failure as a nation. We can no longer afford to concentrate resources to achieve excellence in public higher education on a small number of traditional "flagships," while denying similar resources to the institutions that are in the best position to educate a majority of the future workforce members.

By clinging to its largely rural and monocultural past, and to its traditional models of excellence and exclusion, public higher education in Texas and across the country has failed to respond to society's needs. Public higher education must re-engineer and reorganize itself to invest its resources in building excellence at institutions located in large urban areas where the future population will be concentrated. Through its aggressive pursuit of external funding, and its success in securing it, UTEP has taken the lead in demonstrating the viability of this new model, which builds excellence on a foundation of access and equity.

Ysleta-Born and Harvard-Bound: Earning a Spot at Top Law Schools

by Christian Clarke Casarez

Israel Silvas remembers the day when the beautiful trees that lined the empty lot in front of his house were cut down because they created a dangerous environment that attracted drug-users and alcoholics.

"Growing up in a community plagued by poverty, I realized how important it was to get a good education. I knew I had to overcome any obstacles to become a successful scholar," Silvas says. "But I also knew that education is not merely about passing tests and writing papers. It is about making something of yourself."

Silvas became a wage-earner at the age of 14, but refused to drop out of school. Inspired by a strong and supportive mother and determined to improve the social conditions in his community, the college-bound Ysleta teen enrolled at the highly competitive Silva Magnet School.

Silvas uses his once-private observations about his community to chronicle his own growth. The honest and insightful commentary struck a chord with admissions officers at the nation's top law schools, including Columbia, UT Austin, Berkeley and Duke.

And, for this Harvard-bound law student, community remains at the core of everything he does — everything he achieves.

One of a dozen UTEP students who earned the nationally competitive Gates Millennium Scholarship, Silvas carries a 3.9 GPA in political science. Graduating from the university's Law School Preparation Institute under the guidance of his mentors Robert Webking and William Weaver, the young scholar continues to prepare for the rigors of law school.

The perfect combination of heart and smarts, Silvas balances classroom commitments with civic and social activities. He loves chess, video games and watching professional wrestling. But, this analytical thinker also moves between the modern-day lyrics of Rage Against the Machine and the philosophical principles of Heidegger with intellectual ease.

Fluent in both English and Spanish, Silvas is proud of his rich Mexican heritage. As he reviews the surface barriers of a working-class, predominantly Hispanic neighborhood, he points with pride to the well-kept homes that form the foundation from which dreams can spring.

"My entire community is struggling with financial difficulties because education is not a common denominator for its residents," Silvas says. "It sounds like a cliché when I say that education is the key to success. But it's not a cliché when you live it."



Silvas

Requirements

Capital Infrastructure Funding

There are huge disparities in capital funding between institutions supported by the Permanent University Fund (PUF), including UTEP, and those receiving capital support through the legislatively appropriated Higher Education Fund (HEF). Significantly, universities located in four of Texas' largest urban areas (UT Arlington, UT Dallas, UT El Paso and UT San Antonio) have been most negatively impacted by this longstanding inequity. In fact, three of these institutions (Dallas, El Paso and Arlington) rank at the bottom of all public universities in capital and excellence funding based on enrollment.

In UTEP's case, PUF allocations to our 15,000 students have totaled less each year than the HEF allocations to the 3,000 students enrolled at Sul Ross State University. Applying the HEF formula to UTEP, we estimate that the cumulative consequence of this funding disparity for the past 15 years exceeds \$100 million. This is not only a matter of injustice to the students who are denied access to the state's capital funds because of their location, it is a matter of Texas jeopardizing its future economic competitiveness by failing to invest in its most valuable higher education assets — its urban universities.

Research Funding

An important component of building excellence in universities is research funding. The Texas Legislature created a \$60 million Advanced Research/Technology Program, whose purpose was to build research capacity and excellence in higher education institutions. An examination of the grants that have been made since the program's inception reveals an interesting pattern of consistent investment in certain institutions and only minimal support of others. This pattern has remained relatively constant for the entire history of the program, despite major changes in institutions' graduate program development and federal research funding growth. Thus, at UTEP, for example, annual funding from the ARP/ATP programs has remained remarkably consistent for the past 10 years, at approximately

Improving Education at All Levels: UTEP Makes the Grade in Teacher Preparation

Time magazine explored how universities are improving public schools and preparing underrepresented children for higher education. In the January special report, Time highlighted El Paso's educational collaboratives between UTEP and local school districts, which have resulted in:

- more than \$30 million in grants to the community;
- an overhaul of district curriculum and teaching methods; and
- an increase in the number of students enrolling in algebra and chemistry.

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

— Adair Margo

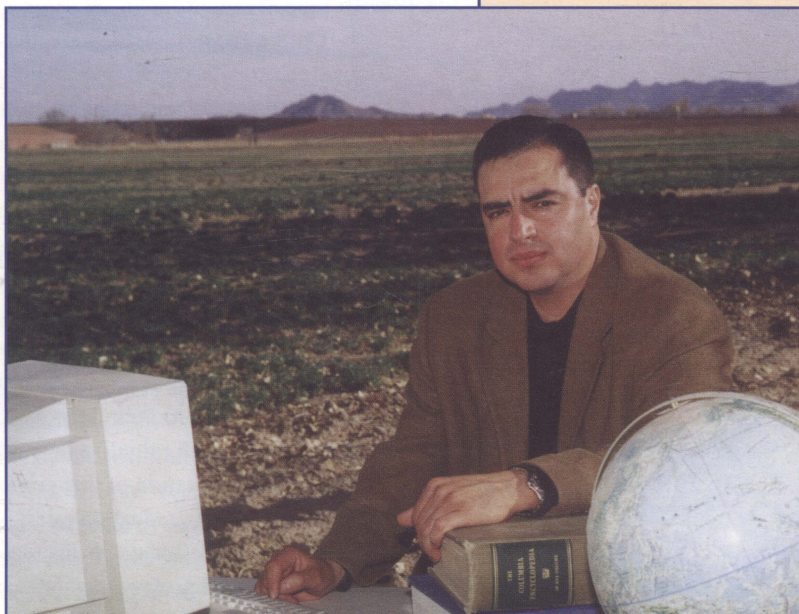
Member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

\$250,000 per year, while our outside research and sponsored project funding has more than doubled during the past decade from \$15 million to \$37 million.

Today, UTEP receives approximately 7.5 federal dollars for every \$1 that the state has allocated toward our research activity (including ARP/ATP grants and research enhancement funds), a 7.5-to-1 return on the state's investment. By comparison, Texas Tech receives only \$1.25 in federal research dollars for each \$1 invested by the state, a 1.2-to-1 return on investment.

We are often told that entrepreneurship in higher education is valued in Texas and will be rewarded. UTEP has been highly entrepreneurial, but we have seen no evidence that the state is interested in

rewarding us for our success. In fact, when we consider the combination of capital funding inequities, the percentage of external research funds retained by the state, and research funding patterns, we cannot help but conclude that our success at the national level has been achieved in spite of the state's notable lack of support of our efforts.



Lopez

Harvest-Time: Cultivating a Future Beyond the Fields

by Heather Feldman

Ten years ago, Jose Luis Lopez spent his days working with his father in the onion fields of Fabens — a migrant worker without a high-school diploma.

Today, Lopez spends his days cultivating minds instead of fields. In a classroom at Parkland High School filled with musical instruments from Mexico and Cuba, Lopez and his students play and listen to the origins of Latin American music as part of a linguistics and culture class.

It is a long way to come for a man who did not speak English when he entered UTEP's High School Equivalency Program in 1989.

"I would probably be working at a restaurant or in the fields today if I had not heard about the program," says Lopez, a 1995 UTEP graduate. "It changed my life. I saw an opportunity to go to college and change my future. Now I am happy."

UTEP's free program, which was initiated in 1968, is one of 23 nationally. It is designed to provide migrant and seasonal farm workers with an opportunity to earn a high-school equivalency diploma and

transition to vocational training, higher-wage jobs or college.

Once enrolled, HEP students are provided with room, board, books, health care services, and a small weekly stipend. They attend classes to prepare for the General Educational Development examination, listen to guest speakers on topics ranging from resumé to career opportunities, and meet with university advisers on college admissions procedures and financial aid packages.

Each year, more than 100 migrant and seasonal farm workers pass through the program's halls — each with a dream that needs tending to grow.

Former U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley applauded UTEP's College of Education as a national model — one of three exemplary teacher preparation programs in the country.

At a UTEP commencement ceremony, Riley said, "Nothing is more important to the future of this great nation than the quality of our teachers. Fortunately, you are graduating from a university that has a well-deserved national reputation in terms of improving the teaching profession."

The New York Times recognized UTEP's College of Education for its successful efforts to improve teacher preparation by bridging classroom theory with classroom experience.

"[UTEP] is gaining a much-deserved nationwide reputation as a leader in providing educational services to a diverse and rapidly growing urban population."

— Don Evans
U.S. Secretary of Commerce
and Former Chair of the UT System Board of Regents

Student Retention and Academic Success

UTEP is located in a large metropolitan area characterized by low educational attainment and a per capita income that is declining against both state and national averages. It draws 85 percent of its students from El Paso County schools, and prepares an estimated 60 percent of the teachers in those schools. Within this context, UTEP recognized more than 10 years ago that we had an obligation to take a lead in mobilizing all of the educational resources in this community to:

- foster academic success and high standards in the public schools of this region,
- ensure that a growing number of K-12 students complete high school with a college preparatory curriculum and make a successful transition to enrollment at the university level,

Tapping into UTEP Resources: A British Geologist's Trek

by Walli Haley

When Fiona Kilbride was considering pursuing her doctoral degree in geophysics, she explored far beyond her native England. A huge book of universities listings around the world at the library at the University of Birmingham, where she obtained her master's degree, led her to UTEP.

Kilbride sent letters to 40 universities internationally and chose to tap into UTEP's rich vein of education and experience. Geological sciences professor Diane Doser, whose work as a seismologist was recently featured in the *New York Times*, offered Kilbride a position as a UTEP teaching assistant.

While working on her doctoral degree, Kilbride gained valuable work experience by completing two internships with Amoco.

Today, she is an exploration geophysicist for Anadarko Petroleum Corp. in Houston. The company searches for oil in the United States and also performs offshore drilling in Alaska, the North Sea, Algeria and the Gulf of Mexico.

The 2000 UTEP graduate analyzes complex seismic data taken from studies performed in fields in Kansas and Colorado to help locate hydrocarbon, which is a predictor of oil and gas.

- create a supportive environment at UTEP for student success leading to a baccalaureate degree, and
- make available high-quality graduate and professional degree programs for this region's residents.

We are working hard on all of these fronts, supported largely by federal and foundation grants. The El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, a partnership between UTEP, area school districts, and other local organizations, has already succeeded in demonstrating major gains in K-12 student achievement in this region. Most importantly, it has reduced the local achievement gap between Hispanic children and their Anglo counterparts by raising expectations for all children and by investing intellectual and financial resources in underachieving schools. As a part of this effort, UTEP has engaged in a major restructuring of its teacher preparation program, an essential ingredient in school reform. During the past eight years, the Collaborative has leveraged the state's annual investment of \$137,000 to more than \$31 million in federal and foundation funding.

To foster greater student retention and success in completing a baccalaureate degree, UTEP has established an Entering Student Program, which is designed to bridge the transition from high school or community college to the university. We have invested institutional funds to launch the Entering Student Program because we are confident that improvements in student retention during the next several years will yield a higher level of formula funding in the future, as students are more successful in making progress toward their degrees. Start-up or performance-based funding for such initiatives would permit far more aggressive implementation of this proven strategy to improve student retention and graduation rates.

To ensure that residents of this region have access to high-quality graduate and professional education opportunities, UTEP has developed a broad range of health professions programs

UTEP Ranks Tops Among Regents, Recruiters and Researchers

The UT System Board of Regents praised UTEP's Law School Preparation Institute as a model for other Texas schools. Through the new program, the number of UTEP students attending Top 50 law schools has tripled each year. Institute graduates have been accepted at eight of the nation's Top 10 law schools, including Harvard, NYU, Chicago and Columbia.

In 1997, UTEP ranked first among all U.S. colleges and universities in total grant awards from the National Science Foundation's Education and

during the past 10 years, as well as nine new doctoral programs in areas that capitalize on institutional strengths and respond to regional needs, *e.g.*, environmental science and engineering, pathobiology, and U.S.-Mexico borderlands history. Much of this program development has been the result of UTEP's success in leveraging institutional funds to secure research and program development grants from federal and foundation sources.

External funding from contracts and grants has been the key to UTEP's success in developing and implementing innovative academic and outreach programs. These are not small projects whose impact ends when the funding stream stops, but rather broad-based efforts at systemic reform that will be sustained long after individual grants expire. The availability of state funding, both to leverage external support and to ensure continuity, would give these efforts greater credibility with grantmakers, and make them less vulnerable to the uncertainties of grant funding.

Student Financial Aid

UTEP students face numerous financial challenges in attempting to complete a baccalaureate degree. Most are the first in their families to attend college, and nearly all are employed while attending the university, not merely to finance their studies, but to help support their families. The availability of financial aid, particularly in the form of scholarships, grants, or work-study jobs on campus, is inadequate to meet the demand.

To achieve the goal of increasing the number of baccalaureate recipients at UTEP, we must offer students additional grant and scholarship programs. UTEP has been successful in raising scholarship funds from private donors, but the waiting list for academically eligible students remains long, and the financial need of many students remains unmet. The state-funded TEXAS grant program is an excellent first step in addressing the need for academic scholarships, especially as the cost of tuition and fees at public institutions continues to rise. It should, however, be expanded. State work-study initiatives and similar programs that help students overcome the financial barriers to their university enrollment would be an investment not only in young people, but in the future economic development of this state.

Human Resources Directorate, joining Berkeley, Harvard, MIT and Stanford in the top five.

Last year, 300 companies sought to recruit 150 UTEP engineering graduates — just one example of how eager recruiters are to hire UTEP students because they are well prepared for, and so successful in, their professional careers.

With annual research and sponsored projects expenditures of \$35 million — which places UTEP fourth among all Texas universities — students work in research laboratories that focus on technical excellence and encourage students to work alongside faculty and staff members.

Peer Leader: Creating Student Circles

by Sonny Lopez



Rash

UTEP student Catherine Rash has come full circle.

After surviving her freshman year, the junior microbiology major became a peer facilitator in the Circles of Learning for Entering Students program to help other students make their way through college.

"The program has been a Godsend," says Rash, who recently received a McNair Scholarship, a U.S. Department of Education program that prepares select juniors and seniors to complete their degrees, attend graduate school, work toward a doctorate and eventually enter the professorate.

"The program creates a network of individuals who are all doing the same thing. School is first and foremost," Rash says. "My

favorite part is being on the other side. I'm now helping other students, and that's great."

The CirCLES program clusters new students in groups of 25 who take their math, English and introduction to engineering or biology courses together. It began as a pilot program for entering science and engineering students in 1997 and blossomed into a universitywide program aimed at retaining incoming freshman.

Under the program, entering students receive help with orientation, advising and, most of all, the learning communities during their first semesters. In addition, students feel bound to each other and the university.

Rash, who carries a 3.6 GPA, is taking full advantage of the programs at UTEP, using the Model Institutions for Excellence program to seek out graduate studies. UTEP is one of only six universities chosen by the National Science Foundation for the initiative, which is aimed at increasing the number of historically underrepresented minorities successfully completing master's and doctoral programs in science, engineering and math.

"I'm being considered for a summer program at Johns Hopkins University, and it was made possible by these programs," says Rash, who has co-taught science labs during the more than two years she's been working for CirCLES.

"I'm really grateful for everything the programs have made possible. Being on the other side now, I see how this network of students created under the program really bond. All I can say is it's a great program, and I'm glad I'm a part of it."

"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."

— Diana Natalicio
UTEP President

Benefits to the El Paso Region

The per capita income and educational achievement data for El Paso are sobering by any measure. This community has suffered, and will continue to suffer, the consequences of having promoted itself for far too long as a low-skill, low-wage opportunity for business and industry. In a global economy, still-lower-wage options have been exercised by corporations, and El Pasoans' jobs have migrated to Guatemala and Sri Lanka. El Pasoans are undereducated and underprepared to be competitive in today's economy.

Environmental Elite: EPA STAR Shines on UTEP Scholars

by Walli Haley

Last year, only 20 students in the nation received the Environmental Protection Agency's prestigious "Science To Achieve Results" (STAR) Awards. Four were UTEP science scholars.

Kenneth Dokken, Pete Muela, Roderick Pearson and Hilda Taylor were selected for the EPA fellowship program based on their promising research focused on making the earth a safer place to live.

Pearson's research on electromagnetic scattering from aerosols is geared toward air pollution monitoring. Taylor is unearthing the role mites play in keeping the soil in the grasslands in the Chihuahuan Desert healthy. Dokken is researching the use of alfalfa to extract heavy metals from water, and Muela is studying the effect logging has on the Rio Conchos, a tributary of the Rio Grande and the main source of water from Presidio south into Mexico.

"It speaks well of the quality of our environmental science and engineering program that four of our students were selected for a STAR Award," says Jorge Gardea Torresday, program director. "UTEP is certainly on the map with the EPA."

The EPA fellowship program, which provides the country's top student researchers with up to \$34,000 per year, encourages the scientists to obtain advanced degrees and pursue careers in environmental fields.

If we do not begin today to ensure that El Paso commits to far higher expectations and higher educational achievement of its people, and if we do not set higher standards for the kind of jobs that we intend to offer to residents of this region, we will be faced with the downward spiral of a Third World economy and the poor quality of life that accompanies it. A major university, with strong research and doctoral programs — and a reputation for excellence AND access — is critical to this community's future human and economic development.

Benefits to the State of Texas

Texas' per capita income lags significantly behind the national average.

Texas lags behind its peer states in the number of students who graduate with baccalaureate degrees.

Texas' population is fast-growing and increasingly diverse — nine of 10 new Texans will be members of minority populations, and 3/4 of the nine will be Hispanic.

Educational attainment among minorities in Texas lags seriously behind that of their Anglo counterparts.

Connecting these data points, a picture emerges of a state that is headed in the wrong direction in terms of both its human and economic development, a state whose future will be determined by its failure to invest in its human potential.

If Texas hopes to be competitive with other large states and expects to be able to participate successfully in the global economy, it must begin to do a far better job than it has in the past in educating the fastest-growing segment of its population: Hispanics. And the commitment must go far beyond mere access. Hispanics must have the same opportunities for a quality education, from pre-kindergarten through graduate school, as has

Beyond Our Own Backyard: What National Media Are Saying about UTEP

In its "Vanishing Freshman" article, which explored why one in four college freshmen do not return for their sophomore year, U.S. News and World Report recognized UTEP for its retention efforts that help students successfully continue their education.

The magazine cited the university's peer mentoring program, in which juniors and seniors mentor their freshman counterparts — providing moral support and helping them select classes and build study skills.

been provided to more affluent, typically Anglo, citizens of this state. Large urban universities in Texas, like UTEP, are especially well positioned to provide these quality educational opportunities. These universities are huge public assets that have been notably undercapitalized and underutilized. The time is long overdue for Texas to recognize and invest in these important assets and the large undereducated populations that they attempt to serve.

We believe that once the statewide higher education planners complete their work, they will conclude that an investment in excellence in public universities located in Texas' major urban centers will yield the greatest return in terms of the state's human and economic development.

The planners' review of the demographic data will reveal the robust growth in the state's population, and the significant portion of that growth that will be minorities, mostly Hispanics. Their consideration of educational achievement data will reveal that the fastest growing segment of the Texas population is also its most undereducated. They will recognize that Texas' traditional industries and its rural orientation will survive only as part of the Texas myth, not its reality. They will recognize that large urban centers represent the future of this state and its economy. And they will view the Texas public colleges and universities that are located in urban settings as its primary assets in fostering the state's future human and economic development.

Planners should recommend that the state make a significant investment in building excellence in public universities in the state's major urban centers — Dallas/Ft. Worth, Houston, El Paso and San Antonio — with the goal of raising them to a Tier One level within the next five to eight years. This investment in creating a new model of Tier One institutions — building excellence in contexts with a strong commitment to equity — will pay the state rich dividends. It will substantially leverage federal and private-sector funding, enabling Texas to compete far more aggressively with California and other large states for federal research and development funding. It will spawn the increased entrepreneurial activity often associated with competitive research universities. It will raise the educational level of populations concentrated in our major metropolitan areas, especially the fastest-growing minority populations, and attract new businesses and industries that require an educated workforce. Finally, and most importantly, it will enable Texas to reverse its downward educational and income spiral, and compete successfully in the global economy of the 21st century. ■

Recognition on the Riviera: Web Designer Downloads International Honor

by Sonny Lopez



Fuentes

Celina Fuentes is living a virtual dream.

The Juárez native recently returned from Cannes, France, where she was honored for her part in designing the Digital Media Center's Math Education Web site.

Fuentes, a senior graphic design student, was one of 15 students honored at the New Talent Competition Think Tank Summit of *Milia* 2001. The international competition attracts talented students to new media professions and showcases cutting-edge research and experimental ideas.

Fuentes' interactive and practical design for the Web-based math teaching tool was selected from nearly 100 interactive projects submitted from throughout the world. The innovative site (dmc.utep.edu/mouratt/) features a visual math section, which includes algebra, geometry, trigonometry and other equations that are resolved graphically in an interactive manner.

Time magazine praised UTEP for its community outreach programs in the 2000 edition of "The Best College for You," an annual college guide which is published with the Princeton Review. The editors listed UTEP among universities, including Yale, Brown, Stanford and Georgetown, that also received honorable mentions for their outreach activities.

When evaluating educational opportunities for Hispanics, USA Today reviewed UTEP's Mother-Daughter Program, which has encouraged thousands of sixth-grade girls and their mothers to complete their college degrees.

A Dallas Morning News feature on UTEP President Diana Natalicio explored how the university is addressing future educational needs in Texas by focusing on regional issues.

The Wall Street Journal and Boston Globe surveyed UTEP's cross-border educational opportunities for Mexican nationals. Nine percent of the university's students are from Mexico — most of whom commute daily from Ciudad Juárez.

While completing her doctorate at UTEP, Mary Hagan embarked on ground-breaking studies of how the brain controls hunger and weight. Her UTEP-supported research is advancing the world's understanding of bulimia and obesity.

The first graduates of the educational leadership doctoral program, including Socorro Superintendent Don Schulte, worked with faculty in the College of Education to develop dissertation research topics that provide the basis for practical solutions to critical issues facing El Paso's schools.

Through UTEP's borderlands history program, the first of its kind in the country, doctoral candidate and Bowie High School teacher Juan Sybert-Coronado mines rich archives at UTEP and elsewhere in El Paso and Mexico to explore how the Mexican Revolution changed the face of El Paso.

Carnegie Ranks UTEP among Top Universities

By Charles Ambler
Associate Vice President
for Graduate Studies

The research being conducted by UTEP's nearly 200 doctoral students represents a critical element in the transformation of UTEP into a major center for research serving the entire U.S.-Mexico border region.

The university's doctoral programs not only provide opportunities for advanced education in a region where such opportunities have been limited, but contribute to the broader development of UTEP's research potential.

UTEP's recent designation as a Carnegie doctoral institution is a major step in this process. Since 1970, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has classified all American universities by the type and number of degrees offered.

With the expansion of doctoral programs from a single degree in geological sciences a little more than a decade ago to the current 10 (including two cooperative programs), UTEP entered the ranks of recognized doctoral-granting institutions — fewer than 7 percent of the more than 3,700 U.S. colleges and universities.

UTEP has emerged into these elite ranks by pursuing a distinctive course of creating doctoral programs that are linked to regional opportunities and issues. Thus:

- environmental scientists and engineers from Mexico and the United States tackle shared regional issues;
- psychologists pose intellectual questions in cross-cultural terms; and
- pathobiologists uncover basic research that forms the foundation for resolving critical border-region health problems.

UTEP's designation as a doctoral institution is vital to the continued growth of the university and border community, providing critical opportunities for highly

advanced and specialized professional training.

The benefits reach beyond the university into the community, making it possible for UTEP to recruit highly talented faculty, who attract millions of dollars of external funding from agencies such as the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. UTEP's annual research expenditures, which exceed \$20 million, provide a critical stimulus to the local economy.

But, the stories of ground-breaking research and individual professional accomplishment continue to speak most eloquently of the importance of UTEP's doctoral programs.

Whether studying the career challenges facing women school superintendents or the complexities of algorithms and spectral resolution, UTEP's reputation as a national leader in educational access and excellence continues to grow.



Ambler

Doctoral Programs and Date of First Entering Classes

1974	Geology
1991	Computer Engineering
1993	Materials Science and Engineering
1993	Psychology
1995	Environmental Science and Engineering
1996	Educational Leadership and Administration
1997	Biological Sciences
1999	History

Cooperative Programs

1996	Pharmacy with UT Austin
2000	Nursing with UT Health Science Center at Houston

by Walli Haley

Songs of Life

Out of unspeakable tragedy there can be comfort and hope. For three families, heartbreaking loss led to establishing scholarships, to celebrate the lives of their loved ones.



Sarah Reiser

Laura Beard and Sarah Reiser were 17-year-old UTEP students when they died in a car accident four years ago. Musicians in a punk-rock band called "Rope," the two guitarists were known for their talent as much as their joy for living and helping others.

Sarah volunteered at the Shelter for Battered Women, and both young women supported feminist causes. The two vegetarians cooked food for the homeless, lent their equipment to other struggling musicians and dreamt of breaking into the music world.



Laura Beard

To celebrate their song of life, their parents established The Laura Beard and Sarah Reiser Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Presidential Scholarship will provide full tuition for an undergraduate music student each year.

"Music was their first love. Music united them. They would be glad to know that they are helping other musicians," says Marilu Beard, Laura's mother. "They had such a spirit of generosity."

Laura's father, David, describes creating the scholarship as "more than money. We want to help other people succeed."

Sarah's mother, Linda Reiser, says, "I am so happy that the scholarship has been established. I think Sarah would like it, because it's helping other students pursue their dreams. It's a fitting tribute to their lives."

Honoring a Hero

Synda Gordon, an attorney from Garland, Texas, lost both her parents when a leaky gas main near their house caused an explosion. Her parents, Albert Holbert and his wife Lillian, died just four months shy of their 60th wedding anniversary.

To honor her father, a World War II fighter pilot, who graduated from Texas Western College (now UTEP) in 1949 with a degree in metallurgy, Gordon established a \$50,000 endowed scholarship fund aimed at helping undergraduate engineering students.

"Daddy would be very happy about that," she says. "He was such a believer in education. He enjoyed his classes, liked his professors and received a good education. He and my mother talked frequently about UTEP and their friends there. It was a very special time for them."



Albert and Lillian Holbert

Noting that her father was a brilliant scientist (a metal processing procedure he developed was patented in 1976), Gordon adds, "He made good use of his education. He provided a good living for his family. He was a hero."

Though no pictures or other family memorabilia survived the tragedy, Gordon is creating a new legacy to offer hope and support, a fitting tribute to honor her father — one that will live on.

Pablo Arenaz:

Blueprinting Student Success



Associate Dean of Science and Engineering Pablo Arenaz (center), who was recently named associate vice president for academic affairs, has helped (from left) Katherine Rash, microbiology, Cesar Rodriguez, mechanical engineering, and Karina Franco, microbiology, feel connected to the university. These seniors are among the more than 1,200 scholars in an innovative program that offers students the tools they need to succeed from the moment they enter the university.

Each year hundreds of students step onto the UTEP campus with the goal of earning a degree in science or engineering — and it's Pablo Arenaz's job to help them succeed.

Arenaz, a 16-year veteran faculty member and associate dean of science and engineering, powers student success by infusing them with an enthusiasm for learning and for staying in school through the innovative Circles of Learning for Entering Students program. Clustered into groups of 25, new students take their math, English and introductory engineering or biology courses together.

Begun as a pilot project for entering science and engineering students in 1997, CircLES has been a catalyst for a universitywide effort aimed at retaining incoming freshmen: the Entering Student Program, which links five university services to build a strong foundation of support for students: undergraduate recruitment, new student orientation, undergraduate advising, academic programs and the Tutoring and Learning Center.

"We stress connection to the university by placing students in small groups, which makes it easier for them to make friends with their fellow students. We advise students and help them make decisions about their education and careers," says Arenaz, who holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology from the University of Nevada at Reno and who earned his Ph.D. in genetics and cell biology at Washington State University.

Hundreds of pre-engineering and pre-science students enter the program each year and are immediately paired with students and teams of faculty members following an intensive orientation.

The next step is careful advising. Arenaz leads a team of UTEP advisers who take inventory of students' strengths and weaknesses to determine if they have chosen the major best suited to their interests and abilities and are taking the required courses for their degrees.

"We try to make them feel connected to the university the first time they step on the campus," says Arenaz. Establishing relationships among students, their peers and professors increases the likelihood the scholars will stay in school.

Arenaz points with pride at the program's success, noting that at the end of the first year, the students' grade point averages are a half-point higher than other entering students. Participants gain confidence, and many serve as orientation leaders or conduct research in engineering and science laboratories. In addition to offering student support services,

the emphasis is on providing them with the tools they need to compete academically.

Arenaz juggles many balls to make it all work. He draws together faculty members from the English and math departments and from the colleges of Science and Engineering to work together to advise students. "It's a massive endeavor," he admits, noting there are currently 1,200 students in the program.

But the scholar turned student supporter is expressly qualified for this role. As director of the Louis Stokes UT System Alliance for Minority Participation, Arenaz works to boost the number of underrepresented minority students pursuing and successfully completing degrees in math, science and engineering. He works with faculty across the state at universities and community colleges to revise chemistry, math and physics courses.

The AMP program has reached some impressive goals, with about 15 percent of students from the UT System enrolling in graduate school. (This is significantly higher than the national average of 10 to 12 percent.)

Beyond the freshman year, Arenaz instituted second-year programs with colleges and universities to retain science and engineering students.

Arenaz, a nationally known researcher in cell and molecular biology, is a model for Hispanic students, himself. Arenaz points out that of all the science, math and engineering doctorates awarded in 1999, only about five percent were awarded to minorities, and he has been tapped several times to discuss this issue nationally.

With Hispanics emerging as the fastest-growing minority population in Texas, and with most demographers agreeing that the success or failure of the state economy depends on a well-educated citizenry, higher education of Hispanics is vital.

UTEP's programs are important steps in fulfilling that goal. Their success is evident in the number of freshmen who continue to stay in school.

"During the past three years, since we initiated the pilot program, we've seen a dramatic increase in first- and second-year retention of students in pre-science, math and engineering," Arenaz says.

"All the things we do for entering students, orientation, advising, and most of all, the learning communities in their first one to two semesters, helps the students feel bound to each other and the university," he says. "Because they have a network of peers they can depend on, they do better academically."

The program helps students focus on where they want to go and, by strengthening their ties to the university, the campus becomes a second home for them. ■

First-year UTEP Head Football Coach Gary Nord pauses during a tense moment on the sidelines. Nord was named 2000 WAC Coach of the Year after leading the program to its first Western Athletic Conference title in 44 years.



UTEP football players A.J. Sheppard, No. 23; Gabe Williams (back), No. 98; Jon Dorenbos, No. 47; and back-up quarterback Jon Schaper, No. 8, gather around a sick boy's bed during a visit to a Boise, Idaho, hospital.



A swarm of Miners tackle a Boise State University running back during the Crucial.com Humanitarian Bowl Dec. 23. UTEP lost the game 23-38, but the football program gained support for its 7-1 WAC record and an 8-4 overall mark.



Miner fans carry off a field goal post after uprooting the metal stake shortly before the end of the UTEP versus Rice University game. Officials called the game less than a minute before it ended when frenzied fans scampered onto the field and began toppling the posts, which they then carried to the top of the stadium and threw over the edge.



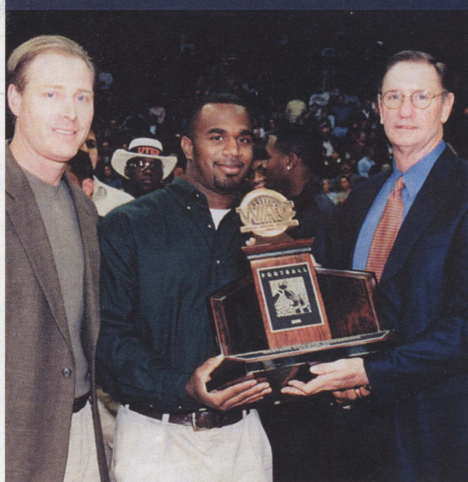
Season of F

Miners Dig in to Claim WAC Football

receiver Lee Mays, No. 7, jumps on All-American tight end Brian Natkin, No. 87, after Natkin grabbed a touchdown. The two receivers were a potent part of the UTEP offense that led the team to its first ever WAC championship.



UTEP head football Coach Gary Nord, Miner running back Chris Porter and Athletic Director Bob Stull pose with the Crucial.com Humanitarian Bowl Team Trophy at a ceremony in the Don Haskins Center.



promise

Championship!

by Sonny Lopez

ATHLETICS

IT MAY BE LITTLE MORE THAN A BLUR OF TOUCHDOWNS, TAILGATE PARTIES AND TROPHIES NOW.

But UTEP's championship season will live on in the memories of fans, in photographs and in a student-produced documentary.

Most importantly, it will live on in what's to come.

The 2000 football season began much like most others at UTEP — with a loss, actually a 14-55 loss at the hands of eventual national champion University of Oklahoma. A win at Southern Methodist University followed and then another loss. But then came a string of seven wins that would astonish, endear, amaze and fill the program with vigor and promise.

The championship season ended with a loss to Boise State University at the Crucial.com Humanitarian Bowl, but no one quotes the score — only the fact that UTEP was in post-season play.

Along the way, fans crowded into the Sun Bowl — selling out the stadium — accolades for coaches and players alike seemed to drop like manna from the heavens and the dream of better facilities came to fruition.

UTEP first-year Coach Gary Nord was named 2000 WAC Coach of the Year. Nord, who became head football coach Dec. 15, 1999, led the team to the university's first-ever WAC title and the first conference co-championship in 44 years.

In addition, 11 players earned All-WAC honors, topping a record of eight set in 1987. Tight end Brian Natkin, who was one of the All-WAC honorees, was named to his seventh All-America Team and was the only tight end in the nation to receive first team All-American selection.

As Miner Mania spread, support came from the man who in 1963 scored the first touchdown in the Sun Bowl — Larry K. Durham. The 1966 mathematics graduate, who donated \$5 million for a sports center, is only one of many who have invested in UTEP's football program.

The vitality has grown as next season approaches. No one knows what's to come, but the promise remains. **N**

2001 UTEP Emeriti

The status of **professor emeritus** is bestowed on retiring faculty who have demonstrated exceptional and meritorious service to the institution.

Gail Ackall,
associate
professor,
clinical
laboratory
sciences

Tommy Boley,
associate
professor,
English

Patricia Castiglia,
professor,
nursing

Kenneth Clark,
professor,
geological
sciences

David Hall,
professor,
philosophy
(posthumous)

Joan Manley,
professor,
languages and
linguistics

Gail Mortimer,
professor,
English

Eugene Schuster,
professor,
mathematical
sciences

Top 10 Seniors

The first female in her family to earn a college degree, **Olsa Alikaj** (3.67 GPA) will graduate in May with a



Alikaj

bachelor's degree in political science and linguistics. The Librazhd, Albania, native is an honors student and former president of the International

Student Organization. She received the International Student Leader of the Year award, the Outstanding International Undergraduate Student of the Year accolade and a Houston Endowment Honors Award.

Roberto Araiza (3.9 GPA) received his bachelor's degree in computer science in December. At UTEP, he was



Araiza

a teaching assistant, Webmaster, research assistant and math tutor. The Ciudad Juárez native was one of only 10 students nationwide to

receive the Microsoft National Minority Technical Scholarship. He also received the Houston Endowment Honors Award, the Security Capital Group Scholarship and the Artemio de la Vega Award.

Overcoming the culture shock of a new country, language and life style, German native **Sara Kuhn** (3.79 GPA)



Kuhn

excelled at UTEP and is graduating with honors in May. The marketing major is featured in *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and*

Colleges and is a U.S. Achievement Academy All-American Scholar. She is a member of the Mortar Board Honor Society, the Honors Council and the Golden Key National Honor Society.

Graduating One Year Early ... First Class of 2001 Grad Enters UTEP

By Sonny Lopez

The challenges just weren't coming fast enough for Charlie Potter, a laid-back teenager who graduated with a 3.6 GPA from Riverside High School last year.

So to challenge himself, he decided to graduate from high school a year early, making him the first member of the Class of 2001 to enroll at UTEP.

His early high-school exit also makes him the first of thousands of first graders, with whom UTEP officials met during its 75th Diamond Jubilee anniversary, to enter the university.

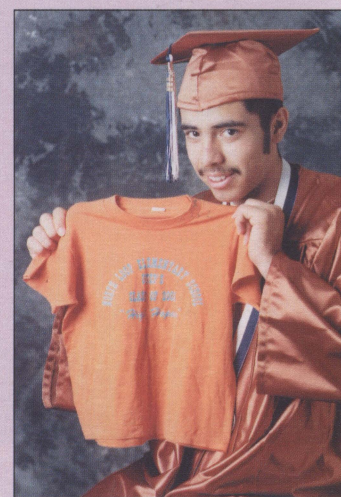
During the 1987-89 celebration, the university began to prepare for the Class of 2001 by visiting more than 80 elementary schools throughout El Paso County.

"I remember when UTEP students

and faculty came to my school and sang 'High Hopes' when I was a first grader," says Potter, who still has the little T-shirt university representatives gave him more than 10 years ago.

Today, the UTEP freshman health sciences major who plans on becoming a physical therapist balances a full-time academic schedule with a 30-hour-per-week job. The first in his family to attend college, he serves as a role model for his younger brother Chris, a sixth grader who loves watching his baritone-playing big brother perform with the Marching Miners at UTEP football games.

"From the band to my classes, I am having a great time at UTEP," Potter says. "I really got the challenge I was looking for."



From First Grader to College Freshman: Charlie Potter, a UTEP health sciences freshman, still has the little T-shirt he received when he was in the first grade as part of a university campaign to encourage school children to make college a priority.

Lisette Lerma (3.68 GPA) is a graduate of Bowie High School. She will graduate in May with a bachelor's honors degree in biology. The future public health educator has researched the effects of nopal, prickly pear cactus, on people with diabetes. Lerma participated in summer medical school programs at the University of Houston and New York University. Lerma was a peer facilitator for general biology and an orientation leader.



Lerma

Accounting and management student **Amelia Macias** (3.76 GPA) has shared the knowledge she



Macias

gained at UTEP with local children through mentoring and tutoring programs. The recipient of the Division of Student Affairs Recognition Award and the Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity Scholastic Achievement Award, she has achieved academic excellence and is graduating in May. She is a member of the university Honors Council, the Homecoming Committee and the Accounting Society.

Elena Madjarova (3.96 GPA) has shown her prowess in the classroom as well as on the tennis court. This finance student and tennis star, who will graduate in May, was named All-WAC Academic from 1997 to

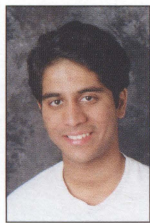


Madjarova

2000 and GTE Academic All-American. A member of the Honors Council, she is featured in *Who's Who Among Students in American*

Universities and Colleges and received the Women of Mines Award.

Krishna Reddy (4.0 GPA), who graduated from El Paso High School, will receive a bachelor's degree in microbiology in May. Selected to the Dean's List for each of the four years he has attended UTEP,



Reddy

Reddy was a U.S. Achievement Academy All-American Collegiate Scholars National and Houston Endowment award winner. He is president of Alpha Epsilon Delta and vice president of the Honors Council. He also volunteered for the Children's Advocacy Center and the Battered Women's Shelter.

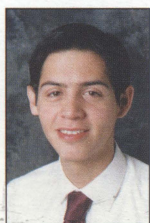
In 1994, **Rose E. Rodriguez** (3.4 GPA) faced life-altering events: the death of her father at the hands



Rodriguez

of a drunk driver, a crippling construction accident and the knowledge that cancer was ravaging her body. She received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in December. She plans to continue volunteering at the Cancer Foundation, driving for Columbia's Senior Citizen Program and tutoring at the Ysleta Independent School District.

Harvard-bound **Israel Silvas** (3.9 GPA) was a microbiology student when he enrolled at UTEP four years ago. An interest in law and a meeting with Robert Webking, director of the



Silvas

Center for Law and Border Studies, changed Silvas' path. He is graduating in May with a degree in political science. Silvas was accepted to many of the nation's other top law schools, including UT Austin, Duke, UC Berkeley and Columbia.

William Ernest Torres (3.7 GPA), who will receive a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in May, credits UTEP with not only helping him develop academically, but with

helping him grow as a person.

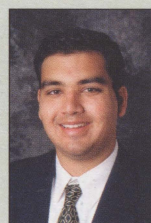


Torres

Torres received the Robert McKee Scholarship, the Texas Department of Education Byrd Scholarship and the National Collegiate Engineering Award, and was on the Dean's List from 1996 to 2000.

Top 10 Seniors

DIAMOND in the Rough



Edwards

Stephen Edwards (3.82 GPA), a microbiology student, earned the Presidential Excellence Scholarship. A member of the Marching Miners, Edwards performed before sold-out crowds at the Sun Bowl and at an NFL half-time show for the Dallas Cowboys. A participant in the UT Medical Branch at Galveston and Texas Tech University School of Medicine summer programs, Edwards will attend medical school following graduation.

Taking the Inside Track on the Fitness Fast Lane

For almost 20 years, **Brian Carter** has worked to maintain a healthy campus environment. As associate director of recreational sports, he is best known for his work with the UTEP Swimming and Fitness Center where, as the aquatics director, he is quick to help people with all of their fitness needs

the university's football, soccer, volleyball, basketball and track teams.

Carter shares his aquatic expertise with units across campus, from intramural sports and ROTC to health sciences. This fitness master also develops water conditioning programs for



Carter

Academics. Service. Achievement. UTEP Honors Best and Brightest

At Honors Convocation, UTEP President Diana Natalicio presented the Distinguished Achievement Awards, the highest honor bestowed upon faculty and staff members, for excellence in the areas of teaching, research and service to students and the university.

El Paso Corporate Foundation Award for Research Excellence Jorge Gardea Torresdey

Jorge Gardea Torresdey is a world-renowned expert on phytoremediation, an emerging branch of analytical chemistry that explores the use of plants to repair or revitalize areas of the environment that have been damaged by pollution.

In recognition of the importance of his work, the chair of UTEP's chemistry department and director of the environmental science and engineering doctoral program has been awarded in excess of \$4 million from federal agencies, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy and the National Institutes of Health.

Chancellor's Council Award for Teaching Excellence Kate Miller

A highly regarded scholar and researcher, Kate Miller is applauded by UTEP geology students for her innovative teaching techniques and deep commitment to enriching the academic experience.

Miller, associate professor and chair of the geological sciences department, has spearheaded the use of state-of-the-art technologies in UTEP's Undergraduate Learning Center, and has worked with her colleagues to employ these exciting new technologies in a most effective manner.

Distinguished Teaching Award for Non-Tenured and Part-Time Faculty Dorothy Ward

For more than 20 years, Dorothy Ward has served UTEP, both as a faculty member and administrator of highly successful programs in University Studies and the English Department. This compassionate and caring mentor has adapted new technologies and teaching methods to enrich the educational experience of students across our campus.

At the heart of her many accomplishments

is an approach to educational leadership that emphasizes cooperative learning and critical thinking, and that encourages an atmosphere in which both teachers and students are comfortable sharing ideas.

Distinguished Achievement Award for Service to the University by a Classified Staff Member Elizabeth Dahl

For eight years, Elizabeth Dahl has committed herself to student success. As the student development specialist in the Circles of Learning for Entering Students Program, she helps entering students master their all-important freshman-level courses that are critical to the rest of their college education.

Dahl provides valuable advice to cohorts of entering science and engineering students, helping them to successfully make the transition from high school to college. The CircLES program has had a positive impact on this campus, earning UTEP national recognition for achieving and maintaining a high retention rate for entering science and engineering students.

Distinguished Achievement Award for Service to the University by a Member of the Faculty Robert Webking

Robert Webking, political science professor, is well known as a passionate and effective teacher of political science, from large sections at the freshman level, to upper

division and graduate courses.

In 1998, he founded the Law School Preparation Institute with his colleague William Weaver. During the past three years, the institute has successfully prepared students to compete for admission to the nation's most prestigious law schools.

The number of UTEP students who are attending Top 50 law schools has tripled each year, and institute graduates have been accepted at eight of the nation's Top 10 law schools, including Harvard, NYU, Chicago, Duke, Michigan and Columbia.

Distinguished Achievement Award for Service to Students by a Professional Staff Member Beto Lopez

Throughout his 20-year tenure at the university, Beto Lopez has managed complex university affairs with admirable skill and great sensitivity. The assistant vice president for university relations has a deep understanding of the needs of UTEP's students, and a personal perspective on the struggles that many students, who are the first in their families to attend college, face every day.

Lopez has organized UTEP special events and projects, which range from graduations to international conferences to political debates. He has been instrumental in forging relationships between UTEP and external constituencies, and strengthening the bonds between the university, regional media outlets and the entire El Paso-Juárez community.



UTEP awarded top honors to faculty and staff members (from left) Jorge Gardea Torresdey, Kate Miller, Dorothy Ward, Elizabeth Dahl, Robert Webking and Beto Lopez.

Alumni Association Chapter Contacts

The Alumni Association is expanding, and we want you to be a part of our growing family. You can participate in chapters and groups across the United States. If you are interested in starting a chapter in your area, please contact the Alumni Relations Office.

Texas

Austin:

Agustín and Martha Chávez
512/255-7054
Martha_Chavez@RoundRockISD.org

Houston:

Charley Smith
281/495-5010
csmith-tex@worldnet.att.net

North Texas:

Michael E. Quimbey
972/888-7370
Michael.quimbey@clubcorp.com

San Antonio:

Abigail Negron
210/706-2970

Arizona

Hector Yturralde
480/391-3284
Hyturralde@aol.com

California

Inland Valley:

Charlie Brown
909/302-2364

Los Angeles:

Lou Moreno
562/433-3998
lmoreno5@earthlink.net

San Diego:

Emma Ciriza
619/282-4741
eciriza@aol.com

Northeast

Maryland:

John Trollinger
301/695-6188
Dixie@prodigy.net

Washington, D.C.:

Ruth Martinez
202/401-6226
ruth_martinez@ed.gov

Mexico

Chihuahua:

Ing. Agustín Horcasitas Cano
(011-52-1) 418-20-43

Juárez:

José Manuel Mascareñas
(011-52-16) 12-31-75

**2000 Alumni
Association
President
Tom Meece
passes the gavel
to 2001
President
Pamela Pippen**



Did You Know?

Did you know current and retired university faculty members can join the UTEP Alumni Association?

Did you know ex-students can join the association even if they did not complete their degree at UTEP?

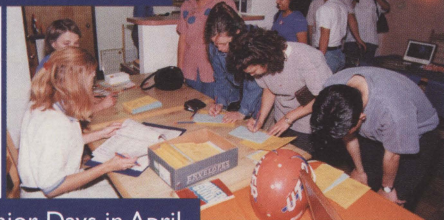
By joining the UTEP Alumni Association, you can help support projects and activities such as Homecoming, Senior Days, Teachers' Appreciation Day and Season of Lights. Your membership also allows you to enjoy discounts and join us for members-only special events such as pre-game parties.

To join the Alumni Association, or to renew your membership, please send a \$25 check payable to:

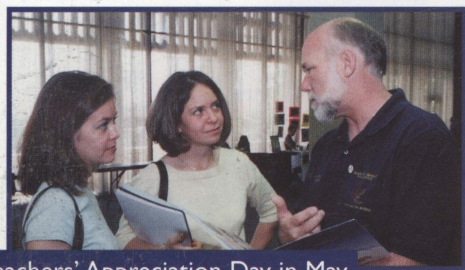
**UTEP Alumni Association
de Wetter Center
500 W. University Ave.
El Paso, TX 79968-0724**

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2001, Oct. 15-20. Look for more details in the next issue of NOVA Quarterly.



Senior Days in April



Teachers' Appreciation Day in May

Interested in working on a class reunion?
Contact the Alumni Relations Office at:
alumni@utep.edu
800/687-8004 or 915/747-8600

NEWS ABOUT You...

Do you ever wonder what happened to your ex-classmates and friends? We're sure many 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. Send us an e-mail at alumni@utep.edu or fill out this form (or attach additional pages as needed) and send to:

**Alumni Relations Office
de Wetter Center
500 West University Ave.
El Paso, Texas 79968-0724**

Name _____
Year Graduated _____ Degree _____
Address _____

YOUR NEWS _____

50s

Lorenzo G. LaFarelle (M.A. '56) UTEP's Chicano studies program lecturer, was included in the sixth edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers 2000*, which honors the top 2.5 percent of the nation's college teachers. The Texas Senate also honored LaFarelle by issuing a proclamation.

James M. Peak (B.A. '58) received the Outstanding Fund-Raising Executive award from the El Paso chapter of the National Society of Fund-Raising Executives.

60s

Robert Z. Segalman (B.A. '65) is the founder of Speech-to-Speech, a telephone service for people with speech disabilities.

Chance Williams (B.A. '63) retired after a 33-year career that included working at CBS News in Los Angeles, the University of Arizona and as Pacific Region manager for Southern California Gas Co.

70s

Jeff Bale (B.S. '77), a senior partner in the Houston admiralty and maritime law firm of Eastham, Watson, Dale & Forney L.L.P., was named chair of the Admiralty Law Committee of the Defense Research Institute, a national corporate and insurance law defense organization.

Frances Forster (B.A. '71) completed her master of ministry at Earlham College's School of Religion, a Quaker College in Indiana. She is now enrolled in the chaplaincy program at the University of California at San Francisco.

Stanley E. Green (B.A. '77), commanding general of Fort Bliss and the U.S. Army Air Defense Center in El Paso, was promoted to the rank of two-star major general.

Philip R. Martinez (B.A. '79) was selected as Burges High School's Outstanding Ex-Student for 2000. He was honored during halftime ceremonies at the homecoming game. He serves as judge of the 327th District Court in El Paso and has been chair of the El Paso County Juvenile Board since 1991.

Evelyn Posey (B.A. '74; M.A. '81), associate vice president for instructional design and technology integration at UTEP, received the YWCA of El Paso's REACH Award in the executive category.

Byron Sandford (B.A. '70; M.Ed. '72) joined the staff of the William Penn House, a Quaker retreat center, in Washington, D.C.

80s

Mary Jane Aiken (M.S. '81) is vice president of operations at Advanced Waste Management Systems Inc., an environmental engineering company in Tennessee. She also received certification as a Vessel Safety Examiner for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and was appointed the environmental

protection officer for her flotilla.

Minerva Baumann (B.A. '81) is director of communications for the Socorro Independent School District.

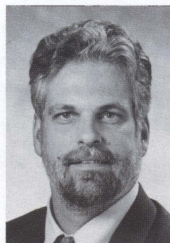
Bill Czubaja (B.S. '80) was promoted to senior special agent at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Police in Chicago.

Andres S. Enriquez (B.S. '89), a board certified physician in family medical practice, has established a family medicine and urgent care clinic on El Paso's Westside.

Leslie S. Hutchens (B.B.A. '89) received the YWCA of El Paso's REACH Award in the professional category.

Jan McClelland Glasscock King (M.Ed. '80) received the Teacher of the Year Award from Lamar Elementary School in El Paso.

Millennium Speakers



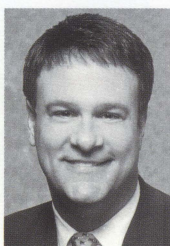
Rohack

UTEP 1976 honors psychology graduate **James Rohack** returned to his El Paso roots to present "Health Care Delivery in the New Millennium." The Texas Medical Association President and senior staff cardiologist with the Scott and White Clinic is a national authority on the financing and delivery of health care.



Porras

Jerry Porras, business professor at Stanford University, presented "Enduringly Great Companies: How They Operate and Why They Succeed." The 1960 Texas Western College electrical engineering graduate is the author of the acclaimed book, *Built to Last: Successful Habits of Visionary Companies*.



Cohen

Henry "Hank" Cohen, president of MGM Television Entertainment, discussed his entertainment industry career in "From Miner Hall to MGM: A Conversation with Hank Cohen." The 1978 mass communications graduate leads all phases of television development at MGM.

Darron L. Powell (B.S. '80; M.S. '83) is an associate at Kemp Smith, P.C., where he practices corporate and taxation law.

Pilar Williams (B.S.N. '85) is the manager of infection control and employee health at Del Sol Medical Center in El Paso.

90s

Victor Barroteran (B.B.A. '94) was promoted to business banker of real estate for Wells Fargo Bank in El Paso.

Cindy Conroy (B.A. '97; M.A. '00) served as co-chair for the YMCA of El Paso's 3rd annual Border Fund Fall Festival.

Ofelia Aguilar Dominguez (B.A. '93; M.A. '95), coordinator of UTEP's Undergraduate Learning Center, was elected chair of the university's Staff Council.

Ivan Iñiguez (B.S. '99), owner of the American Kenpo Karate Academy in El Paso, earned a second-degree black belt in Kenpo Karate.

Mary B. Kidd (B.A. '95) received the YWCA REACH Award in the marketing and sales category.

William Leff, chair of the Insurance Relations Committee for the Texas Chiropractic Association, is the environmental committee chair for the Five Points Development Association.

LaRae Lundgren (M.A. '99) is the interim director of UTEP's Academic Advising Center.

Richard Rubio (B.S. '98) is attending Stanford Medical School.

Mary H. Perea Starz (B.A. '90) is associate chair of curriculum and instruction at Texas Southern University. She also was chosen to join the American Association of University Women's delegation to Cuba in February.

Ronald Telles (M.B.A. '95) was promoted to chief of the Community Operations Division for Fort Bliss Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

OBITS

Dan Jerry Ramsdale (B.S. '64) Sept. 12, 2000. Ramsdale, a resident of New Orleans, was an expert in underwater and atmospheric acoustic research. During his career, he held several positions for civilian corporations and branches of the military, including director of acoustic research for Globe Universal Sciences and independent consultant for the Los Alamos National Laboratory. He was active in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the American Institute of Physics. He was a member of Sigma Pi Sigma and the Society of Sigma Xi.

Jerrold Maurice Ravel (B.A. '70) Sept. 23, 2000. Ravel was a telecommunications salesman and a longtime resident of El Paso.

Henry H. Mason (B.A. '51; M.A. '52) Oct. 8, 2000. Mason served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. After the war, he

returned to El Paso and enrolled at Texas Western College (now UTEP). He taught in the El Paso and Ysleta Independent School Districts and also served as assistant principal and principal. Mason retired in 1976.

Retired Lt. Col. Bernard "Ben" C. Rulong (B.S.Ed. '75) Oct. 11, 2000. He was a 35-year resident of El Paso and a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He retired from the U.S. Army after more than 20 years of service and received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

Kay W. Hickman Terry (B.A. '74) Oct. 12, 2000. Terry was an associate professor of elementary education at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. She served on the National Council for Social Studies and the Association of Teacher Educators. She co-authored articles on the use of children's literature in the classroom. Most recently, Terry edited and contributed to an ATE publication on *Democracy in the Classroom*, currently in press. She was an alumna of the Delta Alpha Chapter of Kappa Delta Sorority and was a member of Alpha Chi, Phi Alpha Theta, Phi Delta Kappa, Kappa Delta Pi and Phi Kappa Phi.

Barbara Rachelle Ratcliffe (M.Ed. '87) Oct. 14, 2000. Ratcliffe was a teacher for the El Paso Independent School District and a longtime resident of El Paso.

Gustavo E. Cordova (B.S.C.E. '52) Oct. 15, 2000. Cordova was a structural engineer for 48 years and was a member of the Structural Engineers Association.

Beatrice R. Gumper (B.S.Ed. '72) Oct. 15, 2000. Gumper, a resident of Forest Grove, Ore., taught in numerous El Paso schools.

Adriana Cruz (B.A. '98) Oct. 21, 2000. Cruz was a lifelong resident of El Paso and worked as a specialist with Child Protective Services.

Graciela Castaneda Ramirez (B.S.Ed. '75; M.Ed. '81) Oct. 22, 2000. Ramirez was a retired teacher for the Ysleta Independent School District.

Theodore R. Wright (B.B.A. '71; M.Ed. '75) Oct. 22, 2000. The longtime resident of El Paso was a U.S. Army master sergeant, a training specialist and a Korean War veteran.

Jeanne M. French (B.S.Ed. '71) Oct. 23, 2000. French taught English for 27 years for the El Paso Independent School District at Jefferson High School, Terrace Hills Middle School and Burges High School. She was instrumental in initiating the Inner City Outings Program of the Sierra Club at Jefferson High School, and was the co-founder of the *Thoreau Literary Magazine* and club. She established a scholarship fund for Burges High School and the Jeanne Marie French and Dorothy Haslett Endowment Scholarship Fund for Jefferson

High School students. Following her retirement, she worked with the Cancer Consortium of El Paso to create a volunteer program for high school students.

Talbert Wong (B.B.A. '72) Oct. 23, 2000. A resident of Rowlett, Texas, Wong served in the U.S. Air Force in Korea during the Vietnam War. He was a certified anesthesia technologist and a registered massage therapist, and was employed by Medical City Dallas Hospital for 16 years. A marathon runner, he completed the White Rock and the New York marathons.

Barbara Hart Willis (B.S.Ed. '66) Oct. 24, 2000. Willis, a resident of Dallas, lived in El Paso for 47 years. After retiring as a speech pathologist and special education administrator with the El Paso Independent School District, she continued teaching at UTEP and at the El Paso Community College. She also taught in China. She was a member of the El Paso Museum of Art and the El Paso Retired Teachers Association.

Frances Tiffany (B.S. '82) Oct. 28, 2000. Tiffany, formerly of El Paso, was a longtime resident of College Station, Texas.

Charlotte Massey (B.A. '43) Nov. 2, 2000. Massey was the granddaughter of El Paso pioneer Zach T. White. She was past president of the Junior League of El Paso, past president of the Crockett School P.T.A. and past president of the Coronado Golf Ladies-Coronado Country Club.

Carlos David Bombach (B.S.M.I. '48) Nov. 4, 2000. Bombach, a lifelong resident of El Paso, was a World War II veteran. A second lieutenant, he served in the 486th Bomber Group with the 8th Air Force as a B17 bomber pilot stationed in England conducting bombing missions over Germany. He received the Air Medal of Honor and the Five Oak Leaf Cluster. He worked for Zia Co. in Los Alamos, N.M., and oversaw the City of El Paso's building services, sanitation and public works. Bombach, Bowie High School's 1973 Outstanding Ex-Student, was voted Most Popular Boy, named All State Football Player and was a lieutenant colonel in the R.O.T.C. Program.

William R. Weatherspoone (M.S. '75) Nov. 8, 2000. Weatherspoone was a computer specialist and a resident of El Paso for more than 30 years.

Edith Schell Zanker (B.A. '36; M.A. '58) Nov. 13, 2000. Zanker taught special education classes at UTEP from 1960 to 1971. In 1970, she was chosen as First Lady of Beta Sigma Phi in recognition of her work in the field of mental retardation. She was a member of the city, state and national Association for Retarded Citizens and a member of the El Paso Community Foundation. Zanker retired after 25 years as director of Memorial Park Schools for Retarded Children.

Thomas Gerard Tullius (B.S.M.E. '83) Nov. 15, 2000. Tullius was a project engineer and

U.S. Air Force deputy to the commanding general at White Sands Missile Range.

John Floodberg (B.A. '52) Nov. 19, 2000. Floodberg of Tucson, Ariz., was a longtime math teacher in El Paso.

Frances Kroemer (M.A. '55) Nov. 22, 2000. Kroemer was a longtime El Paso resident and a retired supervisor with El Paso public schools.

Jay Cousins Best (B.A. '53) Nov. 24, 2000. A U.S. Navy veteran and longtime El Pasoan, he retired from the El Paso Natural Gas Co. after 33 years.

Robert Carl Carlson (B.A. '41) Nov. 27, 2000. Carlson, a resident of Alexandria, Va., was a retired analytical engineer.

Vernie A. Stemberge (B.A. '43) Dec. 1, 2000. Stemberge, an El Paso native, was chair emeritus of the pathology department at the UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. He was named UTEP's Outstanding Ex-Student in 1978. In 1991, the UT System Board of Regents named him an Ashbel Smith Professor, one of its highest honors. Stemberge was instrumental in developing the pathology program at UT Southwestern and Parkland Memorial Hospital, and served as chair of the medical school pathology department. He received the Legion of Merit, the nation's second-highest peacetime award, for advancing aircraft safety through autopsies of crash victims.

Christine E. Hurt (B.S.N. '80) Dec. 4, 2000. Hurt was a retired registered nurse, a volunteer at William Beaumont Army Medical Center and a U.S. Army veteran.

Mary Hilma Joyce (M.Ed. '71) Dec. 10, 2000. Joyce, a longtime El Paso resident, was a teacher with the El Paso Independent School District, where she was instrumental in developing the Distributive Education Program. She received many awards from civic organizations and was listed in *Who's Who of American Women* in 1997-1998.

Aubrey E. Shelley (B.S.Ed. '65) Dec. 11, 2000. Shelley was a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, a teacher and a longtime resident of El Paso.

Stella Lee Fortenberry Sevier (M.A. '56) Dec. 17, 2000. Sevier retired from the Ysleta Independent School District and tutored at Eastwood Christian School. She was the recipient of the Ysleta Teacher of the Year Award, was named the Outstanding Teacher of El Paso, received the Eagle Award at Ascarate Elementary School, and was included in *Who's Who Among American Teachers*. Sevier was the El Paso Political Caucus' Woman of the Year and was inducted into Ysleta's Retired Teachers Hall of Fame for 39 years of service.

Silvia Olivia Zapata (B.A. '89) Dec. 18, 2000. Zapata was a teacher at Father Yermo High School and a U.S. Air Force veteran. She was a longtime resident of El Paso.

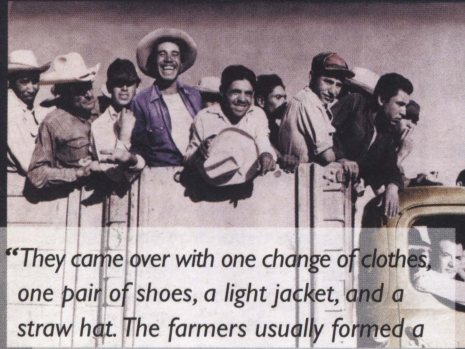
Paso al Norte

Immigration History Museum
Museo de la Historia de la Inmigración

The story of immigration across the Mexican border to and from the United States is as varied as the people who made the difficult journey.

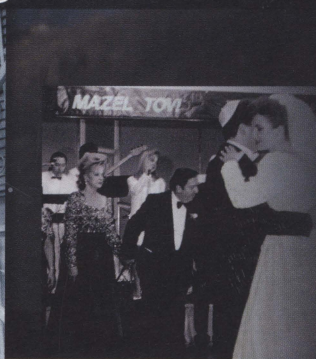
UTEP's Institute of Oral History has captured many of these immigration histories that will ultimately be featured in the planned Paso al Norte Immigration History Museum — an international project spearheaded by the university.

Individual and family histories will form the foundation of the museum. To preserve this vital history, we need your help in identifying and providing documents, archives, photos and other memorabilia — as well as the oral histories of individuals to enhance UTEP's already nationally established collections. For more information, call 915/747-5238.



"They came over with one change of clothes, one pair of shoes, a light jacket, and a straw hat. The farmers usually formed a group of 50 to 60 of them, and they would see to it that the braceros had housing, bedding, medical care and food."

— Jose Roman Jr.



All photos courtesy of the UTEP Library, Special Collections, and the Morales-Serna Project.

NOVA

Q U A R T E R L Y

The University of Texas at El Paso
500 W. University Ave.
University Communications
El Paso, Texas 79968-0522

5-DIGIT 79902
SID #43022
Prof. Jean Miculka
4800 N Stanton St Unit 75
El Paso TX 79902-1226