

Winter 2001

Nova Quarterly: The University of Texas at El Paso

The University of Texas at El Paso University Communications

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/nova>

Recommended Citation

The University of Texas at El Paso University Communications, "Nova Quarterly: The University of Texas at El Paso" (2001). NOVA. 101.
<http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/nova/101>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the UTEP History Resources at DigitalCommons@UTEP. It has been accepted for inclusion in NOVA by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UTEP. For more information, please contact lweber@utep.edu.

WINTER 2001

N OVA

Q U A R T E R L Y

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO





This issue's From the President is a guest column by Adair Margo, a member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Last year the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board released a 15-year plan called *Closing the Gaps*, outlining the four most critical challenges facing Texas in the next 15 years. They are to:

- **Close the Gaps in Participation**, adding 500,000 more students by 2015;
- **Close the Gaps in Success**, increasing by 50 percent the number of degrees, certificates and other identifiable student successes from high-quality programs;
- **Close the Gaps in Excellence**, increasing the number of recognized programs or services at colleges and universities; and
- **Close the Gaps in Research**, increasing the level of federal science and engineering research funding to Texas institutions by 50 percent.

As an El Pasoan, it pleases me that UTEP was progressing towards these goals before they were defined by the state. The university recognized early the changing demographics of El Paso and determined to serve our community well, reaching out to first-generation college students who often juggle family and work obligations. UTEP also was early in establishing collaborations with our public school systems, elevating expectations and the preparation of all students to attend college through the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence.

Rejecting views that a university cannot be both accessible and excellent, UTEP promises its students greater opportunity, and delivers. Building on a strong undergraduate education, it has increased its master's and doctoral programs substantially and attracted federal research dollars at a rate higher than the state's top research institutions. UTEP has been courageous to forge its own path, contributing a fresh voice to the national dialogue on education. President Diana Natalicio's presence is sought on the nation's most prestigious boards and commissions, including the National Science Foundation, RAND and President Bush's Transition Team for Education.

As a frequent campus visitor to areas as diverse as the art galleries, the Institute for Policy and Economic Development, and research labs, I see firsthand evidence of UTEP closing the gaps in participation, success, excellence and research. I hope those interested in seeing for themselves will call me or Dr. Natalicio for a campus visit.

— Adair Margo

Chairman, Committee on Institutional Effectiveness and Excellence
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

NOVA

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

CONTENTS

VOLUME 38, NO. 2; NO. 148

Editor: **Cindie M. Powell**
Assistant Editor: **Heather Feldman**
Contributing Editor: **Catherine Dunn**
Art Director: **Bobby Daniels**
Staff Writers: **Walli Haley** and **Sonny Lopez**
Graphic Designers: **John Downey**, **Phillip Flores**
and **Paul Huereque**
Production: **Kathleen Thorpe**
Photography Director: **Laura Trejo**
Photographer: **Javier Vicencio**

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. 2; No. 148

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.

FEATURES

2 THE GAME OF ENROLLMENT

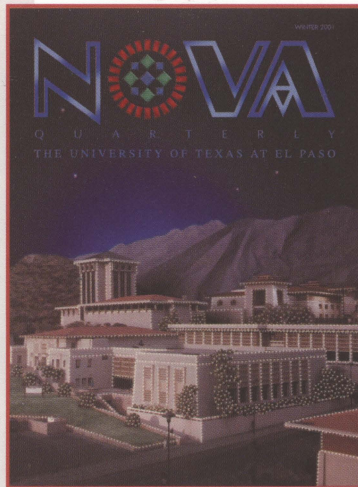
From recruitment to retention, the new University College team sends UTEP's enrollment numbers climbing.
By Heather Feldman and Cindie M. Powell

8 THE STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY

The year 2001 was a milestone in UTEP's recent history. From increased research funding to new educational opportunities, President Diana Natalicio reflects on the university's successes and the road ahead.
By Diana Natalicio

18 THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

The UTEP and El Paso communities gather for the university's annual Season of Lights celebration.



ON THE COVER

UTEP becomes a magical winter wonderland of lights as the holiday season unfolds on campus.

Cover design by John Downey.

DEPARTMENTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board member Adair Margo highlights UTEP's trailblazing approach to meeting the state's higher education goals.

6 FACULTY PROFILE:

From Student Survival to Student Success

As director of University Studies, Dorothy Ward helps students learn the skills they need to succeed in the first critical year of college — and in life.
By Catherine Dunn

14 ATHLETICS

They've had some rough early season matchups, but UTEP's men's and women's basketball squads have high hopes for a strong showing this season.

15 HIGHLIGHTS

HENAAC meets at UTEP for third year ... UTEP connects with Juárez university via Internet 2 ... Army ROTC Hall of Fame honors alums ... Pharmacy students return to El Paso to finish doctoral studies.

17 PROFILES IN GIVING:

A Grand Legacy

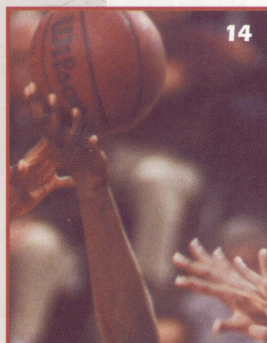
With the largest single gift in UTEP's history, the late Harriet and John Leslie "Les" Dodson ensured that there will always be educational opportunities for area young people.
By Walli Haley

19 ALUMNEWS

By Doreen Black

20 ALUMNOTES

What ever happened to...? *NOVA Quarterly* brings its readers closer to the alumni with whom they shared a campus.
Compiled by Ana-Maria Valero and Howard Rigg



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

The Game of Enrollment

University College Team Helps Students Cross The Finish Line

By Heather Feldman
and Cindie M. Powell

Rosemarie Camacho was on her way to a private college in Georgia, complete with a volleyball scholarship, when UTEP admissions counselor Ruben Alarcon walked into her Parkland High School English class last year.

Armed with a handful of UTEP applications and information on programs and financial aid, Alarcon fielded questions and described the opportunities waiting for potential freshmen at El Paso's hometown university.

"I saw all the things that UTEP had to offer and decided to apply," says Camacho, a freshman communication major. "It was encouraging to know that someone at UTEP was there to help you out."

Establishing a connection early with future UTEP students, Alarcon and his colleagues in Undergraduate Admissions and Recruitment are the front line of a team that also includes faculty and staff from the Registrar's Office, Financial Aid, New Student Orientation, the Tutoring and Learning Center, Student Assessment and Testing, the Academic Advising Center, University Studies, and the Visitor's Center.

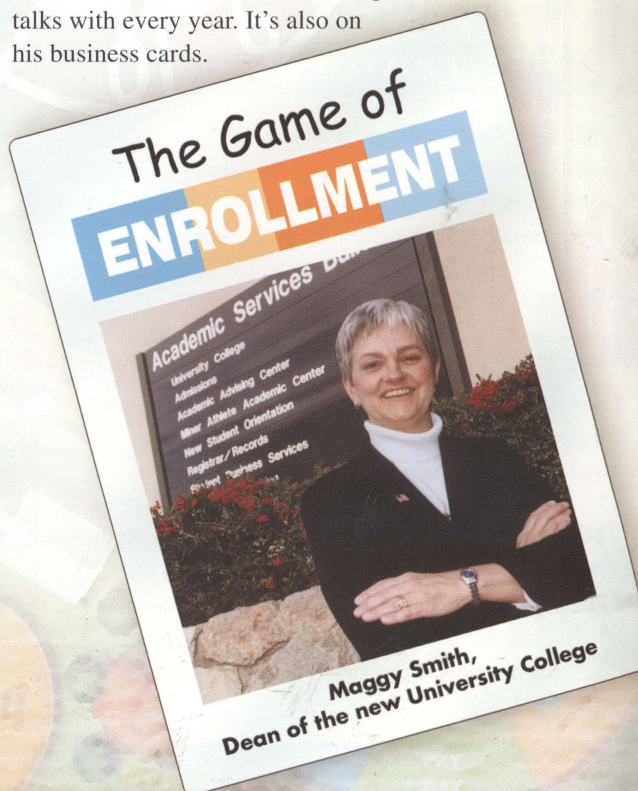
Under the umbrella of the newly established University College, each component is creating innovative new ways to streamline the admissions, enrollment and registration process — bringing students to UTEP and keeping them here.

"Having everybody around the table — the academic people and the folks from non-academic departments — opened things up so easily and naturally," says Maggy Smith, dean of the new University College. "For the final phase of enrollment, the last few weeks before classes started, we were trouble-shooting on a daily basis — how many students are still coming, how many classes are available, how we can get more seats — and it was a seamless process because we're all in the same unit."

The teamwork paid off. Fall 2001 enrollment at UTEP increased by almost 1,000 more students than fall 2000, and student retention is climbing.

First Contact

Ruben Alarcon is a UTEP alumnus. It's something he tells each of the hundreds of high-school students he talks with every year. It's also on his business cards.



The Game of ENROLLMENT



**Irma Rubio, Director of Undergraduate
Admissions and Recruitment**

"I tell them my story — one student to another," Alarcon says. "I think it makes a difference."

As UTEP admissions counselors, Alarcon and his colleagues often are the first contact high school students have with the university. Strengthening the direct link between student and counselor, this year University Admissions and Recruitment expanded their efforts by assigning each admissions counselor to a specific region. Counselors make monthly contact with students in their region, establishing a connection that continues throughout the admissions process.

Counselors also hold office hours at the El Paso Community College Valle Verde campus' Transfer Center and host a Transfer Fair during each long semester to connect with EPCC students planning to continue their studies at UTEP.

The result has been an increase in applications and, ultimately, in enrollment. More than 7,000 applications were processed this year — a 6 percent increase over last year.

"We had high schools that had 100 percent application rates," says Irma Rubio, director of Undergraduate Admissions and Recruitment. "We've certainly been able to communicate in a much better way with prospective students."

The Academic Advising Center also made some changes, reorganizing the way student advising is done by relying more on full-time advisers and advising students by appointment.

"Getting students in on an appointment basis has really helped. They are assigned to a particular adviser and get to know them at orientation, which makes a big difference," says Patricia Caro, interim director of the

Academic Advising Center. "We also send out fliers to students about when appointments will begin."

Miguel Sifuentes, the university registrar, expanded efforts in his office to help students with course availability problems get the courses they need.

"The organization of the University College has given us the opportunity to become part of the academic side of the house," says Sifuentes. "We can work closely with the department chair or the dean to see how they might be able to assist us by increasing the class capacity or by creating another section."

The Registrar's Office traditionally calls students to remind them of payment deadlines. This year a telephone message was broadcast to students' home numbers, and the office plans to use the e-mail broadcasting system in the spring.

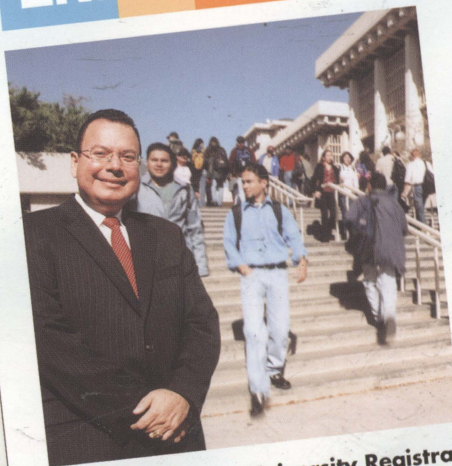
Technology is playing an increasingly important role in the enrollment process, especially in the Student Assessment and Testing Office, which implemented computer-based testing and a new electronic registration system for the first time this year.

"The way it used to work, students would take a test and it would take two weeks to get their results," says Tammie Aragón Campos, director of Student Assessment and Testing. "The computer-based tests are scored in less than 15 minutes, and students can walk away with all of the scores they need to register."

Campos, whose office administered 30,000 tests last year, says they have been working with UTEP's Information Technology Office to implement a new scoring system for placement tests and institutional admission exams that breaks down the test to let students know their strengths and weaknesses.

Campos offers an illustration: "Now, if a student takes a math placement test, the new system can tell them if they are soft on fractions. The student can go to tutoring, work on fractions, and come back and take the test again."

The Game of ENROLLMENT



Miguel Sifuentes, University Registrar

Streamlining the enrollment and admissions process has had positive results throughout the University College and continues to contribute to a growing student population.

"It has been wonderful to see this team come together," Smith says. "They just want students' lives to be easy, they want to take away the barriers as much as possible, and we're working really hard to do that."

Of Camp and Classes

When Tony Ely came to UTEP for New Student Orientation this summer, he didn't know a soul.

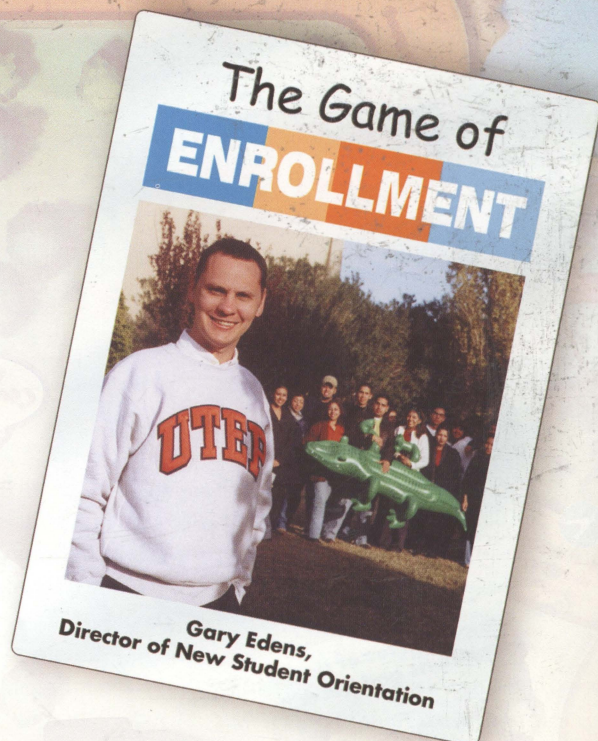
The freshman business major had just moved from his native Michigan to El Paso with his family, leaving behind longtime friends and his plans to attend a Kalamazoo college.

Alone at a new school in a new town, Ely signed up for UTEP's Gator Camp, joining other new students for an overnight stay in the dorms and participating in Gator Camp activities such as a lip-synching contest, a pool party at the Swimming and Fitness Center, and a midnight tour of the campus by flashlight.

"I didn't expect it to be so much fun," Ely says. "I met a lot of people at Gator Camp, which made starting classes a lot easier."

Gator Camp is one of the ways New Student Orientation makes the transition to college less stressful for students. This year, Orientation increased the number, size and times of its sessions. Between June and August, the office now offers seven sessions for freshmen and three for transfer students.

More than 3,000 students attended orientation last year, and as the program continues to expand to accommodate increased enrollment, students will find orientation programs to suit their specific needs.



Gary Edens,
Director of New Student Orientation

One example is a required one-week orientation program for engineering and science majors that gives students a review of the basics in each discipline and includes a team-building project. Students also meet faculty from both colleges, receive academic advising and register for classes.

Transfer students attend a one-day, UTEP-specific orientation session focused entirely on introducing them to a new campus rather than addressing issues related to college life.

"We are getting to the point where we are offering orientation programs for everyone's tastes — there is something for everyone," says Gary Edens, director of New Student Orientation. "When we can make the transition to UTEP smoother and less troublesome, we always see an increase in admissions and, more importantly in my view, greater satisfaction with our university."

University Life: An Introduction

Hand in hand with the university's enrollment programs are retention efforts, including the Entering Student Program, which combines the resources of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs to build a foundation of support for new students and encourages them to continue their education.

In an article last year, *U.S. News and World Report* revealed that one in four freshmen nationally do not return to college for their sophomore year. The story recognized UTEP for its retention efforts, including the Entering Student Program.

The cornerstone of the program is University 1301, a mandatory introductory core course for freshmen



Tammie Aragón Campos, Director of Student Assessment and Testing, and Patricia Caro, Interim Director of the Academic Advising Center

structured to enhance their critical-thinking and study skills. Classes are small, with 25 students at most, to encourage interaction between students and faculty, and course section themes range from pop culture to neighborhood preservation. Student peer leaders serve as mentors in each section, building relationships and encouraging students during their first and most crucial year at the university.

This year the program will offer more than 100 University 1301 sections, up from 85 the year before.

"The courses are intended to help students get a good start at the university," says Dorothy Ward, director of the University Studies program, which includes the University 1301 seminar course.

"Dramatically increasing the number of sections this year allows more students to learn about the university and make connections with faculty, and ultimately increases their chances of success."

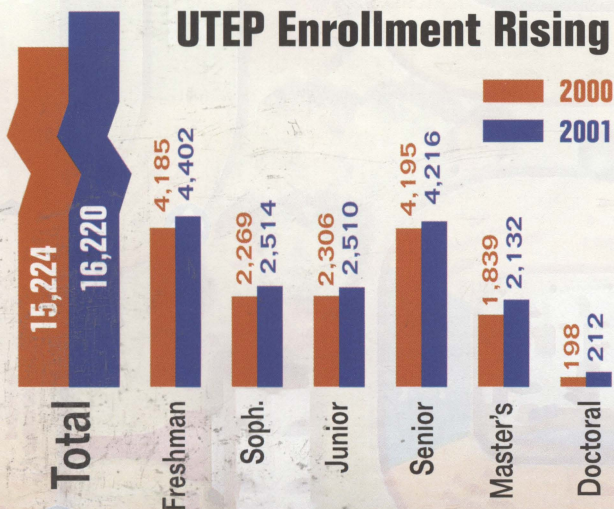
The program already has contributed to students staying in school — UTEP's first-year retention rate is 70 percent, the highest among peer institutions.

Ely, the newcomer from Michigan, is enrolled this semester in the University 1301 seminar, participating in team-building activities and learning his way through his freshman year.

He is among those who will be back for sophomore year. He plans to take the yearlong leadership training program to become a peer leader, coming full circle to be a mentor to students just like him in the freshman seminar course.

"I believe the college experience is what you make of it," says Ely. "UTEP gives you a lot of opportunities and tools to make it successful and fun, and I plan to." ■

UTEP Enrollment Rising



The University College's recruitment and retention efforts have been tremendously successful — fall enrollment increased by nearly 1,000 students.

Innovative Graduate Programs Draw Working Professionals Back to School

Tuesday night in the conference room of a windowless building at the Boeing complex on Railroad Drive, 20 employees are deep in discussion about the Equal Pay Act and how to measure job worth.

This group of engineers, accountants and managers isn't negotiating pay raises. They are part of a unique collaboration between The Boeing Company and UTEP's College of Business Administration that is helping the largest aerospace company in the world build better business people.

Tuesday night's human resource management course is just one of 12 classes Boeing students are completing to earn a Master of Business Administration degree — without ever leaving their office building.

For Debbie Koch, a human resources manager at Boeing, carving out time from paperwork, conference calls and business trips to earn her MBA was nearly impossible. She wasn't alone in her dilemma. More than two dozen Boeing employees also expressed an interest in expanding their education, but lack of time was the common deterrent.

Koch approached UTEP about bringing in faculty and setting up classes at the Boeing facility. The program, launched in fall 2000, drew more than 20 employees, many of them engineers, who were willing to give up two nights a week after a full day of work.

"We can work right up until 5 p.m. without being late for class. We don't have to look for parking or fight the traffic. It is a lot more doable for me this way," says Kenny Niemann, a Boeing accountant.

Designed to provide a comprehensive general management education, the program uses a modified academic calendar, divided into three six-week sessions a semester. Students take four-hour classes Tuesday and Thursday nights, receiving instruction in accounting, management, economics, finance, marketing and other business fields. Koch and her classmates will complete the MBA program in February 2002.

Graduate School Dean Charles Ambler says tailor-made graduate programs for working professionals such as the Boeing MBA contributed to a 13.6 percent enrollment increase at the graduate level.

The College of Engineering's graduate numbers doubled last semester, thanks in large part to more flexible course schedules, including a Saturday engineering program that drew more than 100 students.

Mike Huerta, director of the Saturday mechanical, industrial and manufacturing engineering program, says his Saturday classes are full. "I have as many as 30 students in some of the classes."

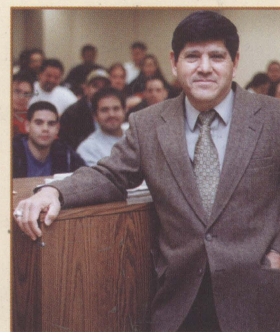
Like the Boeing MBA, the Saturday program is designed for working professionals, especially engineers working in the maquila industry in Mexico who would face a two- to three-hour delay crossing one of the international bridges to attend classes on the UTEP campus during the week. By offering courses on Saturdays, students can take two three-hour classes each weekend, completing their degrees in less than three years.

"We all have been very pleased, because finding time after working a full day and crossing the bridge would have been impossible," says Rafael Enderi, a manager at Delphi who enrolled in the Saturday program with several colleagues.

Gary Brooks, the newly appointed assistant vice president for academic affairs for alternative academic program delivery, believes these types of programs are the future of education. He is working with deans, department chairs and faculty in all of the colleges to develop additional programs for working professionals.

A weekend master's degree program in educational administration already in the works would allow students to earn their degree in one year.

"These programs make UTEP more user-friendly for people whose lives are already busy," Brooks says. "It is up to us to continue to develop new programs to meet the needs of our diverse student population. We will continue to provide all kinds of innovative opportunities."



Mike Huerta

By Catherine Dunn

FACULTY PROFILE



Dorothy Ward:

From Student Survival to Student Success

For more than 20 years, Dorothy Ward has dedicated herself to helping students succeed.

The director of University Studies has seen firsthand the changing face of higher education, as the traditional model of the 18-year-old college freshman who graduates in four years makes way for a more diverse student body that includes increasing numbers of students whose life experiences require new and innovative approaches to student recruitment and retention.

I started at UTEP in 1983 as a part-time English instructor, says Ward, a 2001 recipient of the university's Distinguished Achievement Award who received her B.A. and M.A. in English from UTEP and her doctoral degree from the University of North Texas. Gradually I found myself teaching more sections of developmental English, and I realized how much new students benefited from a little additional encouragement and attention.

Then, as now, the majority juggled school and work. Many had returned to school while raising a family. I learned that the first semester of college life is critical to student success. If they don't know how to apply for financial aid or where to find a tutor, the odds are much greater that they will not do well academically and that they will drop out of school.

In 1988, Ward became the director of the Developmental English program. I had wonderful experiences with the students, and it was exciting to help shape the direction of the program, she says.

Then in 1998 I was invited to serve on a task force whose mission was to create a formal interdisciplinary program that would address the needs of the entering student.

From this group was born University Studies and its centerpiece, University 1301, a core curriculum seminar course for students with fewer than 30 hours of course


credit. Each class section has a different topic or theme, but all of them stress critical thinking, cooperative learning, peer leadership, and access to a wide range of resources—skills students need to succeed in college and beyond.

In 1999, the first year of the program, I taught The History of UTEP, Ward says. As with all sections of University 1301, it was a team effort that included a librarian, a student peer leader, and guest speakers from departments such as Financial Aid, the Academic Advising Center and Career Services. My goal was not only to help students sharpen their skills in critical thinking, writing and reading, but also to give them the tools to make decisions and set goals for themselves.

Now in its third year, University 1301 has grown to offer 64 sections during the fall semester alone on topics ranging from The American Family on TV to Voices of Protest: Social Changes in America. The seminar program continues to reflect Ward's commitment to creating a rich and academically challenging learning environment, and she continues to teach a section herself despite her many administrative duties. Her course, titled The American Dream, focuses on the way literature portrays the aspirations of immigrants, a topic close to home for many of UTEP's students.

One of the texts I use is *Rain of Gold* by Victor Villaseor. He writes about the struggles and hardship his family endured as they traveled from Mexico to make a new home in the United States, but he also writes about their triumphs, Ward says.

So often, when students come to my class they are still looking for heroes. When they read *Rain of Gold* and research their own family histories, they have a much deeper understanding of the strength and courage of their families. They see that they live among heroes. ■



FALL CONVOCAATION

The State of the University

FALL 2001



by UTEP President
Diana Natalicio

It's 2001...

A Much-Anticipated Year In UTEP's Recent History!

More than 10 years ago, a group of El Pasoans were invited to serve on a commission to help UTEP assess its capacity to contribute to the human and economic development of this region, and to set benchmarks for what UTEP should accomplish by the year 2001. This dedicated group, comprising both community representatives and UTEP faculty, was called the UT El Paso 2001 Commission.

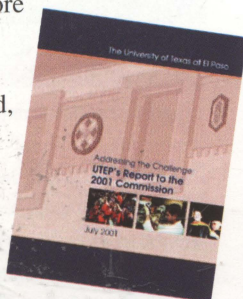
At the same time, as part of the university's 75th anniversary celebration in 1989, UTEP representatives went to first-grade classrooms across this community to talk with the children who would be members of UTEP's entering class in 2001, and to release balloons with them as a symbol of the high hopes and aspirations that we all had for their academic achievements.

I am pleased to report that, on schedule, many of those young people have begun their studies at UTEP this fall, and I extend to them a warm welcome. They represent the future of this community. We are pleased at the educational progress that they have achieved, and look forward to working with them as they pursue their degrees at UTEP.

Meeting and Exceeding the 2001 Commission's Goals

The story of the full cycle of the 2001 Commission report — and the university's follow-through on it — is one in which we can all take pride. Most planning documents are "old news" by the time they are printed, and forgotten long before their target dates of completion arrive.

Not this one! Instead, this is the story of a strong commitment on the part of both the university and the community to work together to serve the



economic and human development needs of the region. It also is the story of persistence and sustained commitment to a set of goals.

First, the university reached out to a community group for guidance in developing programs that would match well its assessment of its major needs and goals.

Second, a large and diverse group of community representatives responded enthusiastically to the university's invitation, devoting their time, energy and expertise to the preparation of a carefully deliberated and debated set of recommendations.

Third, the university used the commission's report during the next 10 years to help guide program planning and direction setting.

And, finally, after a decade of work, the university prepared a report for the commission to let its members — and the community — know how effectively UTEP has met the commission's expectations.

What is even more satisfying about this process is that the university not only achieved nearly all of the goals set by the commission in its recommendations; it far exceeded most of them. Let's take a quick look at some of these accomplishments:

- In 1988, UTEP offered one doctoral program. Today, we offer 10.
- In 1988, UTEP's endowment funds totaled \$22 million. Today, that figure has more than quadrupled to \$112 million.
- In 1988, UTEP ranked 10th among public universities in Texas in federal funding for research. Today, we are ranked fourth, after UT Austin, Texas A&M, and the University of Houston.
- In 1988, our total annual revenue was \$80 million. Today, it is \$197 million. Using a conservative multiplier, UTEP's annual expenditures translate into a \$321 million impact on the economy of

the El Paso-Juárez borderplex.

- In 1988, annual scholarship awards totaled \$1.8 million. Last year, we awarded \$3.5 million in scholarships.

- In 1988, UTEP had four computer labs, 120 PCs, and only two electronic titles in our library. Today, we have 31 computer labs and nearly 8,000 PCs, and 5,000 online books, journals and other

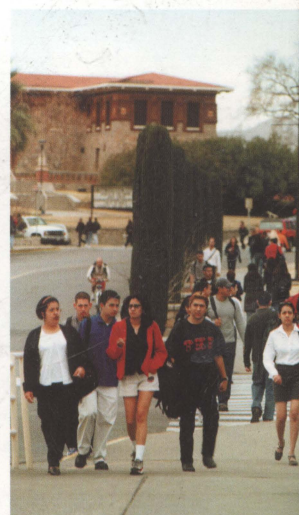
publications in the library.

- UTEP's physical facilities nearly doubled in value, from \$158 million to \$275 million, including such high-profile new facilities as the Undergraduate Learning Center, and major renovations such as Old Main.

This is indeed progress! We have received state and national recognition as one of the universities that has achieved more in a shorter time than any institution in the country. Among the benchmarks of this progress is UTEP's designation in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as a Doctoral/Research-Intensive University, placing us in the top 7 percent of all universities in the United States.

Educating More Students

Students are at the heart of UTEP's mission, and enrollment continues to rise, as more young people elect to pursue their educational dreams on this campus. This fall's enrollment totals 16,220, an increase of nearly 1,000 students over last year.



Most of this growth is the result of the successful recruitment of new students. Freshman enrollment has increased by more than 5 percent, and the number of transfer students has grown by 36 percent over last year. High-school seniors in this region know that UTEP offers them a high-quality educational experience: in a recent survey of entering students, 85 percent reported that UTEP was their first or second choice.

Although the majority of UTEP's students — an estimated 85 percent — come from El Paso County, Mexican students represent a growing segment of the UTEP student population. This year, nearly 1,700 Mexican students are enrolled at UTEP, an increase of 13 percent over last year. UTEP's Mexican enrollment is nationally significant as well: our Mexican students represent approximately 15 percent of all Mexicans enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities. As the relationship between the United States and Mexico is redefined, UTEP's role in providing post-secondary education opportunities for Mexican students has become highly visible and increasingly valuable to both countries.

UTEP is not only enrolling more students, we also are attracting many of the best and brightest graduates of high schools in this region. Fifty-five percent of those graduates in the top 10 percent of their high school classes, who receive automatic admission to all public universities in Texas, choose to attend UTEP. Six of the valedictorians and salutatorians in El Paso-area high schools, who are always offered highly attractive educational opportunities across the country, have chosen to attend UTEP this year, the largest concentration at any institution.

Enrollment growth also is the result of efforts to help students succeed once they are on our campus. The Entering Student Program provides support to new students to ensure that they get off to a good start in achieving their educational aspirations. UTEP's first-year retention rate of 70 percent is the highest among peer institutions, and we believe that this rate will continue to improve as we build on the successful student support programs that have been developed.

We also are confident that improved student retention, starting in the first year, will lead to an increase in the number of students who successfully complete their degrees, however long it takes them to finish. Indeed, the total number of UTEP graduates is climbing steadily as well. Approximately 25 percent of those graduates complete their degrees within six years; many others take longer. The length of time required to complete a degree depends far more on the life constraints that our students face, than it does on their talent or this institution's quality. UTEP's six-year graduation rate is similar to those at peer institutions in large metropolitan areas that serve a primarily working-class, commuter student population.

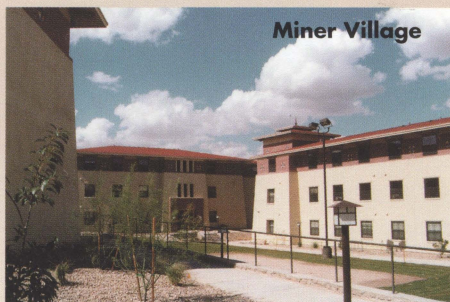
To coordinate student retention efforts and to integrate and improve services to students, a new organizational unit, the University College, has been established. The University College draws together all components of the Entering Student Program as well as such administrative units in Enrollment Services as the Registrar's Office and Financial Aid. Planning is well under way for a new Academic Services Building

Fall Convocation Highlights

UNPRECEDENTED GIFT — We recently received the single largest gift in the history of the university: a \$7 million endowment from the estate of Les and Harriet Dodson, early owners of the Mountain Pass Canning Company. Although the Dodsons did not have children of their own, they wanted to give a gift to all of the young people in our community, the gift of a bright future made possible by education. What is extraordinary about this gift, in addition to its size, is the fact that there were no restrictions placed on the use of the proceeds, other than that they be used at the discretion of the UTEP president to benefit students.

BUILDING BOOM — Construction and renovation appear to be happening everywhere on this campus!

Perhaps the most important new construction,



from the point of view of students and this university's commitment to them, is Miner Village, UTEP's new \$15 million student apartment complex.

We have invested in spacious and attractive facilities because we believe that the presence of more residential students will change the campus climate at UTEP.

FACILITIES FITNESS — Another major investment in facilities, and in UTEP's students, was the significant expansion of the Fitness Center. With more than 7,500 square feet, this facility is reputed to be the largest, most outstanding fitness center in El Paso, and certainly the best utilized. No matter what time

of day, or which day of the week, you can bet that the center will be filled with students, faculty, staff and alumni, training on more than 50 exercise machines, 12,000 pounds of free weights, and a state-of-the-art cardio theater. The center's attendance has grown to more than



1,000 visitors each day, not including participants in classes. We are already beginning to get suggestions about expanding it even more!

SPORTS VENUE IMPROVEMENTS — Student-athletes, and those who cheer them on, are delighted with the major improvements made to the Sun Bowl and the Don Haskins Center during the past year. The Sun Bowl sports new turf, a new field

to accommodate these integrated operations, thanks to a \$10 million PUF commitment from the UT System Board of Regents.

Another very positive step has been the development of master's degree programs that are designed to meet the needs of working professionals in El Paso-Juárez, such as the new master's degree program in information technology, which is offered jointly by the colleges of Engineering and Business Administration.

Enrollment at the master's level has grown significantly this year — 16 percent over last year. There is clearly a demand for such applied master's degree programs, in fields ranging from engineering to education and health sciences, and UTEP has committed resources to respond to that demand.

Doctoral program enrollment also continues to grow, and the number of doctoral degrees granted each year is rising. During the past year, UTEP granted 27 doctoral degrees, and as new programs mature, this number is expected to climb steadily.

Research Funding Continues to Rise



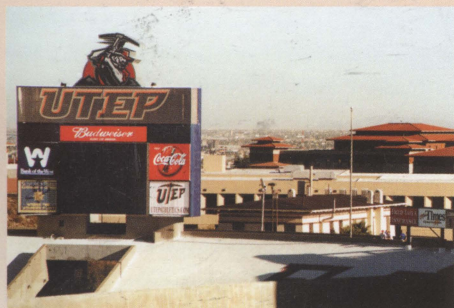
UTEP also continued to attract substantial external funding for research and sponsored projects during the past year. Nearly \$30 million in new competitive grant awards were received to support 232 projects. The range of such grants and the agencies that award them is broad, including:

- \$1.9 million for the Entering Student Program from the Atlantic Philanthropies;
- \$5 million from NASA to continue the research of the Pan-American Center

- for Earth and Environmental Studies;
- \$1.25 million from the National Science Foundation to the Department of Computer Science for graduate education;
- \$375,000 to enhance the campus police force from the Department of Justice;
- \$950,000 from the Department of Health and Human Services to support graduate programs in nursing; and
- \$99,000 from the National Science Foundation for research infrastructure at the Indio Mountain Field Camp.

Such support is obviously contingent upon the preparation of competitive proposals, and faculty and staff members submitted 412 proposals last year, seeking more than \$107 million in support, many of which are still under review.

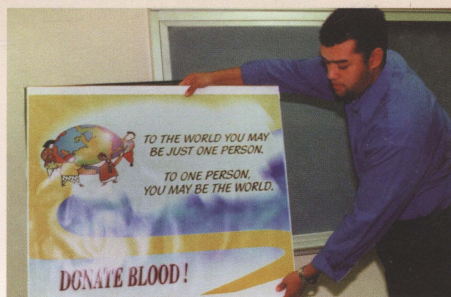
UTEP continues to be ranked among the top institutions in Texas in leveraging state resources to generate federal funds. UTEP's ratio of more than seven federal dollars generated per state dollar invested ranks it among the top five institutions in Texas, together with four health science centers.



configuration to accommodate soccer games, and a new scoreboard and video technology. The Don Haskins Center has been upgraded with a beautiful new floor and video boards. Finally, construction of the Larry K. Durham Center is well under way at the north entrance of the Sun Bowl.

COURTING STUDENTS — During the past year, 27 of the 29 participants in the Center for Law and Border Studies' Law School Preparation Institute were accepted by at least one law school. Of these, seven were offered admission to one or more law schools ranked in the top 10. Thirteen were offered admission to UT Austin, breaking last year's record of 11.

HELPING OTHERS — Community outreach activities combined with student learning is the focus of the Center for Civic Engagement. Students are sharing their skills and energy with public schools and community-based and nonprofit organizations in projects ranging from applied research on the city's Empowerment Zone, to an adult education initiative of the Mexican Consulate in El Paso.



In addition to the benefits to the community, these civic engagement activities also bring important new insights and perspectives into UTEP classes, where faculty and students relate course content to its real-world context. The success of the Center for Civic Engagement has served as a model for the development of centers

at other universities such as Southwest Texas State and UT Brownsville.

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH — The legislative session brought UTEP a commitment of Tuition Revenue Bond funding to construct a biosciences building on the campus to accommodate the increasingly robust research and teaching activity in this area. With proceeds of the tobacco settlement endowment, and support of the Paso del Norte Health Foundation, UTEP and Texas Tech have begun to build productive research collaborations.



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE — The Division of Professional and Continuing Education offers a broad range of programs for professional growth and personal enrichment.

Excellence Funding

These statistics on research and graduate programs are important because they reflect the opportunities that UTEP is creating for students on this campus and residents of this region. In addition, both research funding and graduate degrees granted are critical metrics in the new formula calculation for Excellence Funding that now comes to UTEP: the greater the number of graduate degrees awarded and the greater the dollar volume of externally funded research, the larger the appropriation of Excellence Funds from the state. We can be proud that UTEP ranked second among 34 Texas public universities in the total amount of Excellence Funding received per full-time student.

Establishing a precedent for excellence funding for large urban universities is potentially the most significant long-term outcome for UTEP from the last legislative session. We are one of four UT System institutions in which additional state and system investments are promised.



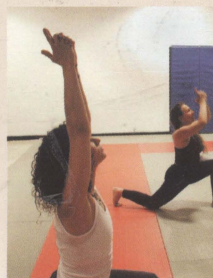
'Closing the Gaps'

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's recently published report, *Closing the Gaps*, underscores the enormous higher education challenge that faces Texas during the next several decades, as the state's population grows and becomes increasingly diverse. Nine of 10 future Texans will be minorities, and seven of those nine will be Hispanic. Inasmuch as Hispanics represent the least well-educated segment of the Texas population, our state's future will be prosperous only if more Hispanics are well-educated. UTEP has already demonstrated

that it can serve as a model for helping Texas increase the enrollment and graduation rate of previously underrepresented populations, especially Hispanics, and, thanks to the fine work and strong commitment of UTEP faculty and staff, we can confidently predict that we will play a leading role in the years ahead.

One major impediment to university enrollment in a modest-income community like El Paso is cost. Many students and their families are reluctant to dream of higher education because they fear that they cannot afford it. Thanks to recent action by the Texas Legislature in significantly increasing funding of the TEXAS Grants program, those concerns can be alleviated for many young people in this community. Students who can demonstrate financial need and who have successfully completed the recommended high school curriculum are eligible for TEXAS Grant scholarships, which cover tuition and fees at UTEP annually for up to six years of enrollment.

Merit-based scholarships are another major source of support for talented UTEP



Last year, more than 10,000 residents of El Paso and Juárez enrolled in more than 1,000 non-credit courses ranging from Advanced Placement training for area teachers and technology certification

programs, to line dancing and wine tasting. The Center for Lifelong Learning continues to offer its rich menu of courses for retirees in this region.

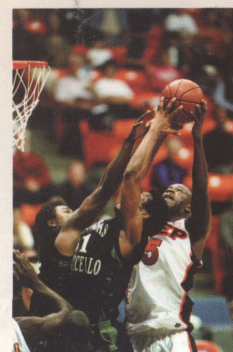
CONFERENCE CENTRAL — We host a variety of conferences and special meetings, ranging from the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Award Conference, to a session of

the Texas State Court of Appeals, to the highly successful Children's Literature Conference.

LEADING LECTURERS — We regularly invite distinguished speakers to give public lectures on the campus. Last year's Millennium Lecture Series included James Rohack, UTEP alumnus and president of the Texas Medical Association; James Baker, former administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Hank Cohen, UTEP alumnus and president of MGM Television Entertainment; Gaston Caperton, former governor of West Virginia and president of the College Board; and Jerry Porras, native El Pasoan, noted author, and professor of business at Stanford.

HOT TICKET — UTEP offers music, arts and cultural events that appeal to a broad range of community interests and tastes in the Don Haskins Center, the Sun Bowl, the Dinner Theatre, and in the music, art and theatre arts departments. The UTEP Ticket Center sold more than 325,000 tickets to 129 events last year, for a total of \$5.2 million in gross revenues.

SPORTS SUCCESS — UTEP was one of just 27 Division I-A schools — and only two in Texas — to have its football and men's basketball teams reach postseason play. The UTEP men's football team enjoyed one of its best seasons, capturing our first-ever Western Athletic Conference title in 44 years. The men's basketball team won 23 games and reached the Sweet 16 of the National Invitation Tournament. The El Paso community responded with an outpouring of support, placing UTEP at the top of the WAC in average home attendance, including a record crowd of 53,304 for the final



students. The recently completed Legacy Campaign greatly increased the number and size of scholarship endowments on this campus, and during the past year UTEP awarded more than \$3.6 million in scholarships and grants-in-aid to deserving students.

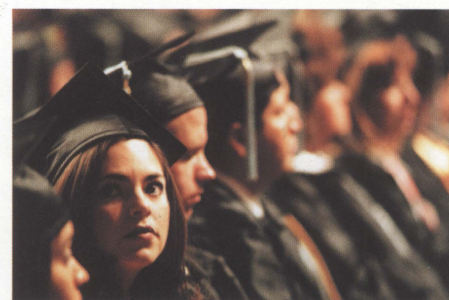
To increase community awareness about the affordability of higher education, UTEP has expanded its already extensive efforts to conduct financial aid workshops for students and parents at high schools across El Paso County. Fifty-seven such workshops were offered at 30 high schools last year, and more than 3,000 students and parents participated.

In addition, a number of federally funded programs successfully reach out to area youth to raise their academic aspirations and achievement. UTEP's Upward Bound program has earned recognition for its remarkable 100 percent perseverance rate for two consecutive years; nationally, 30 percent of Upward Bound students leave the program within the first year. Educational Talent Search helped 55 of its 85 high school

senior students secure more than \$450,000 in scholarships, and 96 percent of its participants applied for admission to colleges and universities.

Not Resting on Our Laurels

2001 is indeed a special year in UTEP's history. It is a time for us to recognize and celebrate the unprecedented progress that has been achieved on this campus during the final decade of the 20th century. UTEP is certainly a different university today than it was 10 years ago. The progress that we have achieved is truly extraordinary. But, if you have been at UTEP for more than a couple of days, you know that we never rest on our past accomplishments. So, as we celebrate where we have been, we remind ourselves that there is still a lot of work to be done: to create more educational opportunities for the residents of this binational region, especially at the graduate level; to continue to compete aggressively



for research funds; to contribute to regional economic development; to serve as a major intellectual, cultural, and entertainment resource to this community, and on and on.

UTEP has been a model in demonstrating that an institution that is fundamentally committed to creating access for students who have been — and continue to be — underrepresented in U.S. higher education, can also achieve high levels of excellence in academic programs and research. It isn't easy, but we know that it can be done. The residents of this region are counting on us, Texas is counting on us, and this country is counting on us. I know that we are up to the task. The road already traveled has been exciting, but the journey has just begun. ■

ALUMNI ACCOLADES — Many UTEP alumni have moved to other parts of the United States, Mexico and other countries. To maintain contact with them, Alumni Relations has been actively developing alumni chapters in Dallas, Austin, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Denver and other cities. Efforts to organize alumni chapters in Juárez and Chihuahua earned the UTEP Alumni Association a Circle of Excellence Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

SATISFIED CUSTOMERS — One of the areas of evaluation in which we have great interest is customer service. We have developed a number of survey instruments to determine how well UTEP serves its primary customers: our students. We regularly survey incoming freshmen and graduating seniors to gain insight into how we are regarded by those who are beginning their experience with us, as well as those who are about to complete their education. We administer student evaluations of their courses and faculty evaluations of academic administrators. We follow up with non-returning students to determine whether we can help them continue

their education. In conjunction with the re-accreditation of our engineering programs, we have developed a model for gaining feedback from our alumni, and the results confirm that UTEP is doing an excellent job of preparing its graduates for success.

BORDER FOCUS — UTEP has begun to coordinate a broad range of academic and research programs that focus on the U.S.-Mexico



borderlands. Capitalizing on our geographic location, and developing additional programs, will enable UTEP to become known as one of the major centers of excellence in the United States. The Center for Inter-American and Border Studies has already demonstrated its capacity to bring together interdisciplinary groups across

the campus and to help foster inter-American dimensions in program development.

PRESERVING HISTORY — A major new initiative related to UTEP's U.S.-Mexico borderlands focus is the *Paso al Norte* Immigration History Museum. We conducted a large and productive conference in El Paso last spring to help develop both the concept and support for the museum, and we joined the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives in hosting an event this summer at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., to build national awareness of plans for the museum. The response to all of these efforts has been overwhelmingly positive, as Hispanics and non-Hispanics alike recognize the importance of commemorating immigration across the southern border.



Photo courtesy of the University Library Special Collections

Basketball Seasons in Full Swing

The UTEP basketball teams opened their 2001-02 seasons in late November and, despite slow starts by both squads, have produced quality performances indicative of a championship season.

The Miner men played five of their first six games away from El Paso, marking the most demanding early-season schedule for the Miners in 40 years. UTEP finished fourth at the Las Vegas Tourney against a field that featured eight 2001 postseason tournament teams. The Miners also faced two of the nation's winningest active coaches in the span of one week. UTEP tangled with Texas Tech, coached by the legendary Bob Knight, in Lubbock on Nov. 26, and met regional rival New Mexico State, led by Lou Henson, in Las Cruces on Dec. 1.

The Miners showed flashes of greatness during their loss at New Mexico State. After falling behind by as many as 17 points in the first half, UTEP used a spectacular 25-2 run to take a six-point lead in the second half before eventually succumbing to the Aggies, 73-71.

After returning eight of its top nine players from the 2000-01 season, UTEP

has lofty goals for 2001-02. Senior guard Eugene Costello and senior center Brian Stewart are expected to rate among the nation's best players at their respective positions this season. Preseason publications, including *The Sporting News*, had the Miners pegged to finish as high as second in the rugged Western Athletic Conference.

UTEP will be home for six games in January, including a matchup with Fresno State, last year's regular season conference champ, on Jan. 19.

The young UTEP women's team has endured its share of growing pains in its first year under the direction of Coach Keitha Green. The Miners, besieged by injuries to key players even before the start of the season, lost their first five games. However, Green has a pair of talented players to build around in junior guard/forward Dragana Zoric and junior guard Kimya Murray.

Murray, nicknamed "The Flame," put on a show for Miner supporters in her first game in the orange and white. She poured in 30 first-half points in an exhibition game against Denmark Select. She averaged a team-high 14.4 points in UTEP's first five games. Zoric was sidelined for the season's first four contests with a stress fracture in her foot, but returned to action on Nov. 27 at Houston, collecting 10 points.

Returning veteran Katie Pyle, who averages 8.8 points per game, has provided solid leadership for the Miners in the backcourt.

While the 2001-02 season would certainly be classified a rebuilding year for the Miner women, no one doubts that Green will be able to turn the program around. She posted a stellar 127-37 record as the head coach at Independence Community College in Kansas from 1996 to 2001.

The UTEP women have three home dates on their January schedule. The Miners will face Tulsa on Jan. 10, Rice on Jan. 12 and Louisiana Tech on Jan. 31. **N**

UTEP and Juárez University Connect through INTERNET™

In late September, UTEP became the first institution of higher education in Texas and only the second in the nation to provide a direct link between the United States and Mexico to access each country's Internet 2 technology.

The Internet 2 high-speed, broad bandwidth link with the *Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez* and Mexico's Internet 2 equivalent will make it possible for researchers not only at UTEP, but throughout both countries to access data ranging from demographics to weather conditions and hydrology, which in the past had to be hand-delivered or were simply unavailable on computer.

The Internet 2 link makes it possible for faculty members, scientists and students to review information, observe experiments in real time and participate in research hundreds and even thousands of miles away.

Last year, UTEP was accepted as a member of the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (UCAID), joining other higher education institutions and government and industry partners in accelerating the next stage of Internet development in academia. Members of UCAID are among the elite research universities and high-tech corporations in the United States.

HENAAC Enjoys Third Year at UTEP

The Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Conference, hosted by UTEP for the third year in a row this October, honored Hispanic engineers and scientists from throughout the nation, including two UTEP alumni.

Mike Acosta, associate director of UTEP's Institute for Policy and Economic Development, received the group's Community Service Award for his years of service to UTEP and the El Paso community.

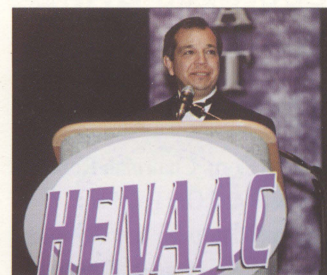
Acosta, who has been involved with HENAAC for eight years and worked to bring the national conference to El Paso, earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from UTEP in 1971. He was working at IBM in Austin when he returned to UTEP in 1991 as an executive on loan to the College of Engineering, when he established the first chapter of the Texas Alliance for Minority Engineers.

When he later retired from IBM in 1994, Acosta became the associate director of UTEP's Texas Center for Border Economic Development and the Institute for Manufacturing and Materials Management. He served on the national Board of Directors of the Society of Mexican-American Engineers and Scientists (MAES) for eight years, and in 1999 received the *Medalla de Oro*, the group's highest national award.

Richard Flores, chief, Information Operations and Missile Defense Branch, Survivability/Lethality Analysis Directorate of the Army Research Laboratory, received HENAAC's Military Excellence-Civilian Award. In his current position, he is the top technical authority responsible for a \$13.5 million program and coordinates the work of 90 to 100 scientists and engineers, military personnel and private contractors.

He has been praised as one of the most valuable people in the ARL since the laboratory's inception in 1992, when the Department of Defense combined existing Army laboratories to form the ARL. For 10 months, he was on the seven-member team responsible for effecting this major change. He holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from UTEP, graduating *magna cum laude* in 1981. He is currently completing his thesis to earn a master of science degree in electrical engineering at New Mexico State University.

During the Oct. 11-13 conference, more than 3,000 academics, students and science, engineering and business professionals from across the country networked with colleagues and took part in technical and educational seminars. As many as 800 students from throughout the El Paso area



Mike Acosta, associate director of UTEP's Institute for Policy and Economic Development, receives HENAAC's Community Service Award.

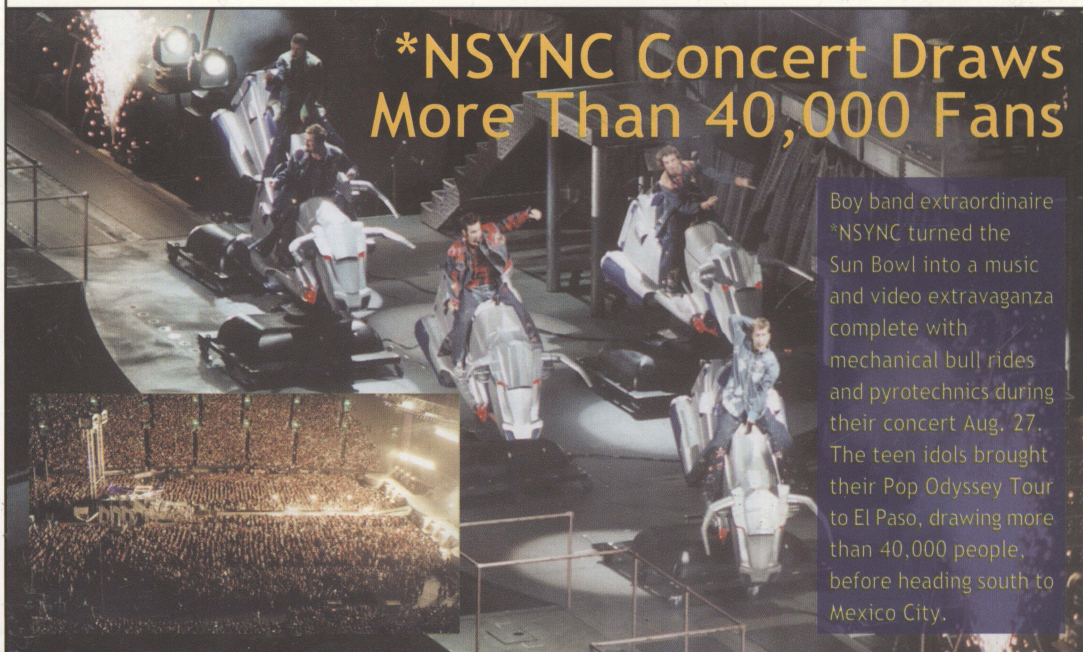
attended events on the UTEP campus.

"This conference has been growing in importance nationally and internationally for years," says UTEP alumnus Carlos Ramirez, U.S. International Water and Boundary Commissioner and the former mayor of El Paso.

"The importance isn't just that it brings attention to the recipients and presenters at the awards banquet, who are from Fortune 500 companies. It also spotlights the volunteers, the engineers and others working to develop educational programs and seek out funds to continue research and reach out to young Hispanics."

Ramirez, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from UTEP, last year received HENAAC's Chairman's Award.

*NSYNC Concert Draws More Than 40,000 Fans



Boy band extraordinaire *NSYNC turned the Sun Bowl into a music and video extravaganza complete with mechanical bull rides and pyrotechnics during their concert Aug. 27. The teen idols brought their Pop Odyssey Tour to El Paso, drawing more than 40,000 people, before heading south to Mexico City.

Millennium Lectures Bring World Views to UTEP

Belo Corp. Chairman Robert Decherd and Om Pradhan, Ambassador to the United Nations from the Kingdom of Bhutan, spoke at UTEP this fall as part of the university's "Journey into the New Millennium" Lecture Series.

Decherd, whose Belo Corp. is one of the largest media companies in the United States with annual revenues of \$1.5 billion and more than 8,000 employees, discussed "Journalism, Society and the Free Market." He painted a picture of endurance for newspapers and television media even as technology opens new doors for consumers.



Decherd



Pradhan, who has been Bhutan's ambassador since 1998, presented "Bhutan's

Development Philosophy: Gross National Happiness," describing the tiny Himalayan nation's people-centered approach to socio-economic development.

The Millennium Lecture Series focuses on issues and ideas shaping the new millennium and features speakers on a broad range of global topics, including demographics, climate change, information technology, health, and geopolitical and socioeconomic trends.

Scheduled to appear Feb. 20 as part of the series is Walter Persegati, former secretary-general and treasurer of the Vatican monuments, museums and art galleries.

Hall of Fame Celebrates UTEP's Military Heritage

In recognition of the many UTEP alumni who have served in the armed forces, UTEP's Department of Military Science dedicated the Army ROTC Hall of Fame and inducted its first honorees during a ceremony Nov. 9.

Honorees included Maj. Gen. Stanley Green, commanding general of the Army Air Defense Artillery Center and commandant of the Army Air Defense Artillery School at Fort Bliss; Maj. Gen. Reynaldo Sanchez, a Vietnam veteran and recipient of

the Bronze Service Star and Army Service Medal; Maj. Gen. Jim Maloney, the first UTEP graduate to serve as commander of Fort Bliss; Maj. Gen. Wade Hedgecock, former assistant adjutant general of the New Mexico National Guard and Meritorious Service Medal recipient; Maj. Gen. William Allen, commander of the 85th Training Support Command and Vietnam veteran; and Ronald Coleman, a former U.S. congressman who served in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969.



From left, Maj. Gen. Reynaldo Sanchez, Maj. Gen. Wade Hedgecock, Maj. Gen. Jim Maloney, Maj. Gen. William Allen and Maj. Gen. Stanley Green.

Historian To Be Featured at Hertzog Award Competition

Noted historian and author Frank Vandiver will be the keynote speaker at the eighth biennial Carl Hertzog Award Lecture at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, in room 106 of the Undergraduate Learning Center.

Vandiver, the former president of Rice University, North Texas State University and Texas A&M University, has written several Civil War books and also is the author of *Vietnam: Lyndon Johnson's War* and the two-volume *Black Jack, The Life and Times of John J. Pershing*. He is the chairman of the board of American University in Cairo.

The lecture and book design award competition, which are sponsored by UTEP's Friends of the Library, honor the life and work of J. Carl Hertzog, founder of Texas Western Press and a nationally recognized book designer. Under his own imprint, Hertzog worked with a number of celebrated authors and illustrators, including Frank Dobie, C.L. Sonnichsen and José Cisneros.

Following the lecture, the winner of the Hertzog Award for Excellence in Book Design will be presented with a \$1,000 cash award and a bronze medal designed by Tom Lea.

Pharmacy Students Return for Final Phase of Program

Then UTEP students who four years ago embarked on a rigorous academic program to become pharmacists have returned to El Paso to complete their final two years of study.

The students are enrolled in the UTEP-UT Austin Cooperative Pharmacy Program, one of the ways the university is answering the community's call to provide homegrown health care professionals to the El Paso-Juárez region.

Designed to provide El Paso students access to the top-ranked College of Pharmacy in Austin while allowing them to fulfill graduation requirements on the UTEP campus, the cooperative program was launched five

years ago to help alleviate the shortage of pharmacists in the region.

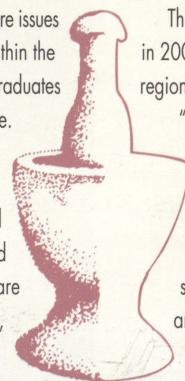
The six-year curriculum provides students with an opportunity to learn on both the UTEP and UT Austin campuses, conduct research on border health pharmaceutical care issues and work in various specialties within the pharmacy career field. Program graduates earn a Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

Following admission, students spend the first two years on the UTEP campus in pre-pharmacy and core classes such as chemistry and biology. The following two years are completed on the UT Austin campus, where students begin a more

specialized pharmacy curriculum. The final two years are completed at UTEP and include a community project and clinical rotations in local hospitals and community health organizations.

The first class of students graduating in 2003 is expected to help alleviate the region's shortage of pharmacists.

"The program is really designed for this community," said Sandra Hernandez, a student in the class. "The research we will be doing will focus on health issues specific to the border region. It is another way we can give back to El Paso."



A Grand Legacy

by Walli Haley

Though Harriet Dodson lived a quiet life, she has made a resounding impact on UTEP. While neither she nor her husband, John Leslie "Les" Dodson, were UTEP alumni, she willed her entire estate, valued at more than \$7 million, to UTEP to be used at the discretion of President Diana Natalicio to benefit students.

Her estate includes a residence and four acres on Montoya Road in west El Paso, and Dodson's collection of her artwork.

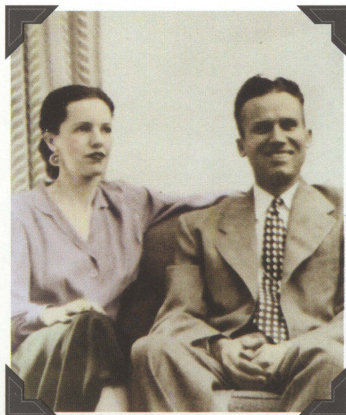
"It's the largest gift in the university's 87-year history," says Steve Meador, associate vice president for University Development. "This donation came as a complete surprise, because the Dodsons never spoke with anyone at UTEP about this. They told their estate planners, however, that they wanted to ensure that there would always be educational opportunities for area young people."

Natalicio calls the magnitude of the Dodsons' gift extraordinary.

"We are honored by and profoundly grateful for this strong expression of confidence in our university and the students we serve," she says.

Les Dodson was a principal owner of the Mountain Pass Canning Company. The cannery, located in Anthony, Texas, since the 1940s, prepared beans, tamales and chiles, eventually becoming the nation's largest seller of Mexican foods. Known for its bright yellow Old El Paso brand label, the company operated for about 20 years before it was sold to Pet Foods in the 1960s.

An accomplished artist who sold many of her paintings, Dodson also loved music, played the organ



and wove her own clothes. Her husband was known for the brilliant peacocks, pheasants and guinea hens, along with scores of chickens, he raised in the couple's backyard. Both were intensely private people, loved by those who knew them best.

Their accountant of 40 years, Rocky La Rock, remembers the couple's kindness and generosity. "I needed some pup tents for a Boy Scout camping

trip, and the next thing I knew, Les had given us 20 pup tents."

He remembers Mrs. Dodson as a lovely woman who was telling jokes until the day she died in September of 2000. He says her mind remained razor sharp, and her thoughts were of her community and its young people. "She wanted to be sure her money would stay at UTEP and be used for students."

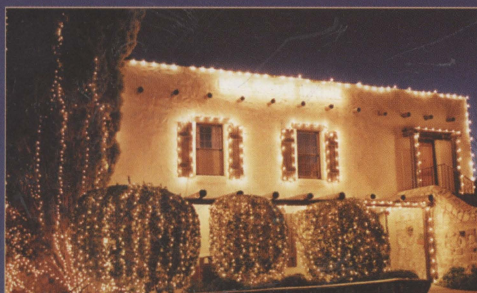
Mike Wilson, who managed the Dodsons' financial portfolio for 30 years, remembers Mr. Dodson's generous donations of chickens and eggs to help feed the homeless.

He recalls Mrs. Dodson's talent as an artist and her kindness to everyone she knew. "She was the sweetest woman," Wilson says, "but so private that she asked that no obituary be written when she died."

Meador says that although the Dodsons preferred to maintain a low profile, he would have liked to sit down with them and thank them personally for what they are doing for the university.

"Mr. and Mrs. Dodson never identified themselves to us during life, but they will forever have a tremendous impact on UTEP." ■

The Light Fantastic



Transforming the campus with the glow of more than 200,000 twinkling lights, UTEP's Season of Lights celebration ushers in the holiday season.

A tradition dating back to *luminaria* displays in the 1960s, the lighting ceremony is a gift from the university to the El Paso community. Every year, hundreds of merry-makers gather to count down to the exciting moment when the brilliant lights cut through the darkness, illuminating UTEP's buildings and landscape. Spectators also enjoy holiday tunes from the El Paso Children's Choir and the UTEP Jazz Singers — and hot apple cider, hot chocolate and cookies.

"In days past, people gathered in the evening to share the joy of song and the welcoming warmth and glow

of candlelight," says Scott White, UTEP alumnus and chairman of the Season of Lights Planning Committee. "We too gather in friendship to share our own gift of light and song."

For six weeks before the event, a crew of four strings miles of lights along and around Leech Grove, the Administration Building, the de Wetter Center, Old Main, the Psychology and Geological Sciences buildings, and Memorial Triangle. The results are a breathtaking display that is enjoyed by all until early January.

"The Season of Lights is a time the campus is transformed into a place of magic and wonder," says UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "We need those things in our lives — this year, perhaps, more than ever."



2002 Alumni Association Board

Paul H. "Rusty" Gibbs, President
 Lisa Ann Askenazi
 Michael Bernstein
 Layle Chambers
 Elizabeth Dahl
 Norma De La Rosa
 Clara Duncan-Adams
 Richard Gutierrez
 Ronald K. Harvey
 Jack Johnston
 Harold Kelly
 Bruce King
 Tess Limberg
 Kay Mooy
 Marilyn Munden
 Diana Origel-Gutierrez
 Pete Payan, Jr.
 Mike Rosales
 Felipa Solis
 Jack Underwood
 Scott White
 Hector Willars
 Tony Woo

In Memoriam: Thomas G. Barnes

UTEP professor emeritus of physics Thomas G. Barnes died Oct. 23, 2001, at the age of 90.

A faculty member at UTEP for 43 years, Barnes' scientific work embraced many fields, from medicine to geophysics. His research led to patents on electronic sound ranging devices, such as the Dodar (the predecessor to sonar), directional microphones, and magnetic sensing, electrochemical extraction and seismic energy devices. He also worked on the vector cardiograph, which was the first three-dimensional computer display to study the heart.

The director of the prestigious Schellenger Research Laboratories for 12 years, Barnes authored five books and also served as a consultant and researcher for Duke University, the Navy Electronics Laboratory, the U.S. Army Research Office and Globe Universal Sciences.

He is survived by Libby, his wife of 62 years; four children, Mary Kay D'Arcy, Betty Blackmond, Tom Barnes and Dottie Vinall; nine grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made to the Thomas G. Barnes Physics Fund at UTEP.

Homecoming Highlights



Log on to <http://homecoming.utep.edu> to see more pictures from Homecoming 2001 and to find out about next year's Homecoming celebration. If you are

interested in working on a class reunion, please contact Doreen Black in the Alumni Relations Office at alumni@utep.edu, 1-866-GO-MINERS or 915-747-8600.

New UTEP Holiday Collectible Available

Now on sale at the de Wetter Center (the Alumni Lodge) is the first in a series of commemorative holiday ornaments: "UTEP at Night, 2001."

The ornament, which displays an image of UTEP's starlit campus, is set within a delicately etched decorative brass frame finished in 24 kt. gold. The ornament is based on an

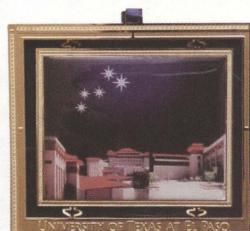


illustration by UTEP graphic design student Julieta Peinado, this year's winner of the "Views of UTEP" competition sponsored by the Office of the President.

Ornaments are \$15 each. The proceeds will support activities sponsored by the Alumni Association. For more information, call 747-8600.

Call for Nominees

The Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the 2002 Distinguished Alumni and Gold Nugget awards. For more information, please contact the Alumni Relations Office at alumni@utep.edu, 1-866-GO-MINERS or 915-747-8600.

NEWS
 ABOUT
 YOU...

Name _____
 Year Graduated _____ Degree _____
 Address _____

Please keep your news to 50 words or less.

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

or contact the Alumni Relations Office at
 915-747-8600, 1-866-GO-MINERS or alumni@utep.edu.



Rear Adm. Jeffrey B. Cassias (B.S. '74), who took charge of the U.S. Navy's logistics command in Singapore in November, is the highest ranking U.S. military officer in Southeast Asia.

Cassias comes to Singapore from the Pentagon, where he served on the Joint Chiefs of Staff as an executive assistant to the director of the Force Structure, Resources and Assessment team.

He now leads the Logistics Group, Western Pacific, Task Force 73 and Cooperation Afloat and Readiness Training (CARAT) Task Force 712, a series of exercises taking place this summer throughout Southeast Asia.



Manuel Chavez (B.S.M.E. '66; M.S.M.E. '69), president and CEO of Austin-based Harvard Technologies, was a finalist for this year's *Hispanic Business Magazine* Entrepreneur of the Year award.

Harvard Technologies, which Chavez founded in 1997, specializes in state-of-the-art telecommunications and data communications technology.

Chavez was the recipient of the College of Engineering's Gold Nugget in 1987.



Gary Hedrick (B.B.A. '77; M.B.A. '82) was promoted to president and chief executive officer of the El Paso Electric Company in November. He also was elected to the Board of Directors of EPE.

The native El Pasoan joined EPE in 1977 as a financial accountant. He was promoted to treasurer in 1988; vice president for financial planning and rate administration in 1990; vice president, chief financial officer and treasurer in 1996; and executive vice president and chief financial and administrative officer in 2000.



Ignacio Troncoso (B.S.E.E. '69; M.S.E.E. '72), director of Glendale Water and Power of Glendale, Calif., was ranked eighth in a listing of the "Top 103 Most Influential People" in Glendale and the foothills area by the *Glendale News-Press*.

Troncoso successfully guided the company through last year's power crisis with no rolling blackouts and only minimal rate increases for consumers.

He was the College of Engineering's Gold Nugget recipient in 1992.

50s

Rosa Guerrero (B.A. '57; M.Ed. '77) was one of six El Pasoans honored as *Hispanos Triunfadores* 2001 by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, LULAC, Hispanic Leadership Institute, Channel 26-KINT and McDonald's Inc. Guerrero, UTEP's 1997 Distinguished Alumna, was recognized for her work in arts and entertainment.

Delia Ybarra (B.A. '53), of Mountain View, Calif., was selected as Bowie High School's Outstanding Ex for 2001. Ybarra teaches English, Spanish, speech and humanities at Cupertino High School in Cupertino, Calif., where she has worked for 11 years. She has traveled abroad extensively with student groups in the Experiment in International Living program.

60s

Charles Hart (B.A. '66; M.Ed. '68) received the Texas Superintendent of the Year Award for his work in the Canutillo Independent School District. Under Hart's guidance, the district received a "recognized" rating from the Texas Education Agency, and four of the district's six schools received "recognized" or "exemplary" status.

Linda Lasater (B.A. '64) received her certification in psychoanalysis at the Psychoanalytic Center of California, a component society of the International Psychoanalytic Association. Lasater is in private practice in Los Angeles.

Bufe C. Morrison (B.A. '67) was inducted into the Texas Senior Games Hall of Fame during the 2001 Texas Senior Games Championships in Lubbock this September. Morrison was previously inducted into the El Paso Softball Hall of Fame and the El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame. Morrison attained second-team All-American status for UTEP in 1964.

70s

Col. Howard T. Cain Jr. (Ret.) (M.Ed. '72) retired for the second time after 20 years as a federal civil service employee with the Department of Medical Science at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. Cain is a 30-year U.S. Army veteran.

Joyce Edwards Feinberg (B.A. '71) received the Christiaan Petrus Fox Citizen award for the third quarter of 2001 from the commanding general of Fort Bliss. During Feinberg's tenure as the executive director of the Sun Bowl Association, she supported and promoted Fort Bliss and the Army recruiting program and provided opportunities for soldiers and their families to volunteer at Sun Bowl activities. Feinberg now serves as the executive assistant to the mayor for the city of El Paso.

Lilia B. Limon (B.S.Ed. '75; M.Ed. '82) was one of six El Pasoans honored as *Hispanos Triunfadores* 2001 by the Hispanic Chamber of

Commerce, LULAC, Hispanic Leadership Institute, Channel 26-KINT and McDonald's Inc. Limon, who most recently served as principal of César Chavez Academy, was recognized for her work in education.

Richard O. Martínez (B.S.M.E. '79) was honored by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, LULAC, Hispanic Leadership Institute, Channel 26-KINT and McDonald's Inc. as one of six *Hispanos Triunfadores* 2001. Martínez, chief of the tactical missiles branch at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, was recognized for his work in the sciences.

Harriet B. May (B.S. '71), president and CEO of the Government Employees Credit Union of El Paso, was elected to the research council of the Filene Research Institute.

Lorraine O'Donnell (B.S.Ed. '75; M.Ed. '95) is the executive director of UTEP's Division of Professional and Continuing Education. She received a doctorate of education in educational management and development from New Mexico State University in 1996. O'Donnell was the principal of Clint High School from 1996 to 2000, during which time the school became a Texas Education Agency "recognized" school.

Noe Abraham Ramírez (B.S.Ed. '72; M.Ed. '78) of El Paso is the new principal of Loretto Academy's middle school and high school.

Howard V. Rigg (M.A. '77) has joined UTEP's Office of Institutional Advancement-Administration as a technical writer in the research services department.

Javier Rojo (B.S. '73; M.S. '76) was elected a fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. Rojo has been a faculty member in UTEP's Department of Mathematical Sciences since 1984 and is an elected fellow of the Royal Statistical Society and the American Statistical Association.

80s

Salvador Balcorta (B.S.W. '80), executive director of the *Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe*, was one of six El Pasoans honored as *Hispanos Triunfadores* 2001 by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, LULAC, Hispanic Leadership Institute, Channel 26-KINT and McDonald's Inc. Balcorta was recognized for his work in community service.

Karlene Partch DePineuil (B.S.N. '82) is the director of clinical services for the Select Medical Corp. specialty hospital in Biloxi, Miss. DePineuil previously served for 14 years in the U.S. Air Force, reaching the rank of captain.

Cynthia Gallagher (B.B.A. '88) was named corporate gift consultant for Stahmann's Country Store in La Mesa, N.M. The store is part of Stahmann Farms, owner of the two largest pecan orchards in the world.

Maj. Gaylon McAlpine (B.A. '88) received an M.A. in public affairs from the University of Alabama at Huntsville and is currently serving as an executive officer for

the 3rd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Lilly Ramírez (B.S.N. '80; M.S.N. '95) has been named nurse manager of the oncology unit at Del Sol Medical Center in El Paso. Ramírez first joined the Las Palmas and Del Sol Regional Healthcare System in 1991.

Gregory L. Taylor (B.A. '86; M.A. '90), director of UTEP's Dinner Theatre and assistant professor in the Department of Music, was honored by Discover El Paso for Outstanding Artistic Interpretation of Theatrical Productions.

Allison Valles (B.A. '89), a UTEP police sergeant, was honored by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement with the prestigious Award for Merit. This award, which is given to only one officer among thousands each year, is presented in recognition of consistent professionalism and excellence in the support of campus public safety, security and law enforcement.

90s

John R. Corrigan (M.F.A. '98) had his first novel, *Cut Shot*, published by Sleeping Bear Press. It is now available in bookstores.

Mark A. Jabor (B.S. '90) joined the practice of Lyle D. Weeks, M.D., at the Cosmetic Laser and Surgery Center of El Paso. Jabor received his M.D. in general surgery at Texas Tech University.

James Edward Littlejohn (B.I.S. '93) was selected as Elementary Teacher of the Year for the Ysleta Independent School District. Littlejohn teaches at Sageland Elementary School.

Phyllis Caves Rawley (B.A. '92) has been named program manager for sustainable neighborhoods for the El Paso Empowerment Zone.

OBITS

Henry "Hank" Peter Flynn (B.S.Met. '57) Dec. 17, 2000. Flynn, former president of Pipe

Consultants Inc., was a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

Patrick David Kirkland (B.S. '73; M.S. '78) July 16, 2001. An El Pasoan and former resident of San Diego, Calif., Kirkland worked as an economic analyst for San Diego Gas and Electric.

Marie Antoinette Barrueta (B.S.Ed. '83) Aug. 5, 2001. A lifelong resident of El Paso, Barrueta was a retired teacher from the El Paso Independent School District who taught for many years at Roosevelt Elementary School. She also was an accomplished pianist who performed at senior retirement centers.

Joaquina B. Quesada (B.S.Ed. '67) Aug. 6, 2001. Quesada had retired from the Ysleta Independent School District after 10 years of service. She worked for four years as a child care center director and taught at UTEP in the GED program.

Pamela Ansara Wilson (B.A. '71)

Aug. 6, 2001. Wilson, a native of El Paso, was a short story writer and a former resident of New York City, where she was pursuing a Ph.D. in literature.

Clifton Paul Duchouquette (B.B.A. '70)

Aug. 13, 2001. A lifelong resident of El Paso, he was an inventory and sales system representative. He served on the U.S.S. Midway during the Vietnam era.

Aaron "Tom" Webb (B.S.Ed. '71)

Aug. 14, 2001. Webb, of Hurst, Texas, was a retired U.S. Army major. He was a Mason and a life member of the Texas Association of Educational Technologists.

Leonor Madrid Bayne (B.M. '86)

Aug. 17, 2001. A resident of Woodland, Calif., she was a music teacher in the Woodland School District for 13 years, teaching band at Beamer, Maxwell and Grafton elementary schools. Bayne started a mariachi program for elementary students and also was a private music instructor.

Phillip L. Walls Sr. (B.A. '67; M.Ed. '72)

Aug. 22, 2001. Walls was a longtime resident of El Paso and taught junior high school for 18 years. He was a retired U.S. Army master sergeant with 26 years of service.

Samuel Tilden Anderson Jr. (B.B.A. '68)

Aug. 24, 2001. An El Paso native, Anderson was a retail manager at K-Mart for 33 years. He also was active in various ministry programs, including Stephens Ministry and Education for Ministry Mentoring.

Dolores Payan (B.A. '70) Aug. 25, 2001.

Payan, a paralegal specialist and lifelong resident of El Paso, had a distinguished 30-year career with the U.S. Customs Service. She also was a classical pianist and a devotee of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra.

Concepción R. Guzman (B.M. '62)

Aug. 26, 2001. Guzman, a lifelong resident of El Paso, worked as a public school teacher for 25 years and retired from St. Pius X Parochial School after 10 years of service. She was a member of a local women's mariachi group and performed with the Sacramento Senior Center Mariachi Group.

William Eugene Lucas (B.A. '48;

M.A. '51) Aug. 27, 2001. A longtime teacher and administrator for the Ysleta Independent School District, Lucas was principal of Ramona Elementary School for more than 25 years. As a biology teacher at Ysleta High School, he sponsored the Student Council and served as the senior class adviser. An issue of the Ysleta High School yearbook was dedicated to him.

Melvin B. Markel (B.B.A. '69)

Aug. 31, 2001. Markel was a World War II veteran and a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He served on the boards of the Newark Methodist Maternity Hospital, Lydia Patterson Institute, and House of Cornelius-Fabens Young Life, and was past president of the West Side Rotary Club of El Paso. He also was a member

of Gideons International, Full Gospel Businessmen International and the Texas Society of CPAs.

Reese M. Rowling (B.S. '51) Sept. 4, 2001.

Rowling, of Corpus Christi, Texas, was co-founder and principal of Tana Oil and Gas Corp., as well as director of and principal investor in Corpus Christi National Bank until its merger with NationsBank. Following the sale of Tana Oil and Gas, Rowling established an independent geology consulting business. He was instrumental in the discovery of several major gas fields in South Texas. In 1993, Rowling was the recipient of UTEP's College of Science Gold Nugget Award.

Ernest Clay Price (B.S.C.E. '53)

Sept. 5, 2001. Price, a resident of Atlanta, Ga., was a U.S. Army veteran who established his own business, E. C. Price Contractors Inc., in 1978.

Joseph William Muirhead (M.Ed. '68)

Sept. 7, 2001. Muirhead served as a soldier, schoolteacher, principal and lay-preacher, and devoted much of his life to helping the homeless.

William Clyde Dunn (B.S.E.E. '56)

Sept. 8, 2001. Dunn, an Arizona resident, was a registered professional civil engineer and land surveyor. He spent his entire professional career with Southern Pacific Railroad, joining the company in El Paso and moving to Tucson in 1973 as assistant division engineer. Upon his retirement in 1993, he was the railroad's chief construction engineer.

Jesus Parada (B.B.A. '00) Sept. 13, 2001.

Parada was a longtime resident of El Paso.

Charlotte Della Johnson Steele

(B.S.Ed. '73) Sept. 14, 2001. She was a resident of Hyde Park, N.Y.

Carol Parsons Davis (B.B.A. '83)

Sept. 19, 2001. Formerly of El Paso, Davis was a registered nurse living in Austin, Texas.

David Ratliff Owen Jr. (B.A. '47)

Sept. 22, 2001. A lifelong El Pasoan, Owen retired after 35 years with Chevron Oil. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II as a sergeant and was awarded the World War II Victory Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater Ribbon, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, two Bronze Service Stars and a Purple Heart.

Martha E. Bernal (B.A. '52)

Sept. 28, 2001. Bernal, a professor emeritus and research professor in the psychology department at Arizona State University, was the College of Liberal Arts Gold Nugget recipient in 1997. She received numerous research grants and awards, including the Distinguished Life Achievement Award from the American Psychological Association in 1994 and the Award for Distinguished Contribution to Psychology in the Public Interest in August 2001. A scholarship fund has been established in her name at Arizona State University.

Olga E. Webb (B.A. '57) Oct. 7, 2001.

Webb, a resident of El Paso since 1945, was a retired teacher for the El Paso Independent School District.

MINERBALL!

2002 HOME SCHEDULE DON HASKINS CENTER

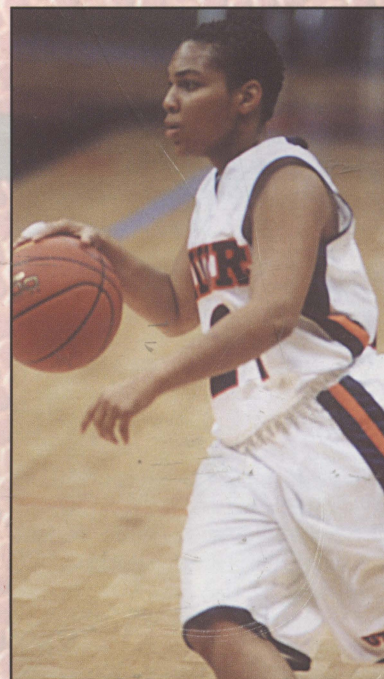
MEN'S GAMES 7:05 TIP-OFF



Roy Smallwood

Jan. 3 - Hawaii
Jan. 5 - San Jose State
Jan. 10 - Tulsa
Jan. 12 - Rice
Jan. 17 - Nevada
Jan. 19 - Fresno State
Jan. 26 - Boise State
Jan. 28 - Alcorn State
Jan. 31 - Louisiana Tech
Feb. 2 - SMU
Feb. 7 - Rice
Feb. 9 - Tulsa
Feb. 14 - Fresno State
Feb. 16 - Nevada
Feb. 20 - NMSU
Feb. 23 - Boise State
Feb. 28 - SMU
Mar. 2 - Louisiana Tech

WOMEN'S GAMES 7:00 TIP-OFF



Kimya Murray



For ticket information, call the UTEP Ticket Center
at 915-747-5234, or Ticketmaster at 915-544-8444.

www.utepathletics.com

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