

Winter 2003

Nova Quarterly: The University of Texas at El Paso

The University of Texas at El Paso University Communications

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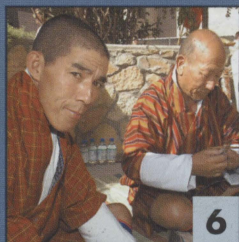
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NOVA

WINTER 2003

Q U A R T E R L Y

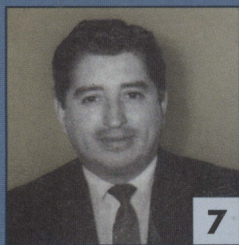
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



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BHUTAN AT UTEP

Two-day festival honors Bhutanese culture, traditions



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CHICANO MARTYR

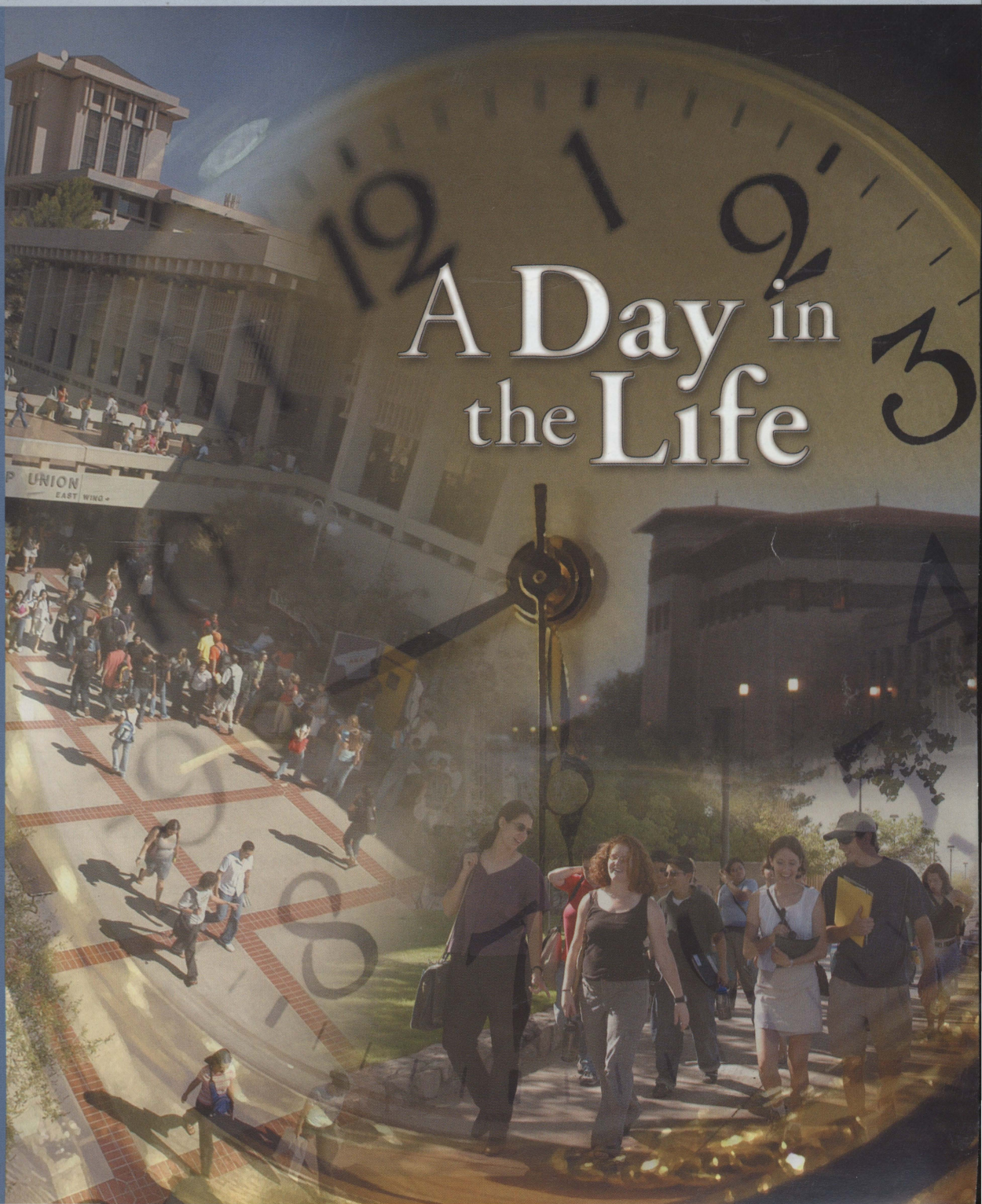
Communication program honors journalism alumnus Ruben Salazar



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ON THE BIG SCREEN

Disney to produce movie about Don Haskins and UTEP's 1966 NCAA champs



A Day in the Life

*This issue's From the President is a guest column
by Cindy Ramirez, editor of Nova Quarterly and coordinator
of publications at University Communications.*

It was 1914 when World War I started, Paramount Pictures was formed and the famous Spanish song "La Cucaracha" was written.

Closer to home, the State School of Mines and Metallurgy opened its doors to 27 students on Sept. 23 in the northern outskirts of El Paso near Fort Bliss. Two years later, a fire destroyed the college and forced it to find a new home on the West Side of the Franklin Mountains.

There began the university's history, intertwined with world and national events — from the Great Depression to World War II to desegregation. From the peace movement of the 60s to the Chicano movement of the 70s, the university changed with the nation. During the 80s and 90s, the university molded itself to best serve the students of the region — increasingly Hispanic and seeking more bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees than ever before.

UTEP's history was shaped by more than events and headlines: The people — students, faculty, staff and community — changed the face of the university and hold part of its history in their hearts.

The spring 2004 issue of Nova will be dedicated to celebrating the university's 90-year history, and we'd love to hear your stories.

Were you around in the 1930s, when the El Paso Junior College merged into the Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy and the college became an accredited four-year university?

Was UTEP part of your life through the Great Depression, when a brief respite gave way to the opening of Kidd Field? Were you here during World War II when the university trained civilian pilots and Army cadets?

Did you protest the university's name change to Texas Western College in 1949? Or remember 1952, when pranksters kidnapped an alligator from San Jacinto Plaza downtown and put it outside the office of the geology department chairman?

Where were you in 1955, when the first black students enrolled? Were you a protestor or passer-by during the sit ins of the 60s peace movement? Did you cheer on the sidelines when the 1966 basketball team won the NCAA championship? Were you a product of the Chicano *movimiento* of the 70s?

Did you meet your spouse or have a life-altering revelation at UTEP? What do you most remember about the 80s or 90s at the university, when Hispanics become the overwhelming majority?

Make us laugh, make us cry. Make us reflect on a by-gone era, even if it was as recent as the big-hair 80s or the so-called Generation X of the 90s.

Send us your stories in no more than 200 words, and include photos if possible. Your story may appear in the next issue of Nova or on a university Web page dedicated to the university's 90th anniversary.

Please include your full name, age, degree(s) and year of graduation, plus a phone number where we may reach you. If you'd like your photos returned, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Contact us via e-mail at nova@utep.edu or at Nova Quarterly, University Communications, Hertzog Building, 500 W. University Ave, El Paso, TX, 79968.

We'd love to hear from you! ■

Sincerely,
Cindy Ramirez
Editor, Nova Quarterly



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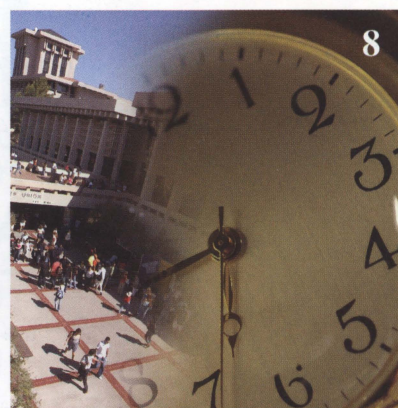
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Javier Vicencio

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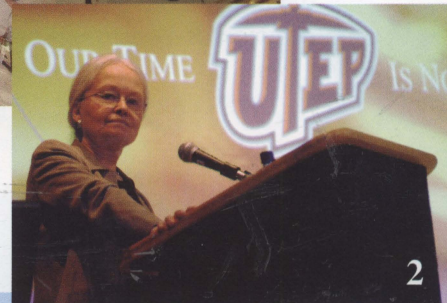
From dawn to dusk, a special 8-page section depicts a day in the life of UTEP through the camera lens of Nova photographers and the words of a renowned creative writing professor.



FEATURES

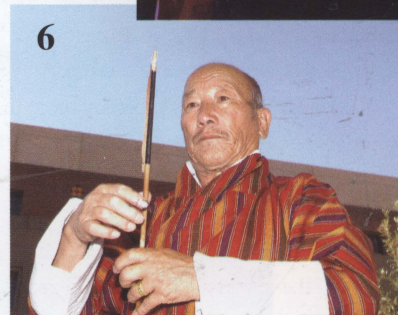
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The past academic year tested UTEP's tenacity. University President Diana Natalicio comments on how energy and resolve overcome adversity.



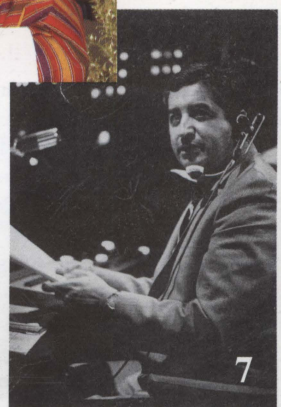
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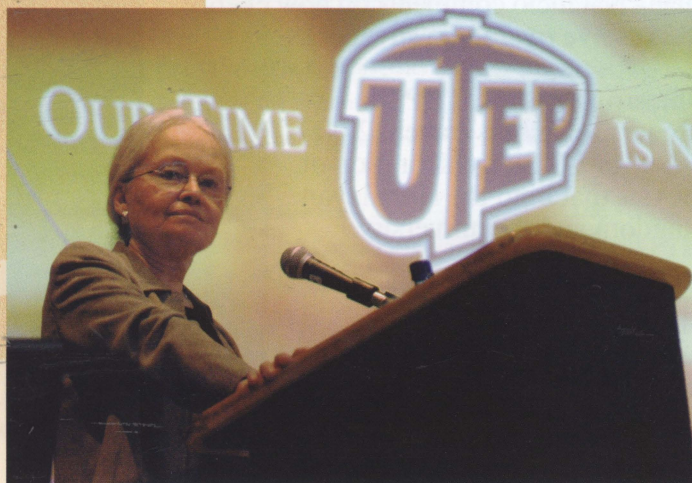


AND ENERGY RESOLVE

The past academic year brought many hurdles — from legislative budget cuts to a dwindling economy to a continuing war. But despite the adversity, UTEP made great strides — from a record student enrollment to winning record grants and prestigious awards.

Tough Academic Year Tests UTEP's Tenacity

Following is a summary of UTEP President Diana Natalicio's remarks during fall convocation's state of the university address in September 2003.



a greater investment of time and energy than ever before. In addition, a downturn in local economic conditions directly impacts UTEP students' opportunities for employment to support their families and finance their education.

Global conflicts have sent a number of UTEP students, staff and faculty to active duty and into harm's way. Together with their family members, we pray for their safe return.

Having said that, UTEP has gained a national reputation for succeeding in a highly challenging context. We have demonstrated that we have the capacity to carefully assess the many variables that affect us, and develop successful and creative strategies to emerge with greater energy and resolve.

We are tenacious. We do not give up, even in times of adversity. We know that we have important work to do, and we will find a way to get it done.

Legislative Aftermath

A report on the state of the university would not be complete without a review of the Legislature's actions.

UTEP's 2003-04 budget reflects an 11.5 percent reduction in state appropriations over last year. What makes this significant state funding reduction even more painful and difficult to manage is that it is occurring at a time when UTEP enrollment is growing at a far faster pace than it has been in more than a decade.

In effect, we have been charged with serving an ever larger student population with substantially fewer state dollars.

The state cut UTEP's fiscal year 2003 appropriations by 7 percent, preparing us for the very intense budget analysis, restructuring, and expenditure reduction activities of this past summer.

The various cost-cutting measures in which we engaged during the spring, such as hiring and travel freezes, helped redefine UTEP's baseline spending. They also softened

Tough Times

The past academic year has, by any measure, been one of the most challenging in this institution's history. Although there has been considerable progress on many fronts — including robust enrollment growth — our attention has been disproportionately focused on an external context that can only be described as sobering.

The Texas legislative session was particularly difficult. We are still trying to understand all of the consequences of the Legislature's actions, but we certainly know that state appropriations have been significantly reduced — carrying enormous consequences for UTEP and the students we serve.

The economy has also directly impacted UTEP in a number of ways.

Philanthropic support from foundations, corporations, and individual donors has contracted, and securing such support requires



RANK AND FILE

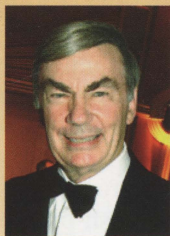
- **UTEP ranked among the top 10 universities** in the United States in the number of Hispanic bachelor's degree recipients who earned a doctoral degree between 1997 and 2001, according to the National Science Foundation.



UTEP ranked second among all academic components in the University of Texas System last year in total external funding received from private sources.

GRANTS, GIFTS AND AWARDS

- **Sam Donaldson**, one of UTEP's most visible alumni, was roasted in Washington, D.C., to raise funds for the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies, netting more than \$100,000.



- **Faculty and staff received 285 new grant** awards totaling more than \$63.8 million during the past year — a new record.

- **The National Science Foundation's Math/Science Partnership** program awarded a \$29.3 million grant to the El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence.

- **The NSF's ADVANCE** program awarded UTEP a \$3.4 million grant to increase opportunities for female faculty members



in science, engineering, liberal arts and business.

- **The National Institutes of Health** awarded \$6.2 million to the Border Biomedical Research Center and \$5.5 million to support the work of 10 faculty members.

- **The National Institute of Mental Health** of the NIH awarded a \$1.5 million grant to professors in psychology and sociology.



- **A \$500,000 IBM Shared University Research Program** grant was awarded to a team of colleagues in computer science, biology, chemistry, and electrical and computer engineering, to launch a multi-phased set of research collaborations between IBM and UTEP.

REACHING OUT

- **Academic programs have been added**, including doctoral degrees in civil engineering, international business, and composition and rhetoric, and bachelor's programs in music theater, dance, and athletic trainer education.

somewhat the impact of the additional reductions required for the next biennium.

To illustrate, for the first time in UTEP's history, 82 staff positions had to be eliminated. Fortunately, 59 of those positions had already been vacated voluntarily through retirements and resignations during the hiring freeze. No faculty were laid off.

The second major legislative action was its decision to deregulate tuition.

In principle, institutional flexibility in setting tuition is probably a good thing. Those of us who are closest to the students we serve ought to be in a better position to gauge our needs and our students' capacity to pay.

Coupled with a reduction in state appropriations, the clear signal being sent is that students will be expected to bear a greater share of the cost of their education.

In considering a tuition increase, our primary goals are to protect the quality of all our

academic programs and ensure that UTEP remains affordable to the students we serve. This is not an easy assignment, especially when so many students are already struggling to finance their education.

Recommendations for a tuition increase were forwarded to the UT System, and final approval was to come from the Board of Regents in November. If approved, new tuition rates will be implemented in the spring 2004. Financial aid in the form of grants and work-study jobs will assist students in bearing the cost of their education.

Revenue Diversification

As we implement these tuition increases, we are mindful of the growing responsibility we have to our students. We have to seek other sources of revenue, to continue to diversify our revenue base, to mitigate the financial burden on students and leverage their investment.

Despite the downturn in the economy, annual support for UTEP from alumni and our own

faculty and staff grew significantly in dollars and number of donors.

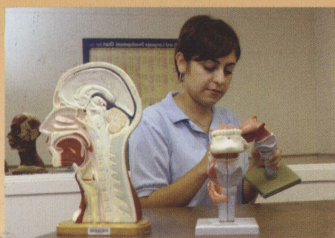
Foundation support for UTEP continued to be strong, despite national trends to the contrary. UTEP awarded an increasing amount of merit-based scholarships and administered a record allocation of need-based grants and loans last year.

Many grants in UTEP's external funding this year enable us to reach out to our community. But perhaps the most important theme in UTEP's external funding is that all of these grants have a major impact on our students. In addition, the research training opportunities from these grants build aspirations and skills for students to pursue a graduate education.

Research etc.

This summer, Chancellor Mark Yudof challenged UTEP, UT Arlington, UT Dallas and UT San Antonio to raise externally funded research to \$100 million per year within the next several years. The grant funding success

CONVOCATION continued on pg. 4



• **A new master's degree** in health promotion was developed and a doctoral in interdisciplinary health science preliminarily approved.

• **Wintermester and Maymester**, 10-day mini-semester, were created for more flexible schedule options.

• **An accelerated MBA** program was created for working professionals downtown. Other colleges continue to offer courses at area schools to accommodate the schedules of pre-service and in-service teachers.

• **The College of Education** has greatly expanded its Alternative Teacher Certification program and worked with the El Paso Community College and area school districts to establish a job-embedded program for paraprofessionals who wish to become teachers.

• **The new Ruben Salazar Spanish-Language Media Program** at the Communication Department's Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies will enable UTEP to respond to the growing demand for Spanish-proficient communication professionals.

SPECIAL EVENTS



Shakira

• **The Special Events office**, whose programs range from Cher and Shakira concerts to Smackdown wrestling shows, reported \$6.2 million in revenues last year.

RECORD ENROLLMENT

UTEP set a record student enrollment this fall — 18,542

UTEP Census 2003

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

	Fall 2003	Fall 2002	% Change from Fall 2002
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	18,542	17,232	7.6%

CLASSIFICATION

Freshman	4,912	4,651	5.6%
Sophomore	2,798	2,704	3.5%
Junior	2,922	2,683	8.9%
Senior	4,453	4,346	2.5%
Undergraduate Student Subtotal	15,085	14,384	4.9%
Graduate Level	3,197	2,614	22.3%
(Master's)	2,429	2,063	17.7%
(Professional/ Non-Degree Seeking)	253	213	18.8%
(Certification Seeking)	515	338	52.4%
Doctoral	260	234	11.1%
Graduate Student Subtotal	3,457	2,848	21.4%

NEW STUDENTS

First-Time Freshmen	2,522	2,367	6.5%
Transfers	1,016	989	2.7%
New Students Subtotal	3,538	3,356	5.4%

Source: CIERP

CONVOCATION *continued from pg. 3*

that UTEP has achieved during the past several years will serve as a solid foundation on which to launch that aggressive effort.

We have clearly demonstrated what some consider impossible: Research excellence can be achieved while maintaining a fundamental commitment to student access.

One of the keys to achieving this kind of rapid growth in externally funded research will likely be building a successful partnership with a health science center.

Unlike our sister institutions in the Dallas-Fort Worth and San Antonio areas, UTEP is not located near a research-oriented UT System health science center with which to partner. Because our potential partner is a member of the Texas Tech University System—and is only beginning its efforts to develop into a research-based, four-year medical school—UTEP's challenges are somewhat more complex.

The next several years will be critical in

shaping the development of El Paso's medical school. With our broad range of allied health programs and our growing biomedical research portfolio, UTEP must be prepared to play a leadership role in that development.

Meeting the Community's Needs

UTEP is more closely tied to the community that surrounds it than most universities. We have always served a highly regional student population, and, from our earliest days as the Texas School of Mines, we have sought to offer programs of importance to this region.

First and foremost, UTEP responds to this community's needs by offering high-quality academic programs at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels, and making those programs accessible and affordable.

All of these efforts have resulted in UTEP's largest ever fall enrollment — 18,542. First-time freshman and graduate enrollment also reached record highs.

UTEP also contributes to the quality of life

in this community through its cultural, arts, and entertainment programming, presenting thought-provoking and entertaining programs to residents of this region.

Infrastructure

UTEP this year embarked on a major construction project totaling \$44 million, which includes a new Academic Services building, a biosciences facility and an addition to the engineering building.

Parking lot closures associated with these construction projects have given a whole new meaning to the "Pardon Our Mess" slogan. To alleviate the parking challenge, lots were restriped to accommodate more students, and a shuttle bus service called Miner Metro was implemented for student use.

One of the new parking areas is the former Rudolph Chevrolet property, which may be used for expansion of student apartments. Miner Village is 100 percent occupied — and has a waiting list of students who seek to live on campus.

Additionally, foundation grants are supporting

BUILDING BOOM



Biosciences



Engineering



Academic Services

• **A new biosciences** facility will provide state-of-the-art research laboratory space for our growing portfolio of biomedical and health-related research.

• **An addition to the engineering building** will provide much-needed expansion space for growing student enrollment and research.

• **A new Academic Services building** will draw together most academic support services, including the registrar, admissions, scholarships, financial aid, and the graduate school.

• **Kelly Hall**, a vacant high-rise residence hall, is being transformed into the Paso del Norte Research and Business Development Complex.

• **Seamon Hall** is undergoing a complete renovation. This former mining engineering building will become a splendid new center for the exhibition and study of contemporary art.

• **Additional student housing**



Miner Village

is being planned because Miner Village is 100 percent occupied, with a waiting list of students who seek to live on campus.

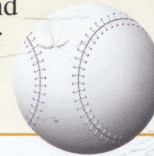
• **Development of the Helen of Troy Softball Complex**, just off Sun Bowl Drive, will provide a softball field for the new team, as well as dressing rooms and offices for both women's softball and our women's soccer program.



SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

• **More than \$5.3 million** in merit-based scholarships was awarded this past year, a 5 percent increase over the previous year.

• **A record number of need-based grants and loans** was allocated last year, including \$6.2 million in Texas Grants.



renovations to transform Seamon Hall into a fine arts complex, and through federal grants, the former dormitory at Kelly Hall will be turned into the Paso del Norte Research and Business Development Complex.

Quality and Accountability

Another major theme of the past year has been increased attention to strategies that enable us to be accountable for the quality of all that we do.

The College of Engineering and the Occupational Therapy Program received full re-accreditation, and we have begun preparations for institutional re-accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which will culminate in 2005-06.

Test scores are indicators of the preparation quality of UTEP students, especially in professional programs. Significant improvement in ExCET scores by teacher education graduates and high passing rates of nursing and occupational therapy graduates

on their licensing exams assure us that our students meet stringent professional standards.

UTEP graduates have continued to be recruited aggressively by many corporations and by graduate and professional schools. Accountability for quality is also revealed in the success of UTEP students, faculty and staff in national and international competitions.

Amazingly Good

I think you will all agree that 2002-03 was an amazingly good year at UTEP.

We could rest on our laurels, but that is not our style.

There remains much to do to solidify the gains that we have made, and to create new opportunities for the future. We will implement new doctoral programs and strengthen graduate education. We will continue efforts to make UTEP programs more accessible to residents of this region. We will implement deregulated tuition.

We will work with Chancellor Yudof and the Washington Advisory Group to plan UTEP's strategic research development during the next

several years. We will continue to serve as a



Yudof

leading Hispanic-Serving Institution, and a model for preK-20 collaboration on the national level. We will work with Texas Tech, the UT System, and interested members of the community on the development of a four-year medical

school in El Paso.

We will continue to try to strengthen public health education and research in El Paso, through a more effective partnership with UT Houston or a UTEP-based program.

During the past decade, we have learned that with a clear understanding of who we are and whom we serve — and a strong commitment to shaping the future of this region and a willingness to work tirelessly to achieve our mission and uphold our values — we can accomplish almost anything. ■

BHUTAN Days at UTEP

Event celebrates
culture, relations

By Megan E. Baeza



Kezang Jamtsho took measured steps across the turf in the Sun Bowl. Behind him, images of his Bhutan homeland flashed on the stadium's video screen for the crowd in the stands—monasteries, smiling faces and rolling brown and green hillsides.

"I didn't know what to expect of El Paso before we arrived," he says, checking the tautness of the strings on his bamboo archery bow. He looked down field to the end zone and closed one eye, focusing on his targets and mentally preparing himself for the demonstration he was about to give. "But now I agree with what has been said—El Paso is very much like Bhutan. I get a feeling similar to home here."

Jamtsho, along with Dasho Sithey and Gyeltshen, was selected by the Bhutanese archery federation to travel over 12,000 miles to El Paso to take part in Bhutan Days at UTEP, a two-day celebration in September honoring the similarities and ties between the Himalayan kingdom and the university.

Aside from an architectural connection — UTEP's distinctive buildings are styled after Buddhist monasteries — the university boasts a Bhutanese altar, hand-embroidered tapestries and an authentic Buddhist prayer wheel.

This fall, UTEP has another tie to Bhutan: UTEP graduate student Tobgay, a geologist who assumed the role of ambassador during the festivities. Wearing the traditional *ka*, a brightly patterned tunic, he answered a large variety of questions from people curious about Bhutan.

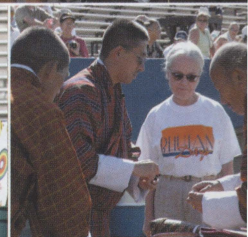
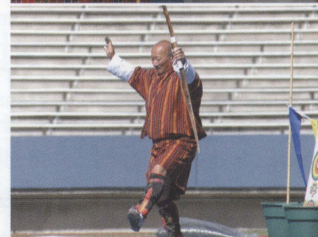
"They are very interested in Bhutan, and some have said they would like to see Bhutan for themselves one day," he says about fielding questions from hundreds of students who attended the event.

Kimberly Keeton-Petit, coordinator for recreational sports, volunteered at the mandala table where students glued brightly colored tiles to geometric designs. According to legend, the designs signify the infinite possibilities of the human mind.

"It's been fascinating," she says. "The Bhutan culture is rich and colorful." ■

"El Paso is very much like Bhutan. I get a feeling similar to home here."

— Bhutanese archer Kezang Jamtsho



A day of reckoning

Program honors journalism alumnus turned martyr

By Erica Martinez

Aug. 29, 1970, was expected to be a day of peaceful demonstrations at the Chicano Anti-War Moratorium in Los Angeles.

Instead, it was a day of reckoning for Chicanos – including journalist Ruben Salazar, who was killed on the job at the age of 42 during a chaotic police raid.

“Many in the Chicano community believed he was muzzled with his death. No one believed that his death was accidental,” says UTEP Chicano Studies Program Director Dennis Bixler-Márquez.

Salazar, a 1954 Texas Western College (now UTEP) graduate, was reporting on the demonstration for the Los Angeles Times and KMEX, a Spanish-language TV station. He and his crew had stopped at the Silver Dollar Café when police arrived and fired 10-inch tear gas missiles into the restaurant without warning.

“Salazar paid the ultimate price for doing his work,” says Bixler-Márquez. “He became a symbol of the Chicano movement – *el movimiento*.”

To honor the journalist who became a martyr, UTEP recently launched a program in his name: The Ruben Salazar Spanish-Language Media Program. Under the program, students will take bilingual classes in print and electronic media to prepare journalists to enter the growing field of Spanish-language media. The program is part of the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies

Salazar was born in Juárez, Mexico, on March 28, 1928. Less than a year later, his parents, Luz and Salvador Salazar, moved the family to El Paso.

He graduated from El Paso High School then entered Texas Western College in 1946. After a two-year stint in Germany with the U.S. Army, he returned to TWC and graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1954.

“He was a champion for justice,” says Nancy Hamilton, who worked with Salazar for the student newspaper, *The Prospector*. “He was a born-reporter just trying to get the truth out.”

After graduation, Salazar worked the police and Juárez beats for the *El Paso Herald-Post* – becoming the first Mexican-American journalist to work for the paper. In 1959, he became the first Mexican-American journalist to work for the Los Angeles Times.

In his award-winning six-part series, “Spanish-speaking Angelenos,” Salazar wrote about the history and identity of Mexican Americans in southern California. His series brought him both praise and criticism from the Mexican-American community for his candid reporting.

In 1965, Salazar again made history as the first Mexican-American foreign correspondent in Vietnam and Mexico City. He returned to the Los Angeles Times in 1968.

In April 1970, Salazar became news director at KMEX, but continued to write a weekly column on Chicano issues for the Los Angeles Times.

Salazar expressed the feelings of Chicanos “in their struggle for civil rights and dignity in U.S. society” in both English- and Spanish-language media, says Mario Garcia, also a UTEP graduate and editor of “*Border Correspondent*,” a book of Salazar's writings.

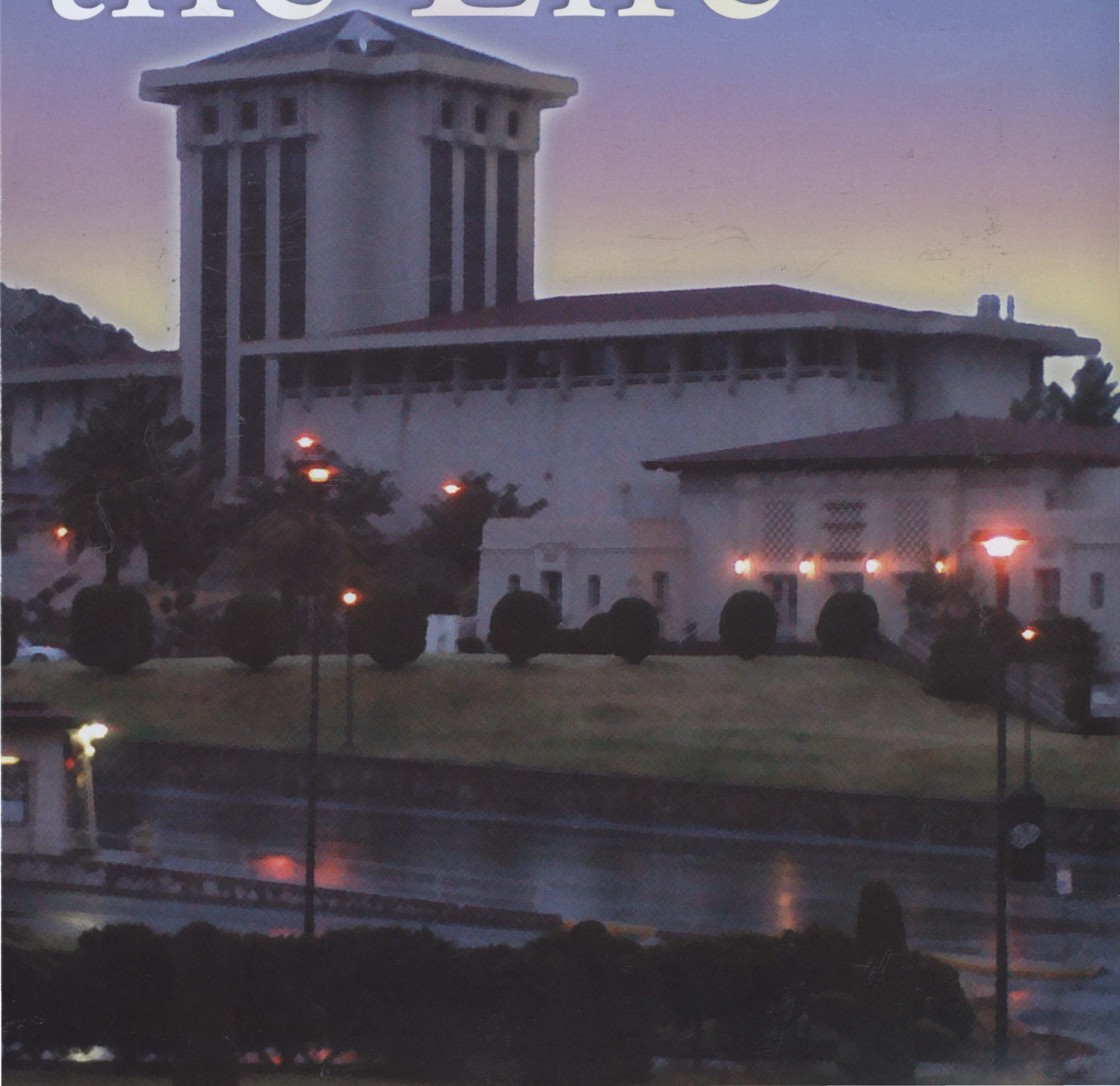
“Salazar became an instant martyr for the Chicano movement,” says Garcia, now a history and Chicano studies professor at the University of California in Santa Barbara. “His lasting legacy is that he was a true pioneer of Latino journalism in the U.S.” ■

“His lasting legacy is that he was a true pioneer of Latino journalism in the U.S.”

Photos from top: Ruben Salazar in the 1970s; interviewing former President Dwight D. Eisenhower in the early 1960s; with Robert F. Kennedy in the 1960s; at the UTEP Prospector in the mid-1950s; and at KMEX in Los Angeles in 1970.



A Day in the Life



At dawn, long before the parking lots and classrooms fill, the UTEP campus is coming to life.

Laboratory lights and computers flicker on, vacuum cleaners hum and lawn mowers roar; the smell of coffee is everywhere.

Within hours, more than 18,500 students, 900 faculty and 3,000 employees add their energy to the campus. Crowds of students climb aboard Miner Metro shuttles, walk through the Bhutanese-style buildings and settle into the library, labs and classrooms.

Some calmly scribble down answers or observations on the corners of their notebooks; others stream across crowded crosswalks, talking too loudly on cell phones or enthusiastically hugging their friends. Motorists wait impatiently.

Eventually the crowds thin; classrooms, crosswalks and parking lots are abandoned again.

But everywhere, as the bright lights of campus replace the day's sunshine, night owls are still hard at work – in the fitness center, at the welding shop or the theater studio. Some compete on the practice field or study in night classes; other stop to play with the wild cats that prowl campus.

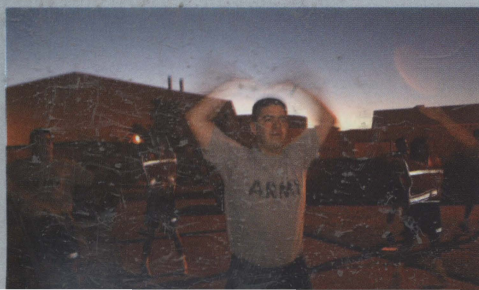
Such is a day in the life of UTEP.

Some of it is familiar to us all; some of it is seen by a privileged few.

To illustrate, University Communications photographers **Laura Trejo** and **Javier Vicencio** recorded many of the moments that add up to a day on campus. **Johnny Payne** contributed an eloquent essay about a typical week in his life as director of UTEP's MFA Program in Bilingual Creative Writing.

To be sure, a day at UTEP is different for each of us as we hurry across campus, more concerned about where we're going than where we are. These pages give us a chance to stop and look and think about a day in the life at UTEP.

UTEP from dawn to dusk
6:05 am



UTEP Army ROTC cadets hold physical training at sunrise three times a week.

7:12 am

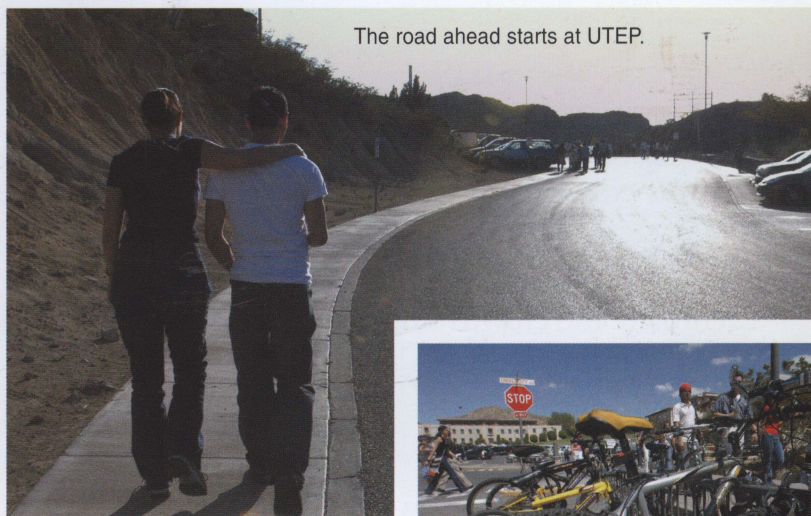


Starting in the early morning, guards stationed at the university's entrance gates check hundreds of cars for parking decals daily.

View from the top: The Student Union serves as the center of campus activities.



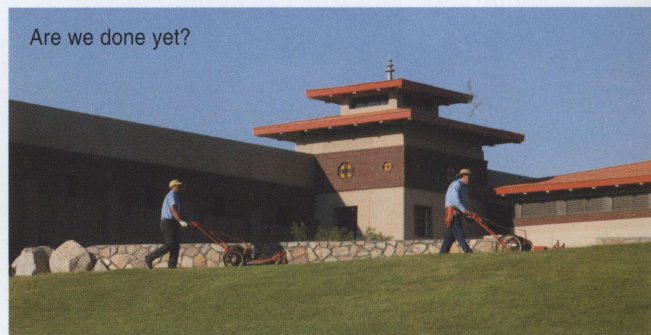
The best part of waking up at Miner Village is having campus around the corner.



The road ahead starts at UTEP.



Rack one up for the convenience of bicycling.



Are we done yet?

UTEP from dawn to dusk
7:30 am



An average of 301 books are checked out daily at the Library, where students eagerly await its opening each morning.

8:01 am



Frances Luera serves Alejandro Prado the day's first cup of coffee at Starbucks Coffee in the Union.

A Week in the Life – and Loving It

By Johnny Payne

It has been a brutal week.

Budget meetings, college reorganization meetings, grant-writing meetings, teaching assistant meetings, faculty meetings – prepping for my literary theory seminar up until the very last minute while eating dill pickles straight out of the jar. Since my body chemistry won't accept one more cup of coffee, why not try salt and vinegar instead?

The course schedule for spring is due Monday, or did I miss that deadline? Was it today? I check my desk calendar; yes, I missed it. Oh well, it won't be the first deadline I missed this week, but I did get the audit of incompletes completed. So at least my incompletion is complete.



Johnny Payne, at left, director of the MFA Program in Bilingual Creative Writing, calls his students, Javier O. Huerta, Juan Alvarez and Jaime Urco "sensitive writers of sonnets and exquisite reflections on philosophy."

9:11 am



A University Childcare Center employee comforts a crying child – one of 200 children who enroll each semester.

10:23 am



KTEP's Dennis Woo, host of *Morning Jazz*, plays an average of 10 songs and several jazz news updates an hour.



Taking a break under the sun between classes

Learning - and looking good



The campus remains active from dawn to dusk – and in between.

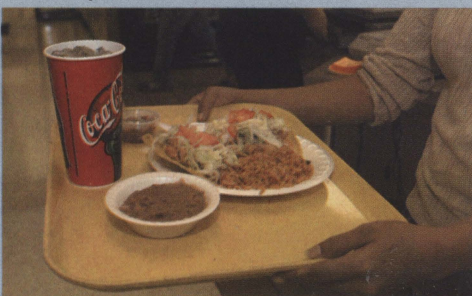


It's not recess, but a class that preferred the outdoors.



UTEP's \$55 million construction project at rest

UTEP from dawn to dusk 12:00 pm



Growling stomachs are comforted at the Union's food court, where crowds grow to their largest around noon.

12:21 pm



Students make their way around campus, testing the patience of drivers who compete with them to get across busy crosswalks.



Putting a smile on our faces –
and a jolt in our day



No millionaires here. The gold is for
embossing at Paydirt Printing.



Black cats prowl the campus.

Now I have to get home and rub spices into the pork roast because I'm hosting the annual welcome party for the master's in fine arts students at my house tomorrow and 50 people will be there by early afternoon.

Saturday morning, my daughter and I are up making whole-wheat pizza crust. She's telling me about her friends' boyfriend problems while we smash flour and corn meal into olive oil at the island counter.

Sunshine is streaming down onto us from the skylight, because when they told me the sun virtually never stopped shining in El Paso, they spoke true. My daughter rolls out a crust, her face flickering in and out of a sunbeam as her body moves behind the rolling pin... "So anyway, Daddy, Amanda's parents went ballistic."

I'm slicing mushrooms as fast as I can. My hands flew across the keyboard with similar speed all week as I wrote up a proposal for a Summer Institute for Teachers and a job ad to place in the MLA job list and a proposed curriculum for undergraduate honors in creative writing.

The students are beginning to arrive at my house.

At least they're all smiling.

My son starts to do magic tricks for some of them, making quarters appear and disappear as they applaud. Somebody should make him the comptroller.

Here comes Martín, who spent the two years before he matriculated into the creative writing program cutting up chickens for Tyson foods. This week, however, he's more concerned that Plato has made things unnecessarily difficult for Aristotle.

There's Maria, who taught film editing at the Rochester Institute of Technology and now she's a teaching assistant for English composition, which she never thought she'd find herself doing. Meanwhile, as she takes our core courses, she's working on a script for a documentary she's going to make about the island she grew up on, outside Buenos Aires, along the Río de la Plata.

We didn't even realize until she got into my program that my daughter and her son are best friends. Yes, there he is, J.P., his bangs in his

face, wise-cracking before he gets both feet in the door. That's the way it is in El Paso, which I call "Little Big Town." No matter where you're from, pretty soon you're from here and your life is intertwined with everybody else's.

Jaime appears, a poet who has already published several books. He fell down a flight of stairs last week and broke his shoulder. Since then, the students have been taking him meals, driving him around to classes and appointments and some of them waited at the hospital while he went through surgery and recovery. No one told them to act as Samaritans – they just worked it out on their own initiative. If you fall and break your shoulder, they'll come drive you around, too.

Here's Juan, my brilliant Colombian student, probably the future president of a liberal arts college; right now, a writer of searing, experimental prose and also my office assistant. He comes up behind me as I'm taking the first pizzas out of the oven, pats me on the back, tells me I work too hard, that I need to take a break and get something to drink. He'll watch the pizzas bake while I cool off. He worries about me.

I am a little tired today. I know I've taken some days off since I began this directorship, I must have, I just can't remember when they were.

There's too much to be done and damn my luck, the work is really interesting.

Juan, Jaime and Javier have all shaved their heads recently. Maybe it's some kind of club. These sensitive writers of sonnets and exquisite reflections on philosophy and bilingual meditations on the nature of the sublime look like a bunch of Latin street toughs. With all the new regulations, the I-20s, the required identification cards, the social security numbers, the out-of-state documentation – and for the ones from Juárez, the long lines every day to cross to classes – maybe they simply want to give themselves a visible expression of the hard-nosed side of things.

Eleonora, the editor of our bilingual literary magazine, isn't at the party only because her boyfriend is visiting in the area, but he can't cross the border, so she's down there for the weekend on a kind of Juárez conjugal visit.

2:18 pm



From basketball to cheerleading, practice makes perfect for students in extra-curricular activities and organizations across campus.

3:34 pm



The Miner Metro student shuttle makes 11 stops on its 10-minute trek around campus.

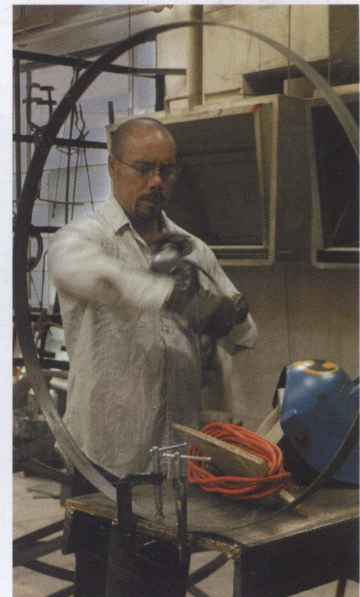
Thousands of students
come and go across
Leech Grove daily.



The 51,000-seat Sun Bowl stadium
lights up the night.



Stevie Nicks at the Don Haskins Center –
the No. 7 event venue in the 10,000- to
15,000-seat market in the nation.



Welding as an art form



The annual Season of Lights illuminates the
campus – and our spirits.

A prayer vigil for abuse victims



UTEP from dawn to dusk
5:57 pm



UTEP Dinner
Theatre performers
rehearse for "Bat
Boy," one of four
productions for the
2003-04 year.

8:22 pm



Darkness falls
quickly for
students who've
spent their
evenings in
classes, or
studying around
campus.

Before she left, though, she submitted requests for bids on the Rio Grande Review and we looked at desktop publishing software together.

Software first, soft gazes later. That's the way it goes sometimes.

Many of them are passionate about learning, and they soak up every drop of their education like rainfall in the West Texas desert.

Education is hard to come by and you can't be sure what the situation might be like even a year from now, drought or surplus, so start reading, start writing and don't let up.

Yes, there are some complacent ones too, who let family life or social life overtake their quest for achievement, but I'm lucky to have few of them in my program. The ones who don't succumb to attrition get pushed onward, not only by me, but by their own peers, who are not going to let them squander the moment. And I have the same attitude.

Philosophies differ on this campus, but I tell the MFA students that their standard must be to prepare with monastic discipline if they expect to stand in the front rank of the next generation of artists. I tell them their voices ought to be the ones shaping the dialogue, defining the terms of engagement. There is no other bilingual graduate creative writing program in the country. They are founders, not followers. And to capitalize on that, there must be no excuses. We will help them create the objective conditions for success, as much as we can, we will mentor, we will stay up late alongside them. Many students have a sad story, a tough background, many students have cultural obstacles in their path, but they cannot allow any of that as a pretext for succumbing to mediocrity.

Up on the balcony, drinking strong coffee, while all of us trade literary jokes in a rapid-fire goulash of witty English and Spanish, I catch Carlos' eye. He made a lot of sacrifices to get in the MFA program this semester. He and his wife had to move from Chihuahua and he's working in the cafeteria for minimum wage because we couldn't secure graduate funding for him. If it weren't for the PASE program letting him have in-state tuition, he wouldn't be in my seminar at all, reading Octavio Paz

and Susan Sontag, writing spirited polemics and parodies. I've told him I hope we can do better by him soon, there are never quite enough assistantships to go around, but he never complains. Instead, he gives me a resolute look tinged with wistfulness.

My wife offers an eyebrow raise to let me know the party's going well. I didn't burn the pizza dough.

The next morning, Sunday, there is a faculty party and luckily, I cooked a lot of food, so I take some leftovers with me. As I search out a glass of red wine, different faculty members are coming up, reminding me about such-and-such initiative or partnership, or wondering what the two of us can do about the problems of a certain student. Like me, they're working things out in their minds.

Maybe it's the time of the season, but I realize that this week, I went seven days out of seven. I'm starting to have fantasies about that DVD of The Dirty Dozen sitting in my cabinet back at home. Like my group of MFA students, Lee Marvin and his band of rogues have cropped hair and tough expressions. I'm not sure whether any of them ever wrote a sonnet, but they were given a dangerous and essential job to do and Lee Marvin would stop at nothing to make sure it was completed in style.

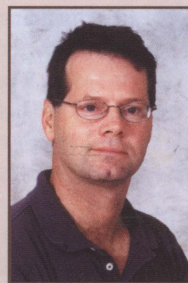
In the middle of my Dirty Dozen fantasy – with me as Lee Marvin – the husband of a UTEP lecturer comes up and buttonholes me. He tells me he hears I've been pushing in a good way against the students. I laugh and tell him they've been pushing back. He says that he's a high school history teacher and he appreciates the challenges I've been laying down. For too many years, he says, both those from outside and we ourselves have been too quick to pat ourselves on the head for getting to modest levels of achievement.

You're honoring the students, he says, by not settling for less and not letting them give you anything less. You're honoring them by sending them the message that when it comes to their brains and with the right skills developed, they can stand with anybody, anywhere.

Even our own families give us other messages sometimes. It creates insecurity so that when somebody first tells you that you can do what anybody else in the world can do, we don't really believe it. That's why you have to keep saying it and teaching it and enforcing it. Because after two or three or four times, hearing and experiencing it, then we do start to believe.

I give his shoulder a quick squeeze. He has incredible instincts. I tell him I really needed to hear those words this week.

I dig into a hunk of lemon bundt cake. I just ate, but already I'm hungry again. My mind is soaring and I can't wait for it to be tomorrow, because tomorrow is Monday. ■



Johnny Payne, director of the MFA Program in Bilingual Creative Writing, received a master's degree in

English and comparative literature from Stanford University; an MFA in creative writing from the University of Alabama; and a bachelor's in Spanish from Indiana University.

He has written 11 books and novels and is completing a novel titled Maysville. He has also written two plays, including the musical Serpent's Lover, which will be performed in New York City and at UTEP in spring 2004.

10:41 pm



A UTEP Police Department officer completes nightly security checks of university facilities, which include 86 buildings.

12:12 am



Dedicated to their crafts, night owls work in foundries, welding shops and music studios across campus late into the night.

Healthy research

UTEP's grant portfolio is growing, pumping blood into health-related research and programs.

National biolab research

UTEP is among a group of universities that will participate in research at a new



biosafety laboratory that will become a key component of the nation's biodefense effort.

The \$150 million National Biocontainment Laboratory is to be built at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB). It will be one of only two in the nation, and is funded by \$110 million from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and \$40 million from the U.T. System.

UTEP will have the opportunity to develop therapies, vaccines and diagnostic tests for biological agents such as anthrax that might be used by terrorists and for infections such as SARS, smallpox, typhus and the West Nile virus.

UTEP is one of five Texas universities playing a major role in UTMB's recently awarded Regional Center of Excellence in Biodefense and Emerging Infections Diseases Research. The center will be funded by a \$48 million grant from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Construction of the biocontainment lab at UTMB, the first full-sized facility to be built on a university campus in the nation, will begin in 2006.

UTEP is currently building a \$27 million biosciences facility, which will expand its biomedical research. The five-level, 100,000-square-foot building will be completed in 2005 and will include a Biosafety Level 3 Laboratory. With a level 3 laboratory, UTEP scientists can study a higher level of diseases, such as the organisms that cause tuberculosis.

Hispanic health disparities

UTEP received a \$4.1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study and reduce health disparities among Hispanics.

The five-year grant will establish the Center for the Advancement of Minority Health and Health Disparities Research at UTEP. The grant will also help recruit and train faculty and will be used to disseminate research results to the community.

In a related grant, the NIH's National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities awarded

UTEP \$1.1 million to study health disparities among Mexican-American women. The specific project addresses behavioral health issues, including alcohol and tobacco use and nutrition.

The center is a partnership between UTEP's College of Health Sciences and the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health. It will serve as a strong recruiting tool and will provide students an opportunity to work as research assistants in the field.

Herbal safety on the Web

Reasons to avoid mixing herbal products with medications and other advice on common herbs can be found on a new Web site funded by a Paso del Norte Health Foundation grant.

The bilingual Web site herbalsafety.utep.edu describes the use, safety and herb-drug interactions of various herbs available on the market. Information based on research related to diverse herbal products and their uses in the border area are also featured.

Principal investigator and Cooperative Pharmacy Program Director José O. Rivera found the use of herbs along the border is broad.

"We found that 60 percent of people in the area used herbal products in the last month, compared to 13 percent in the nation," Rivera said. "In the border culture, many traditional remedies for common ailments are passed down from older relatives."

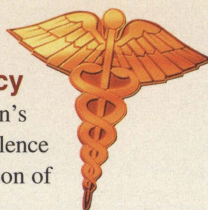
Hispanic Center of Excellence in Pharmacy

UTEP will house the nation's only Hispanic Center of Excellence in Pharmacy thanks to a portion of a \$2 million grant.

The Cooperative Pharmacy Program was awarded the grant by the Health Resources and Services Administration. The center will help Hispanic students succeed in medical fields.

The center will address concerns in the medical field of under-performing and underrepresented Hispanic students. Currently, 21.5 percent of Hispanic students in the program are placed on academic probation after their first year—compared to 19.6 percent of non-Hispanics.

UTEP's share of the grant is renewable and worth more than \$400,000.



Alumnus introduces redesigned \$20 bill

UTEP alumnus Javier Jimenez, assistant vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank, introduced the region to the redesigned \$20 bill at the university in October.

El Paso's first commercial transaction took place at the University Bookstore when President Diana Natalicio purchased a UTEP banner using the new bill.

The event was one of about 30 around the country to introduce the more secure bill.

UTEP sets record enrollment

Fall 2003 saw a record enrollment of 18,542 students, a 7.6 percent increase over the previous year.

Other significant records and increases were reported:

- First-time freshman enrollment is at a record 2,522.
- Sophomore and junior enrollment increased 3.5 percent and 8.9 percent, respectively, over last year.
- Graduate school saw a record enrollment of 3,457, a 21 percent increase.



Science, Engineering and Technology

NSF, IBM grants open doors

UTEP received three grants from the National Science Foundation totaling more than \$4 million for research, educational and outreach projects:

- **Institutional Transformation Grant:** \$3.4 million under the ADVANCE Program, which seeks to diversify the nation's academic workforce by increasing the number of women and minorities in the fields of science and engineering;

- **Distributed Computing Lab:** \$750,000 to increase minority participation in research by sponsoring college students as research assistants and reaching out to minority high school students who will use the lab during summer camps;

- **Border Crossings:** \$450,000 to assess the vulnerability of the U.S.-Mexico international bridges to natural and terrorist threats in the first comprehensive scientific investigation of the engineering of the bridges. A research team will build a simulation model to assess the impact of extreme events on traffic congestion, border-crossing delays and the depth of inspections at the port of entry. The team will also study how to best manage such events.

IBM grant to boost research

UTEP now boasts an IBM p690, an eight-processor high-performance computing platform with the capability to perform 50 billion calculations per second.

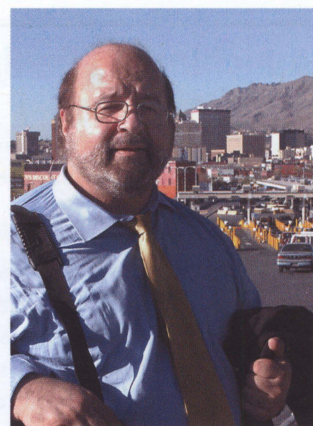
The \$500,000 donation from IBM in September will serve as a backbone for UTEP research. The platform is expected to increase cooperation across academic departments on new projects and provide more accurate and detailed results.



Pat Teller, assistant dean of engineering and associate professor of computer science, shows off UTEP's IBM p690.

UTEP's College of Engineering has a long-standing relationship with IBM, which actively recruits UTEP graduates from its computer science and electrical and computer engineering departments. IBM has hired 50 percent to 75 percent of these departments' top graduating seniors.

UTEP is ranked as a top producer of Hispanic bachelor-level engineers in the nation.



Acclaimed Peruvian scholar speaks about the wealth of the world

The wealth of the world is hidden within the poor, says internationally renowned economist and controversial author Hernando de Soto.

As part of UTEP's Millennium Lectures Series, De Soto presented "Economic Development: From Poverty to Capital," in October at the university.

His lecture focused on the economic significance of property titles of homes and small businesses for people in third-world countries.

De Soto, a 2001 Nobel Prize nominee in economics, is an expert in informal economics and property rights, and the director of Peru's Institute for Liberty and Democracy, a non-profit think tank that studies market development in third-world countries.

His latest book, "The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else," concludes that most of the world's population holds the answer to its poverty in its own hands—its property.

Teacher inspires youth to become somebody

By Erica Martinez



LaFarelle

Lorenzo LaFarelle's future started with a book — and it was history from there.

An avid reader at a young age, LaFarelle, now 79, explored past cultures and countries through books.

His pastime became his career. After almost 60

years in education as a history teacher and professor, LaFarelle looks back to the thousands of students he has taught — from fourth graders to college students.

"I know that I have helped a lot of young people," says LaFarelle, a 1956 Texas Western College (now UTEP) graduate.

His legacy in education has been etched in stone at the recently named Lorenzo G. LaFarelle Alternative Middle School in Northeast El Paso.

"I feel greatly honored and humbled," he says, especially because he was nominated by some of his former students. "You appreciate the fact that they remember you and that you inspired them in some way."

One of those students is Geronimo Garcia, president of Geronimo Design, an advertising and graphic design firm in El Paso.

"He helped me believe in myself — that I mattered and that I could be somebody," says Garcia, who was counseled by LaFarelle at Jefferson High School. "Thanks to a man who has served the educational needs of his community for so long and who is somebody, today I can say I am somebody too."

After earning a bachelor's degree in his hometown of Abilene, the Sul Ross University graduate taught in Cotulla, Texas, a small town north of Laredo. He later served as a teacher and counselor at Bowie and Jefferson high schools, and was one of the first professors to teach at El Paso Community College.

He earned his doctorate in Hispanic-American Studies from the Institute of International Culture, Universidad Internacional in Saltillo, Mexico, in 1984. From 1989 to 2001, LaFarelle lectured in the Chicano Studies program at UTEP.

In 2000, he won a Who's Who Among America's College Teachers award and the Texas Senate passed a proclamation recognizing his 56 years in education.

"I've enjoyed my teaching," LaFarelle says, "and I know I've done a good job."

Launching A Winning Team

Stories by Megan E. Baeza

The UTEP women's softball team will have a new home next year that promises to be the envy of programs everywhere.

The \$1.8 million Helen of Troy Softball Complex will be completed by September 2004 and will house the offices and locker rooms for the women's softball and soccer teams. The 900-seat facility will include a VIP seating area, lights, a scoreboard, three batting cages and two bullpens.

"Our softball stadium will be as nice as any school's in the country," says director of athletics Bob Stull. "It will provide a huge boost in recruiting, and be something the university and El Paso community can be proud of."

An official groundbreaking ceremony will be held at a later date.

"It is an honor for Helen of Troy to contribute

to the advancement of UTEP intercollegiate athletics," says Jerry Rubin, CEO and president of Helen of Troy. "It was legend that Helen of Troy was the most beautiful woman of antiquity and that she launched a thousand ships. It is my hope that the softball team will be just as memorable and win a thousand games."

Regular season play begins Feb. 10, 2004. Home games will most likely be played at alternate facilities while the softball complex is built.

"I've been coaching collegiate softball for nine years," says associate head softball coach Kathleen Rodriguez. "I've seen a lot of complexes in all the games I've played, but when I look at what our home will be, I get goose bumps." ■

For more information about the UTEP women's softball team and its 2004 schedule, visit <http://www.utepathletics.com/womenssoftball/>

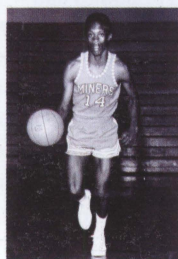


Helen of Troy Softball Complex artist rendering

Star Athletes Come Home To Fierce Hugs, Laughter

Former UTEP teammates embraced with fierce hugs and emphatic pats on the back during the university's Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony in September.

Basketball players "Tiny" Nate Archibald



Archibald

and Jim Barnes, football players Ken Heineman and Billy Stevens, and cross country runner Suleiman Nyambui were among the second class of inductees elected to the hall of fame.

The 1969 cross-country team and the 1974 and 1975 indoor track and field teams were also inducted. More than 300 people, a sold out crowd, attended the emotional ceremony at the Larry K. Durham Center.



Nyambui

"UTEP has a tremendous athletic tradition

and sometimes we forget without events like this," said Bob Stull, director of UTEP athletics. "During the last Olympics we had 14 student athletes or former students compete — 13 in track and one in basketball."

As the honorees were introduced, memories and laughs seemed more important than individual achievement — including a story from former track and field coach Ted Banks about Nyambui and a competition in Wisconsin. By the time Nyambui completed his race, Banks recalled, there was frost in his beard. The runner spent the remaining breaks between events warming up in the coach's car with the heater on.

Shaynah Barnes, daughter of basketball standout Jim Barnes, who passed away last year, presented the Hall of Fame with a number of her father's most important awards — including an Olympic gold medal and an NBA championship ring he earned during his professional career.

For more information, visit www.utepathletics.com/halloffame ■

Shooting For A Hit

UTEP's 1966 NCAA basketball champs to be featured in movie

By Cindy Ramirez

Longtime UTEP basketball coach Don Haskins' life is as intriguing as a good movie. And now it will be.

Disney Productions will begin filming "Glory Road," a movie about Haskins and the 1966 Texas Western College NCAA champions, in spring 2004.

Haskins, the Hall of Fame coach who retired from UTEP in August 1999, led five black starters to beat an all-white Kentucky team in the 1966 NCAA tournament. The game broke basketball's color barrier, and remains the only national championship in Texas.

The film is to star Ben Affleck as Haskins and will be produced by Jerry Bruckheimer. Affleck and Bruckheimer have worked together in "Armageddon" and "Pearl Harbor."

In 1997, UTEP renamed its Special Events Center the Don Haskins Center after "The Bear," as the coach is affectionately known. Haskins was also among the first inductees to UTEP's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002.

The online version of *Texas Monthly* at www.texasmonthly.com features an interview with Haskins, which was conducted during the 2002-03 season.

"I didn't go into the championship game thinking, 'Am I gonna play two white guys?' I was thinking about winning," Haskins says in the interview.

"We were trying to win a game. I found out after the game, a couple of weeks later, when I started to get a lot of hate mail, what had happened," Haskins says. "We had a bunch of good guys on our team, and the thing that I've always been the proudest of is that every one of them was a success in life."

The November 2003 issue of *Texas Monthly* features a story on the current UTEP basketball team under Coach Billie Gillispie titled "Miner Threat," which talks about the team's historical past, its present rebuilding and the possibility for a winning future.

The article calls Gillispie a "workaholic sharpie" who's eye on "hard-rebounding, high-intensity, fundamentals basketball ... is something Miners fans have learned to prize even more than natural ability or a good won-lost record." ■



Golden grad comes home — again

By Karla V. Iscapa

The wrinkles on Bertha Toscano's face don't seem enough to mark her 90 years of life, which isn't slowing down for the UTEP alumnus.

Toscano traveled from Mexico City to El Paso during UTEP homecoming to celebrate two important milestones this year: Her 90th birthday and the 70th anniversary of her college graduation.

"It's always worth it," Toscano says about her coming to UTEP for Homecoming each year.

This time may have been especially sentimental: Toscano was serenaded by two fellow alumni during the Golden Grads Luncheon, bringing the woman described as "feisty and lively" to silent tears.

"She's been a dedicated alumnus for many years and she never forgets her roots," said Yolanda Ingle, assistant vice president for institutional advancement. "Her energy and enthusiasm over her alma mater is contagious."

Toscano was only 19 when she graduated from the College of Mines and Metallurgy (now UTEP) with a bachelor's degree in languages. She was the youngest in her class of 1933 — and is one of the few alumni that remain from that generation.

Many things have changed since she graduated, Toscano said. She recalls that there were only three buildings and there was nothing around the campus area. The

college had become an accredited four-year university offering both bachelor of science and bachelor of arts degrees just

two years before Toscano's graduation.

After Toscano's graduation during the Great Depression, she did some tutoring and took a job in Juárez because employment was scarce in El Paso.

While there, she heard of a temporary opening as a typist at the Mexican Department of American Smelting and Refining

Company in El Paso (now Asarco). The two-week temporary job extended into 40 years, during which time she received several promotions. Toscano was the first woman executive of the Mexican Department where she was the supervisor of Special Services in the personnel section.

In 1961, she was transferred to Mexico City due to the elimination of the mining section of the refining company in El Paso. She retired in 1975 after marrying Roberto Toscano, a mining engineer and ex-employee of Asarco. Her husband died in 1992, and she dedicated her life to a small school for indigent children in Mexico.

Toscano says age won't stop her from contributing her time to the school — or from visiting her alma mater every Homecoming as she's done for more than 20 years.

"If I'm around next year, I'll be here," Toscano says. "If not, you'll remember me." ■



Toscano

2004 Alumni Association Board of Directors

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Call for Distinguished Alumni nominations

Each year, UTEP selects its Distinguished Alumni, individuals whose accomplishments bring pride to the university and inspiration to current students. Complementing the selection of these honorees is the designation of outstanding alumni — Gold Nuggets — by each of the university's six colleges.

The Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award and Gold Nugget Awards through Jan. 31.

For more information, visit www.utep.edu/alumni or contact the Alumni Relations Office at 915-747-8600, 1-866-GO-MINERS, or alumni@utep.edu.

Gratitude for Generosity

The UTEP Alumni Association extends its gratitude to the following sponsors for their generous support of the 2003 Distinguished Alumni Event:

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UTEP's legacy of pride continued during Homecoming 2003, when thousands of students, alumni and friends turned out for the week's events.



30s

Leon A. Rosenfield (B.A. '33), of Los Angeles, received the Champion of Youth award from the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization Alumni Association of Southern California. He is a member of the B'nai B'rith International Advisory Council, and also serves as president of the Southern California Jewish Communal Retirees Association.

40s

Raymond T. Odell (B.A. '48) was awarded an honorary life membership in the Northern California SIR (Sons in Retirement) organization. Odell also sits on the board of directors of two ChevronTexaco retirees associations, is active in a Civil War Round-Table and assists in the computer laboratory at the Redwood City Senior Center.

60s

Abel Aldaz Jr. (B.A. '67) is the director of human resources at the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center at Tinker Air Force Base.

Rueben A. Flores (B.A. '67), state executive director of the United States Department of Agriculture/Farm Service Agency in Honolulu, Hawaii, was presented the 2003 Secretary's Honor Award by Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman for his work in assisting limited resource farmers and ranchers in the Pacific Basin.

Phillip T. Smith (B.A. '64), chair of the history department at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, received the school's *Bene Merenti* award for service during the May 2003 commencement ceremony.

Michael P. Tuchman (B.B.A. '69) retired as the head of the Central Accounting System of the Federal Courts in Washington, D.C., and now resides in Celebration, Fla.

70s

Martin David Binder (B.S.Ed. '73; M.Ed. '75), the head athletic trainer at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, was appointed by Gov. Bill Richardson to the New Mexico Athletic Trainer Practice Board, which he now chairs.

Ricardo Hernandez (B.F.A. '76), executive director of the Texas Commission on the Arts in Austin, was inducted into the El Paso Artists' Hall of Fame.

Lorraine O'Donnell (B.S.Ed. '75) is the vice president of the El Paso Independent School District Board of Trustees.

Jose "Joe" Lopez (B.B.A. '75), president of El Paso's Lopez Advertising Group Inc., is chair of the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce. He is the first El

Pasoan to hold the post.

Michael D. Moon (B.A. '72) is a deputy chief of the Border Patrol, second-in-command of the El Paso sector that covers West Texas and New Mexico.

Gilberto Moreno Jr. (B.S.M.E. '74), senior consultant at Prestige Consulting Services in El Paso, received MicroSociety Inc.'s national Partner Achievement Award, which recognizes support of school micro-society programs.

Dr. J. James Rohack (B.S. '76) is the chair-elect of the American Medical Association Board of Trustees. He resides in Temple, Texas.

Louise Bean Senneff (B.S.Ed. '70), executive director of the Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers, Fla., was named 2003 Person of the Year by the Fort Myers *NewsPress*.

80s

Marco A. Barros (B.A. '80), of San Antonio, sits on the Mays Family YMCA board of directors and the Air Transportation Advisory Committee that oversees the operations of the San Antonio International Airport.

Edmundo S. Calderon Jr. (B.B.A. '80) is director of internal audits for the Fort Bliss Federal Credit Union.

George A. Cervantes (B.S. '82), principal of the Austin private investigations firm Cervantes & Associates Inc., is a director of the National Council of Investigation and Security Services.

James M. Harris Jr. (B.B.A. '80) is the managing partner of Harris, Lively, Duesler & Hatfield L.L.P., a Beaumont, Texas-based law firm specializing in civil and personal injury cases.

Ronald D. Lile (B.S.M.E.T. '82), director of the Defense Cost and Resource Center within the Office of the Secretary of Defense in Arlington, Va., received a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Maryland.

Maria F. Rollin (M.A. '85), of Laredo, Texas, is editor of the Texas Western Press publication, *The Fighting Padre of Zapata: Father Edward Bastien and the Falcon Dam Project*, which won the Webb County Heritage Foundation's Jim Parish Award for documentation and publication of local or regional history.

Patricia Silva (B.S.Ed. '85; M.Ed. '92), director of instruction for the Fabens [Texas] Independent School District and former Fabens Middle School principal, was named the 2002-03 Region 19 Middle School Principal of the Year.

90s

John Corrigan (M.F.A. '98), an English teacher with the Maine School of Science and Mathematics in Limestone, will have the next two volumes in his Jack Austin mystery series, *Snap Hook* and *Center Cut*, published by the University

Press of New England.

Margarita Saenz-Flores (B.I.S. '99; M.Ed. '03) is the bilingual/ESL coordinator for the Clint [Texas] Independent School District.

Gnanenthiran "Chico" Jayanthan (M.S.E.E. '93) is vice president of product management for DoOnGo Technologies Inc., a communication software development company in Alviso, Calif.

James R. Maynard III (B.A. '94), a freelance writer in El Paso, is an engineer with Southern Pacific Railroad and local chair of the United Transportation Union.

Mary Elizabeth Reveles (B.A. '93), of the Fort Bend County Attorney's Office in Richmond, Texas, received the President's Award of Merit from the Texas Young Lawyers Association for her work with the association's Low-Income Texans Outreach committee.

Debra Peden Saldaña (B.I.S. '96), an assistant principal at Galindo Elementary School in Austin, received a master's degree in educational administration from the University of Texas at Austin.

00s

Sylvia Rico (B.B.A. '00) is an area human resource manager with Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse in Sacramento, Calif., overseeing three districts and 18 stores in Northern California and Reno, Nevada.

Isabel Quintana (B.I.S. '02), a teacher at San Antonio's Westwood Terrace Elementary School, is the Northside Independent School District's 2002-03 First-Year Teacher of the Year.

OBITS

Maria I. Fiol (B.S.Ed. '91) May 13, 2003. Fiol was a resident of Houston.

Louis G. Williams (B.S. '65) May 28, 2003. Williams, a former El Paso Independent School District teacher, was a resident of Capitan, N.M.

John Kenneth Shackelford (M.Ed. '60) June 14, 2003. Shackelford, a resident of El Paso, served in the U.S. Marine Corps and retired from the Ysleta Independent School District after 30 years of service.

Frances Newman Thiel (B.A. '39) June 22, 2003. Thiel, a resident of Palos Verdes Peninsula, Calif., was a pianist with the Robert Shaw Chorale in New York City and a private music instructor. She also taught piano and music theory at Texas Western College (now UTEP), the University of Alabama at Huntsville, the University of Texas at Austin and Chadwick School in Rolling Hills, Calif.

James "Jim" Richard Niemeier (B.B.A.

'69) July 3, 2003. Niemeier, a lifelong resident of El Paso, was a senior investment broker with A.G. Edwards and Sons. He also served in the U.S. Navy as an electronics technician.

Grace Hooten Gates (B.A. '53) July 4, 2003. A resident of Mentor, Ohio, Gates had previously resided more than 50 years in Anniston, Ala., where she was the city historian. She taught history at Jacksonville State University, Gadsden State Community College and the University of Alabama; and authored two books and numerous articles and book reviews. UTEP honored her with the Department of Communication's Hicks-Middagh Award for Excellence.

Mercedes "Mercy" Carolina Miranda (B.S.Ed. '85; M.Ed. '90) July 6, 2003. Miranda, a resident of San Francisco, Calif., taught for seven years at Hacienda Heights Elementary School in El Paso. After moving to Illinois, she worked in the education department of the Federal Correctional Institute. Later, she was director of the education department at Atwater Federal Penitentiary in Merced, Calif.

Virginia "Ginger" Woelber (B.A. '46) July 16, 2003. A lifelong El Paso resident, Woelber was a schoolteacher for 27 years. After retiring, she volunteered for Sierra Medical Center and the Assistance League of El Paso.

John Grover Reglin (B.S. '81) July 17, 2003. Reglin was a science teacher at Hornedo Middle School and served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps.

O. Otto Buttenhoff (B.S.Ed. '70; M.Ed. '73) July 21, 2003. Buttenhoff retired as a major from the U.S. Army, then taught for 20 years with the El Paso Independent School District.

Julian Tarango (B.B.A. '71) July 30, 2003. After retiring from the U.S. Air Force, Tarango worked as a food and nutrition specialist for the United States Department of Agriculture for 21 years.

Joquin Arturo "Art" Loustaunau (B.A. '59) Aug. 8, 2003. A U.S. Navy veteran of the Korean War, Loustaunau was an El Paso businessman and consultant.

Donald Hendricks Thurman Jr. (M.A. '69) Aug. 10, 2003. Thurman was a longtime resident of El Paso.

Rose A. Tarin (B.S.N. '76) Aug. 11, 2003. Tarin, of El Paso, was a registered nurse specializing in gynecology and obstetrics. She practiced at Hotel Dieu and Southwestern General hospitals and in private doctors' offices. Later, she was director of nursing in the obstetrics and gynecology department at Newark Methodist Maternity Hospital, and then worked in the oncology department at Las Palmas Medical Center. She also was an American Cancer Society volunteer and president of the

Hotel Dieu Alumni Association.

Oscar Looney "O.L." Walker (M.A. '51) Aug. 13, 2003. Walker served with the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Depression and with the U.S. Army during World War II. For 30 years, he was a teacher and principal for the El Paso Independent School District.

Mary Gray Stacy (B.A. '38) Aug. 18, 2003. Stacy, who served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, taught at Crockett Elementary School in El Paso and Montebello High School, in Montebello, Calif., from which she retired.

Roy Ward Allen Jr. (B.S. '49) Aug. 29, 2003. He worked for the El Paso Natural Gas Co. and retired from Odessa Natural Gas Corp. in 1981.

Santos "Kayo" Perez (B.A. '50; M.A. '53) Sept. 2, 2003. A lifelong El Paso resident and World War II veteran, Perez retired in 1982 after working as a teacher and coach at Roosevelt Elementary, Bowie High and Jefferson High schools in the El Paso Independent School District. He was inducted into El Paso's Athletic and Softball halls of fame and into Mexico's Basketball Hall of Fame.

James Hurchel Luckett, (B.A. '71) Sept. 7, 2003. Luckett was a U.S. Navy veteran who served during the Vietnam War. A longtime El Pasoan, he was a briefing attorney for the 8th Court of Appeals, an assistant county attorney and a municipal court judge. After retiring from private practice, he worked as an attorney for the Texas Department of Public Safety. He also served as president and secretary of the El Paso Family Law Association. Later, he became a special education math teacher at Bassett Middle School and taught American government at El Paso Community College.

Carlos Fortunato Ancheta (B.S.Ed. '66) Sept. 16, 2003. Ancheta taught elementary school in Nueva Ecija, the Philippines, before moving to the United States in 1933. A highly decorated U.S. Army veteran, he served during World War II and the Korean War, and retired with the rank of major. Later, Ancheta entered Civil Service at Fort Bliss, Texas, retiring again in 1987.

Joyce Gatewood Breiten Sept. 16, 2003. Breiten was a resident of El Paso.

Edward Thomas Hopper (B.A. '74) Oct. 2, 2003. Hopper, a resident of Phoenix, Ariz., was station manager for KSET radio in El Paso and later employed by Mountain Bell Telephone. He then worked 23 years for AT&T, where he was in Internet business and sales.

Harry Joseph Segapeli (M.Ed. '67) Oct. 2, 2003. Segapeli served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was superintendent of the Canutillo Independent School District and later worked for the El Paso Independent School District, from which he retired.

Compiled by Shannon Kanorr, Howard Rigg and Ana-María Valero

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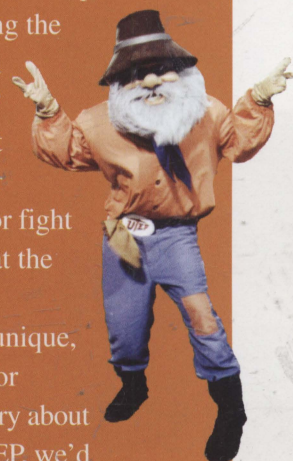
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