

Spring 2004

Nova Quarterly: The University of Texas at El Paso

The University of Texas at El Paso University Communications

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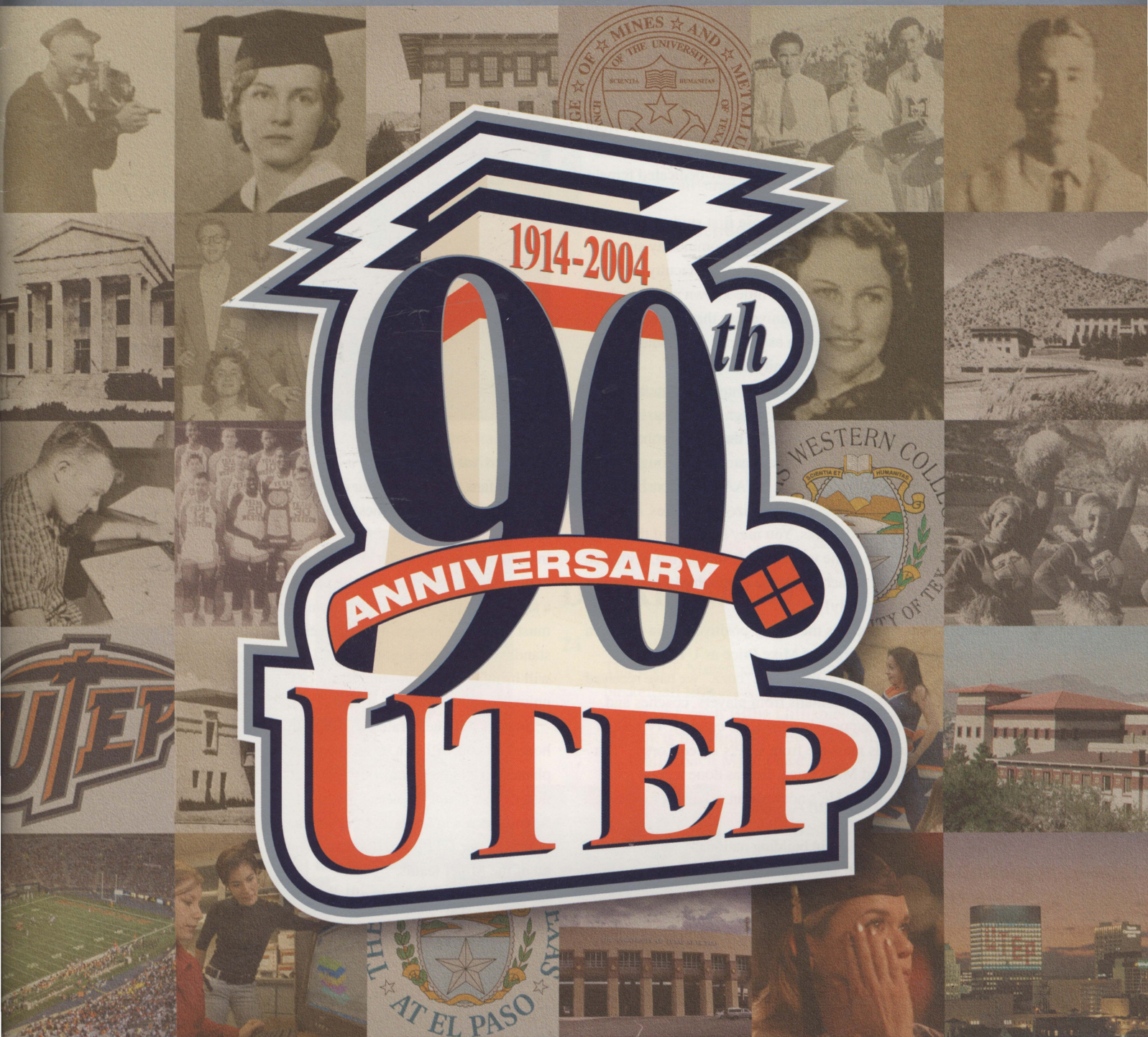
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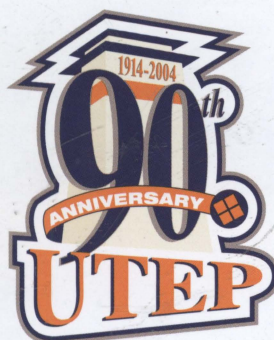
NOVA

SPRING 2004

Q U A R T E R L Y

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO





In April, we will launch a series of special events, both on campus and in the community, to commemorate the 90th anniversary of UTEP's founding. In this special issue of NOVA, we take a look back at this University's development over the past 90 years, and celebrate our collective pride in what we have accomplished.

Our story begins in 1914, when 27 students enrolled at the new State School of Mines and Metallurgy in El Paso. These young men were, in the words of one student, eager to experience "the adventures associated with the mining life, and the thrill of extracting materials from the earth." In short order, they found themselves sharing their classroom and laboratory space with equally dedicated female students.

I can only imagine how amazed those first students would be if they could see us today. With strong community support, and the dedication and hard work of numerous faculty and staff members, UTEP has evolved from a little-known mining school with a handful of students into a university that is a national model for academic and research excellence in a context committed to educational opportunity and access.

Our national image is also shaped by intercollegiate athletics, which often serves as the window through which outsiders become acquainted with us. Think about the visibility that Coach Don Haskins and the 1966 basketball team have brought to UTEP during the past 40 years. That NCAA championship game continues to be discussed and memorialized in articles, exhibits, television programs, and books. You may have heard that a feature film about this game will be made this spring, with Ben Affleck in the role of Coach Haskins... who thinks the casting captures him appropriately!

Another good example is the highly positive media attention that accompanied our hiring of Mike Price as UTEP's new football coach. In addition to the media "buzz," we have received dozens of congratulatory e-mails from players, coaches and Mike Price fans and supporters across the country. Typical of the response was this message from ESPN's Lee Corso: "I'm ecstatic for UTEP and Mike Price. He has done a great job everywhere he has been. He's not only an excellent football coach, he's a great person."

Coach Price has excelled in building nationally ranked teams. During his 13 years with Washington State University, he led three 10-win seasons and took the Cougars to five Bowl games, including the 2002 Rose Bowl. Prior to his tenure at Washington State, he built a successful program at Weber State. He brings to UTEP a winning tradition.



Photo by Laura Trejo

The arrival of Mike Price is indeed terrific news for Miner football fans, and reflects our commitment to raise expectations of our intercollegiate athletics programs, both men's and women's, much as we have successfully done during the past several years in academic and research program areas. But, because intercollegiate athletics must be self-supporting, all of you play a significant role in our efforts to move to the next level. We must have your support to be successful. Without fans in the stands, we will not be able to build the successful program that will bring pride to our alumni and positive recognition to the university.

So, as UTEP celebrates 90 distinguished years of history, I hope that you will join us for the many events that we have planned to commemorate this very special milestone. I also hope that we can count on all our alumni to help us build toward future success in athletics by becoming season ticket holders, wearing your UTEP shirts and caps proudly, and cheering on all of the Miner teams.

Happy 90th Birthday to all! ■

Diana Natalicio
UTEP President

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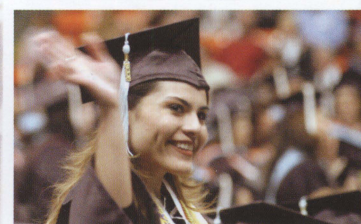
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ON THE COVER
Memories & Momentum —
UTEP celebrates its
90th anniversary.

COVER DESIGN
John Downey

LOGO DESIGN
Paul Huereque



6 Memories and Momentum

Travel through years of Miner memories in this special 16-page section celebrating UTEP's 90th anniversary.

8 A Trip Through Time

A timeline of historic events in the university, the region, the nation and the world.

14 Learning and Living Through the Decades

UTEP students helped shape the university — and hold its history in their hearts.

21 The Next Decade

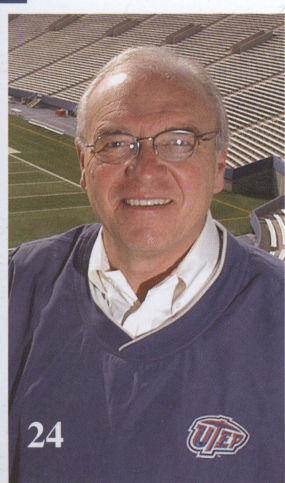
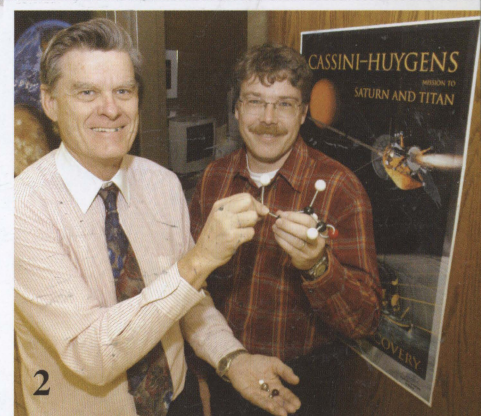
Looking ahead to UTEP's 100th anniversary, a Centennial Commission will outline the future of the university.

22 Calendar of 90th Anniversary Events

FEATURES

2 Life on Venus

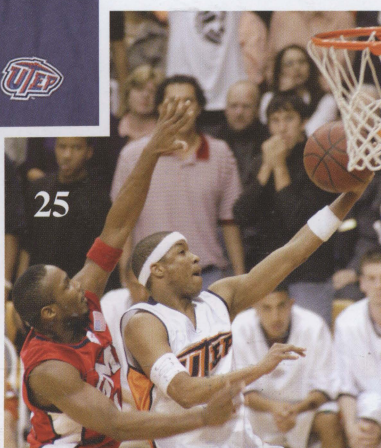
Life may exist on our nearest planetary neighbor, Venus, according to two UTEP professors whose theory has drawn attention from the space science and popular press.



DEPARTMENTS

24 Athletics

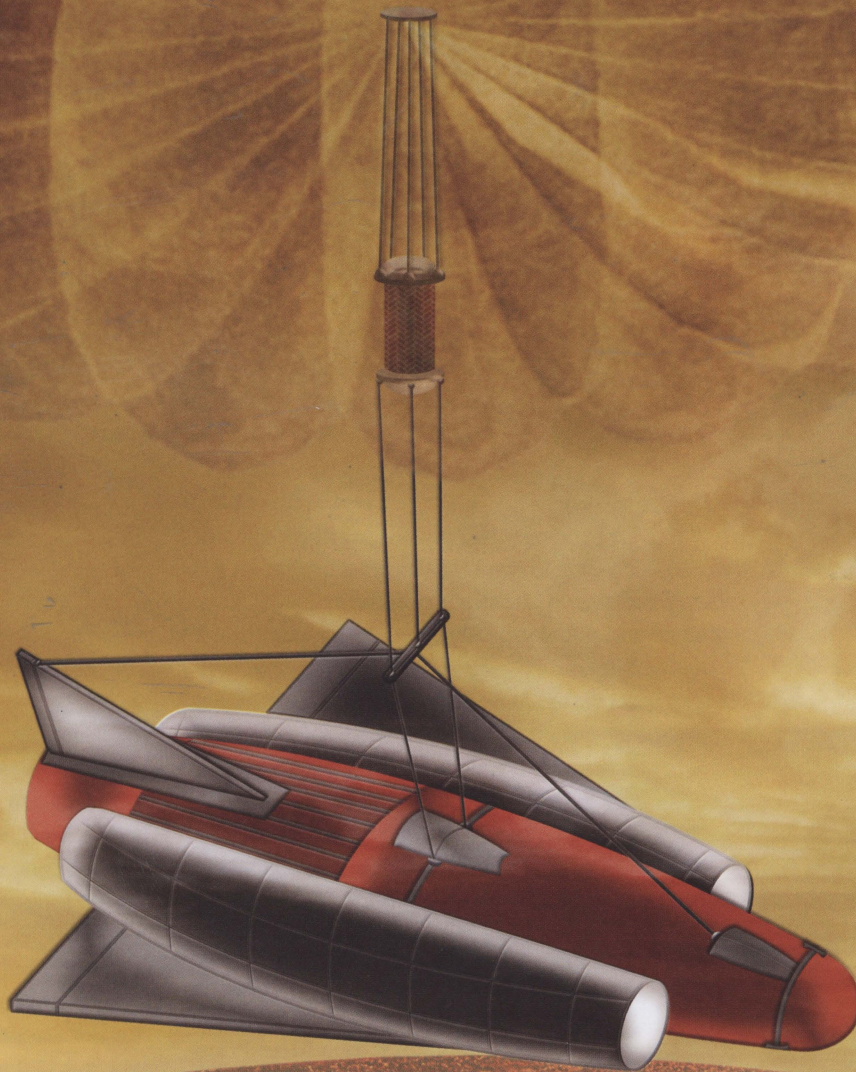
The UTEP Miners clinch a share of the WAC basketball title — a “heck of a run” in the words of Coach Billie Gillispie. Plus, why the sky is the limit for new UTEP head football Coach Mike Price.



26 AlumNews

Besides the Tortilla Signature Soup or handcrafted ales and lagers, Jaxon's Restaurant offers patrons a unique menu item — UTEP Alumni Association membership.

LIFE ON VENUS?



Tethered to a balloon, a sample return spacecraft collects atmospheric particles as it floats through the Venusian sky. This is UTEP professors Louis Irwin and Dirk Schulze's concept of a sample return mission that would let scientists look for life in Venus.

UTEP PROFESSORS BLAZE TRAIL IN SEARCH OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE

BY DAVID PEREGRINO

As NASA's rovers stir up red soil and excitement about the possibility of life on Mars, two University of Texas at El Paso professors have grabbed the space-exploration community's attention with a bold theory that life may exist on our nearest planetary neighbor, Venus.

Dirk Schulze-Makuch, assistant professor of geological sciences, and Louis Irwin, professor of biological sciences, have examined data from Venus probes and believe microbes may be living in the yellow clouds of this planet long considered too hot and dry for life.

"There's evidence that there once was warm water on Venus, in ancient oceans," Schulze-Makuch says.

EMERGING LIFE

The scientists believe that early in the solar system's history, when the sun was fainter, microbial life could have emerged and established itself in the warm seas over millions of years. As the sun grew hotter and evaporated the oceans, the microbes could have retreated to livable, relatively balmy niches in Venus' sulfurous atmosphere.

The scientists' Venus-life theory and proposal for a mission to grab microbes from the planet's clouds has drawn much attention from the space science and popular press.

But Schulze-Makuch and Irwin are quick to point out that they are not the first to consider the possibility of life on Venus.

Astronomer and author Carl Sagan, who died in 1996, was one early proponent of examining Venus for life. And David Grinspoon, a scientist at the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Co., poses a pro-life argument in his 1997 book *Venus Revealed*.

SURVIVABILITY

With the publication of a textbook this spring, Schulze-Makuch and Irwin will add to their reputations as leaders in astrobiology, as the emerging science is known.

The two have authored "Life in the Universe: Expectations and Constraints," a book they hope will become a classroom foundation for the serious, scientific study of life on other worlds.

Irwin, a neurobiologist, studies how organisms survive and evolve. And as a hydrogeologist,

Schulze-Makuch has spent much time examining microbial life in geothermal waters.

"It's not a stretch from studying (life in) hot springs to examining what would be on Mars," Schulze-Makuch says.

That's essentially the question they explore in their new book: If life can adapt to the most inhospitable realms of our planet, why couldn't it do the same—say, in the hellish temperatures of Venus or in the cold, nitrogen-rich atmosphere of Titan, Saturn's largest moon?

AGE OF EXPLORATION

The scientists' study of extraterrestrial life has taken on new relevance in an exciting time of space-exploration.

In January, NASA's Mars Exploration Rovers successfully descended to the planet to look for evidence of water. That same month, NASA's Stardust spacecraft grabbed particles from Comet Wild 2 and will return home with its booty in early 2006.

And in a bittersweet mission, the European Space Agency's Beagle 2 arrived at Mars in December to sniff for methane gas on Mars. Contact was lost with the spacecraft after it descended to the planet's surface.

With this activity as a backdrop, President George W. Bush has proposed a return trip to the Moon and a manned mission to Mars.

MISSION TO VENUS

The scientists, helped by Irwin's brother Troy Irwin, a retired aeronautical engineer, have considered a variety of ideas for a sampling mission to Venus.

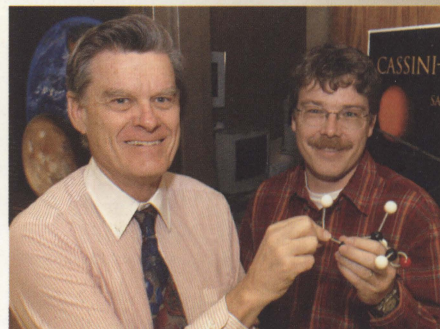
They feel the best way to get the job done is to launch into Venus' orbit a mother ship that will drop a sample-return capsule by parachute into the atmosphere. As the chute slows the plummeting capsule, an attached balloon will inflate. The capsule will float along at about 30 miles above the surface, capturing atmospheric particles.

After it's had its fill, the capsule will detach the balloon. The capsule will then rocket to the waiting orbiter, which will carry the sample to the International Space Station.

The scientists say the comparatively short distance between Venus and Earth and the simplicity of the collection system will make for a relatively inexpensive space mission that could pay off enormously.

"The turnaround time is shorter," Irwin says. "The forms of life—if they exist—would be easier to acquire."

Schulze-Makuch has been in contact with the European Space Agency, which, like NASA, commonly taps the astrobiology community's knowledge for future missions.



Irwin, left, and Schulze-Makuch

The ESA plans to launch its Venus Express craft to the planet in late 2005, though there are no plans to use it for a sample-return mission.

Schulze-Makuch and Irwin are looking forward to what Venus Express reveals about the way the hot, erupting surface interacts with the planet's turbulent atmosphere.

And in the meantime, they hope there will someday be enough support to attempt a sample-return mission to Venus.

The idea certainly has captured the attention of space-exploration enthusiasts.

THE "VENUS CAMP"

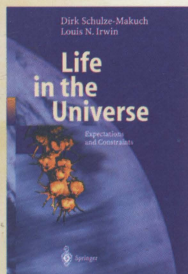
The scientists' Venus-life theory and mission proposal was covered by media around the world, including *Popular Science*, *New Scientist* and *Stern* magazines and CNN and BBC broadcasts.

Quick to affix labels to people and ideas, the media seem to place Grinspoon and now Irwin and Schulze-Makuch in a sort of "Venus camp."

But the scientists say they believe in equal opportunity when it comes to astrobiology.

"I don't see myself in a certain camp," Schulze-Makuch says. "I'm working on Mars, too."

Adds Irwin: "We're really interested in the entire solar system." **N**



LAUNCH TIME

Some ongoing and future space missions to keep an eye on:

- **Cassini** (arriving at Saturn July 1): Cassini will study Saturn and its rings, and will deliver the ESA's Huygens probe to the Titan moon.
- **Deep Impact** (launch: Dec. 2004): Will fire a 770 pound copper projectile into Comet P/Tempel 1, creating a crater that will expose the comet's interior.

• For more information:

www.jpl.nasa.gov/missions/future_missions.cfm

Illustration by Paul Huereque

Remember your roots

Try out your wings, but stay true to your roots, El Paso advertising executive Robert V. Wingo told some 1,200 graduates during winter commencement in December.

"El Paso is in the process of re-branding itself. El Paso has enormous plans and an aggressive agenda for the future," says Wingo, president and CEO of Sanders Wingo Galvin & Morton Advertising, or SWG&M.

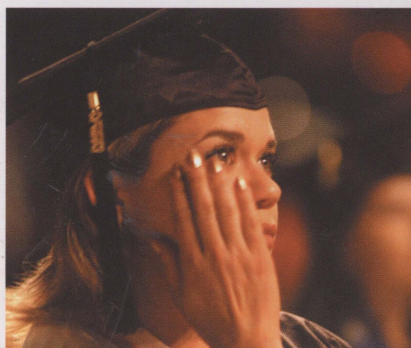
"We need your energy, your capacity and the knowledge you've gained from this fine institution. Your bright future can be El Paso's greatest asset. Even if you leave...as long as you come back and bring us what you've learned," he says.

On the heels of UTEP's 90th anniversary, winter commencement 2003 marked the first time a local business executive served as keynote speaker.

An Ohio native, Wingo served two years in Vietnam and graduated from UTEP in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in marketing and advertising.

Two UTEP marketing campaigns, "Success Begins at UTEP" and the current "Our Time is Now," were engineered and formulated by SWG&M — El Paso's largest advertising agency.

As a Silver Medal Award recipient from the American Advertising Federation, Wingo was inducted into the



Emotions were difficult to contain during commencement ceremonies.

El Paso Business Hall of Fame in 2001. He serves as a board member for El Paso's Holocaust Museum, Center Against Family Violence and is a former board member of the Finance Commission of Texas.

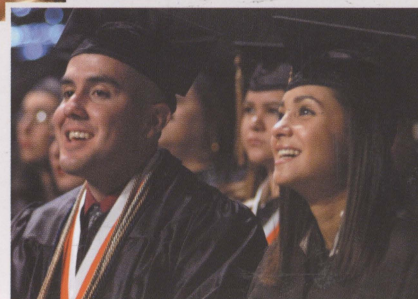
In 2002, Wingo was selected as a UTEP Gold Nugget by the College of Business.

Wingo encouraged graduates to honor their families as they go out to conquer the world.

"No matter how ambitious you feel today, as years go by, you're likely to find that your greatest joys don't always come from your profession; they come from your family," Wingo says.



Robert V. Wingo addresses UTEP's latest graduates.



Laughter and happiness reigned for two happy grads.

"The book of your life is just beginning. You've written your first chapter here at UTEP," he said. "We hope your professors have liberated your minds, set them free to explore. And we hope you won't forget your roots when you fly out of here, trying out your new wings." ■

Record enrollment reported despite tuition hike

UTEP recorded its largest spring enrollment in university history at 17,510 — an increase of 6.1 percent over spring 2003.

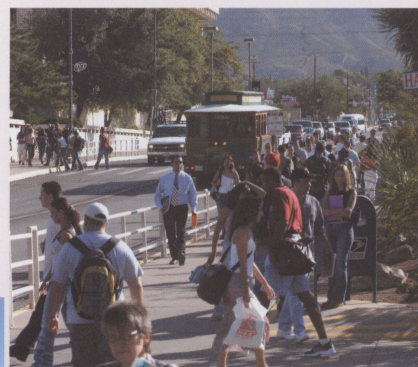
"Despite rising tuition costs, students are continuing to enroll in record numbers," UTEP President Diana Natalicio says. "The good news is that the programs that we developed in collaboration with our students, such as the 'We've Got You Covered' and expanded emergency book loan programs, have obviously been successful in providing a financial safety net for them."

The total number of graduate students is 3,438, an increase of 13.2 percent over spring 2003. Doctoral students total 273, an 18.7 percent increase compared to last spring.

Tuition at UTEP increased by \$18 per semester credit hour this spring and will increase another \$14 per credit hour for the 2004-05 academic year under tuition deregulation approved by the Legislature last year.

Under the increases, a 12-hour load costs \$1,699 this spring and will cost \$1,892 in fall 2004. Previous tuition for 12 credit hours was \$1,482.

The increases were necessary due to state budget cuts, including an 11.5 percent cut to UTEP's 2003-04 fiscal year budget. ■



Record enrollment continues at UTEP.



Photos by Javier Vicencio

Awards, gifts and grants

Accolades — in the form of awards, gifts or grants — were showered on the university the last quarter. Here's a few of the numerous awards:

- **A \$2 million grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation** to take entrepreneurship education beyond the walls of the business school. UTEP is one of only eight universities to receive a share of \$25 million in grants awarded

through the Kansas City-based foundation's Kauffman Campuses Initiative.

- **MithoffBurton** advertising agency has awarded the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies \$30,000 over five years.

- **Dr. Dorothy Ward**, chair of University Studies and director of the Entering Student Program, is one of 10 national recipients of the Outstanding First Year Student Advocate Award.

- **The Samuel Shirley and Edna Holt Marston** Professorship has been

established by Aileen Stembridge, a 1944 Texas College of Mines (now UTEP) graduate, for the Department of Communication in honor of her parents. A professorship has a minimum donation of \$100,000.

- **The College of Health Sciences** has been awarded a three-year \$460,000 grant by Tenet Healthcare Corp. Foundation to increase student retention and decrease the three-year nursing degree by six months. Tenet operates Sierra and Providence hospitals in El Paso. ■

Testing the Teachers: More pass certification test

By Megan E. Baeza

Pass rates for the student ExCET exam at UTEP's College of Education have increased significantly thanks to outreach programs, test preparation seminars and qualifying exams.

The Examination for the Certification of Educators in Texas, a test that completes the teacher certification process in the state, breaks down student pass rates into ethnic categories in the State Board for Educator Certification report.

UTEP's pass rates in certain classifications fell behind in 2001 and the college was placed under review. In one year's time, the college dramatically raised its test scores across all classifications and was removed from review status.

"Our pass rates increased significantly and we reached our goals," says Josie Tinajero, dean of the College of Education. "We were given three years to remove the college from review status, and thanks to the initiatives we

immediately put into place, we were out from under review in one year."

In some instances, scores improved by five to eight percentage points.

Overall, pass rates for first-time test takers increased from 74.61 percent in 2000-01 to 81.89 percent in 2001-02.

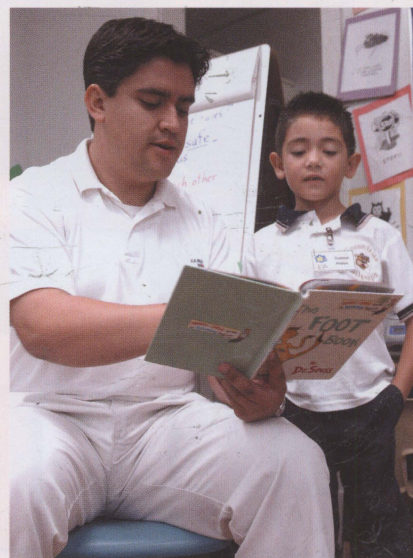
Other first-time score improvements included:

- African-Americans: 67.86 percent to 84 percent

- Hispanics: 71.93 percent to 80.09 percent

- Whites: 90.1 percent to 91.56 percent

New TExES exams (Texas Examinations of Educator Standards) are being phased in to replace ExCET exams. These new exams will align with new areas of certification being offered by the state. The method for scoring the TExES will differ from the ExCET, but will give the college a closer look at the needs of individual groups. ■



For more information about the TExES/ExCET exams, visit www.excet.nesinc.com or <http://education.utep.edu>

A helping hand: UTEP program earns state award

By Erica Martinez

UTEP's Entering Student Program has received a 2003 Texas Higher Education Star Award presented by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The program was among 20 finalists chosen from 78 applicants.

"UTEP has invested a lot of effort and resources into transitioning new students to college," says Maggy Smith,

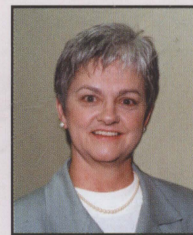
University College dean. "We are really honored to be among the 'stars' in Texas."

More than 10,000 students have benefited from the program since it was created in 1999.

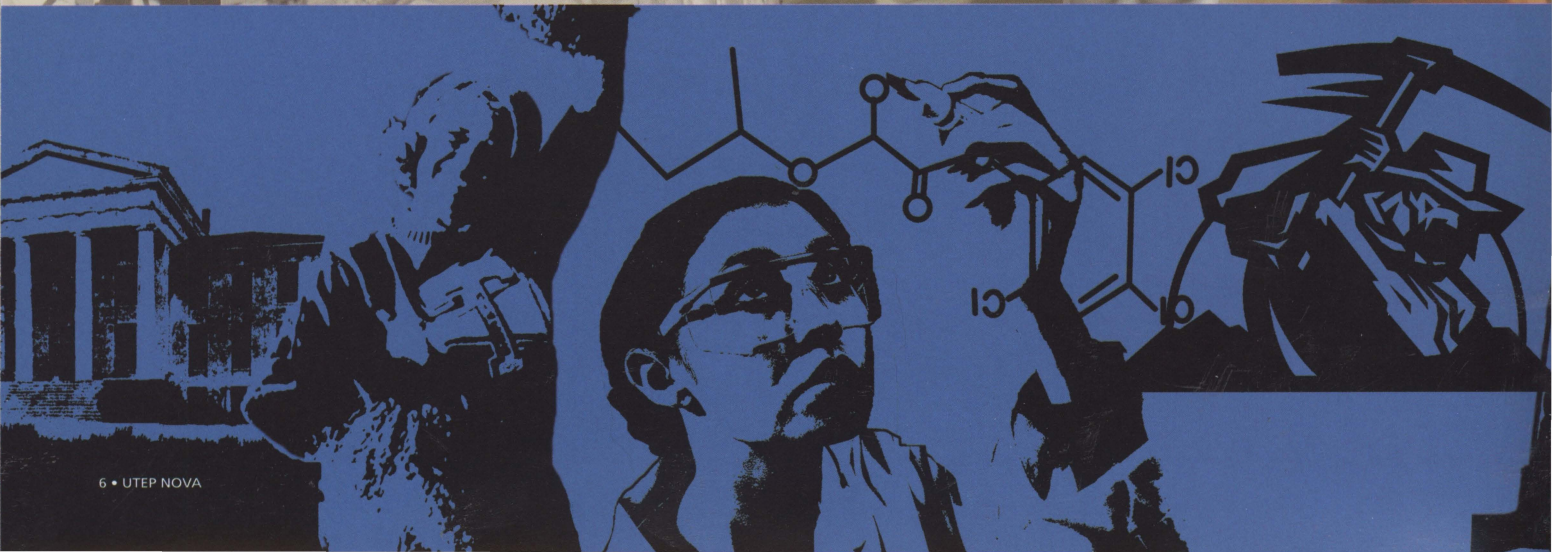
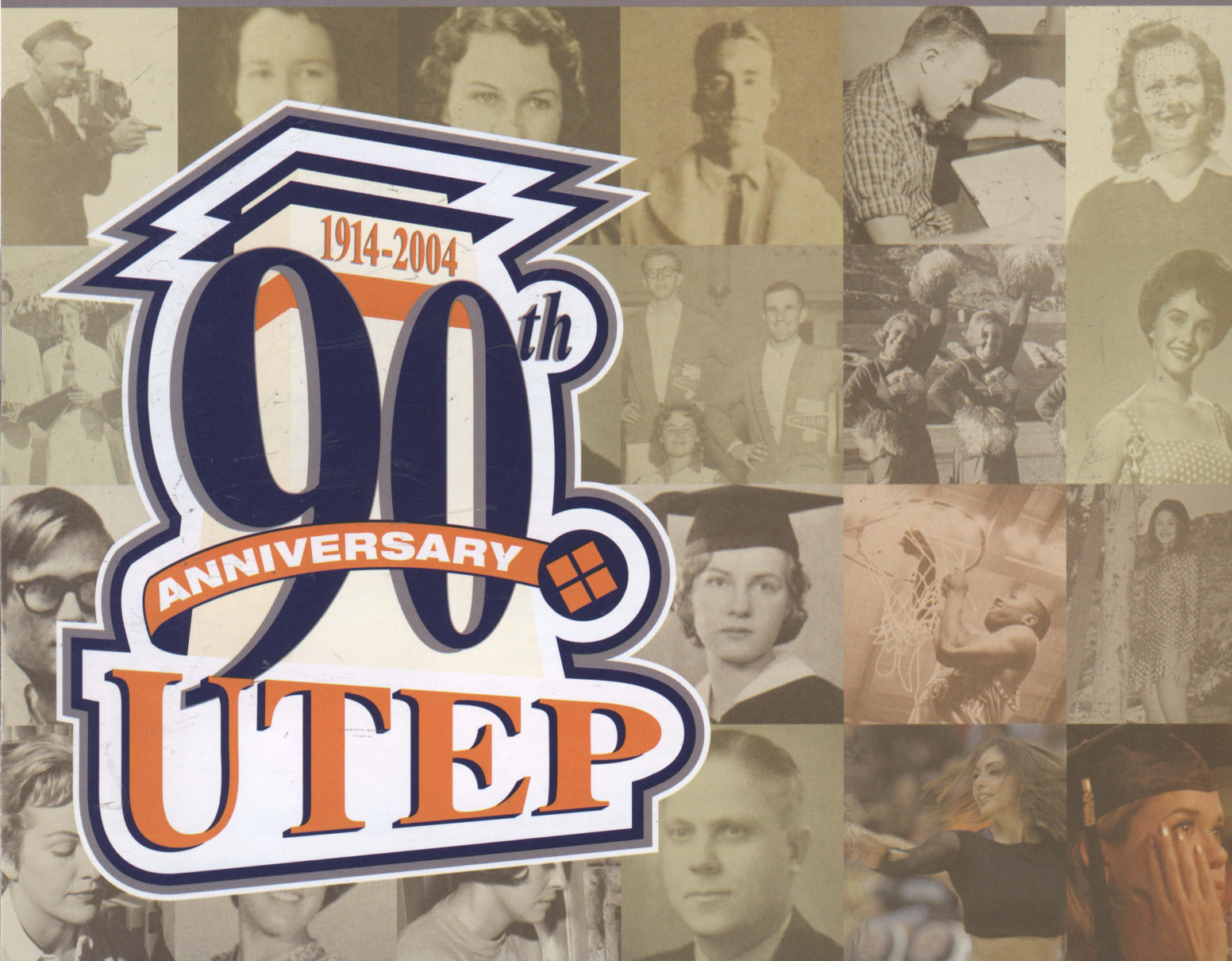
To have qualified for the award, the program must have made a contribution toward the goals established in the Closing the Gaps by 2015 Plan: two years of successful outcomes, monitored and

evaluated progress, and a history of excellent academic instruction and student support services.

The Law School Preparation Institute was also nominated. UTEP's Mother-Daughter Program won a Star Award last year. ■



Smith



Mining Strengths

UTEP celebrates 90 years of excellence in education

Memories and Momentum

By David Peregrino

Home to more rocks and cactus than people, this remote part of West Texas seemed an unlikely place for a college in 1914.

But a group of visionary El Pasoans understood that our city, with its rugged mountains and international crossroads, was the ideal training ground for mining engineers.

A perceived disadvantage became an advantage.

For nearly a century, the University of Texas at El Paso has honored that vision by mining its strengths in a place where others saw little or no opportunity.

As its name changed from the Texas School of Mines to Texas Western College to UTEP, the university reshaped its mission by offering more and more educational opportunities to our community.

To date, more than 76,200 men and women—many of them first-generation, Mexican-American students—have earned an education here.

Most came from humble backgrounds. Understanding the value of education, they earned degrees and went on to teach,

to do research, to become engineers, to run businesses and governments...

They made life better for themselves and their children.

And now that Hispanics have become the largest minority group in the United States, the spotlight is on UTEP.

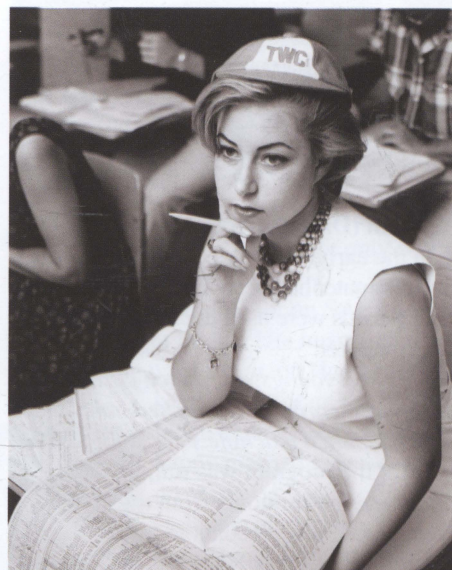
UTEP ranks second in the nation in awarding bachelor's degrees to Hispanics.

Over the past 15 years, the number of doctoral degree programs offered by the university has grown from two to 13 (with one more in the pipeline), making UTEP the only doctoral-research university with a Mexican-American majority student population.

UTEP graduates are sought for their bilingual skills and their appreciation and understanding of life in a multicultural, global village.

Other universities now look to UTEP as the model for multicultural outreach, retention and educational programs.

This disadvantage—a growing border population with low incomes and low levels of education—is transformed into an advantage with every student who chooses UTEP.



Freshmen were once encouraged to wear beanies during their first semester of study.

As the university celebrates its 90th anniversary, this special section of *Nova Quarterly* honors all those who have been a part of UTEP — as students, faculty, staff or supporters — and shared the goal of making a better life for themselves, their families and community. ■



Alumni Stories

Nova Quarterly asked alumni to share their favorite or most cherished memories about their days at what is now UTEP. You can read more or share yours by logging on to www.utep.edu/90thanniversary under "Guest Book."



William (David) Henderson (BA, 1974)

In the early 1970s the new "state of the art" computer had been installed on campus. Punch cards were used to enter the data into the computer.

(For you youngsters, punch cards were cardboard cards with punched holes made on a keypunch machine.)

After the program was run, the punch cards and the printouts from the computer were placed in a pigeonhole for retrieval by the student.

I placed my punch cards, containing a

small program, in the box for loading and returned the next day to get what I thought would be a one or two page print out. After looking for a few minutes, I found my punch cards on top of a ream of paper stuffed into the pigeonhole!

I found that I had accidentally put a "do loop" in my program and it would not shut down.

With one of my first programs I had bankrupted the department for the year!

Pat Littledog (BA, 1969; MA, 1976)

My undergraduate years were longer than most because I was a married, working woman who took freshman English in 1959 to graduate in January 1969.

It didn't bother me too much that there were no commencement ceremonies for people who fulfilled their degree requirements at the end of the fall semester rather than the spring. Someone on the phone said there would be no problems getting my papers.

But when I got there, a clerk found only an index card that said my diploma was on hold.

He sent me to the library, the Dean of Humanities, registration, campus police, loans, and even to the basement. I gave out my name to a man in rolled-up sleeves behind a disordered desk. He ran into a file and drew out a document.

"It was routed here for special printing -- a line to go under your name "Graduated with Honors."

Streaker Spirit – The 70s at UTEP were a hotbed for political expression and little-to-no inhibition. On several occasions, naked students were seen streaking down University Avenue.

Exposed basement pipes rattled over us and printing machines clattered behind us as he passed the paper to me. He then stuck his hand out.

"I guess I should say, 'Congratulations,'" he said.

It wasn't an elaborate ceremony, but it was unique and at the heart of the matter.

Louis W. Cope (BA, 1950)

During discussions of the name change at the Texas College of Mines in 1949, a group of engineering and geology students held a demonstration. There were about 20 of us. Someone had made a crude banner stating: "Texas College of Mines."

While El Paso businessmen and college officials in the Mills Building were holding a meeting, we gathered in Alligator Park across the street. We had just unfurled our banner when a policeman with a billy club approached us. He said, "You boys break it up, or I'll run the bunch of you in."

I thought to myself, "One cop and he's going to arrest 20 of us?"

Instead, I said, "But officer, we aren't on the sidewalk and we're not making any noise."

The policeman's response was direct and to the point.

"You've got 30 seconds to scatter or you'll be arrested," and pointing to me, he said, "You'll be the first."

Just at that moment, someone from the meeting came out to the group. He said that we should send three spokesmen to the

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1914

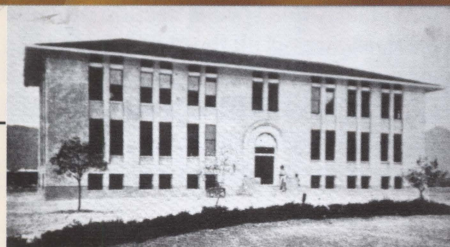
1915

1916

1917

1918

1919



A Trip Through Time

1913

- Texas Gov. O.B. Colquitt signs Senate Bill 183, creating the State School of Mines and Metallurgy in El Paso
- Mexican Revolution in its third year

1914

- El Paso citizens donate 22 acres and three buildings east of Fort Bliss—the site of the former El Paso Military Institute—for the School of Mines
- Regents adopt the first budget: Dean Stephen Howard Worrell to be paid



- \$2,500 annual salary
- Twenty-seven students enroll on opening day, Sept. 23
- World War I begins

1915

- First issue of student paper The Prospector published
- Albert Einstein forms his General Theory of Relativity

1916

- First commencement ceremony, May 30
- First women, Ruth Brown (shown in 1969) and Grace Odell, enroll
- Fire destroys the new school's Main Building
- Discouraged by General Pershing's military buildup crowding Fort Bliss, a water shortage, and the Main Building fire, Dean Worrell looks for a new school location
- Pancho Villa raids Columbus, N.M.
- El Paso High School opens
- Elephant Butte Dam dedicated

1917

- Civic leaders donate land overlooking Sunset Heights and Downtown for the new campus
- Construction begins on the first buildings, modeled after the architectural style of the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan
- U.S. enters World War I

1918

- Enrollment is 100
- Worldwide flu epidemic kills 22 million
- World War I ends

1919

- Name changed to University of Texas Department of Mines and Metallurgy
- Students' Association forms

1920

- Name changed to College of Mines and Metallurgy, El Paso
- Oldest tradition, the St. Patrick's initiation, first reported in The Prospector
- El Paso Junior College opens in El Paso High School

meeting. The others left, thus ending a very brief demonstration!

Mina Carver Kidd (BBA, 1966)

I vividly remember where I was when they announced over the loudspeaker that President Kennedy had been killed. I froze on the sidewalk next to the student Union. The school was in a state of shock. I was a sophomore.

I graduated in January 1966, and went to Washington, D.C., to train for the Red Cross before going to Vietnam. Our awesome basketball team was there for the NCAA championships—creating quite a stir.

While I was getting my medical exam, the doctor asked where I had graduated from. I said, “Texas Western,” he immediately said, “I thought that was a black school.”

Joy McKechnic Odom (BA, 1946)

I remember Dec. 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor Day. I was a senior at Austin High School that year and I went on to enroll at Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy in El Paso the following fall.

These were the war years. We students often remarked that the Mines had become a “girls school” as most of our boys had gone to fight in the war.

I remember gas rationing as it forced many of us to ride the college bus, which we would catch each morning at the Plaza downtown. There was usually standing room only, and if we missed it, we had to walk.

There was another bus at noon to take us

back to town and I remember one day a group of us taking the long walk down Mesa, soaking wet as it was raining. (We never complained.)

Donald “Sparks” Buddecke (BS, 1957)

It was 1955 when we assumed that the traditional dynamite blast wakeup call in the early morning of St. Pat's day was our turn.

So four of us—Hank Bartell, a real mining fanatic; Lou Buescher, who found out he was claustrophobic after four years of underground mining education; Mike Holt, a remittance man from England; and I, who finally passed freshman English my senior year when being dyslexic was considered just being stupid—exploded our 50 pounds of noise successfully.

Later, I was apprehended eating *huevos rancheros* in an all-night eatery. I was put in the jail's holding tank. When asked what I was in for, I replied, “Dynamiting the college.”

I was bailed out.

William M. Leff D.C. (Student, 1978-81)

One cold, windy December night in 1980, I was out for a walk to work off some excess energy from cramming for finals. At the time, I was living in the UTEP married family housing dorms. My pregnant wife was resting at home, a bit uncomfortable but healthy.

At the Special Events center, I noticed that an event was happening so I

wandered over and noticed an impressive tour bus that had a splendid scene of horses and mountains on the side.

I stood wondering, “Whose bus is this?” as I admired the artwork. A man suddenly yelled at me from a car, “Ticket!”

“No ticket,” I responded thinking he was looking for a scalped ticket.

“Do you,” he said, pointing at me, “want a free ticket? Headache,” he said as he pointed to his female companion.

“Of course, but do you have an extra one for my wife?” I knew that going to the concert without her was a naughty idea.

“Sure,” he said as he handed me two sweet tickets to the John Denver concert.

Mary Margaret Davis (BBA, 1952)

During my Texas Western College years (1949-52), there were barely 200 students — and everyone knew everyone.

What fun we had!

I recall the painting of the “M” on Mount Franklin and later pleading with dear Dr. Berkman of the Disciplinary Committee to go easy on the boys caught not only with whitewash, but beer.

Finally, a blind date for an SAE spring formal brought me my late husband George. His showing up at 6 a.m. on Homecoming to help me decorate the Chi O lodge exterior led to almost 47 happy married years — though no doubt our share of sadness — before his death in 2000 from Parkinson's Disease. ■

Fire in the Hole – Explosions were common through the 1960s, and “Dynamite, fire in the hole!” was frequently heard.

1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925

- Scenic Drive opens
- El Paso County population: 102,000
- 19th Amendment gives women the right to vote

- Pancho Villa surrenders; Mexican Revolution ends

1921

- Ku Klux Klan organizes in El Paso
- Albert Einstein wins Nobel Prize in Physics

1922

- First Flowsheet yearbook published

1923

- Students paint “M” for Miners on Franklin Mountains
- Loretto Academy opens
- Pancho Villa assassinated
- Teapot Dome oil reserve scandal

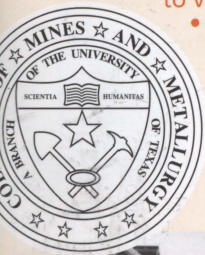


1924

- Turned away from El Paso voting booth, black physician Dr. Lawrence A. Nixon eventually takes his case to the Supreme Court

1925

- Fort Bliss Air Terminal named for James Biggs, College of Mines student who died in a plane crash in France during WWI



El Paso 1920



Devotion key for longtime Miners

By Erica Martinez

Their eyes have seen a great number of students dedicated to earning a college degree. Their hearts have devoted them to teach philosophy and literature, and protect and assist students in reaching that goal.

Their hair color may be slightly different today, but professors John Haddox and Mimi Gladstein, University College director Diana Guerrero and senior guard Pedro Vargas are proud to be among 200 UTEP faculty and staff members who have

worked at the university for many decades. Many of them began as students.

"Teaching here has been a wonderful part of my life."

"I have absolutely loved working at this institution," says Haddox, who has worked

at UTEP for 45 years. "I am amazed that they pay me for doing something I enjoy so much. Teaching here has been a wonderful part of my life."

Throughout his career, the 74-year-old philosophy professor has traveled with hundreds of students to Latin America and Europe to teach them about ancient cultures. Closer to home, he also teaches them about Native American philosophy – professionally and through personal experience.

"Growing up as a Pawnee Indian, our celebrations included giving out written wishes. Over the years, I have given many of my students wishes," says Haddox, known as Kiwakootiwati, or Walking Fox, to the Pawnee Tribe.

As his classes have grown from 20 up to 85 students per class, so has the number of days he spends handwriting individual wishes of peace and friendship.

"I love all my students," he says. "I try to teach them a philosophy of giving – of time, effort, caring, support, encouragement, knowledge and sharing – not just with your mind, but with your heart."

From student to mentor

Guerrero learned that philosophy in the early 60s as a student of Haddox.

A Texas Western College graduate and now director of enrollment, evaluation and technology for the University College, Guerrero has seen the college become a diverse university over the past 40 years.

"At first, it was strange seeing more

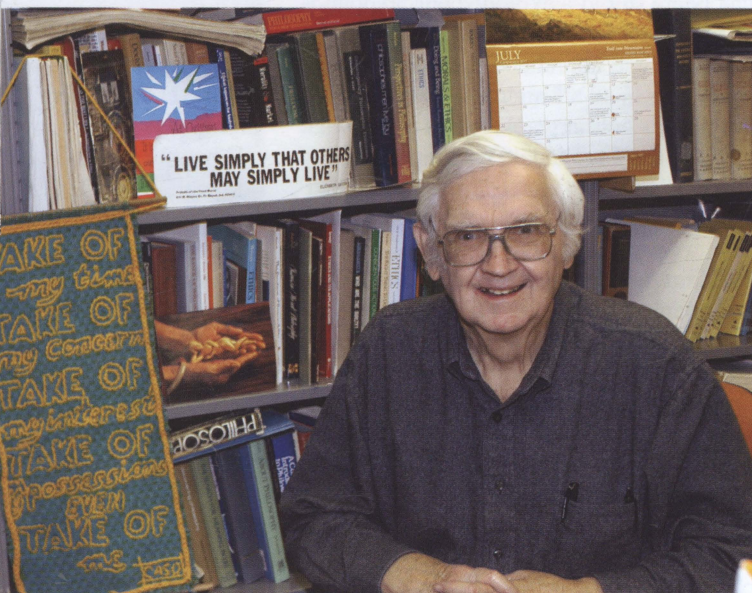


Photo by Javier Vencio

Haddox, at left in 1966 and in 2004 at right

1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935

- Rio Grande floods much of El Paso
- Scopes Monkey Trial; John T. Scopes convicted for teaching theory of evolution

1926

- Robert H. Goddard launches first liquid-fueled rocket

1927

- El Paso Junior College merges with the College of Mines
- Enrollment exceeds 400 after merger
- Charles Lindberg's Spirit of St. Louis lands in El Paso

1928

- El Paso Municipal Airport dedicated
- Amelia Earhart flies into El Paso

1929

- First Homecoming; Miners beat New Mexico State 8-0
- Short-lived Escobar Rebellion in Mexico triggers fighting in Ciudad Juárez

- Stock market crashes; Great Depression begins

1930

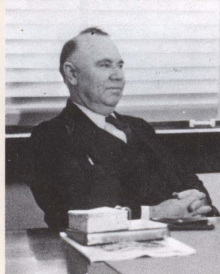
- Hilton Hotel (now the Plaza Hotel) opens Downtown
- El Paso County population: 132,000
- Clyde Tombaugh discovers Pluto

1931

- John Gerald Barry becomes College of Mines' first president
- Empire State building completed
- Bank closures panic nation

1932

- Poor economic times cause Texas Legislature to consider closing some state institutions, including College of Mines
- Amelia Earhart first woman to fly solo across Atlantic



1933

- Athletic field constructed and named after popular professor and dean John W. "Cap" Kidd
- Prohibition ends in United States
- Drought turns Great Plains into a Dust Bowl

1934

- Asarco workers place iron cross on what will become Mount Cristo Rey
- Texas lawmen kill outlaws Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker

1935

- First Sun Bowl Game played at El Paso High School
- Dossie Marion Wiggins named College of Mines president
- Social Security Act signed into law
- Works Progress Administration established, helps build part of campus





Guerrero with student Nicole Gallegos

Hispanics on campus, as students and professors, as part of the student government and in leadership programs," she says. The strides the university has made make Guerrero feel "very proud of this institution, and the education I received here."

While attending TWC, she worked as a student assistant in the Registrar's Office. After graduation and a brief departure from El Paso, she returned to her alma mater as assistant director of admissions and has been a counselor and mentor for various programs.

"It is very satisfying to see students succeed," Guerrero says. "Education is a life-long learning process. People should take advantage of what they have here in their backyard: UTEP."

A treasure found

Gladstein, chair of UTEP's Theatre Arts and Film Department, also recognized the treasure in her backyard and earned her bachelor's degree in drama and speech from TWC in 1959.

In 1966, she returned to the rapidly

growing college as a faculty member. That year, enrollment was about 8,100 – more than double from her student days.

Although enrollment had increased, funding for faculty salaries decreased. The El Paso community stepped up, contributing \$60,000 to supplement salaries from 1959-61. Today, UTEP's payroll of nearly \$98 million includes some 1,000 full- and part-time faculty and 3,000 staff members.

Although salaries for some female faculty members were below average through the 60s, the 70s would be a time of optimism and hold some of her fondest UTEP memories, she says.

A group of female faculty, including Gladstein, researched pay and promotions among female faculty at the university "to bring about some much needed change."

"After three rounds of protests and lawsuits...salaries were more equitable," Gladstein says. "That was a very invigorating and stimulating time for the university."

Patrolling social change

Senior Guard Pedro Vargas also remembers the 70s as the years of social change and free will — and sometimes, no clothes.

"You suddenly saw some males running by the Union. They were 'streaking' and there was a truck ready to pick them up and drive off," Vargas says, laughing about the fad that swept the nation, and UTEP, in the early 70s.

In his 34 years at UTEP – 31 with the university's police department and three with Mail Services – Vargas has seen campus protests, dormitory fights and thousands of parking tickets issued.



Vargas

His neatly pressed uniform shows the pride he has for the university – and the lessons learned in the

"You suddenly saw some males running by the Union. They were 'streaking.'"

Army. He salutes faculty, staff and visitors military style as they enter the campus, a campus that's changed dramatically since he came to work in 1970.

"There were no English, Education, or Fox Fine Arts buildings," Vargas says. "The university has grown immensely."

"Go ahead," he says to a voice on his portable radio. "Go ahead – continue to grow," he says to the university. ■

1936 1937 1938 1939 1940 1941 1942 1943 1944



1936

- First Sun Carnival parade
- Spanish Civil War begins
- Hoover Dam completed

1937

- Centennial Museum opens
- Miners' first-ever bowl game; football team loses 34-6 to Hardin-Simmons in the Sun Bowl
- Amelia Earhart vanishes
- Hindenburg airship explodes

1938

- House Un-American Activities Committee established
- Action Comics introduces Superman

- Orson Welles broadcasts *War of the Worlds*

1939

- Enrollment over 1,000
- First transatlantic airplane passenger service launched
- World War II begins

1940

- Regents approve first graduate degree, Master of Arts
- El Paso County population: 131,000
- Christ statue completed on Mount Cristo Rey
- El Paso Electric begins Star on the Mountain Christmas tradition
- Selective Service Act creates peacetime draft

1941

- Campus radio station WTCM established
- Japan attacks Pearl Harbor; United States enters World War II
- *Citizen Kane* premieres



1942

- Thousands of Japanese-Americans placed in internment camps
- U.S. wins decisive battle of Midway Islands

decisive battle of Midway Islands

1943

- With many young men and women serving in war, enrollment hits 10-year low of 561 students
- War Department assigns Army Specialized Training Unit to College of Mines
- Penicillin developed for widespread use

1944

- No Flowsheet yearbook is published because of the war
- B-24 bomber crashes into Franklin Mountains
- GI Bill of Rights passed
- D-Day: Allies land on Normandy beaches

Seeking the Mother Lode

Miner sports fans eager for more golden years

By David Peregrino

Over nine decades of sports triumphs and failures, Miner fans have morphed into their mascot.

We are Paydirt Pete, that rugged earthmover whose leathery face chronicles an often rocky search for sports success.

It's been a frustrating few decades for the tireless prospector, who last hit a mother lode in 1966.



Making history that year, Texas Western College (now UTEP) coach Don Haskins started five black athletes in the



Haskins



NCAA men's basketball championship game, defeating an all-white Kentucky team for the national title.

El Paso Times sports reporter Bill Knight has written extensively about Haskins and that '66 championship team, which has become a symbol for black athletes' breakthrough into college sports.

Says Knight: "It's amazing. HBO, ESPN have all done specials on (Haskins' team)...and now Disney plans to make a movie about it. I can't think of a (college) national championship that's been considered that special."

Ray Sanchez, a veteran El Paso sports writer and author of *The Miners: The History of Sports at the University of Texas at El Paso and Basketball's Biggest Upset*, says the national title was the highlight of the "golden decade of UTEP sports."

In addition to the basketball championship, the Miner football team was on a

Nicknames—"Ore Diggers" and "Muckers" were considered as school nicknames.

roll in the second half of the 60s. The team delivered winning seasons and triumphed in the 31st and 33rd annual Sun Bowl games.

The decade also saw the beginning of a UTEP track and field dynasty. Wayne Vandenburg's runners won the NCAA cross-country championship in 1969. The track and cross-

country teams carried their success through the 70s and early 80s—Ted Banks' men's track teams brought home five outdoor national titles, six national indoor titles and six cross-country national titles.

But before and after the golden 60s, other Miner teams have delivered countless athletic gems to our prospector's callused hands. Too numerous to list in full, a few notables include:

• **Basketball:** Charlie Brown (recruited in 1956, he was the first black athlete to play in a major sport at a major university in the Confederate South), Nate "Tiny" Archibald, Tim Hardaway, Antonio Davis, Jim Barnes, the Miner Mania of the 1980s, the upset of Kansas and a trip to the Sweet 16 in the 1992 NAAs;

• **Football:** Seth Joyner, Don Maynard, Tony Tolbert, Ken Heineman, Billy Stevens;
• **Track and field:** Suleiman Nyambui, Bob Beamon, Bert Cameron, Greg Joy, Charmaine

1945

1946

1947

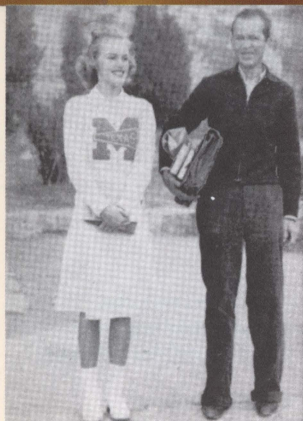
1948

1949

1950

1951

1952



1945

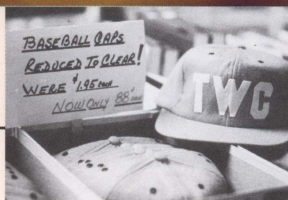
- Franklin D. Roosevelt dies
- U.S. drops atomic bombs on Japan; World War II ends

1946

- Fort Bliss Army Anti-Aircraft and Guided Missile Center established
- United Nations organizes

1947

- Veterans' GI Bill benefits helps push enrollment past 2,000
- Radio Station WTCM becomes KVOF
- Test V-2 rocket hits Juárez
- ENIAC, the world's first electronic digital computer, produced



1949

- Wilson Homer Elkins named president of the College of Mines
- College of Mines name changed to Texas Western College of the University of Texas
- Miners lose to Virginia 21-12 in the 14th annual Sun Bowl

1950

- KVOF-FM becomes first FM station in El Paso
- Miners beat Georgetown 33-20 in 15th annual Sun Bowl
- El Paso County population 195,000
- Bataan Memorial Trainway dedicated
- Korean War begins

1948

- Army ROTC established
- Centennial of Fort Bliss
- Berlin Airlift begins

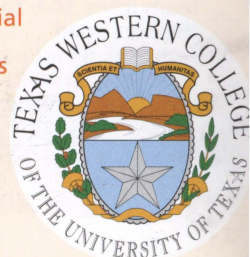


1951

- Magoffin Auditorium, Science Building, Women's Gym, Miners Hall and a dormitory constructed
- ASARCO builds smokestack, said to be world's tallest
- Providence Memorial Hospital opens
- *I Love Lucy* premieres

1952

- Student pranksters relocate San Jacinto Plaza alligator to



Traveling Trophies— The winner of the UTEP-NMSU football game receives a pair of traveling trophies - the Silver Spade and the Brass Spittoon. The first spade was an old prospector's shovel dug up from an abandoned mine in the Organ Mountains near Las Cruces in 1947.

Crooks, Javier Montez, Michael Musyoki, Kim Turner, Obadele Thompson;
• **The university's first-ever**

national championship, won by the 1954 ROTC rifle team;

• **The success of women's** sports after the 1972 passage of Title IX laws.

It's great to reminisce about these achievements, but old Paydirt is hungry for more.

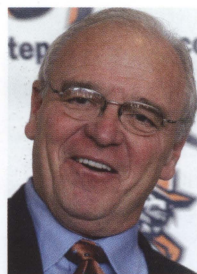
Not just a bowl berth — but a bowl win.

A sip of Sweet 16 is great, but how about a shot of Final Four?

Two years ago, the women's soccer team was at one point the highest-scoring team in the country. The time seems ripe for a dynasty to emerge from UTEP women's sports.

This year, Miner athletics have the city humming.

Coach Billy Gillispie's men's basketball team (22-5; 13-4 WAC) revived Miner Mania, and as of March 1 was guaranteed at least a share of the 2004 Western Athletic Conference title — quite a turnaround for a team that finished last in the WAC just



Price

State University coach now who's tasked with building a winning football team.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio says she's eager for Miner sports success to stir up El Pasoans' pride for their hometown university.

"Athletics offer the window on this university for most outsiders," she says, adding that UTEP sports are a "real psychological boost" for the community.

And much of this boost is coming from

one season ago. On the women's side, Keitha Green's basketballers' undefeated streak this season delivered enthusiastic crowds.

And fans seem thrilled about the hiring of Mike Price, the former Washington

State University coach now who's tasked with building a winning football team.

Larry K. Durham donated \$5 million toward the \$11 million Sports Center at the Sun Bowl that bears his name.

And construction is underway on the \$1.8 million Helen of Troy Softball Complex, thanks to the generosity of Helen of Troy CEO Jerry Rubin and his wife, Stanlee, both UTEP graduates.

The die-hard old prospector seems to have walloped his pick into a rich vein of gold.

"It's so exciting," says Sanchez.

"What a way to start the 90th year of UTEP sports." ■

"Athletics offer the window on this university for most outsiders."



Mascots— The first mascot was a prospector leading a burro named Clyde. Paydirt Pete originated in 1974.

1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961



1954

- ROTC Rifle Team wins national championship
- Miners beat Southern Mississippi 37-14 in 19th annual Sun Bowl
- El Paso Natural Gas building (Blue Flame building) opens
- Elvis Presley makes his first recordings with Sun Records

1955

- Dysert Edgar Holcomb named TWC president
- TWC becomes first white Texas public college to admit black students
- Miners beat Florida State University 47-20 in the 20th annual Sun Bowl
- Ray Kroc founds McDonald's restaurant

1956

- Minimum wage raised to \$1 per hour
- Suez Canal crisis

1957

- Miners lose 13-0 to George Washington University in 22nd annual Sun Bowl

- Raymond L. Telles becomes first Hispanic mayor of El Paso.
- Fort Bliss becomes U.S. Army Air Defense Center
- USSR launches world's first satellite, Sputnik 1

1958

- Joseph Royall Smiley named TWC president
- Civil-rights tensions in Little Rock, Arkansas

1959

- Sunland Park Race Track opens
- Alaska and Hawaii become 49th and 50th states, respectively

1960

- Joseph M. Ray named TWC president
- El Paso County population: 314,000
- Gary Powers' U-2 spy plane shot down over USSR

1961

- TWC trains nation's first Peace Corps class

- geology Professor Howard Quinn's office
- Texas Western Press established
- CBS affiliate KROD-TV is first El Paso television station on air
- Polio vaccine created

1953

- Schellenger Research Laboratories established
- Kidd Seismic Observatory opened
- Korean War ends
- IBM introduces IBM 701 computer

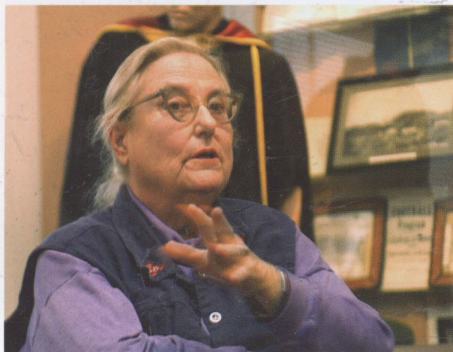
Learning — and living — through the decades

By Cindy Ramirez

The past ninety years have seen economic depression, war and civil unrest.

Skirts went from poodle to mini; hairdos from bouffant and Afro to feathered and gelled. On the airwaves, Bing Crosby, Elvis, the Beatles and Madonna defined decades.

Our city, nation — and world — changed. People and cultures changed. The University of Texas at El Paso changed.



Hamilton

"It's a wonderful trip through time when you sit here and look at all the transformations of our students over the years," says Nancy Hamilton, who graduated from Texas Western College in 1949 and

now chairs the university's Heritage Commission. "Their dress, their demeanor, their battles. They're the ones who were part of our history. They *made* our history."

Through all the changes, however, one thing remained a constant.

"We are the source of education and opportunity in this region," UTEP President Diana Natalicio says. "We are the center of intellectual capital in this region. We have to harness that, not only to achieve all the university's goals, but to help the region's development."

From its beginnings, the university has been molded by history, even as it helped shape the future.

History in the making

Riding street cars and walking nearly a mile through the desert, 27 students made their way to the Texas State School of Mines on Sept. 23, 1914. It was the first day of classes at the college that sat alone in the desert east of Fort Bliss.

By 1916, enrollment had grown to 39 — and for the first time included women. Over



Gomez

the next 90 years, the student body evolved. The school's location and name changed.

"I think the bond throughout the years was that everyone here was striving for education," says Joe Gomez, a 1970 UTEP graduate and member of the university's Heritage Commission. "From the beginning, the community wanted a school, a place to grow minds and create opportunity."

By the 1930s, the Great Depression had hit. As Bing Crosby crooned on radios across the nation, students like Eleanor Duke scrambled to earn \$50 for tuition.



Duke

"We rationed our food, watched every penny," says Eleanor Duke, a professor emeritus who came to UTEP as a student in 1935 and retired in 1985. "But we knew that we had to come and get a degree if we wanted to pull ourselves out of the depression."

From depression to war

The Second World War began, mobilizing the United States out of economic depression. By 1943, enrollment hit a 10-

1962

1963

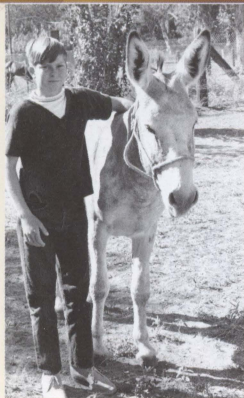
1964

1965

1966

1967

1968



Henry the burro was UTEP's mascot.

- Skyjacking at El Paso International Airport
- Bay of Pigs Invasion in Cuba fails

1962

- Enrollment over 5,000
- John M. Kidd Memorial Seismographic Observatory established
- Cuban Missile Crisis

1963

- Sun Bowl stadium constructed
- Larry Durham scores first Miner touchdown in Sun Bowl
- TWC wins 34-4 over North Texas State in first Sun Bowl stadium game
- President John F. Kennedy assassinated in Dallas

1964

- TWC's 50th anniversary Golden Jubilee celebrated
- President Lyndon Johnson and Mexican President Adolfo Lopez sign Chamizal agreement
- President Johnson signs Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law



1965

- "Turning Point" game: Miner football team defeats Utah 20-19 and wins every season game remaining
- Miners beat Texas Christian University 13-12 in the 31st annual Sun Bowl
- First issue of *NOVA Quarterly* published

- Thousands of U.S. troops arrive in Vietnam
- Racial violence in Selma, Ala

1966

- Don Haskins leads men's basketball team to NCAA national championship, stunning Kentucky 72-65
- Last Mining Engineer graduates

1967

- TWC's name changed to the University of Texas at El Paso
- Miners beat University of Mississippi 14-7 in the 33rd Annual Sun Bowl
- Thurgood Marshall named to Supreme Court
- First Super Bowl played in Los Angeles

1968

- Sophomore Bob Beamon makes world-record long jump at Olympic Games in Mexico City



year low of 561 students.

"You'd see the military boys all across campus, and then they'd be gone from one day to the next. They'd been called into action," Duke remembers.

That same year, the War Department assigned an Army Specialized Training Unit to the College of Mines, reinforcing the ties between the university and Fort Bliss.

After the war, a new breed of students began to enroll. By the late 40s, the Veteran's GI Bill pushed enrollment past 2,000. Veterans with families, seeking a better tomorrow, came here for education and opportunity.

Poodle skirts and civil rights

Then came the 50s. There was Elvis, Bill Haley and His Comets, Fats Domino — and closer to home, one misplaced alligator.

In 1952, student pranksters moved an alligator from San Jacinto Plaza in Downtown El Paso to the office of geology Professor Howard Quinn.

"That's one of the favorite stories here at UTEP," says Hamilton. "It was, in a way, a symbol of some lighter times here and in the nation. There was more of a sense of fun after all those years of depression and war."

Still, there was a sense of conservatism: Blue jeans were rolled up to the ankles and poodle skirts stretched below the knees.

The war was over, but a civil rights movement was brewing. Texas Western College would have its share of battles.

Thelma White, valedictorian of Douglass



High School in El Paso, was denied admission to Texas Western because she was black. She filed a lawsuit in 1955, but 10 days before her case was to go to court, Texas Western College became the first white Texas public college to admit black students.

"This was not a city or a university that was racist, but rather places where change and transformation occurred with respect," says Maceo C. Dailey, director of UTEP's African-American Studies program. "El Paso was a city modernizing and moving progressively to address the dictates of democracy."

Dailey says having Fort Bliss nearby helped prepare the community and the university for diversity. Already, he says, Mexican Americans had been pushing for desegregation and fighting for civil rights, though their notable movement would come decades later.

Students majoring in mining or engineering were called *engineers*, while students majoring in arts or education were called *peedoggies*.

Peace then unrest

In 1961, the college made history along with President John F. Kennedy's Peace Corps. Thirty volunteers arrived on campus and became the first in the nation to complete their training.

But following the more conservative 50s, what were supposed to be the peace-and-love 60s brought civil unrest. Everyday fashion also rebelled against the establishment: Go-go boots, bouffant hair dos and mega Afros.

The Beatles invaded America. It was a musical revolution in tune with the times. But what really had El Pasoans dancing in the streets was not music or fashion.

It was the basketball. In 1966, Coach Don Haskins started an all-black Texas Western team against an all-white Kentucky squad in the finals of the NCAA. The city celebrated for days when the Miners won the national championship.

"If you think of what was happening all across the nation at that time, you see that the significance of that stretched past the basketball court," says Charles Martin, associate professor of history. "It was certainly a momentous occasion and more than an athletic triumph."

The 70s, too, were marked by more than disco, bell bottoms and platform shoes. While movies like "Kramer vs. Kramer" and "Rocky" played on movie screens, a different kind of battle was being fought across

1969

1970

1971

1972

1973

1974

1975



- Enrollment over 10,000
- Lee Treviño wins U.S. Open
- Tiguas recognized as Native American tribe
- Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy assassinated

1969

- UTEP men's cross-country team wins NCAA National Championship
- Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity paints a new "M" overlooking the Sun Bowl
- Joseph Royall Smiley named UTEP president
- Trans-Mountain Rd.-Loop 375 completed
- Neil Armstrong is first man on the moon

1970

- Bob Hope performs at Sun Bowl
- El Paso County population: 359,000
- Four students killed at Kent State University in Ohio during Vietnam-war protest



- El Paso Community College opens

1972

- Last Flowsheet yearbook published
- First endowed professorship (geological sciences) named for Lloyd A. Nelson, early student at School of Mines and long-time professor
- President Richard Nixon visits China
- The Godfather premieres

1973

- Labor dispute stops trolley service between El Paso and Juárez

1971

- National Teacher Corps program established
- Arleigh B. Templeton named UTEP president
- MEChA and La Mesa Directiva protest administration policies



1974

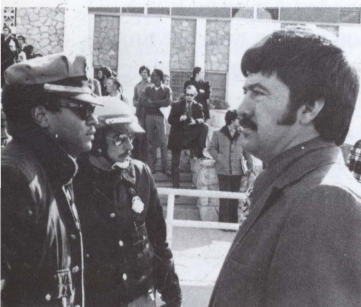
- UTEP men's track and field team wins NCAA National Indoor Championship
- Streaking fad opens eyes on campus
- Paydirt Pete becomes Miners' mascot
- UTEP's first doctoral degree—Geological Sciences—approved
- President Nixon resigns

1975

- Men's track and field team wins NCAA Outdoor and Indoor National Championships

"M" on the Mountain— Students in Engineering and Metallurgy first whitewashed an "M" on the Franklin Mountains in the early 1920s

represented. We had one of the largest populations of Hispanics in college and no one had really recognized that," says Dennis Bixler-Marquez, a 1971 UTEP grad and now professor and director of Chicano Studies.



In 1971, two student groups — MEChA and La Mesa Directiva — took over the administration building and staged a sit-in. Soon after, a Chicano Studies

Program was established.

The university was gaining national recognition for serving Hispanics. "Taco Tech," might have been its nickname, but the university was looking beyond stereotypes to become a model institution focused on educating successful Hispanic professionals.

Bigger and better

The next two decades were identified by two words: Bigger. More.

Bigger hair, more makeup, bigger blockbusters. Think Madonna, 80s rock

California — and on the UTEP campus.

"Chicanos, Hispanics, were not being

bands, "Top Gun," and of course, MTV.

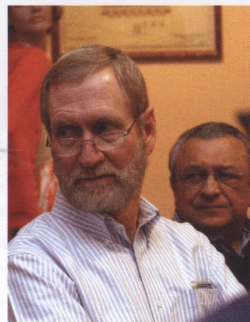
At UTEP, that translated into bigger dreams and accomplishments.

Enrollment grew as more and more students sought university degrees. And more and more of them were Hispanic, as the minority group became the majority of students at UTEP.

"The dynamics of the campus reflected the dynamics of the community," says Martin, and co-editor of *Diamond Days, An Oral History of the University of Texas at El Paso*. "The university never waited to follow trends and didn't separate itself from the community."

By the mid-80s, UTEP led the nation as the top producer of Hispanic engineers and in cooperative U.S.-Mexico research. A second doctoral program was added. A new university library was built, the Sun Bowl expanded.

And in 1988, Diana Natalicio became the university's first woman president. Her mission and goals were clear: Increase access to first-generation students, support them in pursuit of an education, become a national model in



Martin

educating Hispanics.

The 1990 U.S. Census confirmed what many in El Paso already knew: Hispanics were becoming the fastest-growing minority in the nation. The entertainment world embraced names like Selena, Gloria Estefan and Ricky Martin. Politicians spoke Spanish, reaching out to Hispanics like never before.

The nation began looking at UTEP not only as a model for educating Hispanics, but for graduating some of the country's most sought-after professionals. In 1995, UTEP was designated as a Model Institution for Excellence by the National Science Foundation.

In the early 2000s, stocks plummeted and terrorists attacked. UTEP students stood in shock, but didn't let those events interfere with their pursuit of education.

Enrollment hit a record-high 18,542 students in fall 2003, well ahead of state projections.

And as students walk across campus today, they see more than \$50 million in construction projects. The university is adding high-tech labs, classrooms and facilities to meet the demand for new programs and expanded opportunities.

"Our students, our community, are the reason we've always been here," Natalicio says. "All around us, they are the reason we exist. They're the reason we'll celebrate 100-years and more." ■

Beanies — Freshmen were once encouraged to wear beanies during their first semester.

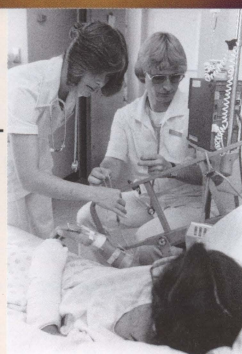
1976



1972 SAE Fraternity Streakers

- Men's cross-country team wins NCAA National Championship
- U.S. pulls out of Vietnam
- Microsoft founded; 1964 TWC graduate Robert O'Rear becomes Microsoft's

1977



seventh employee in 1977

1976

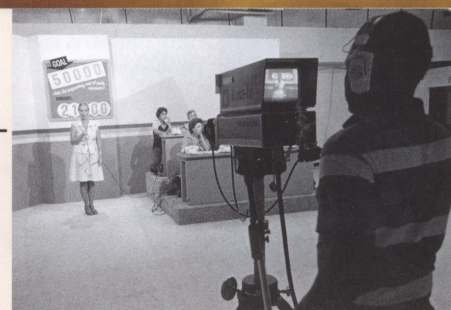
- Men's track and field team wins NCAA Indoor National Championship
- Men's cross-country team wins NCAA National Championship
- Engineering-Science Complex

- completed
- College of Nursing created
- Bicentennial of the United States

1977

- Enrollment over 15,000
- Special Events Center completed
- College of Engineering begins solar research program
- First flight of the Space Shuttle Enterprise
- Star Wars premieres

1978



1978

- Men's track and field team shares the NCAA Outdoor National Championship with UCLA and wins Indoor National Championship
- Men's cross-country team wins NCAA National Championship
- Public television station KCOS-TV goes on air
- First doctoral degree awarded (Geological Sciences)
- Karol Wojtyla becomes Pope John Paul II

Simple to Super: Technology Evolves

By David Peregrino

A friend of engineering and math majors for decades, the slide rule now rests in peace inside a glass case at UTEP's Heritage House museum.

And over the university's 90-year history, others have joined the slide rule in technology's graveyard: suitcase-sized dictation machines and typewriters, punch card-reading mainframes and snail-fast Macs and PCs from desktop computing's early

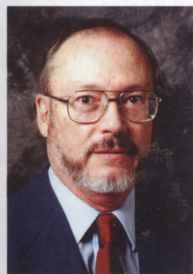
days, to name a few.

Metallurgical engineering professor Walter Fisher remembers one of the first hand-held calculators that spelled doom for the slide rule.

It was the Hewlett-Packard HP-35, arriving on the market soon after he finished his doctorate in 1970.

"I gave my slide rule to my brother," said Fisher, who joined UTEP in 1978.

Today, inexpensive department store calculators can do as much as that old HP-35 — which cost about \$395 when it was



Fisher

introduced.

But such is the nature of computing power, which gets smaller, faster and cheaper year to year, if not month to month.

At UTEP, the Schellenger Research Laboratories drove much of the need for state-of-the-art-technology on campus.

"I have taken my slide rule to class... and (the students) laugh."

— Walter Fisher, metallurgical engineering professor

Established in 1953, the labs conducted research in several areas including atmospheric physics, acoustics, optics and films.

In the late 60s, UTEP created a "Computation Center," the forerunner of today's computer laboratories found throughout the campus.

The center's backbone was a Control Data Corp. computer, which crunched numbers for the Schellenger labs and other departments.

Fisher isn't nostalgic for those old punch-card

Mine Tunnel —The mountain behind the Computer Science Building has a mine tunnel that was once considered a prime location for "making out."

reading computers, which university departments shared as late as the early 80s.

After writing programs on machines that popped chad out of a stack of cards, students

would place their rubber band-wrapped bundles in line to be fed to the computer.

They'd return a while later pick up their results from a print-out bin, hoping they hadn't made any mistakes that would require them to start the programming process again.

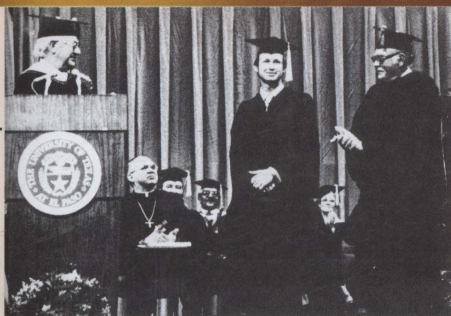
"You didn't make many (computer) assignments because it was a hassle," Fisher said.

Ray Bell, a lecturer who was one of the Computer Science department's original hires, also has no fond memories of the old mainframe dinosaur that resided in Bell Hall in the early 80s.

"It really was a pain compared to today," said Bell, recalling those "horse and buggy" days of computing. "Everybody used it—



1979



1979

- Men's track and field team wins NCAA Outdoor National Championship
- Men's cross-country team wins NCAA National Championship
- Heritage Commission established
- First PhD Gary Massingill
- Iran takes American hostages

1980

- Men's track and field team wins NCAA Outdoor and Indoor National Championships

1980

- Men's cross-country team wins NCAA National Championship
- Haskell M. Monroe, Jr. named UTEP president
- Tradition of fall and spring convocations begins
- UTEP colors changed to include Columbia blue
- El Paso County population: 480,000
- Mt. St. Helens erupts

1981

- Men's track and field team wins NCAA Outdoor and Indoor National Championships
- Men's cross-country team wins NCAA National Championship
- President Monroe creates Presidential Scholarship program
- Professor Emeritus Wilbert H. Timmons originates Four Centuries '81 celebration of El Paso's history
- Student Union allowed to sell beer and wine
- Native El Pasoan Sandra Day O'Connor is first woman appointed to the Supreme Court

1981



- Iran releases U.S. hostages
- IBM launches IBM Personal Computer

1982

- Men's track and field team wins NCAA Outdoor and Indoor National Championships
- Ground breaking of University Library
- Sun Bowl addition raises seating capacity to 52,000
- Tomas Keneally publishes *Schindler's List*

for payroll, for keeping records..."

Bell said IBM, Apple and Sun Microsystems' development of easier-to-use desktop computers was the breakthrough for which users were waiting.

"The whole Windows thing, the whole graphical interface...that was a true revolution," Bell said.

Another revolution has been the advances in hand-held computing.

Holding a late-model Texas Instruments

TI-89 graphing calculator, Fisher said, "This can do what it took a whole roomful of computers to do back then."

Today, a TI-89 can be found at major discount stores for about \$140.

Fisher said technology has allowed his students to tackle problems that would have been just "talked about" in classrooms decades ago.

"If a student from 30 years ago could pop into a classroom today, they would be

astonished," Fisher said.

That same student may also be impressed to see today's students working on a variety of smart machines in Computer Sciences' robotics lab.

Last year, Bell's department acquired three new bucket-sized Trilobot research robots, which joined the lab's family of older mobile 'bots and two robotic arms.

The lab works in partnership with the Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering departments to help promote robotics-education.

As the university heads toward its 100th anniversary, Fisher said there's no worry that UTEP is behind when it comes to providing his engineering students access to technology.

"The availability of high-level computing power has put us on equal footing with any university," Fisher said.

Last year, an IBM grant gave UTEP a \$500,000 parallel-processor high performance computing platform: the IBM p690, also known as the "Top Gun."

Armed with 12 processors and 24GB of main memory, Top Gun is believed to be the highest-caliber computing machine ever to reside on the UTEP campus, said Pat Teller, the associate professor of computer science who was instrumental in landing the IBM grant.

Already, science and mathematics departments are using Top Gun for a variety of complex research projects.

"I think this coming semester we'll have more successes to report," she said. ■



1983

1984

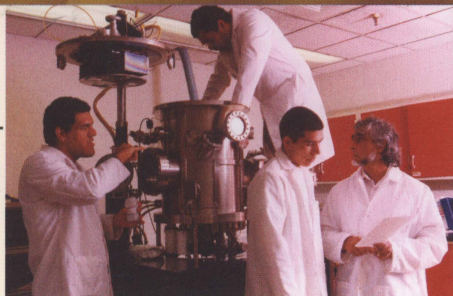
1985

1986

1987

1988

1989



1983

- Men's cross-country team wins NCAA National Championship
- UTEP leads nation among schools producing Hispanic engineers
- Sally Ride is first American woman in space

1984

- Six-story University Library completed
- Women's Center opens
- Macintosh computer launched

1985

- Miner football team shocks defending national champion BYU 23-16
- Mexico City earthquake kills 7,000

1986

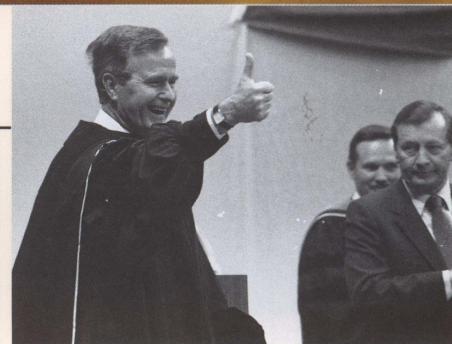
- UTEP recognized as the leader in U.S.-Mexico cooperative research
- Space Shuttle Challenger explodes
- Chernobyl nuclear reactor disaster

1987

- Vice President George Bush speaks at May commencement
- World stock markets crash

1988

- Diamond Jubilee Celebration begins
- Diana Natalicio becomes first woman UTEP president
- National Science Foundation recognizes UTEP with a Minority Research Center of Excellence Grant
- Miners lose to Southern Mississippi 38-18 in 13th annual Independence Bowl



- Suzie Azar is first woman mayor of El Paso
- Terrorist bomb destroys Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland

1989

- Second doctoral program approved—Electrical Engineering
- Cohen baseball stadium dedicated
- Tiananmen Square uprising in Beijing

Building history one mandala at a time

By Erica Martinez

UTEP's buildings are more than bricks. They house history and the intellectual capital of the future.

"It's not just history; it's people stepping up to the plate to grow and expand the university."

"The history of the university is very much a metaphor for what needs to be done now — getting the community to take ownership of the university," says UTEP President Diana Natalicio. "It's not just history; it's people stepping up to the plate to grow and expand the university."

That community ownership began in 1914 when El Paso business owners and families stepped up to pledge \$50,000 — \$1 million in today's dollars — to secure the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy.

Since then, many more forward-thinking individuals have left behind their

contributions — as well as their names and legacies — to make a significant mark in the university's history.

After a fire destroyed the school of mines in 1916, then-dean Steven Worrell chose the school's current location as its new home. Construction of the new school began in June 1917.



Old Main

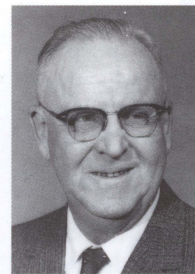
Worrell's wife Kathleen suggested the school's unusual style of architecture after recalling an article in *National Geographic* on Bhutan, "Castles in the Air." The new buildings would resemble Bhutanese monasteries, or *dzongs*, with massive, gently sloping walls, high inset windows, projecting



Graham

roof eaves and dark bands of brick with mosaic tiles in the shape of *mandalas* — the symbol of unity and wholeness.

By 1917, there was a cluster of castles along El Paso's mountains, and they continue to grow today.



Quinn



Vowell

• **Old Main** (1917) housed the snack bar and a small library until 1920. It now houses the Liberal Arts Centers for Instructional Technology.

• **Graham Hall** (1917) was the first men's dormitory and originally named Burges Hall.

Later dubbed "Keno Hall," it was renamed in 1971 for John F.

Graham, a mining and metallurgy professor.

• **Quinn Hall** (1917) was later known as the Old Geology Building. It was renamed in 1981 to honor Howard Quinn,

a geology professor.

• **Vowell Hall** (1920) was originally named Kelly Hall but renamed in 1986 after Jack Vowell, a football and basketball coach at the college in the early 1920s.

• **Heritage House** (1921) was the primary residence for Dean Worrell and his wife, as well as other deans and college presidents. In 1994, the Heritage House became the home of university memorabilia.

• **Seamon Hall** (1927) is named after chemistry professor Franklin H. Seamon, one of the college's first faculty members. It is now being renovated to provide added space and galleries for the art programs.

• **Holliday Hall** (1933) served as a

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998

1990

- Minerpalooza festival created
- El Paso County population: 592,000
- Iraq invades Kuwait

1991

- Computer Engineering doctoral program enrolls first students
- Nurse Midwifery Master's Degree Approved
- Season of Lights created
- President George H.W. Bush launches Operation Desert Storm

1992

- Material Research Institute established
- Border Biomedical Research Institute established
- U.S., Mexico and Canada sign NAFTA trade pact

1993

- Materials science and engineering doctorate enrolls first students
- Psychology doctorate enrolls first students

- Heritage House opens
- Star on Mountain lighted year-round
- Terrorists bomb World Trade Center

1994

- Franchise Center established
- English Channel tunnel opens
- Los Angeles earthquake

1995

- Kinesiology master's degree approved
- Environmental science and engineering doctorate enrolls first students
- UTEP designated as Model Institution for Excellence by National Science Foundation
- UTEP divides commencement into two ceremonies
- Oklahoma City bombing kills 168

1996

- Educational leadership and administration doctorate enrolls first students
- Pharmacy cooperative doctorate enrolls first students
- Swimming and Fitness Center opens



- African-American Studies program established
- Taliban conquers Afghanistan

1997

- Don Haskins inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame and Special Events Center renamed Don Haskins Center
- Biological sciences doctorate enrolls first students
- UTEP launches \$50 million Legacy Campaign
- Undergraduate Learning Center opens
- Scientists clone a sheep and name it Dolly

1998

- UTEP celebrates its 100th commencement
- Rio Bosque Wetland Park dedicated
- President Bill Clinton impeached

Bowling Barbers – The Union Building West once housed a bowling alley and a barbershop.

dances. Named after Robert Holliday, an El Paso attorney and member of the UT Board of Regents, it now houses the track offices.

• **Kidd Field** (1933) was named after former Dean John “Cap” Kidd, who donated \$800 of his own money to equip the football team and assisted with coaching.

• **Worrell** and **Benedict** halls (1937) served



Seamon Hall

as men’s and women’s dormitories. Worrell Hall is named after the first dean, Steven Worrell. Benedict Hall is named after Harry Yandell Benedict, a former president of UT Austin.

• **Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center** (1941) is the only former sorority house (Zeta Tau Alpha) remaining on campus. In 1969, it was acquired by UTEP as the administration building annex and later

named after the de Wetters, both alumni and university supporters.

Wild West – Memorial Gym was once a horse stable and student rodeo arena.

basketball gym and assembly hall for school



Keno Hall

• **Hudspeth Hall** (1947) was a dormitory named after former Texas State Sen. Claude Hudspeth, who with Texas State Rep. Richard Burges, introduced a bill to acquire the El Paso Military Institute facility for a state mining school.

• **Cotton Memorial** (1947) is named after Frank B. Cotton, whose estate was inherited by the university after his death in 1938.

• **Bell Hall** (1948) was built as a women’s dormitory and dining facility and is named after El Pasoan Elizabeth Merrill Bell.

• **Magoffin Auditorium** (1951) is named after former El Paso Mayor Joseph Magoffin and was extensively renovated in 1974-75.

• **Miners Hall** (1951) was a men’s dormitory, but now houses the Center for Learning and Professional and Continuing Education.

• **Burges Hall** (1963) was originally built as a dormitory in 1917 and named after former Texas State Rep. Richard Burges.

• **Barry** and **Kelly** halls (1970) Built as dormitories, Kelly Hall is undergoing renovations to house UTEP’s new Paso del Norte Research and Business Development Complex. It was named after C.E. Kelly, a

former El Paso mayor and member of the UT Board of Regents. Barry Hall is named after John Barry, the first president of the college.



Fox

• **Fox Fine Arts Center** (1974) was named after Josephine Clardy Fox in 1978, an art enthusiast and university supporter.

• **Brumbelow Building** (1959) was originally a research center for the El Paso Natural Gas Company. It was acquired by the university in 1974 and named after Mike Brumbelow, a former head football coach and athletics director.

• **Don Haskins Center** (1977) was originally called the Special Events Center and renamed after the legendary basketball coach in 1996.

• **Ross Moore Building** was named after the 1939 graduate who was associated with the university as a student, coach, teacher and trainer for 41 years. The athletics training facility was dedicated in his name in 1985.

• **Larry K. Durham Sports Center** (2002) The state-of-the-art athletics training facility is named after former UTEP football player and alumnus Larry Durham, who scored the first touchdown in the Sun Bowl in 1963. Durham contributed \$5 million toward its construction. ■

Spirits and Ghosts – Cotton Memorial and Seamon Hall are among several buildings said to be haunted.

1999



1999

- Don Haskins retires
- History doctorate enrolls first students
- MBA online degree program

launched

- Chihuahuan Desert Gardens dedicated
- Explosive growth of Internet continues

2000

- Legacy Campaign ends, raising \$66 million
- Nursing cooperative doctorate enrolls first students
- Miner Village completed
- UTEP designated as a Doctoral/Research-Intensive University
- Miners lose to Boise State University 38-23 in the Crucial.com Humanitarian Bowl
- El Paso County population: 680,000
- Dot.coms implode, NASDAQ stock index plummets

2000

2001



2001

- Paso al Norte Immigration History Museum and Research Center established
- Sun Bowl gets AstroPlay artificial turf; Don Haskins Center gets new hardwood floor
- Terrorist attack destroys World Trade Center buildings

2002

- Larry K. Durham Sports Center opens
- Maymester and Wintermester 10-day accelerated semesters offered

2002

2003

- Graduate enrollment hits record 2,848
- Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies established
- WorldCom goes under in largest bankruptcy case ever

2003

- Fall Enrollment reaches record 18,542, including record Graduate School enrollment of 3,457
- \$44 million in construction begins on new Academic Services and Biosciences buildings and an addition to the Engineering-Science Complex
- Construction begins on the Helen of Troy Softball Complex
- International business, civil engineering and rhetoric and composition doctorates approved
- U.S. invades Iraq and captures Saddam Hussein

2004

- UTEP celebrates 90th anniversary

2004

The Next 10 Years

By Cindy Ramirez

In the 90 years since the University of Texas at El Paso got its start as a state mining school, a few things have changed.

We've had more names than we care to remember. We've seen enrollment explode from 27 students to more than 18,500. The small school with a handful of classrooms has grown into a major urban university with more than 80 buildings and academic programs that expand each semester.

The next decade will be just as exciting.

Today's second graders will be UTEP freshmen in 2014. When they walk on campus, they can expect to feel the same vigor and vitality that's greeted every one of UTEP's 76,200 graduates over the years.

"We are the center of intellectual capital in this region," says UTEP President Diana Natalicio, who's been at the helm of the university for 15 years. "We have to harness that not only to achieve all the university's goals, but to help the region's development."

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

We look ahead, strive for more.

In the fall, UTEP will establish a Centennial Commission charged with envisioning the future of the university through at least its 100th birthday — and how it can best continue

to serve the community. But beyond that, the Centennial Commission will look ahead to how the university can shape the future of higher education across the nation.

We're off to a great start.

According to a forecast by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, UTEP's enrollment should reach 22,043 students by the year 2015. But when we enrolled a record 18,542 students in fall of 2003, we were already a year ahead of schedule.

We've made major strides toward achieving the goals outlined in Closing the Gaps by 2015, a state education plan to bring 300,000 more students into higher education over the next decade.

More and more, UTEP will be considered a national model in higher education. We will be recognized for producing top professionals in a wide variety of fields. We already rank second in the nation for awarding bachelor's degrees to Hispanics and in the Top 10 in bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanics in business, engineering and health sciences.

The number of Hispanics between the ages of 15 and 34 is expected to increase statewide by nearly 6 percent by 2015. But the Texas State Data Center predicts that Hispanic enrollment in higher education will not keep pace.

At UTEP, we're working to prove that prediction wrong.

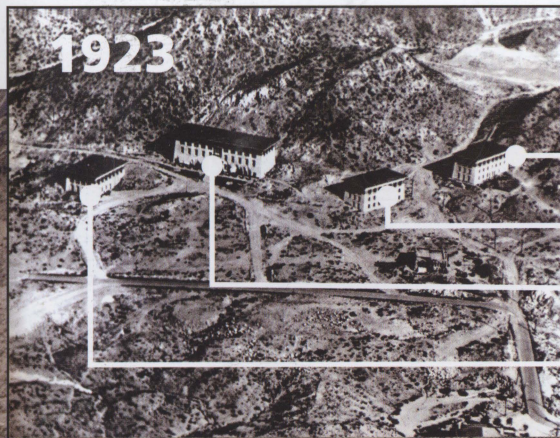
With 71 percent of our students Hispanic, and 12 percent international, we already reflect the changing face of Texas and the nation. More importantly, we lead the way in proving that first-generation, primarily Hispanic students can succeed in higher education.

UTEP will continue to grow its enrollment, infrastructure, public health education, research, academic and outreach programs and athletic programs. The university will implement new doctoral programs, continue to serve as a leading Hispanic Serving Institution and work with the community to develop a four-year medical school in El Paso.

And we'll do it all without losing sight of our commitment to access and excellence.

The quality of a university is measured in part by the successes of its graduates. Ninety years ago, our students dreamed of being miners and geologists. Today they may strive to be nationally recognized educators, renowned researchers and scientists, CEOs of international corporations or award-winning artists. But each carries within them the decades of history and heritage that created today's UTEP.

Their opportunities are here. Our possibilities are endless. ■



Graham Hall

Vowell Hall

Old Main

Quinn Hall

Memories and Momentum

The university has evolved over 90 years, growing from four buildings in 1923 to more than 80 today — and more on the way, including some \$50 million in construction expected to be completed in 2005.

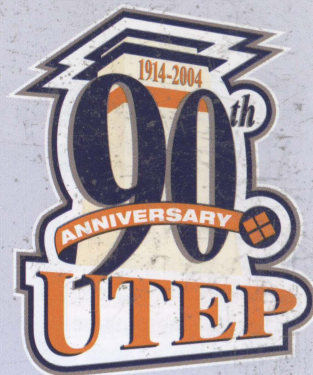
Engineering and Science

Biosciences

Academic Services

Save the Date! 90th Anniversary Events

- For a complete and updated listing of all events, including athletics, please visit www.utep.edu/90thanniversary
- Football games listed are home games only.



March 30

Dedication of Mining Heritage Park and kick-off to the 90th anniversary
747-8533

April 2

Minerfest
747-5670

April 6

90th Anniversary Gala Concert
747-5606

April 8

Dinner with the Miners
747-5347

April 12-16

Greek Week
747-5670

April 13

90th Anniversary Commemorative Event
747-8533

April 14-18

New Voices Play Festival
747-5118

April 18

Faculty recital series--Oscar Macchioni
747-5606

April 19

Pandemonium
747-5606

April 20

Student Government Association Awards Banquet
747-5584

April 21

Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band
747-5606

April 22

Lab Band I, Jazz II and Jazz Singers
747-5606

April 23

Ring Ceremony
747-8600

April 24

Sorority Reunion Tea
747-8600

April 25

Honors Convocation
747-8244

April 27

Faculty Recital Series--David Ross and Dena Kay Jones
747-5606

April 28

University Orchestra and Choirs
747-5606

April 28

Student Achievement Recognition Banquet
747-5670

May 1

T-Shirt and Tennies
747-5347

May 8

Commencement
747-8244

June 3

Wishing Wall launch
747-5181

June 4-22

Wishing Wall
747-5181

Sept. 10

Afternoon Tea commemorating 90 years of rushing
747-8600

Sept. 10

MINERPALOOZA
747-5670

Sept. 11

Football vs Weber State
747-8759

Sept. 18

Football vs Boise State
747-8759

Sept. 22

Fall Convocation
747-8244

Sept. 23

Opening of the Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Gallery
747-5181

Sept. 23

Drawing for UTEP's 90th Anniversary Crossword Challenge
747-8533

Sept. 23

Student event commemorating the first official day of class in 1914
747-8533

Oct. 2

Football vs New Mexico State
747-8759

Oct. 15

Homecoming Parade
747-5670

Oct. 15

Distinguished Alumni Dinner
747-8600

Oct. 16

Alumni Association Annual Pre-game Party
747-8600

Oct. 16

Golden Grads Luncheon
747-8600

Oct. 16

Homecoming vs Hawaii
747-8759

Nov. 13

Football vs Rice
747-8759

Nov. 20

Football vs SMU
747-8759



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO 90th ANNIVERSARY
1914-2004

HOME EVENTS A TRIP IN TIME PHOTOS GUEST BOOK PLAY AND WIN FUN FACTS LOGO UTEP HOME



WELCOME
Commemorating our 90th anniversary, this Website honors the more than 76,000 students who have earned degrees at the School of Mines and Metallurgy, at Texas Western College and UTEP -- and the community that has supported them through the decades.
Welcome to 90 years of Miner memories.
Happy Birthday, UTEP! From...

UPCOMING EVENTS
Mining Heritage Park Dedication, 4 p.m. March 30, 2004 at Mining Heritage Park located between Old Main and Quinn Hall on the UTEP campus.
Historic mining equipment -- including mining mills, an ore crusher and a mining mucking machine -- will be permanently displayed at the park to honor UTEP's mining heritage.

OUR TIME  IS NOW

PLAY AND WIN
Complete the crossword puzzle correctly and you'll be entered to win a \$4,000 Student Extracurricular Award! (Restrictions apply)

TIMELINE
Travel through 90 years of historic events at the university including local, national and world news!

ALUMNI STORIES
Alumni across the decades share their favorite university memories. Send us yours!

Online Extra

Read and learn more about UTEP's past and future by logging on to:

www.utep.edu/90thanniversary

- **Photos:** Galleries of images across the decades and of special anniversary events
- **Events** calendar for the year
- **Play and Win!** Crossword puzzle challenge
- **Fun Facts**, university presidents, selected books about UTEP...
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ENGINEERING OPPORTUNITY

FORMER DEAN ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIP

by David Peregrino

The young new dean of the School of Mines and Engineering at Texas Western College only had to sing some school songs to join the campus clan of engineering students and professors.

But on that spring day in 1964, Lonnie L. Abernethy wouldn't find it easy.

"The students made a mixture of tobacco and chili peppers that we had to hold in our mouths—and we couldn't spit," said Abernethy, recalling the traditional initiation held around St. Patrick's Day to honor engineering's patron saint.

Tongue aflame and eyes watering, Abernethy warbled the TWC standards, earning a spot in the informal brother-and-sisterhood of engineers who've studied or taught at the school.

"No one got hurt. It was a lot of fun," Abernethy said, fondly remembering his early years at UTEP, which celebrates its 90th anniversary this year.

Fit and energetic at 80, Abernethy treasures his time as dean from 1963 to 1969 and his years as professor until retirement in 1984.

Giving back to the university that shaped much of his life, Abernethy established the Margaret Jean Abernethy Scholarship Fund, named in memory of his wife, who lost her life to cancer in 1995.

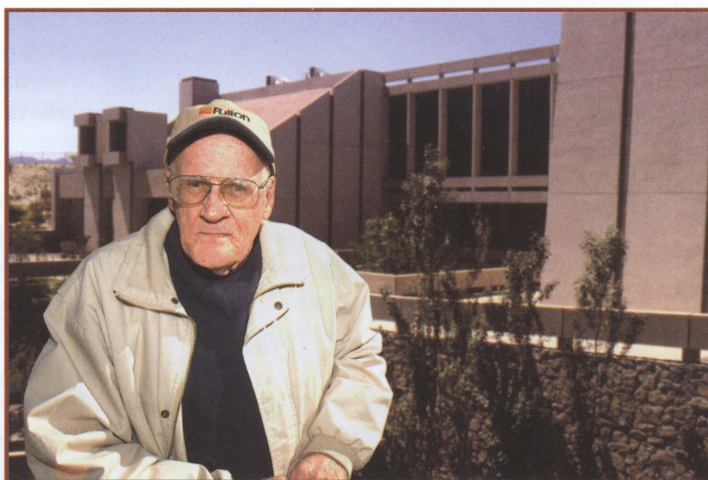
Margaret Jean, who had a master's degree in ceramic engineering from Ohio State, taught at Bel Air and Riverside high schools. She finished her teaching career in UTEP's math department.

The fund, created in 1997, provides scholarships to National Merit Scholars who pursue undergraduate or graduate engineering degrees.

The history of the Abernethy scholarship fund is bittersweet.

Lonnie and Margaret Jean had long talked about using their life savings to create a scholarship.

But it seemed like wishful thinking, because the



Abernethys needed money for retirement.

They also wanted to leave some money for their son, Charles Ernest.

But a year after his mother died, cancer also claimed Charles Ernest, who was only 36 years old. Another son, Lonnie Lee III, died in 1970 at age 12 after an accident.

"Here I was without a family,"

Lonnie Abernethy said. "I decided I would leave my money for the scholarships Margaret Jean and I had talked about."

Lance L. Williams, 19, a junior mechanical engineering major, is the first recipient of the Abernethy scholarship.

The \$2,700-per-semester award pays for tuition, books and other expenses for the 2002 Eastwood High School graduate.

Earning a degree "would be tougher without it," said Williams, who's considering a career in automotive design.

Abernethy raised money for the scholarships with the help of what he calls his "hobby"—buying and selling stocks online.

In addition to the UTEP scholarship, Abernethy has established four other scholarships at three other universities in remembrance of his family.

"During my lifetime I'd like to establish five more" scholarships, he said.

Abernethy has remarried, and lives in a neighborhood near UTEP with wife Maria Elena Abernethy, B.A. '57, formerly Maria Elena Guerrero.

"I have a whole other family now," he said, "Five kids and four grandchildren."

Abernethy is looking forward to this spring, when he'll return to the campus for the 40th anniversary of his St. Patrick's Initiation.

For his 20th anniversary in 1984, students smeared green paint on his face and made him kiss a Blarney Stone.

This time around, the venerable engineer predicts: "I think they'll go easy on me." ■

Price is Right: *Head coach born for football*

By Cindy Ramirez

Mike Price will forever have football fever.

"I was born to be a football coach. While everybody else was learning their ABC's, I was learning football from my father," says Price, UTEP's new head football coach. "God gave that to me as my calling, particularly at the college level."

Price, 57, was the head coach at Washington State University from 1989 to 2002.

"The sky is the limit here," says Price, the National Coach of the Year in 1997. Price replaces Gary Nord following his 14-34 record in four seasons.

"I really think UTEP has what it takes to be a winner, and I promise I will work my heart out to provide the student athletes with an enjoyable college experience, follow the rules and win with integrity and character," Price says.

Price's hiring has reinvigorated UTEP's football program even

before spring practices are to begin. The nationally renowned coach has created an atmosphere of hope and possibility for the sport in the university and the community.

The opportunities are endless, UTEP administrators say.

"I've never met a better football coach and a better person. He is an outstanding coach, and his record speaks for itself," UTEP Director of Athletics Bob Stull says. "He has over 30 years of coaching experience, and over 22 years of head coaching experience. This is a rare opportunity for us."

During his stint with the Cougars, Price compiled an 83-77 record, with three 10-win seasons and five bowl appearances. Price was the head coach at Weber State from 1981-88, registering a 46-44 record. His career record is 129-121 in 22 years of coaching, with three conference titles.

Miner fans are hopeful the

coveted coach will produce a winning team.

Price is looking for more than wins.

"It's not the X's and O's that matter, it's the Jimmy's and the Joe's, it's the players who make you successful," he says.

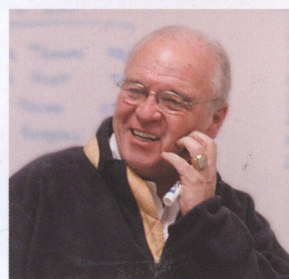
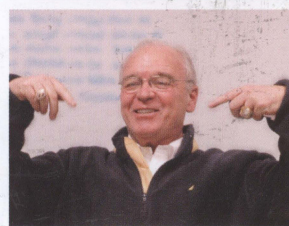
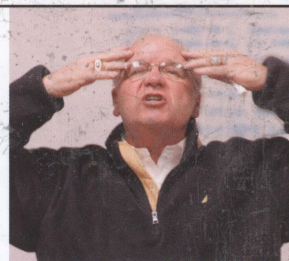
Attracting top players to UTEP is among his priorities: "I think you can recruit here. It's got great weather, great facilities and a great community."

His goals — though many — are clear.

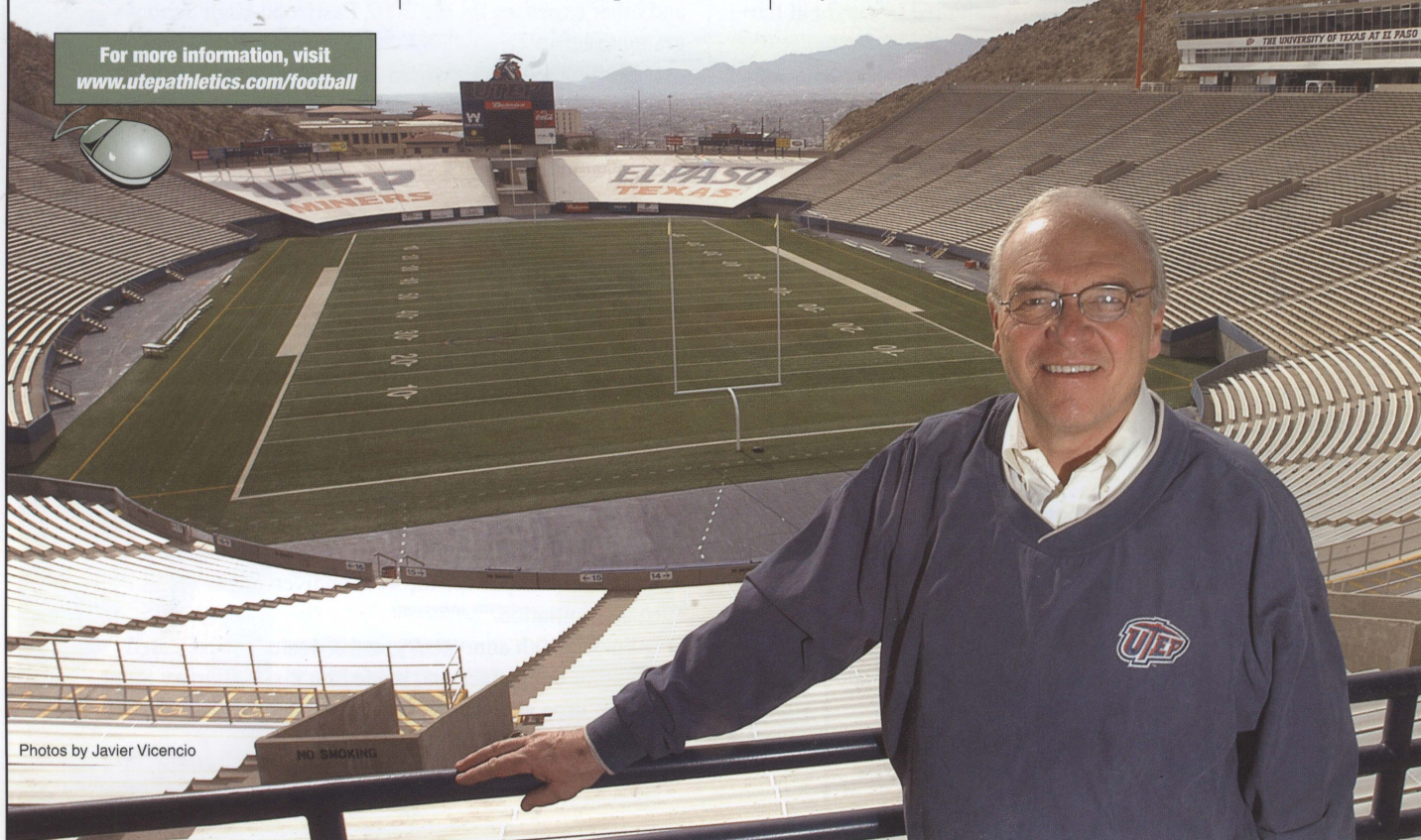
"My job is to come here and graduate as many players as we can — 100 percent is my goal — to win the WAC, to win the bowl game, and to fill this stadium with 53,000 people every weekend that we are here."

As for his stay at UTEP, Price says he's committed to a long run.

"I'm going to stay here as long as you want me." ■



For more information, visit
www.utepathletics.com/football



Photos by Javier Vicencio

CHAMPIONS!

Miners clinch share of WAC title

By Cindy Ramirez

Miners Coach Billie Gillispie calls his WAC championship a "heck of a run."



Gillispie

basketball on a whole new court this season.

The Miners (22-5, 13-4 WAC) record as of March 1 guaranteed UTEP at least a share of the 2004 Western Athletic Conference title — the team's eighth WAC regular season championship and its first since 1991-92.



"We're better than we were at the start [of the season]," says Gillispie following a 71-68 win over Louisiana Tech Jan. 31. "It has been a heck of a run so far. We've taken it one game at a time."

Despite the season's outstanding success, Gillispie is quick to note that there's more work to be done.

"It has surprised me a little bit, how quickly the team has come together," he says.

This year's Miners are only the third team in conference history to perform a "worst to first" turnaround, and the first to achieve this feat in 35 years. Last year, UTEP ranked last in the 10-team WAC.

Gillispie credits character, determination and teamwork — offensively and defensively, on and off the court — to the team's success.

"I like our guys," says Gillispie, who has been called a "workaholic sharpie" in *Texas Monthly*. "I love our character and I like our talent — but our talent is not above anyone



Photos by Javier Vicencio

else's. And actually, every time we play we're shorter, we're a little bit slower and we're not a physically imposing team in any way. The whole is much greater than the sum of the parts."

Asked to pick the team's biggest bonus players, Gillispie cannot name just one player: Roy Smallwood. Jason Williams. Filiberto Rivera. Most improved? Chris Craig, John Tofi, Gio St. Amant. He credits Omar Thomas' selflessness, Brent Murphy's shots and Thomas Gehrke's improving game.

And without hesitation, Gillispie reiterates it's the team as a whole — including those players who aren't always mentioned by name — that is to be credited with this season's success and the high expectations that have been set for next season.

"They all have a role on the team too, and they have accepted their roles," Gillispie says. "They have been great team guys and they have been great teammates."

For more, visit www.utepathletics.com/mens.basketball/ N



Inaugural (soft) ball: Heart, hard work vs experience

By Karla V. Iscapa

As UTEP celebrates its 90th birthday, a new university sport is born.

Miner softball became a reality for UTEP as the inaugural season kicked off in February.



Rodriguez

The women's softball program started in January 2003 when Kathleen Rodriguez was hired as softball coach.

"It is a huge honor to be in the first Hispanic coaching staff for the first softball team," says Rodriguez.

A year later, she leads a strong and committed team ready to prove that hard work and concentration is more important than years of experience.

Renee DiPuccio, one of three players from Nevada, says that the "chemistry" between the players and coaches and their commitment is stronger than the time they have been a team.

The coaching staff is aware that they are not playing an easy schedule since they'll be competing against teams ranked in the top 50 in the nation.

However, Rodriguez says that playing against top schools will help the team see where they stand and where they want to be.

"I promise that if you just come out to watch them one time, you'll come back again just because you'll see that the team works hard and they want to do well for the crowd," Rodriguez says. N



Jaxon's daily special: UTEP pride

By Erica Martinez

Besides the Tortilla Signature Soup, Rio Grande Steak or handcrafted ales and lagers, Jaxon's Restaurant offers patrons a unique menu item — UTEP Alumni Association membership.

"Supporting the Alumni Association is supporting the university — which in turn is a huge positive for the El Paso economy," says Gary Helsten, a Lifetime Member of the association and president of Jaxon's Restaurants and Brewing Co.

A native El Pasoan and 1985 UTEP alumnus, Helsten has been in the restaurant business for more than 10 years, including four years as owner of Jaxon's.

The restaurant not only supports the Alumni Association, but those working to become alumni. Helsten says the restaurant's three locations employ about 100 UTEP students — half its staff.

Having been a waiter 20 years ago, Helsten experiences a little déjà vu as he now oversees the "original" Jaxon's location at 4799 N. Mesa St., where he was a waiter while attending UTEP.

"Always keep good relations with your employers," Helsten says of the valuable relationship he had with Jack Maxon, the original owner of the restaurant. "You never know where they will lead."

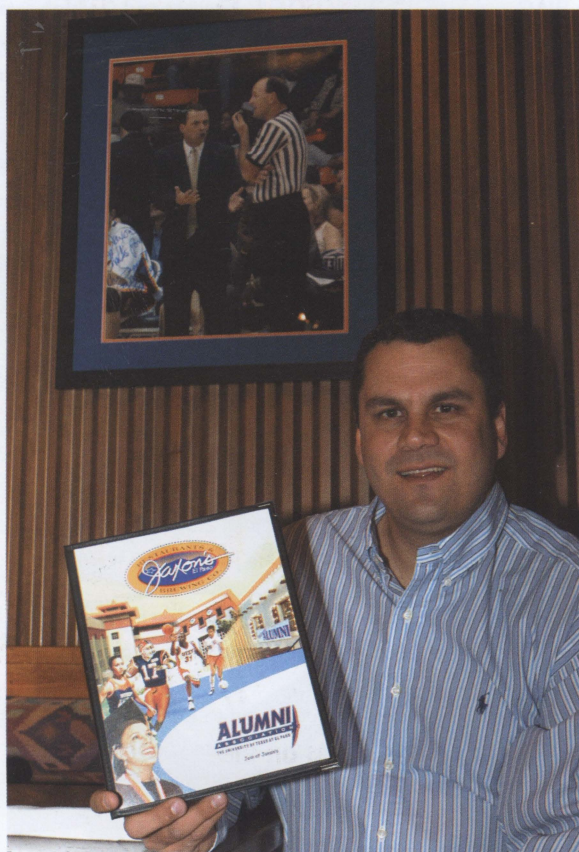
Aside from the membership applications available at the restaurant, Jaxon's menus also were recently redesigned to include a collage of UTEP students and campus shots. Photographs of some of the university's most memorable sports moments adorn the restaurant's walls inside and large banners outside proudly state "Go Miners."

During football and basketball season, the Coach's Shows are taped from the "original" location — with an array of blue and orange balloons and streamers to add to the UTEP fanfare.

"We do what we can," Helsten says. "It's Jaxon's way of giving to the university." ■

Gary Helsten, president of Jaxon's Restaurants, displays the re-designed UTEP-themed menu and memorabilia. Helsten is a 1985 UTEP graduate and Lifetime Member of the Alumni Association.

Photo by
Javier Vicencio



Tradition starts at home

By Erica Martinez

From Spain to Taiwan and India to the United States, UTEP's Alumni Association chapters are being formed worldwide. But the spirit of alumni stems from one city — El Paso.

"As an association, we have started thinking globally," says Alumni Association President Tony Woo, a 1968 and 1972 UTEP graduate. "We are connecting with graduates outside of this region so we can position the association further for the future."

With more than 50,000 UTEP alumni, it is no surprise that UTEP Alumni Association's 80 years have been filled with homecoming celebrations, tradition-setting events, outstanding UTEP graduates and scholarship-giving to future alumni.

The following is a glimpse of the Alumni Association's history.

1923: The Alumni Association is formed by nine people, including Texas College of Mines Professor Lloyd "Speedy" Nelson, who also was one of the first three men to graduate from the college in 1916.

1929: TCM Dean John "Cap" Kidd organizes the first ex-student celebration — now commonly known as homecoming. The celebration included a football team victory of 8-0 against New Mexico A&M College (now New Mexico State University).

1941: First official homecoming held on campus

1950: S.L.A. Marshall, a war correspondent, author and military historian, is selected as the college's first Outstanding Ex-student, now known as the Distinguished Alumni award.

1960: The Association gives its first annual scholarship in the amount of \$150.

1989: The first "Picnic on the Lawn" — an annual back-to-school festival for students, faculty and staff — takes place. The festival has since been renamed Minerpalooza and features the first pep rally of the year.

1990: The annual Season of Lights celebration makes its bright beginning on campus. The Alumni Lodge, the Student Union Building, Leech Grove and Memorial Triangle are adorned by about 142,000 light bulbs.

2003: UTEP's first official class ring is introduced by the Alumni Association. The ring displays symbols unique to the university — the University Seal, the Texas flag, the "M" on the mountain, the Bhutanese architecture, the founding year, Paydirt Pete and the UTEP pick logo.

Mark your calendars: Homecoming 2004 ✓

The Alumni Association is seeking sponsors for this year's Homecoming events Oct. 11-16. Sponsors will be recognized in promotional materials and in the fall issue of *Nova Quarterly*. If your business or organization is interested in supporting Homecoming, please contact the UTEP Alumni Office.

Membership has its benefits

The UTEP Alumni Association has teamed up with Liberty Mutual to offer our members Liberty Mutual Advantage(tm). Membership benefits include competitive rates and discounts on auto and home insurance. If you are interested in getting a quote on a policy, call 1-800-526-1547. Be sure to inform your representative that you are a member of the UTEP Alumni Association. If you are already a Liberty Mutual policyholder, call your Liberty Mutual service office to find out how they can convert your policy at your next renewal.

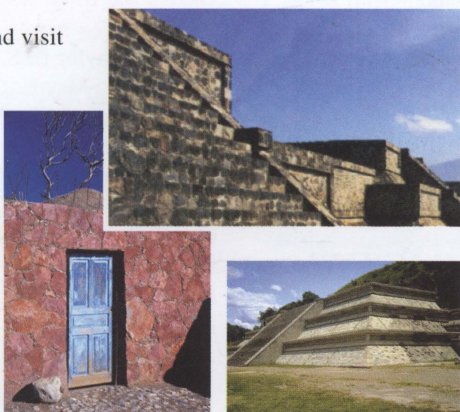
Movin' Miners

May 11 - 20, 2004:
Ecuador and Galapagos Islands

Explore the spectacular world heritage site of Quito and discover the unique and amazing life forms on five of the Galapagos Islands. Cost is \$2,871.90, including airfare from El Paso.

Oct. 21-29, 2004:
Mexico City to Puebla to Oaxaca

Journey into festive markets and gardens, and visit treasured museums and archaeological sites on this memorable expedition. The trip includes 3 days in Mexico City, 2 days in Puebla and 3 days in Oaxaca. Cost is \$1,385 per person, which includes airfare from El Paso. Deadline for payment is Aug. 12.



Other planned trips

- July 2004-Alaska Cruise Tour: Nature/History/Culture
- September 2004-Bhutan/Bangkok/Angkor Watt: Culture/History/Nature
- November 2004-California Wine Country Cruise: Wine Tasting/History

For detailed information or to be included on mailing lists for the Movin' Miners Travel Programs, contact Lee Nelson: lnelson@utep.edu, (915) 747-8600 or 1-866-GO-MINERS.

Houston charts alumni chapter

The Houston Chapter has become the first chartered chapter of the Alumni Association, which recently adopted new guidelines to officially recognize alumni chapters.

Houston alumni recently approved a new constitution and elected the following officers:

- **President** - Kelly Seegers
- **Vice President** - Jim Dixon
- **Secretary** - Nathan Hollins
- **Treasurer** - George Cooper

Under the new guidelines, official chapters can better serve alumni while focusing on the overall mission and goals of the association. All association members are encouraged to participate in one of several chapters or groups across the United States and in Mexico.

HERITAGE HOUSE

The UTEP Heritage Commission would like to add to the collection of memorabilia in the Heritage House, and they need your help. Do you have any old Flowsheets, group photos, uniforms or any other Texas College of Mines, Texas Western College or UTEP keepsakes you would like to donate? If so, please call Jeannie Johnston at the Alumni Relations Office, 915/747-8600 or 1-866-GO-MINERS.

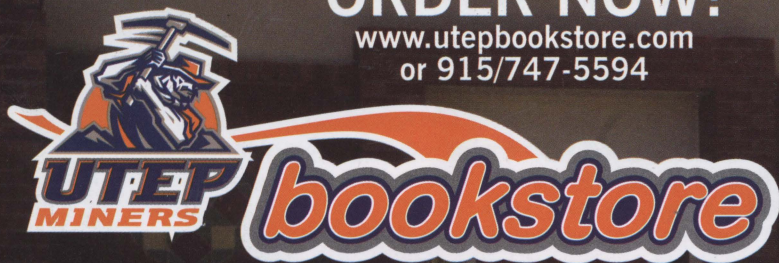
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UTEP students model 90th anniversary apparel by old mining equipment at UTEP's new Mining Heritage Park.

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