

Summer 2006

# Nova Quarterly: The University of Texas at El Paso

The University of Texas at El Paso University Communications

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# NOVA

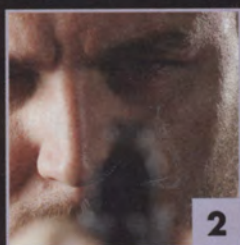
Q U A R T E R L Y  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

## CIVIC



### TOP TEN SENIORS

Students exemplify  
University's best



### IN THE LINEUP

Researchers study  
investigative procedures



### MAPPING CAREER PATHS

Advising serves as  
roadmap to success



# Engagement



## “We have become recognized nationally as a model university for community engagement.”

This issue of *NOVA* focuses on UTEP's special relationship with El Paso and the surrounding region. Our close ties with this community are not new, but the scope of our participation is far more extensive today, as students, faculty and staff explore the many ways in which the University can play a role in the human and economic development of this region.

From our beginnings as the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy, preparing engineers for the mining industry of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico, we have been committed to providing higher education opportunities to residents of this U.S.-Mexico region.

More than 90 percent of our nearly 20,000 students come from El Paso County and Mexico; and we educate a majority of the teachers, health care providers, and other professionals in the El Paso community. The educational needs and aspirations of this region have helped define our institutional mission and serve as a guide to the development of our vision for UTEP's future.

But UTEP's relationship with the surrounding region has gone far beyond providing educational opportunities to those who live here. We have become recognized nationally as a model university for community engagement.

The El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, for example, has since its establishment in 1991 received considerable recognition—and tens of millions of dollars in federal and foundation funding—for its efforts to work with area school districts and the community college to ensure that all young people in this region have access to a quality education, particularly in mathematics and science, from pre-Kindergarten through the post-graduate level.

Engagement in the community extends into many other areas as well. Students in UTEP's teacher preparation programs spend extended periods of time in area schools, both learning from master teachers and imparting their own knowledge to K-12 students. Students in health sciences, psychology, and social work programs participate in clinical practicum

experiences, and students in many other programs serve as interns in a variety of community settings.

Through the Center for Civic Engagement and other campus programs, UTEP students are sharing their energy and expertise with a large network of community groups, and bringing what they learn in those settings back to the campus to enrich our collective understanding of this border region, its challenges and opportunities. Among them: Marketing and Management students develop business plans for

local entrepreneurs; Political Science students conduct exit polls during national, state, and local elections; Engineering students build homes through Habitat for Humanity; and Computer Science students create Web sites for local non-profit organizations.

Wherever you look in El Paso-Juárez, you are apt to discover UTEP students actively engaged in serving this community, learning to become more involved citizens and developing values of civic engagement that will shape lifetime commitments to community service.

UTEP has always been a major force for good in this community, for we have clearly understood the importance of our contributions to this region's development. We hope that you are as proud as we are of our University's extensive commitment to civic engagement and to our significant contributions to the increasingly promising future of this U.S.-Mexico border region.



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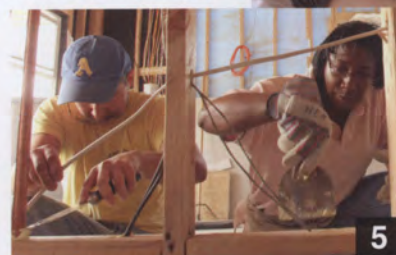
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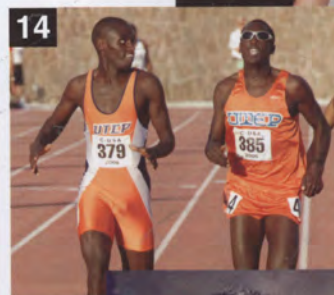
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# In the lineup



Photos by J.R. Hernandez.

From left: Ph.D. student Stephen Ross, Dr. Roy Malpass, and newly-minted Ph.D. Laura Zimmerman strike their best lineup poses. Malpass and his Eyewitness Lab researchers study the fairness and accuracy of police lineup techniques.

## UTEP's Eyewitness Lab looks to end mistaken IDs

by David Peregrino

It's the justice system's equivalent of a train wreck: Someone is sent to jail for a crime they didn't commit. And somewhere, the real lawbreaker walks free.

At the Eyewitness Identification Research Laboratory in the Psychology Building at UTEP, a group of professors and students are working to prevent these kinds of judicial disasters by studying police lineups and other investigative procedures involving witnesses.

Dr. Roy S. Malpass, professor of psychology and criminal justice, and Dr. Christian A. Meissner, assistant professor of psychology, direct research at the lab, founded by Malpass in 1992.

Malpass says the majority of wrongful convictions in the United States are caused by mistaken identifications.

Supporting this statement are figures from the New York-based Innocence Project, a non-profit group that uses DNA evidence to free innocent people from jails. The Innocence Project reports that mistaken IDs were the leading factor in 101 of the first 130 wrongful convictions later overturned with DNA evidence.

Malpass says a primary focus of the lab, one of only a handful of its kind in the country, is developing techniques for creating "quality police lineups."

"These go a good way in reducing wrongful identification," he says.

The lab recently made headlines in the New York Times and other media when it raised questions about a new "sequential" lineup method now being used by some U.S. police departments.

These departments have booted the traditional simultaneous lineup – the method we're familiar with from TV police dramas – in which an investigator shows a witness several mug shots at the same time. They've replaced it with a new sequential, double-blind method, where a police official not connected to the case has a witness look at mug shots one by one.

The departments embraced the new lineup because the double-blind approach seems more scientific (there's less chance of police leading a witness to a certain suspect), and classroom studies have shown it results in more accurate IDs than traditional lineups.

But by using, for the first time, real-life data from Illinois police departments, the Eyewitness Lab found problems with the new lineup technique.



"It turns out that the sequential approach leads to fewer IDs of suspects and a higher rate of false IDs than the traditional, simultaneous method," Malpass says. "I think for the police and district attorneys, it sends a message that sequential lineups are not ready for prime time."

The chance to conduct this kind of research – the kind that makes a real-world impact – is what attracts talented students to the lab.

These include Laura Zimmerman, who earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from San Francisco State University. In May, she became "Dr. Zimmerman" after earning a Ph.D. at UTEP in general psychology with a legal concentration. Her dissertation focused on police decision making in critical situations.

"I came to UTEP because of the lab and the psychology program," she says. "Here, you get the opportunity to pursue your interests."

Doctoral candidate Stephen Ross arrived at the lab after earning his master's at Ball State University in Indiana. A variety of interesting studies have kept Ross busy during his graduate career, including the "Weapon Focus Effect" – the tendency for victims to remember the gun pointed at them better than the physical features of their attacker.

Ross and his co-investigators found that people can be taught to focus on the perpetrator instead of the gun. "It shows we can train people to overcome the Weapon Focus Effect," Ross says. "This could be useful for training programs for bank tellers and convenience store workers who may have to make these kinds of identifications."

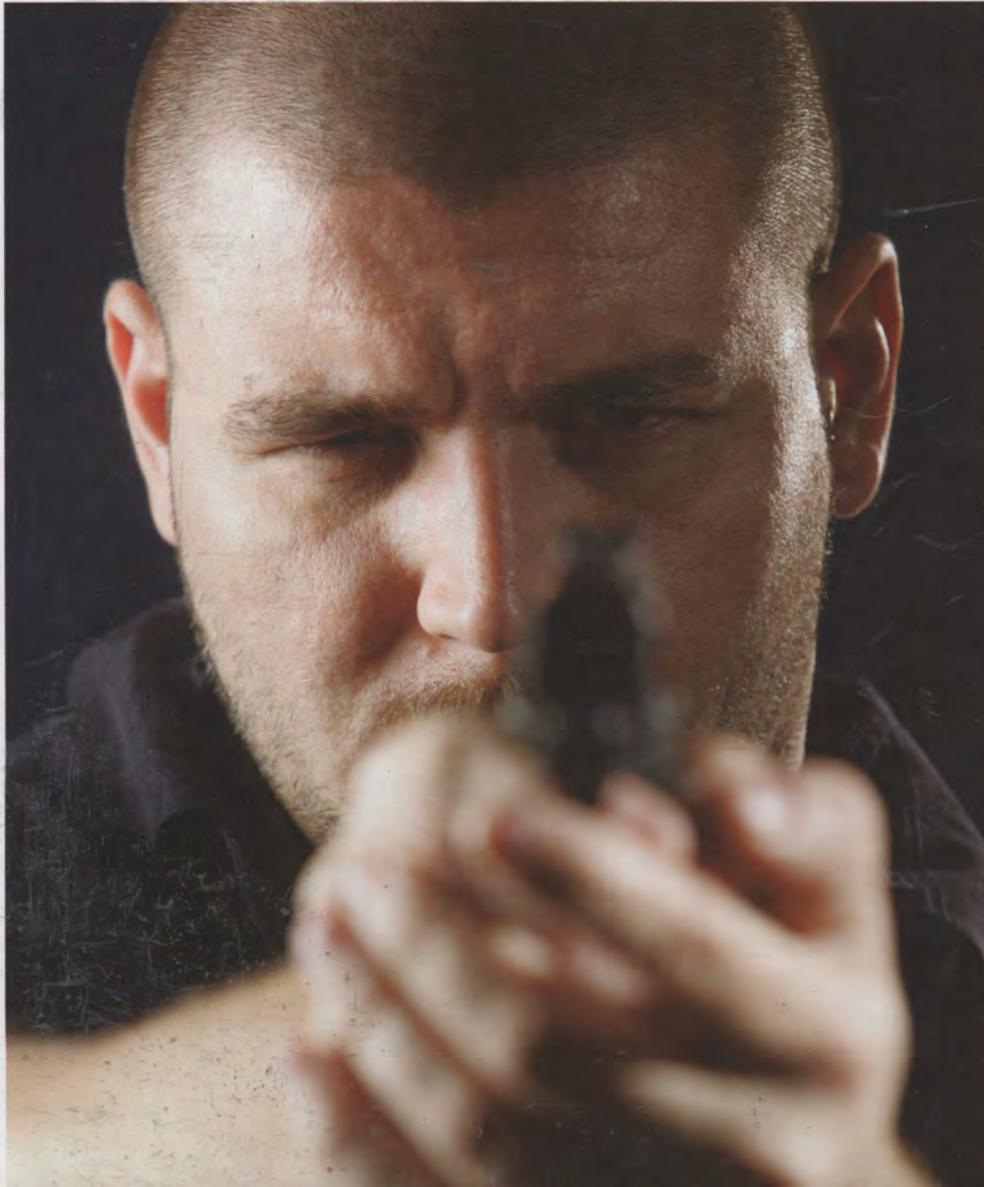
Ph.D. candidate Lisa Topp, who earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Regina in Canada, also was drawn to UTEP because of the lab. She's focused on facial composites – sketches of a suspect created by an artist or computer program. Topp and her fellow researchers found that facial composite policies and procedures among police departments are greatly inconsistent, which does not bode well for lowering the chance of mistaken IDs. Topp's work led her to develop a training program on facial composite procedures for the El Paso County Sheriff's department.

"We have a very good relationship with our local police departments," Topp says. "They recognize the benefit of developing good procedures for eyewitness identification."

The lab also prides itself on offering research opportunities for undergraduates.

Lab member Dannette DeLeon, a junior psychology major, worked with Malpass and the Ph.D. candidates on the Illinois study and other projects. For her senior thesis, she will study the effects of adding a computer-morphed face into a mug shot lineup.

DeLeon says she is excited to be a part of a team whose work is improving the criminal justice system. She says rubbing shoulders with the lab's Ph.D. students, who "are so dedicated to their work," has been inspirational. "I plan to apply to a master's program in criminology after I graduate." ■



Read more about the  
lab members and their  
work at the Eyewitness  
Identification  
Laboratory Web site at

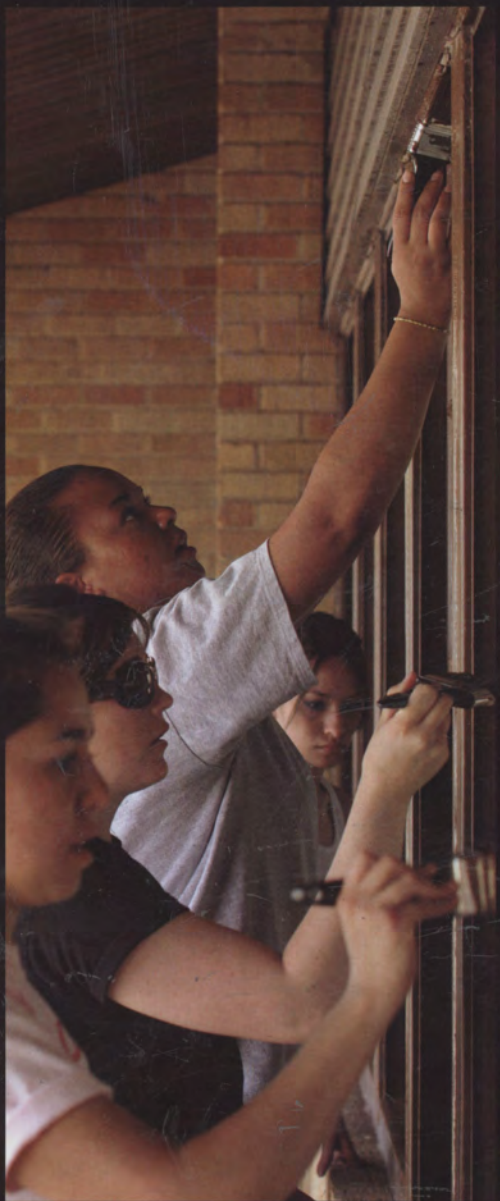
[www.eyewitness.utep.edu](http://www.eyewitness.utep.edu)

For more information  
about Department of  
Psychology labs and  
programs, visit

[www.academics.utep.edu/psychology](http://www.academics.utep.edu/psychology)

It's hard to not keep your eyes on the gun.  
Ph.D. candidate Stephen Ross's studies  
includes the "Weapon Focus Effect" on  
eyewitness memory.





# CIVIC

## Engagement





# Making a difference

## Service learning, community engagement key to producing civic-minded citizens

**A**t UTEP, the desire to serve the community goes well beyond canned food drives and blood donations.



Staudt

In nearly every college and department, helping others is part of the program, thanks to the "service learning" concept embraced by our campus.

Through service learning, students earn credit while helping their neighbors on both sides of the border.

Whether it is teaching youngsters to read or working on arts and crafts with senior citizens, service learning helps apply classroom lessons to the real world while filling an important need. And along the way the university forges valuable and lasting partnerships with community groups.

"UTEP is at the forefront in Texas, with the largest and most elaborate and complex series of service-learning programs," says Kathy Staudt, director of the Center for Civic Engagement, home to a number of UTEP service initiatives.

"Service learning deepens students' knowledge and skills; it makes learning relevant and meaningful for all concerned because students apply knowledge through engagement with the community where they live," Staudt says.

Engineering and science majors lend their skills to build a house for Habitat for Humanity. Spanish and history students volunteer to teach citizenship courses.

But even when there's no classroom credit to be earned, the university is ready to answer the call for help, as we saw last year when our Miner basketball team hosted a cookout for families displaced by Hurricane Katrina, and student organizations gathered supplies and donations for the storm's victims.

Through civic engagement, we also become a driving force in shaping the future. Voter registration drives and political activism help educate – and perhaps even influence – the area's residents about government and politics.

UTEP is proud of its culture of community service. It leads to the ideal result of the university experience: hard-earned diplomas in the hands of civic-minded citizens. **N**



Photo by J.R. Hernandez



Photo by Laura Trejo

## Students help hurricane evacuees

*Devastation brought out the best in volunteers*

The devastation of Hurricane Katrina in fall 2005 left millions displaced and scattered across the nation.

In El Paso, more than 400 evacuees were cared for by countless agencies and individuals, including more than 100 students and faculty from UTEP's College of Health Sciences who tended to their medical and day-to-day needs.

"If I can help them, even just a little, I'm happy to do it," says Carlos de Avila, a nursing student who volunteered his time

to assist evacuees living at the Judson F. Williams Convention Center in Downtown El Paso. "It's been very fulfilling for me

as a nursing student, because as nurses we're here to help the community."

Graduate student Sara Choi, who spent several days volunteering at the center, says she was thrilled to see the evacuees find some stability in El Paso.

"Some of the people were coming to us with high blood pressure, depression or anxiety" she says. "The wonderful thing about all that was seeing people slowly getting back on their feet." **N**

Photo by Laura Trejo







Photo by J.R. Hernandez

# Giving of their hearts

## Center for Civic Engagement builds collaborative spirit

by Laura Ruelas

Eighteen-year-old Margarita Torres never thought she'd spend her weekends at a nursing home.

After a few games of Bingo and hugs from appreciative residents, though, she was hooked.

"This is a place that really needed my help," says Torres, a freshman education major who regularly visits residents at the Coronado Nursing Center in West El Paso as part of UTEP's Young at Heart program. "They are good people and everyone is so nice. When I'm their age, I want people to come help me."

The Young at Heart program, which promotes interaction between university students with senior citizens across El Paso, is one of 15 organizations in the Center for Civic Engagement at UTEP.

"These students have brought so much to my residents. I don't know what I'd do without my volunteers. They provide such a great service," says Eina Holder, director of activities and volunteers at the Coronado Nursing Center.

Since 2005, Torres and hundreds of other students have put in more than 7,200 hours of service learning through the Center for Civic Engagement. The center was founded in 1998 as the Institute for Community-Based Teaching and Learning.

CCE now works with the university's six colleges and collaborates with more than 150 public agencies, schools, non-profit and community-based organizations to promote civic engagement and improve the El Paso/Juárez region.

Kathy Staudt, CCE's director, says this area is especially rich with opportunities to give – and receive.

"People in this region offer a tremendous collaborative spirit and a willingness to build relationships. Our region contains assets and needs, which students respond to," says Staudt.

Over the past years, the center has been at the forefront of service learning among Texas institutions. The UTEP organization is recognized as a model program by Campus Compact, a coalition of more than 950 college and universities committed to promoting higher education and civic engagement to improve communities nationwide.

Azuri Ruiz, assistant director of the center, says involvement in one's community also carries a side benefit: "Students gain a deeper understanding of their place in and responsibility to society." ■

### The Center for Civic Engagement

interacts with the community daily through countless efforts, including mentoring youth, encouraging people to vote, aiding the elderly and teaching English to immigrants and refugees.

CCE projects include:

- **Just Read** promotes literacy in El Paso County elementary schools.
- **Campus Recycling Program** aims to increase the university's monthly recycling collection to 60,000 pounds.
- **The Tutoring Engagement and Mentoring program** teams UTEP students with children ages 5 through 12 for tutoring and mentoring activities.
- **Ni Una Más** educates young adults and the general community about the dangers of domestic violence.
- **CYnergy** empowers the leaders of tomorrow through awareness, service-learning and civic action to create social change. High school seniors are trained on progressive civic leadership, then develop and implement civic engagement projects in their schools.
- **For a complete list** of CCE programs or more information, visit <http://academics.utep.edu/cce>



Photo by Laura Trejo



Young at Heart students visit with residents at the Coronado Nursing Center.

Photo by J.R. Hernandez



# Creating change through leadership

Each year, the **Harry S. Truman Foundation** awards more than 70 students across the nation \$30,000 scholarships for graduate study. The prestigious scholarship is awarded to college juniors who demonstrate outstanding leadership skills and plan to pursue careers in government or the public sector.

In the last two years, UTEP students **Ruben J. Vogt** and **Danielle Escontrias** have been among the select few honored as **Truman Scholars**.

## Vogt Connected to humanity

UTEP's first Truman Scholar in 2005, Ruben J. Vogt is dedicated to shedding light on international issues and encouraging his peers to change the world.



The 22-year-old says his sense of social responsibility and activism piqued when he spent a month in Costa Rica under the Cross Cultural

Solutions program, a short-term global volunteer initiative. While there, he volunteered at a day center for the elderly and at a social program that provides legal defense to the indigent.

"This experience made me feel connected to the common core of

humanity as I experienced first-hand how important we each are in creating change, whether for our neighbor across the street or around the world," says Vogt, who works with UTEP's Center for Civic Engagement and at the Solis Law Firm in El Paso.

Vogt is founder and former student director of the CYnergy (Civic Youth Energy) Fellowship. He also served as president of the University Democrats and Phi Alpha Delta and executive director for Texas Young Democrats. Vogt received fellowships from the Young People for the American Way and Raise Your Voice national civic organizations.

"I've been helped by so many people to get where I am that it is only right that I help empower others to be the best they can be," he says.

## Escontrias Fighting for progress

Political science major Danielle Escontrias, selected as a Truman Scholar in 2006, is devoted to activism and volunteerism in the community.

"All progress in the world has come because people were willing to fight for it. It is important for us to continue



fighting for what people before us have accomplished and for an even better future," she says.

Escontrias is a member of the University Democrats,

UTEP forensics team and *Adelante con Ganas*, an organization that works to promote voter turnout. She's also a Young People for the American Way Fellow and a former member of the Student Government Association.

Escontrias, a student in UTEP's Law School Preparation Institute, plans to work as an immigration lawyer to correct the inadequacies she sees in the current system.

She says: "I would like to use my law degree to fight for a better system and more humane policies for immigrants." ■

## Lending a hand

For the past four years, the Women's Resource Center has gathered clothing and hundreds of cans of food for Dame La Mano, an El Paso non-profit organization for women and children who are homeless or victims of violence.

This spring, the center and the UTEP Women's Club collected household items from students at Miner Village. All together, the groups donated truck loads of items worth more than \$2,000 to the center.



## Volunteering theatrics

Whether rapping about financial aid or cheering about the importance of higher education, UTEP's *Go Team* knows how to communicate with middle and high school students.

The five students share their messages through skits, songs and dances at presentations in



schools across El Paso.

Among the team's most popular skits is an imitation of the

Fantanas, a singing girl group in the Fanta soft drink commercials, by its male members.

Photos by Chad Puerling



# Volunteers flex mental muscles

by David Peregrino

With all the lifting, digging and hammering that comes with building a house, it's great to have plenty of strong backs at a Habitat for Humanity work site.

But even more welcome are the sharp minds honed in mathematics, science and engineering classes, all built on a foundation of practical problem solving.

"I really love the college kids," says Habitat for Humanity Construction Coordinator Don Seeley, while supervising a construction site on a pleasant Saturday morning in April in Horizon City.

"You don't have to teach them how to read a tape measure," he says with a smile.

The home will be sold at affordable terms to a low-income family who has plenty of "sweat equity" invested in its construction.

Seeley directed an eager group of students and staff volunteers brought together by UTEP's Circles of Learning for Entering Students (CircLES), an academic support and enrichment program for science and engineering students.

Yodit Alemayehu, a sophomore clinical laboratory science major who is interested in a career in forensics, brought her eager classroom attitude to the work site. She grabbed a shovel and helped excavate a trench for a utility line.

"It's been a lot of fun for me," Alemayehu says while taking a break from digging. "You get experience in construction ... and it feels good to help people."

In every college, department and program across the UTEP campus, you'll find thousands of students harnessing the power of their minds for worthy causes. Here are just a few:

## Unlocking the secrets of Earth

Each year, students and faculty in the Geological Sciences Department invite area youngsters to UTEP to learn about volcanoes, earthquakes, dinosaur tracks and other fascinating features of our planet. Earth Science Week introduces hundreds to the rewards of

a career in the geosciences, a field in need of Hispanic and other minority professionals and educators.

Because of its important contributions to the community, Earth Science Week has received the support of the National Science Foundation's Pathways to the Geosciences program and several corporate sponsors.

## Healthy homes save lives

Home to the Ph.D. program in Environmental Science and Engineering, the Center for Environmental Resource Management at UTEP taps the talents of students and faculty to provide important home safety programs throughout the region.

These include Healthy Home Environments, a group of programs directed at low-income and underserved communities promoting safe drinking



Photo by J.R. Hernandez

## A spiritual uplift

For more than a decade, UTEP students have contributed more than 57,000 hours of community service to El Paso-area agencies through Praxis, a campus group of volunteers.

The Wesley Foundation United Campus Ministry on campus heads this program that teams faculty and students with community agencies such as the Child Crisis Center and Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center.

Students volunteer at least 20 hours of service each semester

and attend a reflection period where they talk about how volunteerism impacted them mentally, spiritually and socially.

## Love across borders

For orphans in Juárez, hugs are often more important than food and toys.

Members of UTEP's Mexican Student Association provide them all of that, and throw in love and affection for good measure.

Throughout the year, MexSA members visit orphanages in Mexico and El Paso, bringing

toys, food and smiles to the needy children.

"We want more students to get involved and really be active," says Paola Rascon, the group's president.

## Greeks out in force

A total exterior renovation of El Paso's Children's Advocacy Center is the work of 150 fraternity and sorority members who picked up trash, repainted walls and landscaped the local nonprofit's facility during Greek Week 2006.

But the organization didn't stop

Photo by Chad Puerling





water production, pesticide safety, and healthy sanitation practices.

CERM also is directing an educational program to reduce the number of carbon monoxide poisonings and deaths in Ciudad Juárez. Many low-income residents there use unvented wood and gas heaters during the winter. This risky practice has led to 1,381 cases of carbon monoxide illness and 167 deaths over the past 12 years, according to the *Diario de Juárez* newspaper. ■

## From polls to protests

### *Political activism heats up on campus*

Campus activism may not resemble the sit-ins and walk-outs of the 1960s and 70s. But today's students are shaping the political landscape of the nation just the same.

This spring, a series of controversial immigration proposals attracted hundreds of people to UTEP's Leech Grove to participate in a rally led by two student organizations: Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MeCHA) and the Mexican Student Association (MexSA).

The rally in support of immigrants' rights included discussions on immigration reform, civil rights and other political issues affecting our

country and border region.

It doesn't take a heated national debate to involve students in the political process, however.

Vote Now, a service-learning, non-partisan initiative under UTEP's Center for Civic Engagement, encourages young El Pasoans to vote. Students are trained to make presentations to high school seniors about the importance of voting and hold registration drives to encourage the young adults to participate in elections.

For more than a decade, UTEP political science students have conducted exit polls during local and national elections to research voting trends. Students assist

researchers in creating questionnaires relevant to current political issues, then poll voters as they exit their precincts.

Year round, faculty, staff and students motivate residents to participate in our government, educate others about the democratic process, and research political trends. ■



Photo by Chad Puerling



there, raising more than \$2,500 by collecting coins.

"We as students have the means to give back to our community and we should," says Erika Anchondo, a Sigma Psi Eta member who helped with the project.

### **Inspiring artists**

Students in the Department of Art hope to help area's youth tap into their artistic side.

"Many of our students work at area schools or churches, not for class credit, they just do it to feel good and because they

love the arts and the city," says department chair Gregory Elliot.

Students teach children art and regularly donate their time – and works of art – to local art venues looking to showcase their work.

### **Global lessons**

Whether talking about the Gauchos from Argentina or the Australian Aborigines, students in the International Ambassadors Program offer El Pasoans a

glimpse into our multifaceted world.

Through the program, UTEP's international students promote multicultural awareness through presentations at local schools, social club functions and campus activities.



### **Sealed with a beso**

Though its primary mission is to support students, members of the Bilingual Education Student Organization (BESO) participate in fund raising and community events year round.

The student-led society sponsors clothing and household

collections for local senior citizen centers as well as the Center Against Family Violence. The students also volunteer at the El Paso Cancer Treatment Center and the Rescue Mission of El Paso.





**E**ach spring, UTEP honors its Top Ten Seniors, students who have achieved academic success and shown a commitment to the community.



## BHAGA

For more than 10 years, Aarti Bhaga lived in two worlds – the United States and South Africa. The 22-year-old El Paso native, whose parents came from South Africa, spent her childhood traveling between the countries, having polar-opposite educational experiences and learning the true meaning of opportunity.

During her time in South Africa, she saw first hand an incredible lack of opportunity. In this country, she saw unmatched opportunities.

“My experiences at UTEP reflect the importance of educational opportunities in preparing individuals for their future,” the Coronado High grad says.

“UTEP gives minority students an edge, a push,” Bhaga says. “There are so many programs to help you, like the cooperative pharmacy program, the medical program, the Law School Preparation Institute (LSPI). UTEP is just a great place.”

A health promotion major, Bhaga participated in the LSPI, interned for U.S. District Judge Philip R. Martinez, and now looks forward to law school.

“UTEP has not only provided me with the means and knowledge to pursue a competitive career,” she says, “but it will ultimately allow me to achieve my dream: to return to South Africa and make a difference in communities there.”



## ALVAREZ

Cecilio Alvarez had many choices when it came time to pick a college. Most weren't in his own backyard. He chose UTEP.

“Learning and participating in the UTEP community is an experience whose value we often overlook,” says Alvarez, who earned a bachelor's in English and American Literature.

Alvarez, 22, showed his leadership as a student government senator and an orientation leader. He was also active in the Mortar Board Honor Society, the Golden Key Honor Society and Sigma Omicron Lambda among others.

The Maxine Silva Health Magnet High School graduate plans to pursue a master's in higher education administration at the University of Maryland this fall.



## LEYBA

Beatriz Leyba is living proof that education is the key to success.

Six years ago, Leyba was divorced with two children, struggling to make ends meet and to learn English. Her tutor encouraged her to apply to UTEP.

To her surprise and delight, she was accepted. The native of Chiapas, Mexico, made the dean's list four times and was accepted into the Honors Program. She served as vice president of the Bilingual Education Student Organization.

Today, Leyba holds a bachelor's in interdisciplinary studies and is now pursuing a master's degree.

“I believe there are no greater gifts I can give children than the lessons of my own life,” says Leyba, who teaches third-grade in Canutillo.



## BEJARANO

For 21-year-old Amy Bejarano, college came down to one big question: Did she want to work with things or with people?

Certain that her future was in a forensic science lab surrounded by machines and chemicals, Bejarano chose UTEP for its strong science programs.

But soon the Riverside High grad was second guessing her plan. She enjoyed a human resources internship at Del Sol Medical Center as well as her many extracurricular activities. She was a Student Leadership Institute member, fundraising chair for Sigma Omicron Lambda and Student Government Association senator.

“I thought about jobs I had done and realized that all my work experience had dealt with people,” says Bejarano, who received a bachelor's in biological science and now plans to work on an MBA.



## NG

As a freshman, Nathaniel Ng knew he wanted to be a doctor, but the ambitious 22-year-old wasn't sure how to achieve his goal.

With the help of professors and mentors at UTEP, Ng's future in medicine looks bright.

“I found out about programs and research opportunities that I might not have been able to experience elsewhere,” says Ng, a Cathedral High grad who received a bachelor's in microbiology.

Ng is one of many UTEP undergraduates who participate in high-level research usually reserved for graduate students. He says his research into colorectal cancer cells helped him gain admittance to the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, where he'll study to be a doctor.

Ng hopes to return to El Paso to practice medicine. He saw first-hand the border's overwhelming need for doctors during a community service project with UTEP's Medical Professions Organization.





## HOUGHTON

As a 51-year-old mother of five married for more than 30 years, Hettie Houghton has devoted most of her life to family.

But she will be forever grateful that she decided to do something for herself: go back to college.

"Long ago I made a list of things I wanted to do and completing a college degree was always at the top," she says.

In 2001, the Burges High grad decided to enroll at UTEP.

She juggled school and family, and says her children were a key to her success.

"My kids were in college while I was," she says. "I really tried to boost them up and they tried to boost me up."

Houghton also credits professors with helping her complete a bachelor's in accounting. Now she's pursuing a master's in accountancy.

A Beta Alpha Psi International Scholar and Beta Gamma Sigma honor society member, Houghton was an editorial assistant for the Journal of Organizational End User Computing.

She says she learned the most about herself while working as a teaching assistant. The experience helped expand possibilities, including a career in academia.

"My college career has been a fulfilling experience," Houghton said. "As I look back at my years at UTEP, I realize how much I have changed and grown."



## QUINTEROS

Jessica Quinteros knew attending college was a necessity.

But when no one in your family has ever earned a college degree, she says, you have doubts about your own abilities.

"When I first arrived at UTEP, it was overwhelming for me," Quinteros says. "But as I got to know professors, the experience became

enjoyable."

Today, the 22-year-old holds a bachelor's degree in microbiology and is considering a career as a physician.

Outside the classroom, Quinteros worked on the nursing staff at Providence Memorial Hospital and served as president of the Student Organization Advisory Board. She also participated in the Honors Program and the Miner Maniacs.

"The people I met and the experiences we shared kept me going," she says.



## TAJIRI

For Tiffany Tajiri, UTEP is part of a family tradition. But it's also been a place to be challenged, a place to excel – and a place to call home.

"UTEP was home, literally, because I lived at Miner Village," says Tajiri, whose mother is a UTEP grad. "But I've been here almost every day since I was 7 attending ballet classes or playing

viola in the El Paso Philharmonics summer clinic."

The 21-year-old Hanks High grad credits UTEP with giving her the chance to take on new challenges in her psychology research, the biological sciences and the performing arts.

"Art is so important because it taught me discipline and it really taps into your analytical and cognitive skills," says Tajiri, who received a bachelor's in psychology.

Tajiri plans to pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and become a clinical neuropsychologist.



## VALLEJO

Just a year ago, Henry Vallejo watched his father, Henry Sr., walk across the stage to receive an MBA from UTEP.

That moment made Henry more determined than ever to work hard and accomplish his own goals. And he did, this year earning a bachelor's in mechanical engineering.

"My years at UTEP have been valuable and memorable," says the Americas High grad. A member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Vallejo captained the steel bridge building team, an eye-opening experience that taught him the true value of education.

Vallejo, 22, was a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and the Golden Key International Honor Society. He also participated in the Society of Automotive Engineers, the Engineering Student Leadership Council and the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.



## VOGT

When he was a child, Ruben Vogt dreamed of having superpowers.

Today, Vogt says UTEP helped him develop an even greater power – his intellectual ability. That's why he's dedicating himself to public service.

As a junior, Vogt was selected as a Harry S Truman Scholar, UTEP's first-ever winner of the prestigious national scholarship.

The Canutillo High School grad now adds to his list of accomplishments a bachelor's degree in political science and English and American literature.

Vogt showed his commitment by founding CYnergy (Civic Youth Energy) Fellowship, a program for emerging young community leaders.

Vogt, 22, will work in Washington, D.C., this summer, then pursue graduate studies in law and public administration.

"I've been helped by so many people," he says. "It's only right that I help others to be empowered."



# Mapping career paths

## Advising compass to college, career success for students

by Laura S. Ruelas

As children, most everyone dreams of what they will be when they grow up. Some want to be nurses, lawyers, teachers or firefighters. Dreaming about a career as a child, however, is often far easier than deciding on one as an adult.

At UTEP, where students can choose from 80 different bachelor's programs, advisors are key to helping put students on the right track to making their dreams a reality.

Sophomore Claudia Ochoa originally planned to study occupational therapy, but debated on what might make her truly happy. Talking with advisors helped her decide to follow her heart and major in psychology instead.

"Someone told me that there was not enough money in (psychology). I decided that my passion for psychology would take me to where I want to be in life. I want to help others and I am sure that will be very rewarding, regardless of the money," says Ochoa.

Rueben Moreno, coordinator for the College Assistance Migrant Program of which Ochoa is a member, advised and supported her during the degree program selection.

"Claudia is a very talented and determined student that is looking at the big picture. She wanted a career where she would be comfortable doing her job day in and out with a sense of satisfaction," Moreno says.

CAMP, a federal program for students from migrant and farm worker families, facilitates a Career Inventory test which determines students' interests and strengths to help them choose a degree plan.

"I set up meetings for Claudia with advisors in respective colleges so that she could meet with people directly related to the field of interest," he says. Timing was of utmost importance: Ochoa, who first enrolled at UTEP in summer 2005, is now a sophomore and very close to completing her core curriculum.

Career Inventory is a strong example of the many ways that UTEP is working to improve student success and graduation rates. The university's initiative, Student Success in the Middle Years, has identified the need to redesign its academic and career advising to help students like Ochoa make steady and efficient progress toward their degrees.

"We have already begun to make great progress in supporting our students, both in reviewing and refining our curricula and in helping students better integrate their academic and career planning," says UTEP Provost Richard Jarvis. "These efforts start at new student orientation, run through their freshman year and their middle years, and continue right up to graduation and beyond."

The five-year plan includes establishing an Advising Committee of faculty and staff to ensure that all academic and student services programs develop policies that promote advising, validate students and their families, and provide assistance well beyond course scheduling.

"If UTEP can offer more advisors that care and provide us with additional help, I support it," Ochoa says. "After all, that is what we need – more people who care and are willing to make the effort to help guide us in our future decisions." ■





# Hooked on UTEP

Beloved professor dedicated his life to students, community

by Cindy Ramirez  
and Laura S. Ruelas

For more than a decade, Ronald F. Challman dedicated his life to UTEP.

His love of teaching was evident to his students, his family and peers. His love for the university and the El Paso community was not far behind.

"Ron had served in the Army and had been stationed at White Sands before we were married," says Florence Challman, his wife of 48 years. "So when it was time for our honeymoon, he said, 'I want to take you where the cacti bloom.' He loved El Paso with all his heart, and he loved UTEP even more."

Ron worked as an advisory systems engineer and project manager at IBM for 32 years. He was selected to come to UTEP through the IBM Faculty Loan Program, teaching computer science for two years in the mid-1980s. He returned to teach at the university in 1992.

Ron was hooked.

"When he retired from IBM, he could have done anything he wanted, but he chose to spend time educating students. He did it because he cared, students enjoyed him and he was terrific," says David Novick, an associate vice provost at UTEP who worked with Ron.

Ron also taught at El Paso Community College and Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. He died of skin cancer two years ago at the age of 74.

In honor of her husband's love of teaching, Florence, with family and friends, established the Ronald F. Challman Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Computer Science in 2005.

"Now there is something in his name to help students. His spirit is still at UTEP and I hope recipients know something about him. He never sought glory; he just wanted to do his work in his quiet way," says Florence.

UTEP senior Nidia Pedregon, the first recipient of the scholarship, says she's thankful for the Challmans' generosity. A native of Juárez,



Florence Challman with Nidia Pedregon



Ron Challman

Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Pedregon was close to graduating from a university there before coming to UTEP three years ago. The scholarship, she says, opened the doors to her future.

"There are more opportunities here," she says.

Florence says her husband was inspired by the perseverance of students like Pedregon.

"Ron was always so impressed by students who worked so hard and had jobs or families, too," she says. "He had a real admiration for them."

And his dedication was immeasurable.

Before heading to Calvary Hospital in New York City for hospice care in the fall of 2004, Ron stopped by his office at UTEP. Florence recalls him sitting in his chair and spinning around playfully, not quite wanting to leave. He had full hope he'd return to teach the following spring, Florence says, but he passed away on Sept. 24, 2004. He is survived by

Florence, their five children and 11 grandchildren.

Though he was a quiet man, Ron's involvement in the community was no secret. His wife was often at his side, also sharing of her time with those in need.

In their spare time, the Challmans served as Eucharistic ministers at Saint Patrick's Cathedral and volunteered at Providence Memorial Hospital. Ron was a regular blood donor and an active volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America. He tutored students in math and computer science.

Florence, who taught at the University of Iowa for three years, has volunteered as a reading and English as a Second Language teacher most of her life.

Today, Florence can be found volunteering at her local parish, Providence or the Assistance League of El Paso.

She says helping others, in whatever form, always brought her and Ron happiness. "We had a ball," she says about their life together. ■

*"Ron was always so impressed by students who worked so hard and had jobs or families, too."*



# 2006 NFL draft

## Raiders like Howard

Linebacker Thomas Howard became the first Miner player since 1973 to be chosen in the first two rounds of the NFL draft. The Oakland Raiders picked Howard as the sixth selection in the second round, and the 38th overall selection in the 2006 draft.

Lubbock native Howard has stunning speed for a big man. The 6-3, 240-pound athletic

specimen can run a 4.42 40-yard dash. That swiftness helped him pull down 296 tackles and 13 sacks in 48 games for the Miners.

Howard, who got his start at UTEP as a walk-on, is the second in his immediate family to be a part of pro football. His father, Thomas Howard Sr., was chosen by Kansas City in the 1977 NFL draft. **N**



Linebacker Thomas Howard will suit up for the Oakland Raiders.

## Miners sign as NFL free agents



Boyd

UTEP receivers Jayson Boyd and Chris Francies and defensive tackle Chris Mineo signed free agent contracts with NFL teams. Boyd signed a three-year contract and will be joining teammate Thomas Howard in Oakland. Francies signed a two-year contract with the Green Bay Packers, and Mineo signed a contract with the Washington Redskins. The terms of Mineo's contract were not disclosed.



Francies



Mineo

Riverside, Calif. native Boyd had 42 catches for 560 yards and five TDs in 2004. Injuries hampered the 6-4, 210-pound Boyd for much of 2005, but he still finished with 12 receptions for 222 yards.

Francies, a 6-1, 200-pound Houston native, was UTEP's offensive MVP in 2005. He ended his career at UTEP with 128 receptions, 2,022 receiving yards and a dozen TDs.

Mineo, a 6-foot-2, 285-pound Odessa native, ranks second in career sacks and ninth in tackles for losses at UTEP. **N**



[www.utepathletics.com](http://www.utepathletics.com)

## Sports camps draw young athletes

Coach Mike Price and his staff took the show on the road this summer, hosting several football skills camps in June for high-schoolers throughout Texas. UTEP's softball camp and Soccer-and-Swim camp also drew dozens of athletes to the campus in June.

Other camps coming up this summer include:

### 2006 Doc Sadler basketball camps

Individual camp for boys and girls ages 8 to 18.

Campers will learn the basic fundamentals of basketball: shooting, dribbling, passing and defense. League games are played daily. The players are grouped according to age, height and ability.

July 31-Aug. 3

### Little Dribblers

Camp for boys and girls ages 5 to 8.

Campers will learn the fundamentals of the game.

July 31-Aug. 3

### Volleyball Individual Skills Camp

Developmental Camp, July 5-7

Advanced Camp, July 7-9

For more information and to register, call 915/747-5142.



Wilkerson

## Tennis Wilkerson earns conference honor

Sophomore Teri Wilkerson was named to the All-Conference USA Women's Tennis Second Team, becoming the first Miner to earn all-conference honors in tennis since 2001.

Wilkerson, a San Antonio native, finished the season with 17 singles victories and 14 doubles wins. **N**



# On the fast track

## Men's team nationally ranked

Blessed with world-class talent, the men's track and field team was ranked No. 2 in the country in the Trackwire.com and United States Track and Field and Cross Country Association polls as they headed to the NCAA Championships at press time.

Churandy Martina is making his island home of Willemstad, Curacao, proud with some of the fastest 100-meter times in the NCAA this year. At the NCAA Midwest Regional, Martina won the 100-meter dash in 9.99 and won the 200-meter dash with a time of 20.54.

Also leaping into the individual national rankings was Mickael Hanany of Cergy, France, who took gold in the high jump at the prestigious Drake Relays in April.

Craiova, Romania, native Mircea Bogdan, the defending national champion in the 3,000 meter steeplechase, blew away the field in his first steeplechase of the 2006 season. He won gold with an 8:31.72 time at the Payton Jordan Cardinal Invitational in April.

The women's track and field team cracked the national rankings at No. 25 late into the season. Standouts included Fatimoh Muhammed and Jenny Holmroos, both of whom earned rankings in Trackwire.com's Dandy Dozen for the 800 meters. **N**



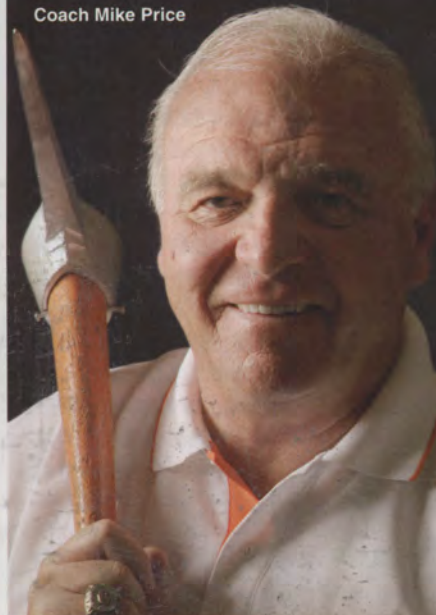
photos courtesy UTEP Athletics



The men's track team took the C-USA title and carried a No. 2 national ranking into the NCAA championships this season. The women's team placed second in the C-USA championship, its top conference finish in school history.

## 2006 MINER FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Coach Mike Price



DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME (MST)	MEDIA
Thu., Aug. 31	San Diego State	San Diego	8:30 p.m.	CSTV
Sat., Sept. 9	Texas Tech	El Paso	7 p.m.	CSTV
Sat., Sept. 23	New Mexico	Albuquerque	3 p.m.	CSTV
Sat., Sept. 30	NMSU	El Paso	7 p.m.	
Sat., Oct. 7	SMU*	El Paso	7 p.m.	
Sat., Oct. 14	Tulane*	El Paso	7 p.m.	
Sat., Oct. 21	Houston*	Houston	5 p.m.	
Fri., Oct. 27	Tulsa*	Tulsa	6 p.m.	ESPN2
Sat., Nov. 4	Rice**	El Paso	7 p.m.	
Fri., Nov. 10	UAB*	Birmingham, Ala.	6 p.m.	ESPN2
Sat., Nov. 18	Marshall*	Huntington, W. Va.	2:30 p.m.	
Sat., Nov. 25	Memphis*	El Paso	7 p.m.	

\* C-USA conference game

\*\* Homecoming



# Miner travels to space

## Alumnus to join 2007 shuttle crew

John "Danny" Olivas, a 1989 UTEP graduate who became a NASA astronaut in 1998, is scheduled to make his first-ever flight into space.

Olivas was raised in El Paso and earned a mechanical engineering degree at UTEP. He was picked to join the crew of shuttle mission STS-117, scheduled for launch in February 2007. During the mission, Olivas and his fellow astronauts will continue work on the International Space Station.

Olivas will be the first UTEP graduate to travel into space.

"Anyone who knew me when I was a kid in El Paso would never have picked me to be in this position," Olivas says, "But with hard work and determination you can accomplish anything you want to accomplish."

To prepare for his flight, Olivas will have a full schedule of classes, training and physicals. "I hit the ground running," he says. "I've been doing extensive training; two days after the (flight crew) announcement I was in the simulator, and this morning I was at the lab, learning hardware and understanding the task I'll be doing."

Though he recognizes people view life as an astronaut as glamorous and exciting, Olivas believes he is just an ordinary man doing his job.

"I sort of see myself as a construction worker," he says with a laugh. "I just get to do construction in space and take a different vehicle to work." ■



Olivas

photo courtesy NASA



[www.nasa.gov/shuttle](http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle)

# The UTEP Promise

## Financial plans help students of all income levels

In May, UTEP announced three programs to help students finance their university education, including a program that covers all tuition and fees for students from low-income families.

Beginning in the fall 2006 semester, the **UTEP Promise**, the **UTEP Success Plan** and the **Guaranteed Tuition Plan** will help remove financial barriers for students at all income levels.

The **UTEP Promise**, which covers all tuition and fees and doesn't require repayment, targets first-time freshmen with family incomes of \$25,000 or less.

The **UTEP Success Plan** will help students from all income levels. Under the plan, the University will work with students to create a personalized financial package that may include federal, state and institutional funding.

The third plan aims to help students and their parents plan better financially for college. The **Guaranteed Tuition Plan**, open to first-time freshmen beginning in fall 2006, locks in a tuition rate and mandatory fees for up to four years.

The three financial plans are part of a new university initiative to increase awareness about financial assistance available to help students pay for college.

"Whether you finance your education through scholarships, grants or loans, your education is an investment in yourself," says Maggy Smith, vice provost for undergraduate studies. "A college degree increases your earning potential in the future." ■



[www.utep.edu/financialaid](http://www.utep.edu/financialaid)



Student Jovanna Curia takes advantage of several financial aid plans offered at UTEP.

photo by J.R. Hernandez



## Celebrating a new beginning

### Bhutanese siblings among UTEP Spring 2006 grads

Although it is thousands of miles from their home, UTEP has always brought a familiar sense of comfort to siblings Sonam Wangchuk and Dechen Wangmo.

"I feel very much at home on this campus," says Wangmo. She and her brother are natives of Bhutan, the Himalayan country that inspired UTEP's unique architecture.

Family and friends from Bhutan traveled to El Paso to celebrate the graduations of Dechen and Sonam, who were among the nearly 1,600 candidates for degrees in the May 2006 ceremonies.

Wangmo earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and her brother received an M.B.A. in general business.

Traveling for the first time to the Sun City was a momentous occasion for their parents.

"We're very happy, more than happy. There are no words to describe how proud we are of (Dechen and Sonam)," says their father, Tenzin Jigme.

"We're happy our children graduated from here." **N**

Visit the commencement photo gallery at [www.horizons.utep.edu/springcommencement2006/](http://www.horizons.utep.edu/springcommencement2006/)



Wangmo

## Border journalism program first of its kind in region

UTEP recently formed a partnership with *El Diario* publisher *Publicaciones Paso del Norte* to provide its reporters with master's-level coursework in border journalism, the first program of its kind along the U.S.-Mexico border.

In April, UTEP President Diana Natalicio presented a plaque to Osvaldo Rodriguez Borunda, president and Publisher of *Publicaciones Paso del Norte*, to thank him for his initiative and work in establishing the partnership.

The coursework, taught in both English and Spanish, completed its first semester with about 25 students enrolled, all working professional reporters and editors with the *Diario de El Paso* or *Diario de Juárez*. The program aims to elevate the level of expertise of *Diario's* journalists and provide them with the bilingual and bicultural skills needed to cover social, economic and political border issues. The courses also focus on the different practices, procedures and standards in news gathering and reporting that exist in Mexico and the United States. **N**



Rodriguez Borunda, Natalicio and *El Diario de El Paso* vice president and editor Gerardo J. Rodríguez

## Lights, camera ... Hooah!

U.S. Army film and photography crews in April filmed UTEP nursing student Marissa Bernadette as part of an Army ROTC recruiting campaign.

The 22-year-old cadet captain was one of three students nationally selected by the U.S. Army Accessions Command to be featured in a short online film about the life of an ROTC student. The command is charged with recruiting and initial military training for officers, warrant officers, and enlisted forces.


"It was an awesome experience because it's not an every day occurrence," says Bernadette, a reservist in the 2291st Army Hospital.

The video and some photographs will be used nationwide later this year. This is the



U.S. Army crews film UTEP cadet captain Marissa Bernadette.

second time in recent years that UTEP's ROTC students have been chosen to participate in recruiting efforts. **N**

 [www.goarmy.com/rotc/](http://www.goarmy.com/rotc/)

## Natalicio named Distinguished Alumna



Natalicio

UTEP President Diana Natalicio has been named a Distinguished Alumna by the University of Texas at Austin's alumni association, the Texas Exes. She will

be honored at a ceremony in Austin in October.

Natalicio, who holds a master's in Portuguese and a Ph.D. in linguistics from UT Austin, was named president of UTEP in 1988. During her long and distinguished career with the University, Natalicio has served as vice president for academic affairs, dean of liberal arts and chair of the modern languages department.

Awarded annually, the University of Texas at Austin Distinguished Alumni Awards recognize up to six alumni for their professional accomplishments and service to the university. It is the highest honor bestowed upon UT Austin alumni. **N**

## HORIZONS ONLINE NEWS

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UTEP News Online

For more UTEP news and information, including photo galleries of special events, visit **Horizons Online News**, the University's official news source at

 [www.utep.edu/horizons](http://www.utep.edu/horizons)



## Service, leadership honored

Students, faculty and staff were recognized during Honors Convocation in April. Held each spring, the ceremony honors achievements in service, leadership and academics.

The 2006 honorees included:

- **UTEP Faculty Achievement Award for Research:** **Mo. A. Mahmood**, professor, Department of Information and Decision Sciences
- **Chancellor's Council Teaching Excellence Award:** **Art Duval**, professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences
- **Distinguished Service to Students:** **Mimi Gladstein**, professor, Department of English
- **Distinguished Service to Students:** **David Grijalva**, University Police
- **Distinguished Service to the University:** **Elizabeth Thurmond-Bengtson**, Institutional Advancement



From left, top: Duval, Gladstein, Thurmond-Bengtson; bottom: Grijalva, Natalicio and Mahmood

• **El Gran Paseño**, the highest honor bestowed upon friends of the university, was awarded to **Thomas Casaday**, CEO and president of Sierra Providence Health Network.

Other honorees included newly recommended emeriti professors, members of student honor societies and outstanding dissertation and thesis awards. Area high



Casaday with Natalicio

school seniors who have received prestigious university scholarships were also honored. **N**

## • IN THEIR WORDS •



## Top-name public figures share their stories, expertise with UTEP

From a retired Supreme Court justice to the senior vice president of a cartoon network, guest speakers from around the globe came to UTEP this spring to share their life stories and career experiences.

Retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and famed Chicano rights activist Dolores Huerta were among the presenters. In addition, the Mexico Today and Millennium lecture series have brought top-name speakers in an array of fields to the campus.

The caliber of these presenters demonstrates another key role UTEP plays in the community: developing the human and economic potential of the region.

### O'Connor

O'Connor, who was born in El Paso in 1930 and attended Radford School, shared her inspirational life story and shed some light on the day-to-day workings of the nation's highest court. The first female Supreme Court justice also had some words of advice for her audience.

"Don't be afraid to start at the bottom," said O'Connor, who served more than 24 years. "You can make something out of nothing."

### Huerta

Huerta, president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation for Community Organizing, co-founded the United Farm Workers union with Cesar E. Chavez in the 1960s. She spoke about her views on immigration, government policy, women's rights and education.

Most of all, Huerta encouraged students to fight for justice for the underprivileged, in hopes of building a more equitable society.

"We can do a lot. All the changes have to come from the bottom. If we don't get involved to elect our representatives then we don't have a democracy," she said.

### Mexico Today

Presented by UTEP and the Mexican Consulate of El Paso, the Mexico Today Lecture Series offers the public the chance to

learn more about social and economic issues in Mexico during this presidential election year. The speakers included:

- **Alfredo Corchado**, senior binational correspondent for the Dallas Morning News
- **Richard W. Fisher**, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
- **Alejandro Junco**, publisher of Grupo Reforma

### Millennium Lecture Series

UTEP's Millennium Lecture Series features prominent speakers on global topics, issues and ideas that impact and shape the future of the university, the community and the world. Speakers this spring included:

- **Dana Gioia**, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts
- **John Friend**, senior vice president of Cartoon Network Enterprises **N**



## Come home again

Our roots as Miners are embedded in the small mining school that first opened in 1914, but our wings have taken us far. Since our founding, more than 76,500 students have earned degrees from what is now the University of Texas at El Paso.

We are a major urban research university that's changing the face of higher education.

To celebrate our 92 years of achievements, we ask that you come home again. Celebrate **Homecoming 2006** from Oct. 30 – Nov. 4. This year, we will honor the 50th Anniversary of the Class of 1955 at the Golden Grad Reunion, with special activities for other classes, colleges and programs, including the School of Nursing.

### Mark your calendar for Homecoming 2006 events, including:

- Wednesday, Nov. 1.** 9th Annual Ron Harvey Golf Tournament
- Thursday, Nov. 2** Golden Grads Dinner and Dance
- Friday, Nov. 3** Homecoming parade, open house – Alumni Lodge, Distinguished Alumni Event
- Saturday, Nov. 4** Golden Grads Luncheon, Pre-game party and Homecoming game vs. Rice

Football, parades and pep rallies are long standing traditions of UTEP Homecoming. As we prepare to celebrate Homecoming, we can't forget other traditions too – traditions of excellence in academics, research and student success.



## MINERS ON THE MOVE Michael D. Marin



**Michael D. Marin** is a partner at Vinson & Elkins LLP in Austin, Texas. He earned his bachelor's in political science from UTEP in 1989 and was recently honored for his efforts to increase minority participation in the

legal system.

### How was UTEP a springboard for your many accomplishments?

I had excellent mentors who were willing to go above and beyond to promote and advance their students. Professor Melvin P. Straus not only advised students about pursuing a legal education, but he truly inspired in those students a desire to achieve great things through the law and to help others in the process.

### You recently received the American Bar Association's Spirit of Excellence award for your efforts to increase diversity in the legal system. Why is this critical?

As our society becomes more diverse, diversity in the legal profession becomes increasingly important. Lawyers have great power and responsibility in society. The demographics of the legal profession should mirror the demographics of society.

### Any words of wisdom on the importance of getting involved in your community?

Anytime you get involved in supporting a community or civic organization, you will be taking time from your family and your job so you better enjoy it and you better make it count.

### Though you are still living in Texas, is there anything you miss about El Paso?

I miss the people – especially my wonderful parents. El Pasoans are a special breed. They are humble, smart, warm, funny, and always a pleasure to be around.

I also miss the food, but my mom taught me how to cook over the phone when I was away at law school so I can cook good El Paso-style Mexican food for myself!

-Kimberly Miller

### Are you a Miner on the Move?

If you're a UTEP grad and would like to be featured in this column, please send us your name, occupation/title, year of graduation and your daytime phone number and e-mail address. Please include a high-resolution color photo.

E-mail us at [nova@utep.edu](mailto:nova@utep.edu) or write us at Nova Quarterly, University Communications/Hertzog Bldg., 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, Texas, 79968

## K.I.T with UTEP

Keep in touch with your alma mater! It's easy and it's FREE! Simply log on to [utep.edu/alumni](http://utep.edu/alumni) and select UPDATE YOUR RECORDS.

If you hold a degree from UTEP or you are an Alumni Association member, you can use our free e-mail forwarding service that allows you to keep the same address for life: [yourname@alumni.utep.edu](mailto:yourname@alumni.utep.edu)

Contact us for more information at 915/747-8600 or 1-866-GO-MINERS.

## TRAVEL WITH THE MOVIN' MINERS



The Movin' Miners travel program is organizing a trip to San Diego for the first football game of the 2006-07 season on Aug. 31 – Sept. 1. A road trip is also planned to Albuquerque, N.M., to watch the Miners play the University of New Mexico on Sept. 23. Pre-game parties are planned.

### Other trips:

- **Copper Canyon: El Paso to El Fuerte: July 30-Aug. 5, 2006.**  
From \$1,295. Final payment due June 21.
- **Bhutan, Bangkok & Angkor Wat: Sept. 24-Oct. 7, 2006.**  
Bangkok, Angkor Wat in Cambodia. From \$4,995. Final payment due June 3.
- **Colonial Mexico: Nov. 3-17, 2006.**  
From \$2,395. Final payment due 90 days prior to departure.
- **Australia and New Zealand Cruise Tour: Jan. 3-20, 2007.**  
From \$6,231; \$600 deposit by Aug. 11; final payment due Oct. 6.

### For more information:

Contact Lee Nelson  
[lnelson@utep.edu](mailto:lnelson@utep.edu)

915/747-8600 or 1-866-GO-MINERS

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60s

**Leo E. Chavez** (B.A. '69) assumes the presidency of Sierra College in Rocklin, Calif., this summer.

70s

**Robert L. Giron** (B.A. '73) is an English professor at Montgomery College in Montgomery County, Md., and an editor for Gival Press. Giron co-edited "An Interdisciplinary Introduction to Women's Studies," which won the 2005 DIY Book Festival Award for Compilations/Anthologies.

**Ghanshyam C. Patel** (B.S.M.E. '71) is a physical plant engineer/administrator in the Facilities Management Department at Essex County College in Newark, N.J.  
**Luis T. Sanchez** (B.B.A. '73), the president and chief executive officer of El Paso's Apex Roofing Co., was appointed in February as chairman of the El Paso Empowerment Zone Corp.

80s

**Sarah D. Monty** (B.S.Ed. '82) is a partner with Monty Partners LLP, a

Houston law firm that specializes in employment, labor law and immigration issues.

**Cmdr. Michael L. Mullins** (B.A. '84) is the president and chief executive officer of Gateway Health System in Clarksville, Tenn. He also serves in the Medical Service Corps of the U.S. Navy Reserves.

**Rabbi Michael S. Washer** (B.A. '82) is a graphic designer for Cognent Inc., an El Paso-based full-service technology outsourcing firm.

**Hector Zamora** (B.S. '80), the director of Dismas Charities in El Paso, is the El Paso County Juvenile Probation Department's 2005 Provider of the Year, recognized for Project Dismas' presentations to juveniles.

**Paul M. Zimmerman** (B.A. '89) is the host of HGTV's Designer Finals, a home improvement show.

90s

**Ana I. Aleman** (B.A. '90) is the executive director of the Federación Mexicana de Asociaciones Privadas, or FEMAP, Foundation, an El Paso charity created to address economic needs and public health concerns in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, and U.S. border communities.

**Rosario Barba** (B.I.S. '98), a librarian at Hacienda Heights Elementary School in El Paso, is featured in the 2005-2006 edition of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers."

**Jaime S. Castillo** (B.A. '90) is the metro section columnist for the San Antonio Express-News.

**Gregory C. "Greg" Foster** is a partner with Champion Lending Group, an El Paso mortgage and commercial real estate lending company.

**Sally Hurt-Steffen** (B.S.N. '90; M.S.N. '94) is the chief executive officer of Edmond Medical Center in Edmond, Okla.

**Gabriel "Gabe" Marrufo** (B.B.A. '94; M.B.A. '05) is the controller of Las Palmas and Del Sol Regional Healthcare System in El Paso.

**Kirk Martin** (B.S. '94) is the football coach at Manvel High School in Manvel, Texas.

**Mary E. Reveles** (B.A. '93), a resident of Sugar Land, Texas, is the interim county attorney for Fort Bend County and chair-elect of the Texas Young Lawyers Association.

**Andrew R. Yanez** (B.A. '90) is a principal and creative chief at Concussion LLC, an advertising and marketing firm in Fort Worth, Texas, that received the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce 2006 Small Business of the Year Award in the 11-50 employees category.

00s

**Wesley W. Phillips** (B.A. '03) is the quarterbacks coach for Baylor University's football team in Waco, Texas.

**Charlene C. Segal-Slayton** (B.A. '01), a resident of Bremerton, Wash., is a Web designer for Go2marine.com, an online supplier of marine products.

## In Memoriam

**Jose "Joe" Rios** (B.A. '65; M.Ed. '77) El Paso; April 21, 2004.

**Charles B. John** (Ph.D. '95) Tulsa, Okla.; March 3, 2005.

**Lt. Col. John C. Schmidt Jr.** (B.S. '61) Arab, Ala.; Nov. 7, 2005.

**Travis H. Bennett** (B.A. '53) Indianapolis, Ind.; Nov. 29, 2005.

**Robert Lance Meek** (B.S. '68) Haymarket, Va.; Dec. 15, 2005.

**Lupe R. Clements** (B.A. '58) Tempe, Ariz.; Dec. 22, 2005.

**Margaret M. Schneider** (B.A. '39) El Paso; Dec. 26, 2005.

**Fromona "Tony" Brey** (B.A. '58) Chaparral, N.M.; Jan. 3, 2006.

**Norma Elizabeth Bridges Barbee** (B.I.S. '97) Colorado Springs, Colo.; Jan. 11, 2006.

**Sergio S. Navarro** (B.A. '02) El Paso; Jan. 6, 2006.

**Bertha Blanco** (B.A. '82) El Paso; Jan. 13, 2006.

**Leo Charles Benson** (B.S.Ed. '70; M.Ed. '80) El Paso; Jan. 17, 2006.

**Melvin "Jerry" Tanzy** (B.A. '68) El Paso; Jan. 17, 2006.

**Herman Lucero** (B.A. '98) El Paso; Jan. 21, 2006.

**Emma R. Curry** (B.S.Ed. '73) El Paso; Jan. 23, 2006.

**Joan Catherine Thompson** (B.S.Ed. '64) El Paso; Jan. 25, 2006.

**Cheri Marie Elizondo** (B.S.N. '93) El Paso; Jan. 30, 2006.

**Francisco Alderete Jr.** (B.S.M.I. '42) El Paso; Feb. 1, 2006.

**Mildred Orndorff Teague Bennett** (B.A. '40; M.A. '55) El Paso; Feb. 3, 2006.

**James Franklin Burkett** (B.S. '01) El Paso; Feb. 3, 2006.

**Landis M. Curlee** (M.Ed. '65) El Paso; Feb. 5, 2006.

**Elena O. "Cuqui" Gil** (B.S.Ed. '65) El Paso; Feb. 8, 2006.

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**Robert Don Thorne** (B.A. '55) El Paso; Feb. 8, 2006.

**John Charles Compton** (B.A. '60) El Paso; Feb. 10, 2006.

**Margaret "Peggy" Brand** (B.S. '46) Cortland, N.Y.; Feb. 11, 2006.

**Richard P. "Rick" Calhoun** (B.A. '69) El Paso; Feb. 13, 2006.

**Patricia Hockett Carnell** (B.S.Ed. '71) El Paso; Feb. 14, 2006.

**Alicia A. Valenzuela** (B.S.Ed. '59) El Paso; Feb. 15, 2006.

**Michael Ray Black** (B.S. '64) El Paso; Feb. 17, 2006.

**Adele Lucille Lyon** (B.S.Ed. '59) El Paso; Feb. 18, 2006.

**Herbert L. Blue** (B.A. '57) Salt Lake City, Utah; Feb. 19, 2006.

**Norma H. Esparza** (B.S.Ed. '84) El Paso; Feb. 20, 2006.

**Richard "Rick" Bustamante** (B.A. '00) El Paso; Feb. 25, 2006.

**Mary Ann Antone** (B.B.A. '49) El Paso; Feb. 27, 2006.

**Lt. Col. James Dryden Hodge Sr.** (M.B.A. '85) Feb. 27, 2006.

**William Campbell Newman** (B.A. '51) El Paso; March 8, 2006.

**Gerald Glenn Wilson** (B.A. '68) El Paso; March 11, 2006.

**Betty Jo Peacock Petrello** (B.S.Ed. '68) El Paso March 12, 2006.

**Leo L. du Quesnay** (B.S. '80) El Paso; March 17, 2006.

**Michael Banuelos** (B.A. '80; B.S.N. '85) El Paso; March 19, 2006.

**Maria Trinidad Rosado** (B.B.A. '96) El Paso; March 25, 2006.

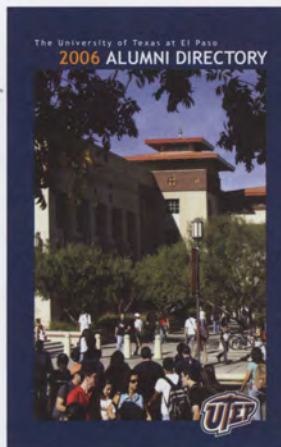
**Jose Leos Acosta** (B.A. '71) El Paso; March 27, 2006.

**Pedro "Pete" Medrano** (B.A. '58; B.S. '62; M.A. '72) El Paso; March 28, 2006.

**Julia L. "Julie" Whitelaw** (Ph.D. '96) Elizabethton, Tenn.; April 2, 2006.

— Compiled by Shannon Kanorr

## Alumni directories hit mailboxes



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## 2006 Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
<b>AUG. 31</b>	<b>SDSU</b>	<b>8:30 PM</b>
<b>SEPT. 9</b>	<b>TEXAS TECH</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>SEPT. 23</b>	<b>NEW MEXICO</b>	<b>3:00 PM</b>
<b>SEPT. 30</b>	<b>NMSU</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>OCT. 7</b>	<b>*SMU</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>OCT. 14</b>	<b>*TULANE</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>OCT. 21</b>	<b>*HOUSTON</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
<b>OCT. 27</b>	<b>*TULSA</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>NOV. 4</b>	<b>*RICE</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>NOV. 10</b>	<b>*UAB</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>NOV. 18</b>	<b>*MARSHALL</b>	<b>2:30 PM</b>
<b>NOV. 25</b>	<b>*MEMPHIS</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>

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