

Spring 2007

Nova Quarterly: The University of Texas at El Paso

The University of Texas at El Paso University Communications

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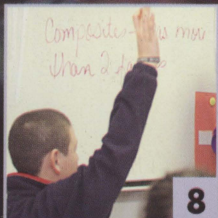
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NOVA

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

Circuits of Success

Technology research gives students
the engineering edge pgs. 2-5



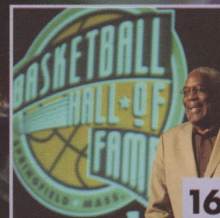
8

Teachers in the Classroom
Helping novice teachers succeed



10

Dreams on Hold
Miner's shuttle mission delayed



16

Hall of Fame
Texas Western champs to be inducted



It was in the early 1920s that engineering students first painted an "M" for Miners on the Franklin Mountains as a way to show pride in UTEP, which has its roots in mining and metallurgy.

Engineering students at the Texas College of Mines, as UTEP was then known, started TCM Days as a way to induct engineering freshmen into the program.

In the 1960s, the "M" was moved closer to campus, on a hillside near the Sun Bowl Stadium.

As part of TCM Days, students paint themselves – and parts of the campus – green in honor of St. Patrick, the patron saint of engineers. Students also participate in TCM Olympics and kiss the Blarney Stone. ■

• UTEP BY THE NUMBERS •

2,500

students on average enroll in the College of Engineering each semester

382

students received engineering degrees from UTEP in 2004-05

#1

our ranking among the nation's graduate engineering schools for Hispanics

45

students participated in TCM days in March 2007

5

gallons of green paint were used to paint shamrocks on students' T-shirts

250

gallons of whitewash were used to touch-up the "M" on the mountain

60

minutes were spent whitewashing the "M," estimated to be 70-by-90 feet in size

3

tons of Blarney Stone were kissed by the students, following a tradition that says those who kiss it will be endowed with the gift of eloquent speech

15¢

could once buy six verses in the Fighting Engineering Song, money used as a fundraiser for the college



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Contents © 2006 by
The University of Texas at El Paso
NOVA Quarterly (ISSN # 1041-6900)
is published quarterly by:
The University of Texas at El Paso
University Communications
500 West University Avenue
El Paso, TX 79968-0522
Periodicals Postage Paid at El Paso, Texas.
Volume 45, No. 1; No. 169.

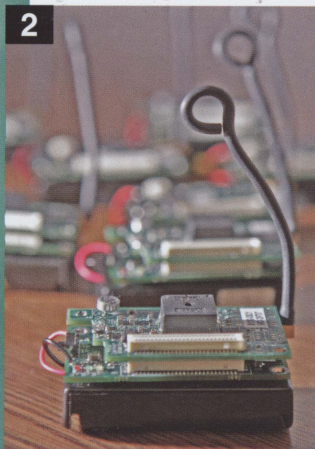
POSTMASTER:
Send changes of address to:
NOVA Quarterly
The University of Texas at El Paso
1100 N. Stanton Street, Suite 201
El Paso, TX 79902

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COVER PHOTO
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2



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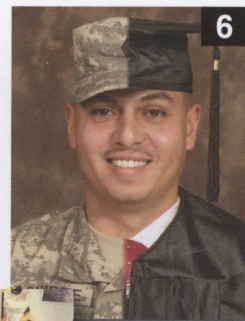
2 Circuits of Success

Technology research teams in the College of Engineering are breaking ground in microchip and wireless sensor design and development.

FEATURES

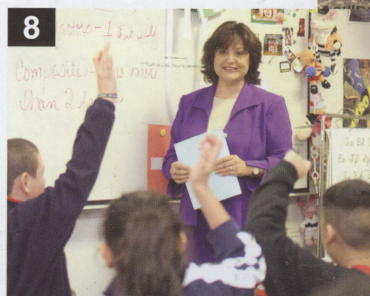
6 Destination Graduation

Hundreds of students celebrate commencement each May and December, many of them after a long non-traditional journey toward their destination.



8 Keeping Teachers in the Classroom

Induction project under UTEP's educational reform research center helps novice teachers succeed and stay in their profession.



10 Dreams on Hold

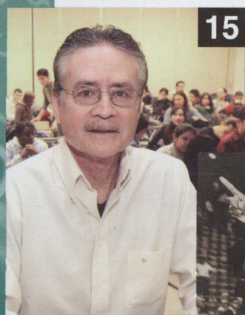
Mother Nature delayed the launch of shuttle Atlantis, putting on hold the first mission for astronaut and UTEP alumnus John "Danny" Olivias.



DEPARTMENTS

14 In the Spotlight

This new department highlights the achievements of our students, faculty and staff.



15 Profiles in Giving

The President's Associates, a prestigious and growing giving society, recognizes donors who make annual contributions to the university for a variety of programs.



16 Athletics

The 1966 Texas Western national basketball champs take their place at the Hall of Fame; women's basketball celebrates history-making year; and more!

Engineering Edge

As UTEP grows its research portfolio, our students and faculty are helping solve real-world problems. On these following pages we highlight two notable projects from the College of Engineering.

Stories by David Peregrino

Photo illustrations by Jose Clemente

Smart Dust

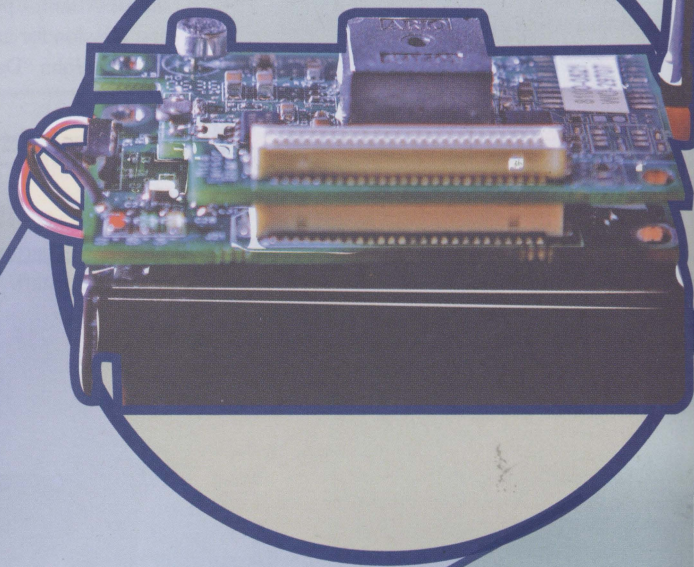
Researchers explore wireless sensor networks

It's a clear, moonless night. A group of black-clad figures silently travel through the Chihuahuan desert, careful not to draw attention as they slip across the border into the United States.

But scattered throughout the rocky soil are tiny eyes and ears. Pebble-sized, these battery-powered sensors detect the group's movements. The devices pick up whispers, body heat and an ominous radioactive signature from a backpack.

Within minutes, the sensors relay the information to a base station monitored by border authorities. A team is sent to intercept the illegal crossers.

In this hypothetical scenario, the tiny electronic border sentinels belong to an emerging technology known as wireless sensor networks.



“Picture hundreds or even thousands of small devices scattered by plane or by truck over a place that you want to monitor,” says Gerardo Rosiles, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering.

“They communicate with each other and they organize themselves to deliver the big picture of what is happening in that area. They can be outfitted with just about any kind of sensor available—acoustic, seismic, magnetic, light and pressure.”

Recognizing the potential of the technology, Rosiles and fellow professors Sergio Cabrera and Virgilio Gonzalez have developed a course of study for undergraduates interested in

“Networks can also be part of a building’s construction, designed to detect and react to earthquakes, for example,” Rosiles says.

Proponents of the technology envision a day when the sensors can be manufactured on a micro scale—perhaps the size of a grain of sand, or even smaller. A hypothetical network of devices like these is popularly known as “Smart Dust,” Rosiles says.

But many hurdles remain before networks like these become a reality. Complex internal electronics must be miniaturized, battery life needs to be extended or made renewable, and, given all this, component costs need to drop considerably. And, of course, these devices must be able to process what the



Engineering students and faculty at UTEP work on wireless sensor networks, which research professors say have numerous potential applications in solving real-world problems.

pursuing careers or graduate degrees in the field. The Wireless Sensor Networks Group Student Development Program and accompanying research is supported by a four-year, \$850,000 Department of Defense grant awarded to UTEP last year.

Many applications

Rosiles says wireless sensor networks have potential applications beyond border security. They also could be used for monitoring land and irrigation conditions to improve farming, or installed in complex industrial machinery to catch problems before they become expensive repair jobs.

sensors detect. They need to communicate with each other, rapidly assemble vast and varied data, and then deliver the “big picture” to a person or computer monitoring the network. This communications challenge is the focus of Rosiles and his fellow researchers.

Alejandro Aranda, a senior electrical engineering major, says he welcomes the chance to apply the programming languages he studied earlier in his academic career.

“It’s a different experience when you go ‘hands on’ and start to interact with real-world problems,” Aranda says. ■



A Million nOne

From left: Computer engineering graduate students Ernie Martinez and Sergio Velazquez, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering Eric MacDonald, electrical engineering undergraduate student Ryan Price, former engineering professor-turned-business owner David Nemir, and researcher and UTEP alumnus Jan Beck

Team designs record-breaking chip

Erníe Martínez, a master's student in computer engineering, took a deep breath and pressed the "send" button.

"We had put in all this work on the chip, and tens of thousands of dollars were on the line to have it made," says Martínez, 24, recalling the tense moment last semester. "It was like our one shot at the moon."

The mission was a success. In January, the research team, led by assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering Dr. Eric MacDonald, took delivery of prototype chips, which underwent testing and evaluation.

"All the preliminary results are really great," says MacDonald, who joined the faculty in 2003.

MacDonald has a wealth of industry experience, including chip design and development work with IBM and Motorola. He also co-founded a start-up company specializing in self-test and repair circuitry that was later acquired by a Silicon Valley company.

About the size of a pencil eraser, the UTEP team's chip is designed to detect electrical faults in appliances and shut down the affected area before a fire erupts.

The chip is loaded with one million transistors, each 200 times thinner than a human hair. The number of transistors is the most ever for a UTEP chip design, and among the largest produced by a Texas university, MacDonald says.

A UTEP connection

Dr. David Nemir, a former UTEP professor who operates El Paso-based engineering company X-L Synergy, approached MacDonald about three years ago with the concept for the chip. Nemir and former UTEP computer engineering instructor Dr. Jan Beck developed a complex mathematical algorithm for detecting and shutting down electrical arc faults. The unique chip performs the calculation in real time, eliminating delays between the

discovery of the arc and shutdown of the unit.

"(Nemir) wanted to prove that the algorithm worked, and the project gave me an opportunity to offer a group of graduate students some real industry experience," says MacDonald.

X-L Synergy funded the project, at a cost of about \$160,000.

First silicon

Martínez, a 2001 graduate of El Paso High School, said the chip team was eager to take on the challenge. At the university level, he said, engineering students typically tackle less-complex designs in the quest to produce "first silicon," industry jargon for chips that successfully go from the lab to the production line.

"Not every student has the chance to get 'first silicon' with a million-transistor chip," Martínez says. "This is industry experience here."

Martínez, who expects to complete the requirements for his degree in May, says his future looks bright because of his time at UTEP. He's considering employment offers from a variety of technological companies, including some that could take him overseas.



Martínez says he recently shared his experiences with area middle-school students who toured the college in February during Engineering Week.

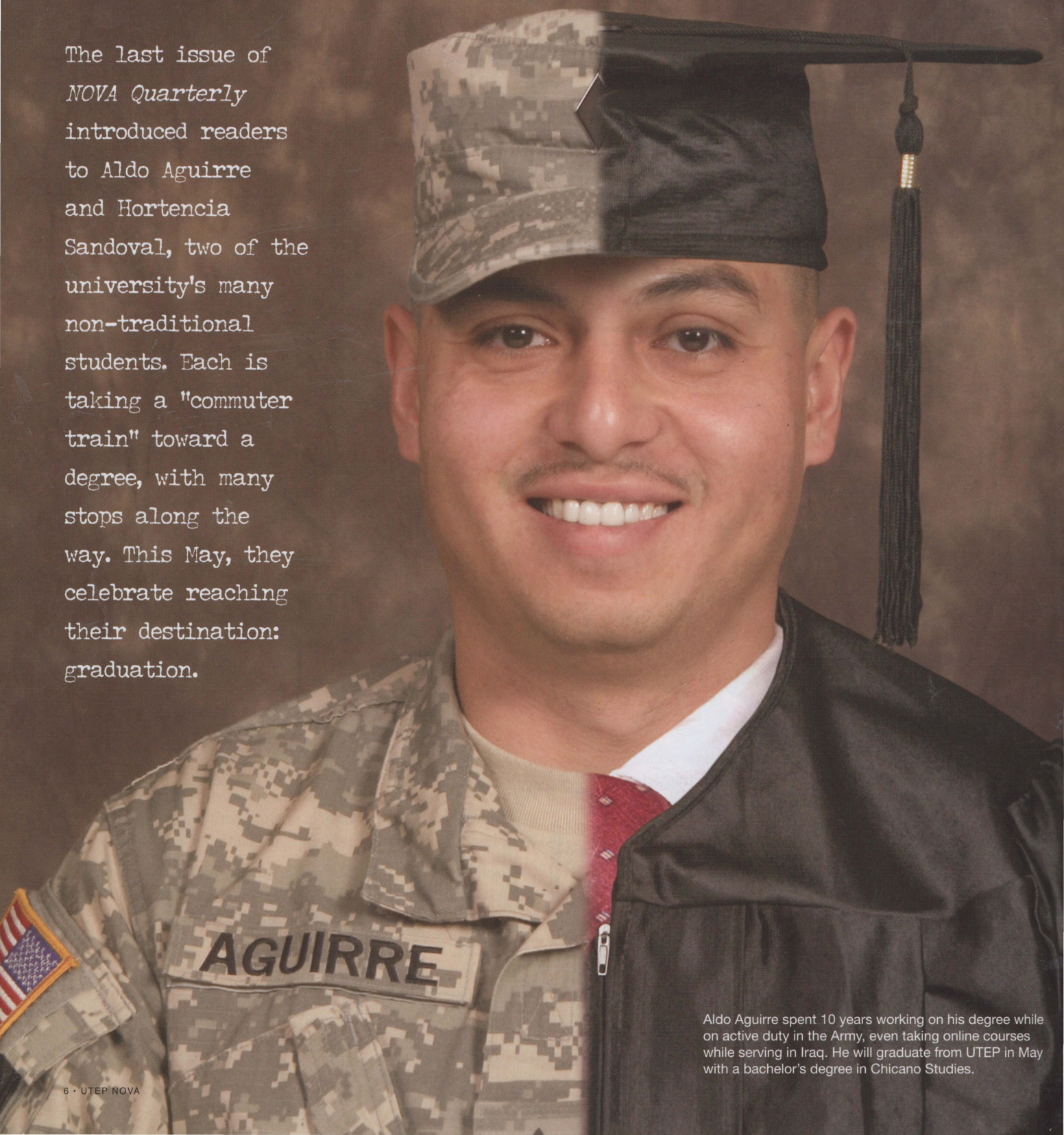
"We do a lot of outreach, so we had a lot of kids over. We explained what we do in computer engineering," he says. "They were impressed with the chip and our (computer) cluster."

MacDonald says he's looking forward to more student success stories as the college expands its chip-development capabilities, including the construction of a clean-room facility in the near future.

"With the clean room, we will be able to fabricate our own chips at UTEP," he says. ■

Destination Graduation

The last issue of *NOVA Quarterly* introduced readers to Aldo Aguirre and Hortencia Sandoval, two of the university's many non-traditional students. Each is taking a "commuter train" toward a degree, with many stops along the way. This May, they celebrate reaching their destination: graduation.



Aldo Aguirre spent 10 years working on his degree while on active duty in the Army, even taking online courses while serving in Iraq. He will graduate from UTEP in May with a bachelor's degree in Chicano Studies.

"There are days when I just want to go home and be with my girls. But I know I have to finish what I started and be a role model for them."

— Hortencia Sandoval

by Laura S. Ruelas

Night classes. Online courses overseas. Sacrificing sleep, and sometimes, even more.

Whatever it takes, students like Aldo Aguirre and Hortencia Sandoval have adjusted their lives to reach one goal: earning a college degree. It hasn't been easy, with family obligations, financial constraints and military duty often placing obstacles before them.

"I never wanted to give up. I have always had a positive mindset and have been committed to staying on course to achieve my goals," says Aguirre, a 28-year-old senior majoring in Chicano Studies who has been juggling college with the military for a decade.

Aguirre and Sandoval are among hundreds of students who celebrate commencement in May — and among the many that don't fit the typical profile of a college graduate. They did not reach the graduation milestone in four years, a commonly used timeframe to calculate graduation rates.

President Diana Natalicio explains it this way: UTEP is a major urban commuter institution where students ride the "commuter train," not an "express train," toward graduation — with many stops along the way. But notably, more and more students each year are reaching their destination. In fact, UTEP recorded its largest graduating class in 2005-06, with 2,883 students earning degrees.

Aguirre says what matters most is that he's made it.

For the past 10 years, Aguirre has been working on his degree while on active duty in the Army, even taking online courses when he served in Iraq. He would often work a 12-hour shift and then head straight to an Iraqi Internet café to do homework through the American Intercontinental University.

"On occasion, we would get attacked and all our telephone and Internet access would be shut down for a while, so I would have to wait until it came back up," recalls Aguirre.

Whether in Iraq or El Paso, Aguirre says, he's been committed to earning a degree to provide a better life for his wife and 1-year-old son: "They are my biggest motivation."

Aguirre will become a commissioned officer and expects to be stationed in Italy after graduation. He plans to teach once he's left the military.



Hortencia Sandoval, center, is graduating from UTEP and her daughter Jessica from Del Valle High School this May. At right is Sandoval's youngest daughter, Janeth.

Each commencement, the campus is abuzz with excitement and pride, says Julie Wong, associate vice president and dean of students at UTEP.

"Graduation is my favorite event at UTEP. The excitement and joy of the students and family in attendance is truly special," she says.

Wong says the positive environment on campus helps students of all backgrounds flourish, while balancing their personal and professional lives with the pursuit of a degree.

"The best thing students can do is find a balance. Make a schedule, set priorities, and make sure you take care of all the areas of your life: emotional, mental, physical and even social," says Wong.

Finding balance hasn't been easy for Sandoval, 34, a single mother of two daughters, Janeth, 7, and Jessica, 17.

"There are days when I just want to go home and be with my girls," she says. "But I know I have to finish what I started and be a role model for them."

Sandoval says she often sees children waiting outside classrooms, doing homework or playing while parents like her are in class.

"There are a lot of us who are in the same situation here. Classmates share stories and support each other," says Sandoval, a special-education instructional aide with the Ysleta school district. She earned a bachelor's in Interdisciplinary Studies and Special Education.

Originally from Carichi, Chihuahua, Mexico, Sandoval is the first in her family — she's one of 11 siblings — to earn a college degree.

She isn't the only one reaching a graduation milestone this May, however. Her oldest daughter, Jessica, is graduating from El Paso's Del Valle High School.

"I'm happy for both of us," says Jessica, who plans to pursue a college degree in criminal justice. "My mom has worked hard for this." ■

“Support systems for new teachers are really important. If we want them to stay in the field, they have to be supported.”

— Sergiu Slavnicu,
Mountain View High School math teacher

by Laura Cruz

Lack of experience, little planning time, and a growing stack of paperwork frustrated Olivia Henderson during her first year of teaching.

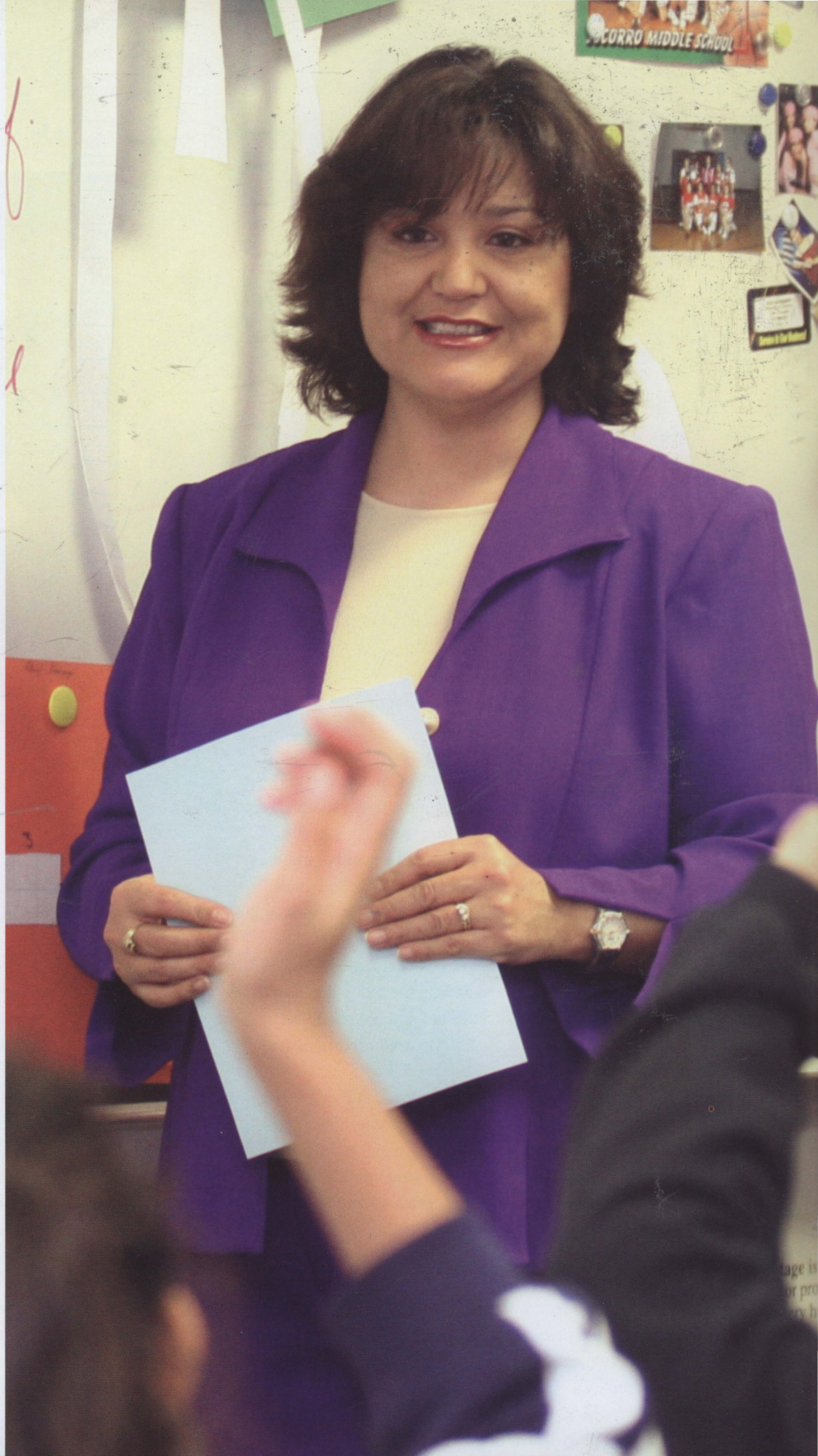
“It was extremely difficult,” the 2003 UTEP graduate says. “I had a lot of classroom-management issues. I felt I didn’t have enough administrative support.”

A math and science teacher at Socorro Middle School, Henderson soon found her footing through the Math and Science Partnership Induction Project, a support and research program under UTEP’s Center for Research on Educational Reform.

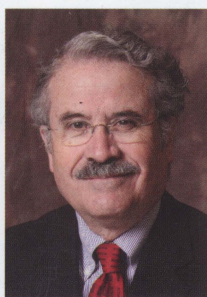
“I had a great mentor teacher who helped me a lot,” she says. “Since then, the stress level has gone down, and the classroom management is much better. I can engage the students much easier.”

Now in its fourth year, the project aims to curb teacher shortages, especially in the math and science fields, by increasing retention rates in the profession. In Texas, about 60 percent of teachers leave the field within their first five years, according to the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

The high attrition rates not only translate into teacher shortages, they also mean many teachers have fewer than five years of experience in the classroom: about 30 percent of El Paso teachers — as well as those across the state, according to the Texas Education Agency’s Academic Excellence Indicator System — fit this category. The AEIS reports the average teacher in Texas has 11.5 years of experience.



Keeping Teachers in



Pacheco

Created in 2002, the Center for Research on Educational Reform has been awarded nearly \$14 million in funding for a range of educational research and reform initiatives. The Induction Project is one of several supported by a five-year grant from the National Science Foundation.

Beginning middle and high school teachers in the math and science fields participate in a two-year seminar led by center and university faculty. In addition to serving as a support system, the seminars provide workshops and presentations that help the educators develop their own modes of teaching. Because the participants in the project teach math and science, the seminars also help them develop research projects they can implement in their classrooms.

Of the 70 participants so far, only three have left the teaching profession.

Sergiu Slavicu, a math teacher at Mountain View High School, says his first year teaching was the toughest. The Induction Project gave him an outlet to vent his frustration,

“We’re trying to find things we can learn from new teachers that would be helpful when creating policy to reduce attrition rates,” says Arturo Pacheco, Ph.D., director of the educational reform center.

as well as the support, advice and skills he needed to succeed in the classroom.

“New teachers talked to new teachers. It was good because you were able to listen to other teachers’ problems,” says Slavicu, now in his sixth year of teaching. “After a while, you start feeling better because you know you’re not alone. Support systems for new teachers are really important. If we want them to stay in the field, they have to be supported.”

At the end of the seminar, the participating teachers complete a survey about the induction project and their perception of the teaching profession. Pacheco says preliminary surveys show new teachers feel discouraged by low student performance and lack of parental support.

Pacheco says the results will be used to track patterns and develop programs to help improve teachers’ experiences during their first years. The findings may also be used to propose changes to the educational system that will ultimately help keep teachers in the classroom.

“There are a lot of efforts the center is working on,” Pacheco says. “The bottom line for all of the projects is to help teachers become better teachers.” ■

For more information, visit

<http://research.utep.edu/crer> 

“The bottom line for all of the projects is to help teachers become better teachers.”

**— Arturo Pacheco, director,
UTEP Center for Research on Educational Reform**

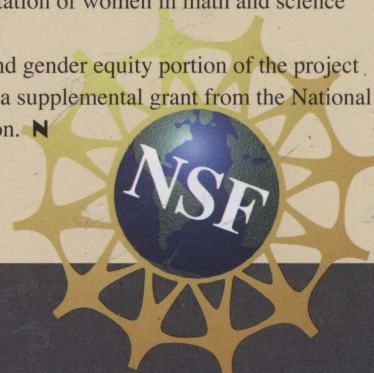
Diversity and Gender Equity

During the second year of the Math and Science Partnership Induction Project seminar, teachers are asked to focus on the issue of diversity and gender equity.

“We wanted the teachers to evaluate what kinds of things they do that might favor boys over girls, unconsciously,” says Penelope Espinoza, Ph.D., assistant director for research at the Center for Research on Educational Reform. “The teachers realized that it might not be easy to identify the differential treatment.”

Teaching Gender Equity in Mathematics and Science, as the effort is known, was developed as a response to the underrepresentation of women in math and science careers.

The diversity and gender equity portion of the project is funded through a supplemental grant from the National Science Foundation. ■



the Classroom

DREAMS ON

HAILSTORM DELAYS SHUTTLE LAUNCH

BY DAVID PEREGRINO

The March 15 launch date was just about two weeks away when a surprise hailstorm battered the shuttle Atlantis on the launchpad, delaying the first-ever space mission for UTEP alumnus and NASA astronaut John "Danny" Olivas.

But Olivas, who graduated from UTEP in 1989 and joined NASA's ranks in 1998, took Mother Nature's mischief in stride.

"After being here for eight-plus years, a month or so delay is not a big deal," says Olivas, who will step into space on mission STS-117 to attach new sections to the International Space Station.

"When things happen, you just have to deal with it and recognize that no amount of disappointment or frustration is going to make it better. Figuring out what happened and what needs to be done about it is all you can do."

After the shuttle was rolled back to a giant hangar for inspection, technicians found more than 1,000 hail divots on the external fuel tank's foam insulation and some minor damage on the heat shields that protect the shuttle's left wing, officials say.

A new launch date was not immediately set, but NASA hopes to complete repairs and roll Atlantis back to the pad at Kennedy Space Center in Florida for a launch this summer.

In the meantime, Olivas and his crewmates returned home to Houston to keep their skills sharp on the shuttle simulators at Johnson Space Center.

"During this 'launch delay' time frame, we will continue to train as we've done, although now it's more for maintaining proficiency," Olivas says.

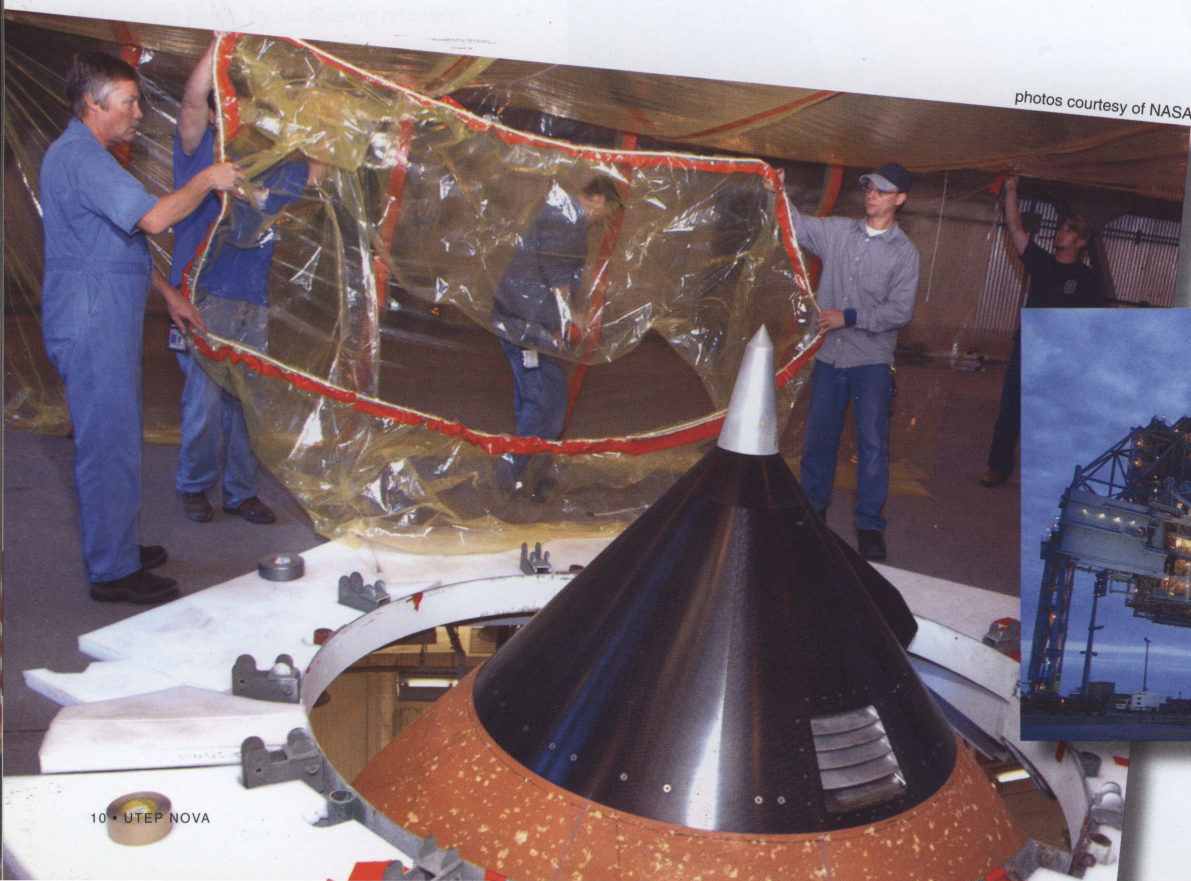
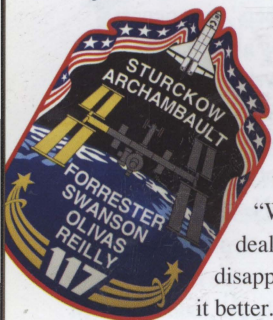
Shuttle "rollbacks," as NASA calls them, are not unusual. The agency has brought crafts back to the hangar more than a dozen times for inspections or repairs since the shuttle program began in the early 1980s.

Once the shuttle is repaired and the mission gets underway, spaceflight fans who follow the mission on television will be in for a visual treat. In addition to the space walks to install trusses on the space station, the shuttle docking and other maneuvers will be exciting to watch, Olivas says.

"On flight day 10, we'll do a 360-degree fly-around the space station to see the results of our handiwork," he says. "This will be pretty spectacular."

Olivas says he'll be thinking about UTEP and his hometown as he goes where no Miner has gone before.

"I would like to give my sincerest thanks to everyone in El Paso. Your support has been nothing short of outstanding and serves to inspire the entire crew, especially me," he says. "This program is a result of what we, as humans, can accomplish. What we do is a result of not one person, but tens of thousands of people who dare to dream big." **N**



photos courtesy of NASA





HOLD

"WHAT WE DO IS A RESULT OF
NOT ONE PERSON, BUT TENS OF
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO
DARE TO DREAM BIG."

For more information about Danny Olivas and
Mission STS-117, visit www.utep.edu/dannyolivas 

New deans to lead colleges of health, engineering



UTEP has appointed Richard T. Schoephoerster as dean of the College of Engineering and Kathleen A. Curtis as dean of the College of Health Sciences.

Schoephoerster spent 17 years at Florida International University, where he is the Wallace H. Coulter Eminent Scholars Chair in Biomedical Engineering and the Chair of the Biomedical Engineering Department. He received a bachelor's in biomedical engineering and master's and doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of Iowa. He begins at UTEP in July.



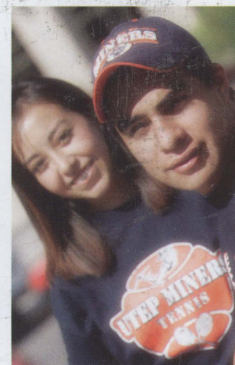
Curtis comes from California State University, Fresno, where she served as Interim Associate Dean for the College of Health and Human Services and Director of the Central California Center for Health and Human Services. She received a bachelor's in physical therapy from Northeastern University, a master's in health science from San Jose State University and a doctorate in education from the University of California, Los Angeles. Curtis begins at UTEP in June.

Record enrollment

UTEP registered a record spring enrollment this semester: 18,822 students, a 2.9 percent increase over last spring.

Officials say these increases and strong retention numbers reflect new efforts to help students stay in school.

"Our students are unique in that their journey to a degree may not follow a traditional four-year path," University Provost Richard Jarvis says. "But these numbers clearly indicate that the academic and financial support our students are receiving helps them to move steadily toward graduation."



TWC '66 champs on DVD

It's taken more than 40 years, but it is here at last: The film of the legendary Texas Western College (now UTEP) win over Kentucky in the 1966 NCAA basketball championship is now available to fans on DVD.

The NCAA and media company Thought Equity Motion, in association with CBS Sports, launched NCAA on Demand, a new source of video content featuring NCAA sports championships, some dating back to the 1930s.

NCAA on Demand has taken the Texas Western versus Kentucky game film, originally filmed without sound, and synchronized it with an audio broadcast of the game to create the DVD. The DVD is available at www.ncaaondemand.com.

For more information about the 1966 TWC team and the 2006 movie "Glory Road" based on the team's journey to the championship, visit www.utep.edu/gloryroad

UTEP receives photo, event awards

UTEP received two major awards in the 2007 CASE District IV Awards Competition in April.

"Across UTEP," a selection of photos of events on campus by University Communications photographer J.R. Hernandez, received a Gold Grand Award in the color series photography category.

The "Glory Days at UTEP" entry won the Pewter Special Award in the category of institutional special events. The series of events in 2005 celebrated the 40th anniversary of the 1966 Texas Western College (now UTEP) NCAA basketball championship. The anniversary coincided with the release of the Disney movie "Glory Road."

The events were coordinated by Elizabeth Thurmond-Bengtson, assistant director of events for Institutional Advancement, with marketing and publicity materials produced by University Communications. The events were made possible with the support of the offices of University Relations, Special Events and many others.

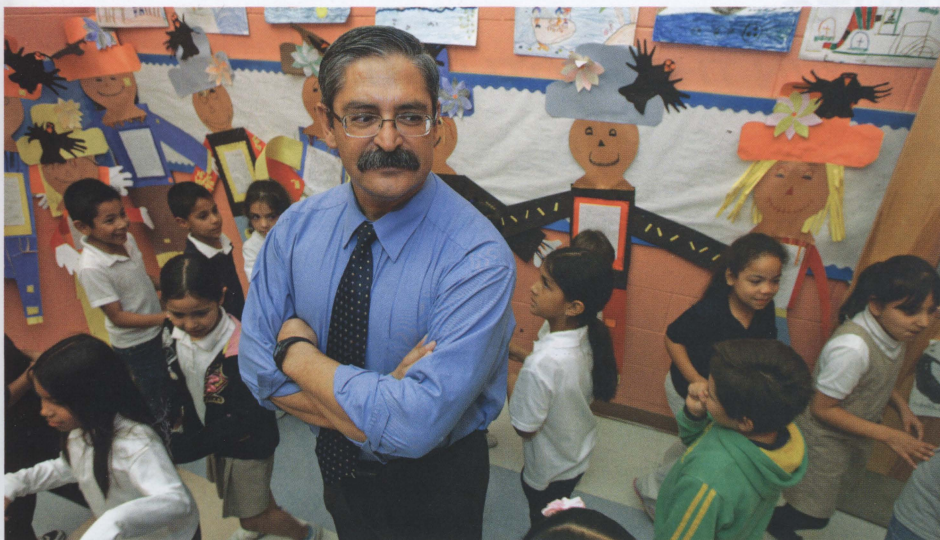
The Council for the Advancement and Support of Education is a professional organization for those who work in alumni relations, communications and development.



HORIZONS
ONLINE NEWS

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New doctorate closer to implementation

The University of Texas System Board of Regents has approved the creation of a new doctoral program in teaching, learning and culture at UTEP. The program will research critical areas, including language learning, biliteracy and cognition, as well as mathematics, science and technology education.

"The Ph.D. will prepare graduate students and future faculty members to address the needs of the changing demographics in the United States, as well as conduct vital research about the way we learn and what role culture plays in the classroom," says College of Education Dean Josefina V. Tinajero.

The degree still requires approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The program will be UTEP's 15th doctoral degree.

UTEP hosts engineering interns

UTEP's College of Engineering and Bel Air High School in El Paso have teamed up to help high school seniors gain a competitive edge through a new internship program.

Six seniors from Bel Air's Math, Science and Engineering Academy will take part in the 14-week internship. The students are required to spend two hours at UTEP daily, shadowing and learning from faculty and staff. They will gain hands-on experience in several labs, including the W.M. Keck Center for 3D Innovation, while earning high-school credit.



Comic book no laughing matter

A group of health and communications researchers from the border area has created a Spanish-language comic book to educate the public about the dangers of carbon monoxide.

"El Asesino Invisible" (The Invisible Assassin) is a 12-page, full-color comic book about a woman who helps a friend learn the importance of buying and using a carbon monoxide detector.



Funded by a grant from the Center for Border Health Research of the Paso del Norte Health Foundation, the comic book is being distributed free in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. In the past 12 years, 167 Juarenses have been killed by carbon monoxide poisoning. More than 1,350 have become ill, researchers say. Frank G. Pérez, an assistant professor of communication and Chicano Studies at UTEP, led a team of researchers on the project, which also studied area residents' knowledge of carbon monoxide safety.

MINER ACHIEVEMENTS STUDENTS AND FACULTY IN THE SPOTLIGHT



JOHN H. HADDOX

Professor of philosophy

Education: B.A., M.A. and Ph.D., University of Notre Dame

Notables: Recipient of UTEP Faculty Research Award and Faculty Teaching Award; published author; member of Pawnee tribe

John H. Haddox is celebrating his 50th year teaching philosophy at UTEP.

"He brings so much to this department. He exemplifies the UTEP spirit. Students really enjoy learning from him," says Jules Simon, chair of the department.

Haddox is well known for his research and work in Latin American Philosophy, Social Philosophy, Indigenous American Studies and Humanities. His published works, "Vasconcelos of Mexico: Philosopher and Poet," and "Antonio Caso: Philosopher of Mexico," are used by many as scholarly references.

Haddox was born in 1929 in the small town of Pawnee, Okla. As a teenager, Haddox was adopted into the Pawnee tribe by a local woman and given the name "Kiwakootiwati," meaning "Walking Fox."

"They are my family. Growing up I loved the community and the tribal gatherings where we would dance and celebrate," says Haddox.

At the end of every semester, Haddox gives each of his students a special gift: Hand written wishes, a tradition of giving in his tribe.

"The thing that I love about UTEP is that so many of our students are the first in their family to graduate. I wish them all the best," he says. "I can't believe I get to be a part of that and have so much fun, too." ■



LUCIANITA BACA

Senior, history

Age: 87

Notables: mother, grandmother, and UTEP student since 1939

Lucianita Baca first became a Miner in 1939, enrolling in what was then the College of Mines and Metallurgy.

She's always considered herself a Miner. But this spring, the 87-year-old for the first time will be something else: A graduate.

"I think it will be a nice day," says Baca calmly, reflecting on her decades-long journey toward a

degree. Baca will receive a bachelor's degree in history in May.

A year after enrolling at the college, Baca married a U.S. soldier and left her studies. Her husband died 12 years later while serving in Korea, leaving her to raise her four children. In the early 1970s, Baca again enrolled in what had become the University of Texas at El Paso.

"After all these years I still feel wonderful. My children are grown and are doing well, so I can come to UTEP, study, swim and go to a Miner basketball game whenever I can," says Baca.

A treasure trove of Miner memories, Baca is most impressed by the changing times in her life and what will soon be her alma mater.

"UTEP has changed so much since I started. It's a real community now and students and professors mix and mingle so well, it really is a different time at UTEP," she says, adding, "a good time." ■

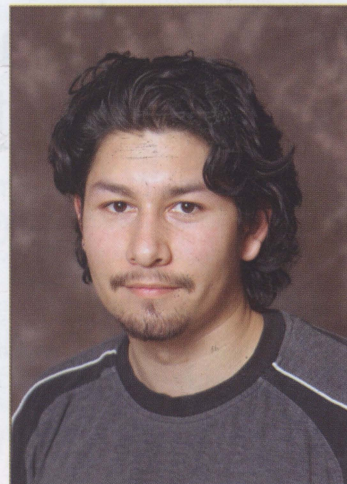
ANTHONY ADAIR

Senior, physics and mathematics

Age: 22

Hometown: San Antonio

Notables: UTEP Chapter of Society of Physics Students, Club Zero, Science Council



Anthony Adair left home after high school and faced two choices: Enroll in college or go to work.

He spent a year working small jobs and moving from place to place before enrolling at UTEP in fall 2003.

"I grew tired of it and didn't want to keep working for nothing. So I decided I needed to find a way to go to college," says Adair, who looked to grants and loans to finance his education.

Now a senior majoring in physics and mathematics, Adair is a part-time research assistant in the physics department whose determination is paying off more than he'd ever imagined.

Adair was one of six finalists in the Materials Research Society Scientific Movie Contest in Boston in fall 2006. He was the only undergraduate to place among Ph.D. students and post doctorate professors.

UTEP assistant professor of physics Cristian Botez recognized Adair's potential while working on their first research project.

"I immediately noticed his will to put in long hours and his remarkable attention for detail. It became obvious that his ability to carry out research was way ahead of what is normally expected from an undergraduate student," says Botez.

Adair is a member of the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program, a National Institutes of Health funded program that mentors young scholars at the junior and senior level interested in biomedical research careers. He has also participated in summer workshops and research programs at noted research universities, including Harvard, Princeton and Tokyo Tech. ■

*If one wants the best for their students,
then one needs to donate money to
help make these things possible.*

– Richard Gutierrez, lecturer and donor

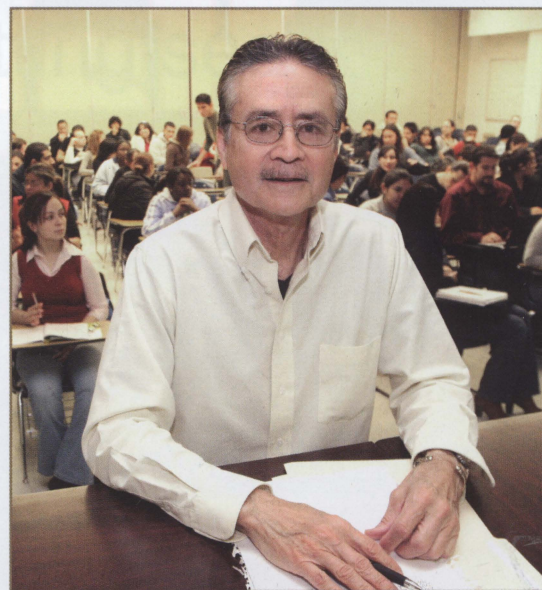


Photo by Laura Trejo

Richard Gutierrez

THE GIFT OF OPPORTUNITY

by Laura S. Ruelas

A longtime educator, Richard Gutierrez says growing up poor and facing discrimination motivated him to make a difference.

"I believed that minorities were underrepresented and that more of us needed to become teachers and role models," says Gutierrez, a UTEP graduate who has served as a political science lecturer at the university for nearly 18 years.

His passion for making a difference through education goes beyond teaching in the classroom, however. Gutierrez has made financial contributions to the departments of political science and history through the President's Associates program.

The President's Associates is a prestigious giving society that recognizes donors who make annual contributions of \$1,200 or more to the university to support scholarships, endowed faculty positions, college and program support, or the university's greatest need. Membership in the society includes benefits that enable donors to strengthen their connection to UTEP and the students it serves.

A lifetime member of the UTEP Alumni Association, Gutierrez says supporting UTEP's mission of providing access and excellence to underrepresented students has been a rewarding experience.

"If one wants the best for their students, as well as a user-friendly working environment, then one needs to donate money to help make these things possible," he says.

Launched in fall 2006, the President's Associates has received more than \$70,000 in gifts and pledges.

Among its recent members are Mabel Ng and alumna Patricia McCracken, who represent a growing number of female philanthropists supporting UTEP.

"There are more women in the workforce than ever before. We play an important role for young women coming up the university system," says McCracken, director of worldwide marketing for BMC Software and a lifetime member of the UTEP Alumni Association. "Who better to contribute than those of us who benefited from our university experiences?"

McCracken's gifts help support the College of Business Administration.

A friend of the UTEP Alumni Association, Ng helps support the Henry and Mabel Ng Endowed Scholarship Fund, established in 2000 by Ng and her husband, Henry, a UTEP alumnus and recipient of the 2006 College of Engineering Gold Nugget Award. The fund awards scholarships to graduate students pursuing degrees in civil engineering.

For Robert and Elaine Krasne, membership in the President's Associates was a gift in more ways than one. Their sons, Richard and Alan Krasne, established the membership for them as a way to commemorate the family's 30 years as El Pasoans and owners of Alamo Auto Supply. It was also a way for the Krasnes to leave their mark at UTEP and in the community.

"UTEP offers a tremendous opportunity for people who might otherwise never have had a chance to go to college," says Robert Krasne, an active community member. "Supporting UTEP will help future Miners – El Paso's future leaders." ■

THE PRESIDENT'S ASSOCIATES

The M Society **\$900 - \$1,199**

(Reserved for UTEP graduates who received their first degree in the previous 10 years)

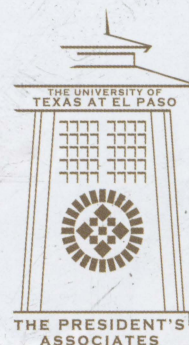
The 1914 Society **\$1,200 - \$2,499**

The Pick and Spade Society **\$2,500 - \$4,999**

The 2014 Society **\$5,000 - \$9,999 or more**

Members enjoy many benefits, including recognition in the President's Associates newsletter, special invitations to campus and President's Associates events, discounts across campus and more.

For more information, contact the Development Office at 915-747-8533 or presidentsassociates@utep.edu.



From Glory Road to Hall of Fame

The Texas Western College 1966 NCAA championship team has been named to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, Class of 2007. The team will be inducted during the Enshrinement Weekend ceremonies Sept. 6-8 in Springfield, Mass.

Members of the famed Texas Western (now the University of Texas at El Paso) team are Bobby Joe Hill, who died in 2002, Jerry Armstrong, Orsten Artis, Louis Baudoin, Willie Cager, Harry Flournoy, David Lattin, Dick Myers, David Palacio, Togo Railey, Nevil Shed and Willie Worsley. The Miners will be the first college basketball team ever to be inducted.

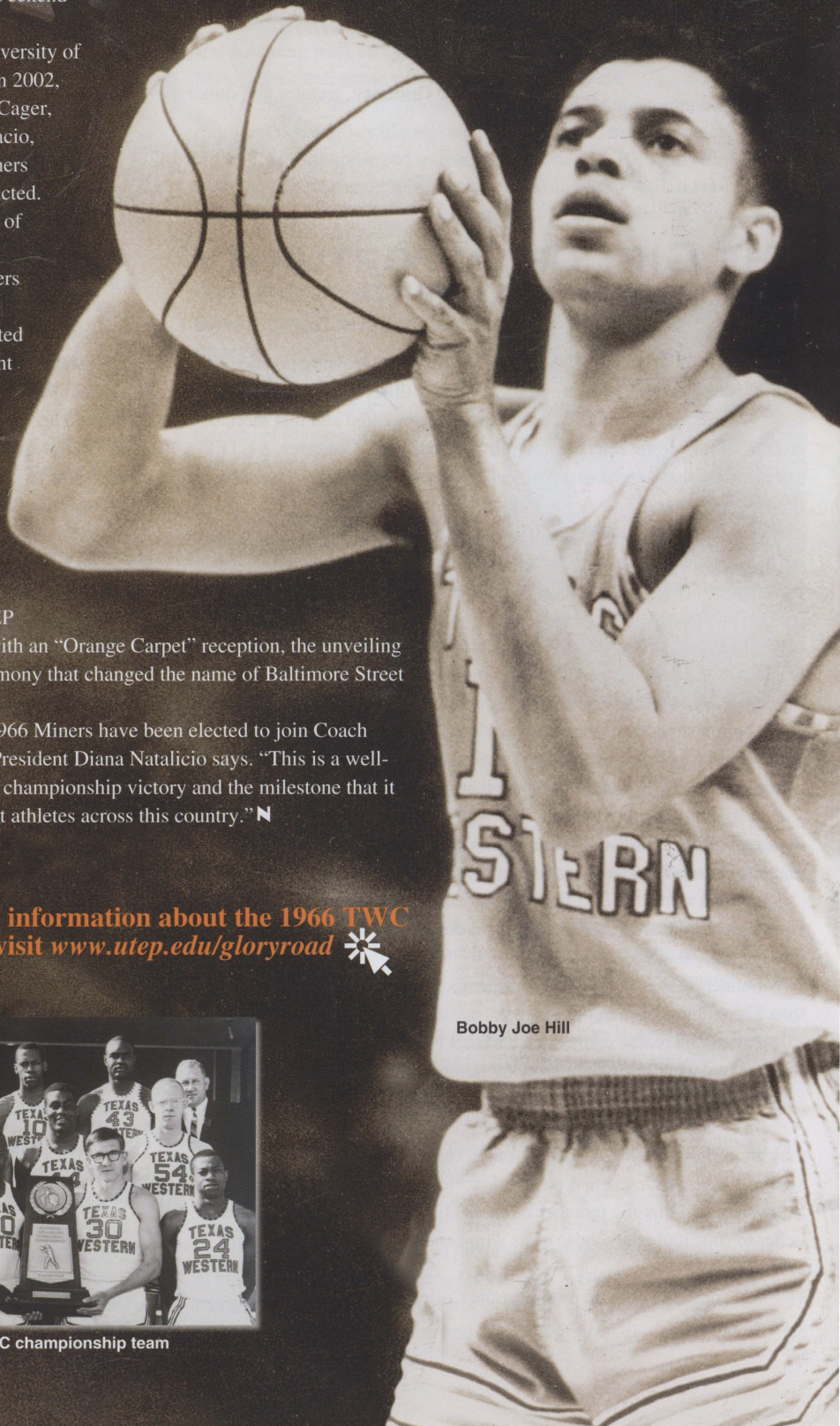
Head Coach Don Haskins was enshrined in the Hall of Fame in 1997.

On March 19, 1966, Haskins started five black players – a first in NCAA basketball championship history – against an all-white Kentucky team. The Miners defeated the Wildcats 72-65 in a game that has come to represent a breakthrough for blacks in college sports.

“That was a very special team. I am not only proud of their accomplishments on the court, but I am proud of what they have accomplished in life. They all turned out to be solid citizens,” Haskins says.

The story of the team’s championship season was told in the Disney movie “Glory Road,” which hit No. 1 at the box office in January 2006. In conjunction with a special El Paso premiere of “Glory Road,” UTEP celebrated the 40th anniversary of the championship with an “Orange Carpet” reception, the unveiling of a Wheaties box featuring the 1966 team, and a ceremony that changed the name of Baltimore Street by the Don Haskins Center to Glory Road.

“All of us at UTEP are delighted to know that our 1966 Miners have been elected to join Coach Don Haskins in the Basketball Hall of Fame,” UTEP President Diana Natalicio says. “This is a well-deserved recognition of both their remarkable national championship victory and the milestone that it represented in opening doors of opportunity for student athletes across this country.” **N**

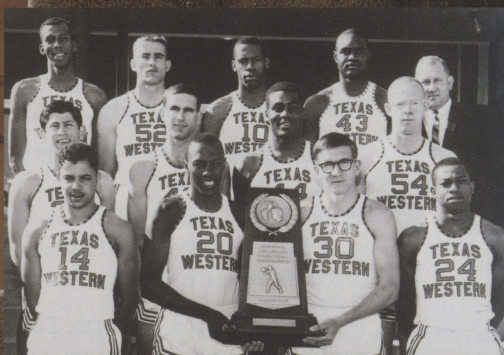


Bobby Joe Hill

For more information about the 1966 TWC champs, visit www.utep.edu/gloryroad ✨



TWC members Harry Flournoy and David Lattin at a press conference announcing the 2007 Hall of Fame inductees.



The 1966 TWC championship team

Stories by David Peregrino

Women enjoy record-setting season

It was a history-making year for the women's basketball team.

The Miners finished 22-8, setting a school record for wins. And as the season heated up, the team drew big crowds to the Don Haskins Center. A new UTEP women's basketball single-game attendance record was set on Feb. 10 when 7,212 fans watched the Miners dominate Memphis 80-58.

One standout on the talented team was freshman Jareica Hughes, who earned a roomful of awards at the end of the season. The point guard from Southfield, Mich., was named Conference USA Newcomer and Freshman of the Year. She also was named to the C-USA All-Defensive and All-Freshman teams, and the All-Conference third team. Hughes led the Miners in the regular season in scoring (12.7), assists (5.2) and steals (2.8). **N**



photo by Chad Puerling

Miners off to a winning start

The Miner softballers, who finished 8th in Conference USA last year, are looking for a turnaround season in 2007. They are off to a strong start, with 16 wins and eight losses at press time. The team earned the first tournament title in its history when it won the Miner Invitational in February. **N**



photo by J.R. Hernandez

Miners shine indoors

The indoor track and field season produced three All-Americans and strong showings by the men's and women's teams in Conference USA.



photo courtesy of UTEP Athletics

Miner men end season below .500

A young team led by first-year coach Tony Barbee earned a well-deserved reputation for tough, gutsy play, but their lack of experience and size were evident in an up-and-down season that sputtered to end with a 14-17 record.

On the upside, the Miners are losing only one senior, guard Kevin Henderson, so Barbee

expects to return an experienced team and some talented new recruits for 2007-2008.

Sophomore guard Stefon Jackson was named to the All-Conference USA second team. Jackson set UTEP sophomore records for points (561) and 20-point games (16) in the regular season. **N**



photo by J.R. Hernandez

Senior Mickael Hanany picked up his sixth All-American honor by tying for eighth in the high jump at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in March. Senior Fatimoh Muhammed earned the second All-American honor of her career by placing eighth in the 800-meter run. Junior Nelly Tchayem earned her first All-American honor with a fifth place in the women's triple jump.

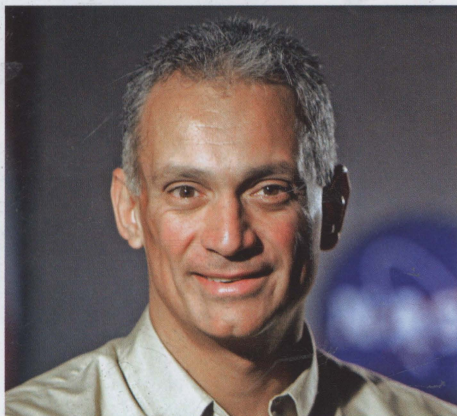
The men's and women's teams each took second in the C-USA Indoor Championships in February. **N**

For more news and information about UTEP athletics, visit



www.utepathletics.com





The event was held at the El Paso Independent School District's Gene Roddenberry Planetarium, where guests were treated to a 15-minute star show. Jose Hurtado, an assistant geology professor at UTEP, talked about the shuttle launch and mission.

The highlight of the night for many guests was a pretaped message from Olivas played



Olivas is assigned to shuttle mission STS-117, scheduled for launch later this year. The launch

To learn more about Olivas and the mission,
visit www.utep.edu/dannyolivas



Calling the Class of '57

Each fall during Homecoming, alumni from across the globe come home to share memories and rekindle friendships. To learn more about coming home with your fellow Golden Grads, call **915-747-5592** or e-mail **jjohnston@utep.edu**

Tell us YOUR good news

Send us an e-mail at alumni@utep.edu so we can catch up on all the wonderful events in your life.

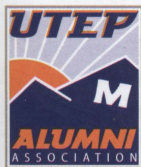
UTEP on the Move

Look for us as we travel cross country, meeting with alumni and sharing all of the university's good news.

UTEP was on the move in Los Angeles, where we met with 30 alumni in December, and in Washington, D.C., in January, when we met with more than 70 alumni and friends.

We're on the move to a town near you! Learn more about UTEP on the Move by visiting www.utep.edu/alumni

Alumni Association wants you!



You've joined the UTEP Alumni Association, and joined your friends at Alumni Association parties and events. Want to be more involved?

The UTEP Alumni Association is looking for members just like you to serve on the association's board of directors. The board meets regularly to plan events, recognize achievements, and serve the university.

Nominate fellow alumni, or send your name and a brief bio and/or résumé to alumni@utep.edu or UTEP Alumni Association, Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center, 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968-0724.



Miner Heritage

From freshman beanies to legislative documents, the history of the University of Texas at El Paso is preserved at the Heritage House, at the corner of Kerbey and Randolph, north of the Union Building. This campus treasure is open from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Donations of Miner memorabilia are always welcome, and group visits may be arranged by calling 915-747-5700.

MINERS ON THE MOVE



El Paso native **Jessica Powers** graduated from UTEP in 1999 with a master's in creative writing. She has since earned a second master's degree, secured a publisher for her first novel, and begun a

doctoral program in African history at Stanford University.

Tell us about your first novel, scheduled for release in July.

"The Confessional" is about a group of guys in El Paso who attend an all-boys Catholic high school. It starts with an apparently racially motivated fight between two of the young men, and one of them ends up murdered. The book is

an exploration of the racial tensions that exist in El Paso between whites, Mexican-Americans and Mexicans.

The book deals with some very timely topics.

It's asking questions that I think are vital to the border region, but also to the U.S. in light of 9/11 and the Iraq War — Who is "us"? Who is "them"? How does one begin to take "sides"? How, personally, should we handle attacks against us? "The Confessional" is (a) love letter for the border region. But also, more importantly, it represents my hope that young people can achieve true healing from wounds caused by prejudice and violence, and begin to make different choices than the kind we've made in the past.

In your travels and studies, you've learned a lot about other border regions. How do they compare to the Paso del Norte region?

One similarity that I've noticed is that the citizens of most border regions create communities that span the border. As in El Paso, you end up with three things — a society you can call "Mexico," a society you can call "the U.S.," and something else, something altogether different. Borderlands create almost a different nationality, and certainly a different culture and society, with different values and different loyalties than the two nations involved.

What do you miss most about El Paso?

I miss my friends and family most. It's home. It will always be home. But I also miss the accepting spirit of people in El Paso. My friends and I always used to joke about the "lithium" in the water that made people kind and patient, not in a hurry, willing to give you the time of day. That is really unique. ■

'50s

Manuel "Manny" Pacillas Jr. (B.A. '56) and his wife, Elvia, were honored by El Paso's St. Francis Xavier Church as "builders" in the community. Pacillas taught for 37 years in El Paso public schools, and he and his wife are longtime church volunteers and former confirmation class teachers.

'60s

Betty Brunner Black (B.S.Ed. '69) retired from teaching in 2006. She taught at Zach White Elementary School in El Paso.

Johnny M. Black (B.A. '65, M.Ed. '76) is a family intervention specialist for the Gadsden Independent School District in Anthony, N.M. Black lives in El Paso.

Cheryl Azar McCown (B.A. '65), president of the Lanward Foundation, received the Founder's Spirit Award from the Conference of Southwest Foundations. The award, the highest honor the CSF grants, recognized McCown's outstanding philanthropic service in El Paso, regionally and nationally.

Willie J. Worsley received an Unsung Heroes Lifetime Award from the Spring Valley, N.Y., chapter of the NAACP. Worsley, who was a member of the 1966 Texas Western College NCAA Championship basketball team, lives in Pomona, N.Y.

'70s

John Darling (B.A. '70), director of instruction at Maderas Golf Club in Poway, Calif., is the 2006 Teacher of the Year for the Southern California Professional Golfers' Association of America San Diego Chapter.

David J. "Dave" LaBrec (B.A. '71), chair of law firm Strasburger & Price LLP's Governmental and Administrative Law Team, is recognized in the 2007 edition of "The Best Lawyers in America." LaBrec lives in Dallas.

Harriet May (B.S. '71), chief executive officer of El Paso credit union GECU and UTEP's 2000 College of Science Gold Nugget Award recipient, is a member of the Thrift Institutions Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Board.

Bill C. Taylor (B.S. '71) is Evergreen Investment Services Inc.'s president of managed assets. Taylor lives in Hopkinton, Mass.

Robert V. "Bob" Wingo (B.B.A. '73), president and CEO of Sanders\Wingo Advertising, joined the board of Valcent Products Inc., a Vancouver, Canada-based marketing company. Wingo, who received the Gold Nugget Award from UTEP's College of Business Administration in 2002, resides in El Paso.

Sharon Fairchild Duke (B.B.A. '75), of Huntsville, Texas, is treasurer of Walker County.

Thanh P. "Tommy" Hodinh (B.S.M.E. '76) is chairman and chief operating officer of Austin, Texas-based MagRabbit, a supply-chain-management service provider. The Asian American Business Roundtable named MagRabbit the 2006 Asian Owned Business of the Year.

'80s

Todd I. Stephenson (M.B.A. '80), of Phoenix, is the author of "Eternity Commitment: The 21st Century Alternative to Marriage: The loving relationship where you never get divorced!"

Arnulfo A. Germes (B.S. '83), a resident of Walnut Creek, Calif., is a senior health physicist at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Cynthia "Cindy" Vizcaíno Villa (B.B.A. '83), UTEP's vice president for business affairs, is president of the Texas Association of State Senior College and University Business Officers.

Miguel "Mike" Juarez (B.A. '85) is an assistant professor and curator of the Hispanic/Latino Studies Collections at the Cushing Memorial Library and Archives at

Texas A&M University in College Station. Juarez lives in Bryan, Texas.

Yusuf Elias Farran (B.S.M.E. '86, M.S. '94) is an appointee of Gov. Rick Perry to the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. Farran is executive director of facilities and transportation for the Canutillo (Texas) Independent School District.

Monica Aissa Martinez (B.F.A. '86), an adjunct faculty member in the Phoenix College Department of Art, displayed her paintings in a solo exhibition titled "Another Mental Concoction" at the eye lounge in Phoenix.

Dr. Russell R. Broaddus (B.S. '87), an associate professor of pathology at the UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, received the 2006 John P. McGovern Outstanding Teacher Award from the UT Health Science Center at Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Jose Lozano Ramirez (B.S. '88, M.S. '90, Ph.D. '98), an assistant professor of physics

at Bradley University, Peoria, Ill., is the 2006 recipient of the Caterpillar Inc. Faculty Award for Scholarship.

Daniel W. Olivas (B.A. '88) is an attorney with the Nashville, Tenn., law firm of Lewis, King, Krieg and Waldrop P.C.

Carmen Bianchi (B.B.A. '89, M.A. '00) is president-elect of the Family Firm Institute, an international professional organization of family-business and family-wealth advisers. Bianchi, a family-business consultant and director of San Diego State University's Entrepreneurial Management Center, resides in Del Mar, Calif.

Aileen Law (B.S.M.E. '89, M.S.C.E. '92), of Denver, opened A Law Firm P.C. in Westminster, Colo. The firm focuses on patent prosecution, trademark prosecution, copyright registration, licensing, enforcement and litigation.

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'90s

Patrick L. Cannon (B.A. '93) is director of activities for the Fiesta Bowl at the University of Phoenix in Arizona. Cannon lives in Gilbert, Ariz.

Angelica C. Carrillo (B.B.A. '95) is vice president at State National Bank, Sunland Park branch, in El Paso.

Dana Kristin Boyd (B.I.S. '99, M.Ed. '05), a second-grade teacher at Dolphin Terrace Elementary School in El Paso, is the Texas Education Agency's 2007 Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year. Boyd is the first African-American teacher ever to win the award.

'00s

Leanne Hedrick (M.A. '02), an El Paso freelance writer, co-edited "José Cisneros, Immigrant Artist," an oral history published by UTEP's Texas Western Press.

Betina Silvia González (M.F.A. '06) won the 2006 Premio Clarín de Novela (Clarín Novel Prize) for her book "Arte Menor," which was written as a thesis project at UTEP. The prize recognizes the book as the best unpublished novel written in Spanish. González is pursuing a doctorate in Hispanic languages and literature at the University of Pittsburgh.

In Memoriam

Judson Howard "Jud" Stahl (B.S.Ed. '66) Las Vegas; June 17, 2006.

Hance William McKinney, Fredericksburg, Texas; Sept. 12, 2006.

Carlos Lightbourn Jr. (B.A. '65) El Paso; Sept. 16, 2006.

Lt. Cmdr. Hershel F. Boyd (B.A. '42) Houston; Sept. 25, 2006.

Col. Robert M. "Bob" Waterman (B.B.A. '76) El Paso;

Sept. 26, 2006.

Terri Smith Ortiz (M.S. '79) Peralta, N.M.; Sept. 27, 2006.

Doreen Dolce (B.B.A. '87) Scottsdale, Ariz.; Sept. 29, 2006.

John Alexander "Jack" Ferguson Sr. (B.S.M.I. '36, M.S. '69) El Paso; Oct. 3, 2006.

Doris S. Gilbert (B.A. '34) Tarrytown, N.Y.; Oct. 3, 2006.

Janet Omundson, El Paso; Oct. 31, 2006.

Mero Vincent Giasolli (M.B.A. '78) Honolulu; Nov. 9, 2006.

Charles Irving Coy III (B.S.E.E. '67) Chaparral, N.M.; Nov. 11, 2006.

Jack R. Pytcher (B.A. '47, M.S. '74) El Paso; Nov. 12, 2006.

Peggy Thurston Larson (B.A. '43) Highlands Ranch, Colo.; Nov. 20, 2006.

Roberta Gail "Robbie" Rosen (B.A. '85) El Paso; Nov. 23, 2006.

Charles Laurent Cagle (B.B.A. '61) Waco, Texas; Nov. 25, 2006.

Col. Joseph Russo (M.B.A. '79) El Paso; Nov. 30, 2006.

Jose Melendez (B.S.M.I. '40) El Paso; Dec. 1, 2006.

Honie L. Laster (M.A. '56) Fort Smith, Ariz.; Dec. 10, 2006.

Doris W. Bowers-Irons (B.S.Ed. '68) St. George, Utah; Dec. 11, 2006.

Paul Ray Branch (B.A. '55) Mountain Home, Ark.; Dec. 14, 2006.

Ivan Monroy (B.S.E.E. '75) El Paso; Dec. 19, 2006.

Corina "Corie" Bustamante (B.S.Ed. '85) El Paso; Dec. 27, 2006.

Enrique "Kiki" Lazo Gallegos (B.S.Ed. '72) Kingsville, Texas; Dec. 28, 2006.

— *Compiled by David Thomas*



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TUG O'WAR



Greek Week 2007 at UTEP pitted several fraternity and sorority members in an array of competitions. Greek organizations provide students with more than fun and games. They provide an environment for personal growth and community service: Each member contributes at least 100 hours of community service each year.

Photo by J.R. Hernandez

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