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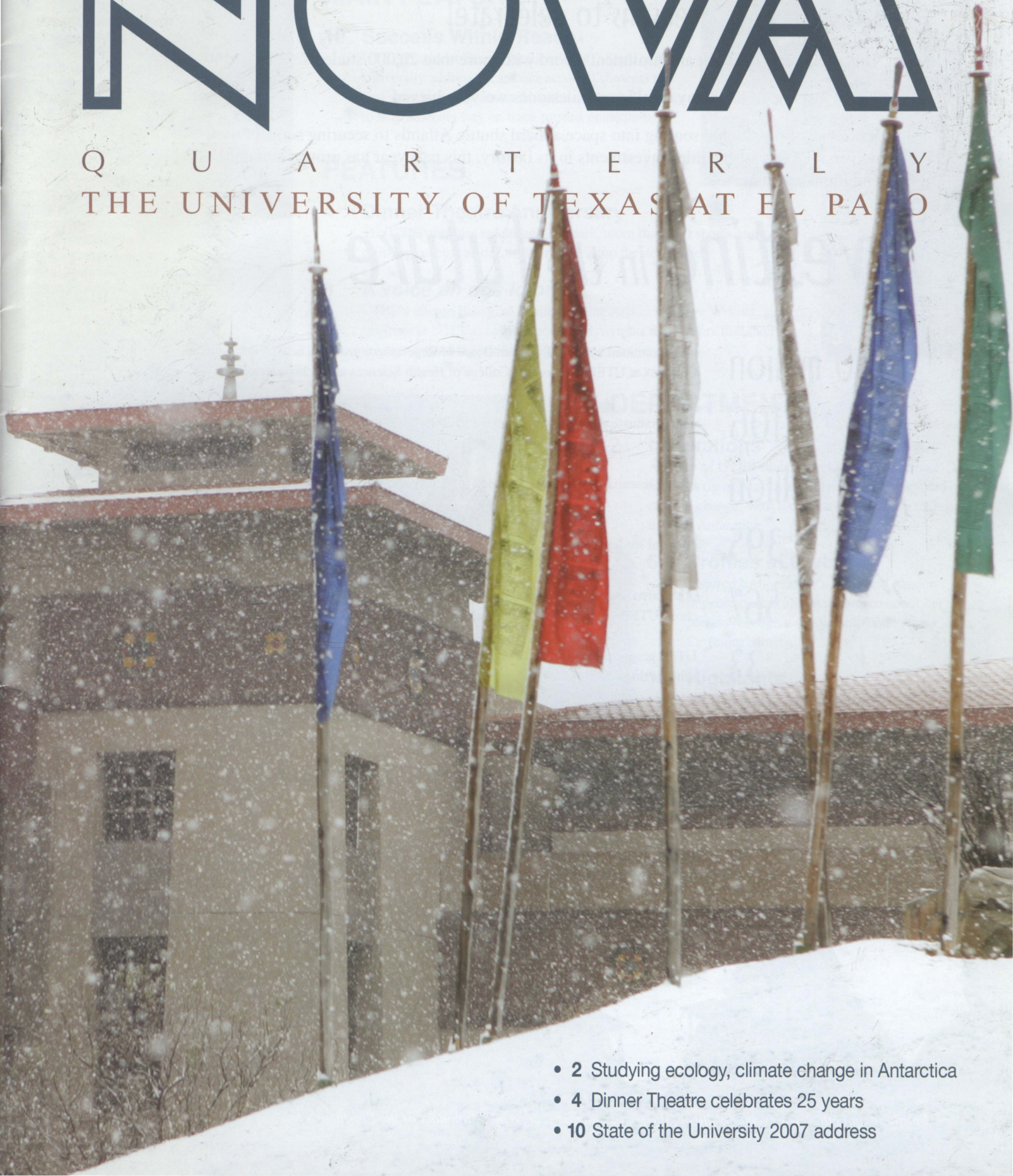
Winter 2007

NOVA

QUARTERLY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



- **2** Studying ecology, climate change in Antarctica
- **4** Dinner Theatre celebrates 25 years
- **10** State of the University 2007 address

20,154 reasons to celebrate!

This semester, UTEP set an enrollment record with more than 20,000 students.

That's just one of the many significant milestones we've achieved.

From one of our alumni soaring into space aboard shuttle Atlantis to securing some of the university's largest facilities investments in its history, this past year has proven that our loftiest ambitions are attainable.

Investing in the Future

$50 million was committed by the UT System Board of Regents to construct a new Health Sciences Complex at UTEP to house the College of Health Sciences and School of Nursing

2,106 undergraduate degrees were awarded in 2006-07

$47 million in new research grants were awarded to faculty and staff in 2006-07

395 doctoral students enrolled at UTEP in fall 2007

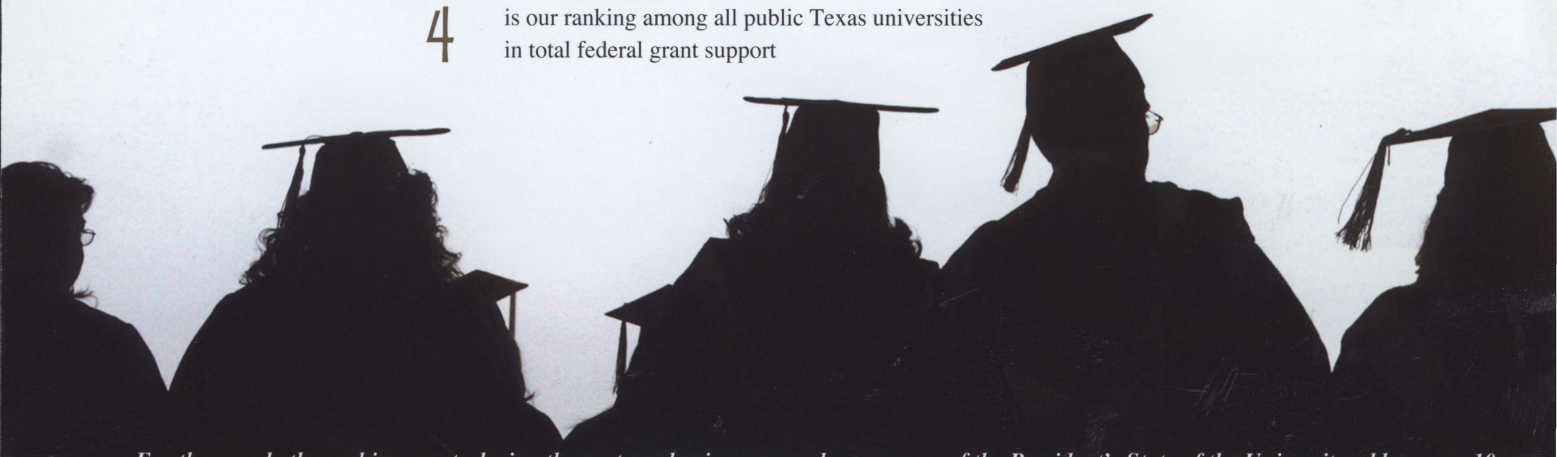
56% of the area's top 10 percent high school grads who enrolled in Texas public universities chose UTEP

33 UTEP grads were admitted to highly competitive medical, dental and veterinary schools this year

$120 million was committed by the Texas Legislature and the UT System for UTEP to expand and upgrade science and engineering facilities

170 students have earned bachelor's in multidisciplinary studies since its establishment in 2006

4 is our ranking among all public Texas universities in total federal grant support



For these and other achievements during the past academic year, read a summary of the President's State of the University address, pg. 10

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Photography Coordinator
Laura Trejo

Photographers
J.R. Hernandez
Chad Puerling

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Rose Cooper

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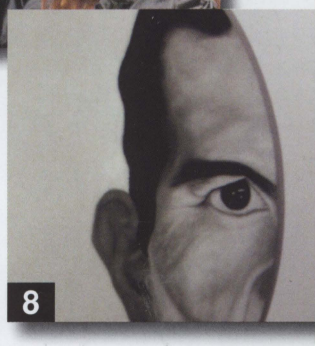

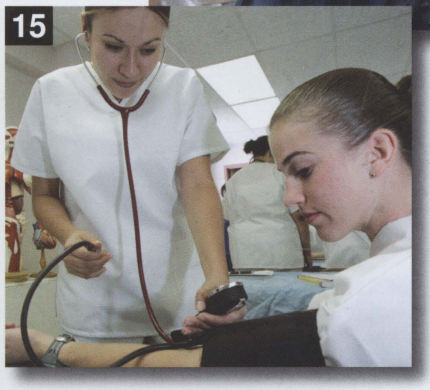

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Polar Explorers

Researchers travel to the ends of Earth

Craig Tweedie

By David Peregrino
Photos courtesy of UTEP Systems Ecology Laboratory

A school smack dab in the middle of the Chihuahuan Desert may be last place you'd expect to find people who call glaciers, snowdrifts and frozen tundra home for a good part of the year.

But at UTEP's Systems Ecology Laboratory, here they are: a rugged crew of polar researchers led by Craig Tweedie, an assistant professor of biology and environmental science who is an expert on Arctic and Antarctic ecology.

Santonu Goswami, a Ph.D. student in environmental sciences and engineering, studied changes in the Arctic tundra in Alaska this summer.

This winter, Tweedie and three fellow UTEP professors will embark on one of their most ambitious trips to date, leading a group of 24 university students and five high school teachers on a three-week journey by ship from Argentina's Tierra del Fuego to the Antarctic Peninsula.

"We'll be studying things such as plant distributions and distributions and food habits of different penguin species," says Tweedie, touching on a few of the projects the students will dive into as they go ashore three or four times a day. A group of student researchers will also photograph glaciers, to compare with historical photos for evidence of retreat or expansion.

The trip, scheduled for Dec. 13 through Jan. 6, is part of a UTEP project called International Polar Year—Research and Educational Opportunities in Antarctica for Minorities, better known as IPY-ROAM. The National Science Foundation granted $450,000 to fund the project, with Tweedie as principal investigator.

Joining him on the trip are co-investigators and UTEP faculty Aaron Velasco, a geophysicist; William Robertson, a science educator; and Vanessa Lougheed, a biologist and expert on water ecosystems.

Many of the students participating in IPY-ROAM are enrolled at UTEP. Some of them gained valuable experience this summer working with Tweedie at the remote National Arctic Research Laboratory near Barrow, Alaska. As part of another NSF-funded project, the group studied the effect plant growth and changing ground conditions have in the production of carbon dioxide, considered a greenhouse gas because of its role in absorbing infrared energy from the sun.

"It was an amazing experience," says senior environmental science major Sandra Villarreal of her first-ever summer in Barrow, nicknamed the "Top of the World." "The most unusual thing was the 24 hours of daylight. For some people, it took a while to get used to."

But falling asleep at "night" was not much of a problem, because each day the researchers worked themselves to the bone, lugging heavy backpacks and cases of instruments across miles of frozen ground.

The research team will study Antarctic penguin populations.

"It's very tough work. It's not for everyone," says David Lin, a biology Ph.D. student who spent the summer in Barrow. "It's one thing to, say, live in a cold city. But it's different being out in the cold four, five or even up to nine hours a day."

The research team built friendships with many of the local residents, Native Americans known as Inupiat. Tweedie's group visited with local school children and taught them about the research they were doing in Barrow. The Inupiat welcomed the young desert dwellers from faraway El Paso, Texas. The UTEP Miners experienced a traditional whaling-season celebration, complete with a blanket toss and countless dishes prepared with whale meat.

"They gave us this huge bag of whale meat," Villarreal says. "It's very greasy and has a fishy taste. Some people got to eat seal intestine. And the caribou meat was very good."

Getting to know the residents of Barrow and learning about their way of life "was the highlight of the trip," says Perry Houser, a senior geology major.

Also remarkable was the variety of wildlife. Houser says he spotted a brown bear from the air during a flight to a remote site. Gray whales were seen swimming off shore, and caribou, arctic foxes, lemmings and snowy owls went about their business as the researchers worked out in the field.

The UTEP group was also witness to a stunning summer melt-off of Arctic ice that made headlines around the world. Warm temperatures resulted in the opening of the Northwest Passage over Canada, a sea route that historically has been locked by ice.

"The amount of retreat in Arctic ice is absolutely unbelievable," Tweedie says. An open Northwest Passage "has a huge capacity to change economic and social structures throughout the region."

The researchers will return to Alaska next summer to gather more data, but for now the System Ecology lab's focus has turned to the opposite side of the globe.

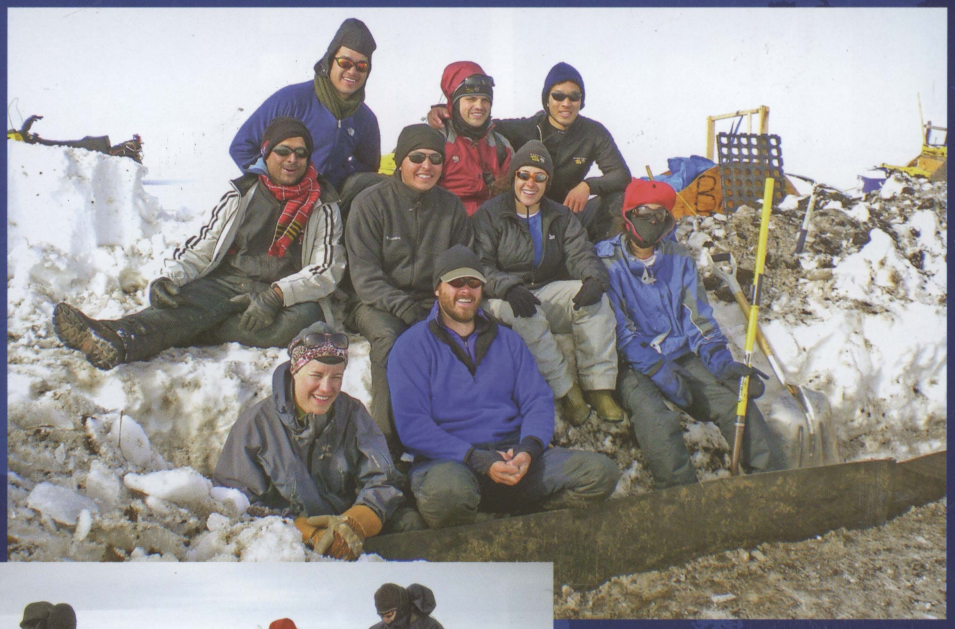
Santonu Goswami, a Ph.D. student in environmental science and engineering who spent the summer in the Arctic examining the effects of soil moisture and warmth on plants' carbon dioxide production, will conduct similar studies during the trip to Antarctica.

If all goes as planned, Goswami thinks he may become the first student from India to have conducted research at both poles.

"Or at least the first from Northeast India," Goswami says with a smile. He says family and friends from his hometown of Tezpur are excited and proud that his research has taken him from the extremes of the American Southwest to northernmost tip of Alaska.

Excitement is the best word to describe the energy surrounding the polar researchers as they prepare for what will certainly be a life-changing experience.

"I can't wait," says Villarreal. "I'm counting down every night of sleep until we take off."



The researchers took a break and posed for a group photo while in Alaska this summer. Front row, from left: University of Alaska-Fairbanks student Anna Liljedahl, UTEP professor Craig Tweedie. Middle row: UTEP students Santonu Goswami, Adrian Aguirre, Amorita Armendariz and Sandra Villarreal. Top row: UTEP students Alex Benhumea, Perry Houser and David Lin.

One of this summer's studies in Alaska required the construction of trenches and dams to divert the melt-off of snow and ice.

The IPY-ROAM group will enjoy spectacular views of the Antarctic Peninsula. This photo was taken during a trip by Tweedie in 2003.

The International Polar Year

The International Polar Year program, organized by the International Council for Science and the World Meteorological Organization, spans from March 2007 to March 2009 and involves over 200 projects with thousands of scientists from over 60 nations participating in physical, biological and social research.

This is the fourth polar year program, following those in 1882-83, 1932-33, and 1957-58.

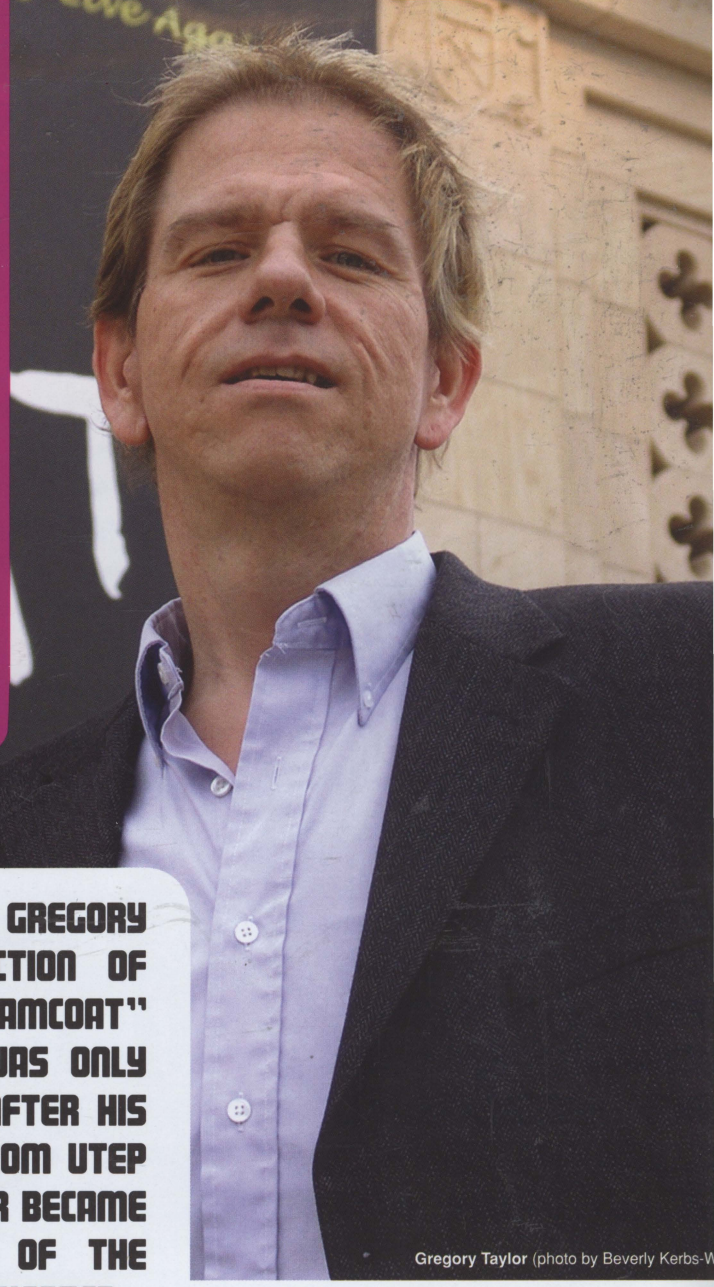
For more information, visit
www.ipy.org.

To learn more about UTEP's IPY-ROAM program, visit:
www.ipyroam.org

UTEP DINNER THEATRE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

PERFORMANCE DREAMS TAKE CENTER STAGE

BY LAURA CRUZ ACOSTA



Gregory Taylor (photo by Beverly Kerbs-W

IT WAS AN AMAZING DREAM COME TRUE FOR GREGORY TAYLOR. BUT DIRECTING THE 1983 PRODUCTION OF "JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT" – THE FIRST MUSICAL IN UTEP HISTORY – WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING FOR THE THEATER STUDENT. AFTER HIS GRADUATION FROM UTEP IN 1986, TAYLOR BECAME THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNION DINNER THEATER.

Gregory Taylor and Tim Rice
(photo courtesy of Dinner Theatre)

In 1998, the program became known as the UTEP Dinner Theatre and Taylor became an associate professor of musical theater. Next spring, the program will celebrate its 25th anniversary by honoring a longtime friend of the theater: Tim Rice, the famed lyricist of "Dreamcoat," "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Evita," among others. The concert will feature musical numbers from Rice's biggest shows including "Blondel," "Chess," "Aida" and "The Lion King."

"Tim Rice has been involved since the beginning," says Taylor, who began a friendship with Rice more than 25 years ago after writing him a letter of appreciation for creating "Jesus Christ Superstar." "He helps us a lot by getting the rights to his shows before anyone else can. We've done all of his shows several times."

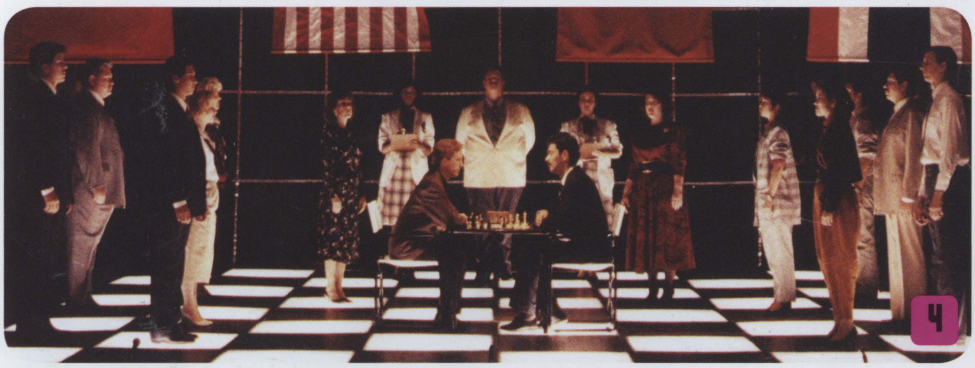
The UTEP Dinner Theatre production of Rice's "Chess" was a national winner at the American College Theatre Festival in 1989, and has been performed at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

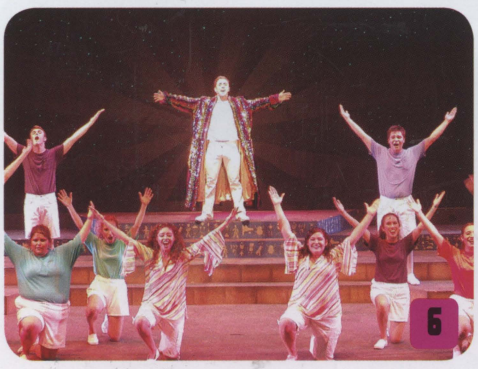
Now under the Department of Theatre, Dance and Film, the UTEP Dinner Theatre has staged 108 shows, producing four musicals a year in addition to the Holiday Spectacular premiering this December.

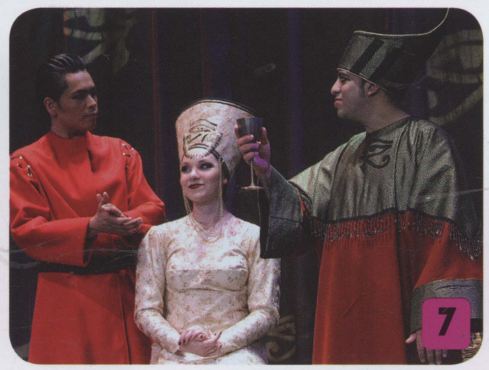
Without Taylor's passion – and the help of his friends – musicals may not have become such a big part of the Dinner Theatre's success.

As a student, Taylor asked the theater department if he could put on a musical.

"They declined my request," Taylor recalls. But with the help of his friend Jimmy Legarreta, Taylor presented his idea to the Special Programs and Activities Committee of the Student Programs Office. They were granted $1,000 to stage a production of "Dreamcoat" in the old Union Ballroom.







1. **Beauty and the Beast** (photo by Beverly Kerbs-Ward) 2. **Evita** (photo by Laura Trejo) 3. **Ms. Saigon** (photo by Beverly Kerbs-Ward 4. **Chess** (photo courtesy of Dinner Theatre) 5. **Jesus Christ Superstar** (file photo) 6. **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** (photo by Beverly Kerbs-Ward) 7. **Aida** (photo by Chad Puerling)

"The first show was a big hit and the second show was a hit as well," Taylor says enthusiastically. The production of "Dreamcoat" now runs about $20,000- and sells out every time it is staged.

Since then, Taylor and the Dinner Theatre have gained a devoted fan base, including UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

"My mother shared her love of musical theater with me as a child, so I was immediately attracted to the idea that the UTEP Dinner Theatre would offer musical theater production to UTEP and El Paso audiences," Natalicio says. "I know that whenever I attend, I will see a polished, professional production which my guests and I will enjoy, and in which I can take pride."

The musical director since 1987, Patricia Ann Provencio says people would be surprised to learn just how much time and dedication it takes to stage the high-quality productions.

"Many times when I go see a show and I hear some complicated passage the first thing that goes through my mind is how much rehearsal time was needed to learn and perfect that," she says.

Provencio says everyone — the actors, musicians and technical staff — strives for the very best.

And the very best show is what audiences can expect from the anniversary concert celebration in 2008 — the biggest and most successful production for the UTEP Dinner Theatre.

"No one imagined this would happen. No one came into this thinking, 'Let's start a dinner theater'," Taylor says. "But I'm very proud of the UTEP Dinner Theatre, of the success we've had here." ℵ

UTEP DINNER THEATRE'S
25TH ANNIVERSARY
CONCERT
CELEBRATING
SIR TIM RICE
SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008
7:30 P.M.
DON HASKINS CENTER
(no meal served)
Tickets go on sale Monday, February 4, 2008
The concert will feature
Tim Rice and guest stars from the Broadway stage & the West End of London.

"I hope that (this gift) will encourage other alumni to do the same and create more scholarships."

– Alumna and donor Katherine McIntyre

SUPPORT AND INSPIRATION

GIFT HONORS PARENTS THROUGH ENDOWMENT

by Laura Cruz Acosta

UTEP alumna Katherine McIntyre earned a degree in Spanish. Her mother, a talented performer, worked as a news reporter.

But when it came time to create a scholarship endowment, McIntyre was most inspired by her father's work and passion: Geology.

A 1964 graduate of Texas Western College (now UTEP), McIntyre recently established the Roy S. and Helen Magruder Endowed Scholarship for the Department of Geological Sciences. The annual scholarship will cover tuition, fees and books.

"He was a true oil man, wild catter, spending many hours on dusty trails throughout the desert southwest, Oklahoma, even east into Alabama," McIntyre says about her father. "His days were spent building and climbing oil rigs and drilling oil wells."

Born in Kentucky, Roy S. Magruder started the A&M Petroleum Company and owned one of the first gas stations in El Paso and the first across the border in Juárez, McIntyre says. Her mother, Helen Magruder, came to El Paso with her family and worked as a reporter for the El Paso Times.

"She was also a talented actress and singer, performing in many plays in El Paso, Ruidoso and Cloudcroft," McIntyre recalls. "She was a very skilled horsewoman, riding with the cavalry at Fort Bliss, winning many awards."

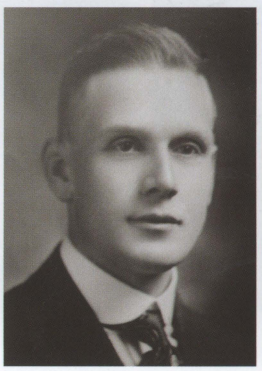
McIntyre and her husband, retired lawyer James B. McIntyre, have also contributed to the UTEP Library and the Department of Language and Linguistics.

An interior designer, McIntyre says her parents would be pleased by the tribute. More so, she hopes the scholarship will give talented and dedicated students the opportunity to attend UTEP without having to work.

"Hopefully this will grow so it will support more than one student a year," says McIntyre. "I also hope that it will encourage other alumni to do the same and create more scholarships."

Geology professor and department chair Diane Doser says nearly all of UTEP's students are in need of some sort of financial support to pursue their degree.

Katherine McIntyre



Roy S. and Helen Magruder

"I think the students appreciate when they receive a scholarship through gifts from alumni," Doser says. "They learn how successful some of our alumni have been, how much the alumni valued the education they obtained at UTEP and how much these alumni valued giving others the chance to complete their education at UTEP."

ESTABLISHING AN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

An endowment is a permanent, named fund at UTEP in which the principal is invested and only a percentage of the earned income is distributed each year. An endowed scholarship can be established for a minimum of $25,000.

Funds distributed from endowed scholarships are awarded to deserving students to assist with tuition, fees and other costs related to their academic studies.

For more information, call University Development at 915-747-8533 or toll free 1-888-229-UTEP.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

STUDENT AND FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Stories by Kimberly Miller

KRISSETT ALEXIS LOYA

Krissett Alexis Loya disagrees with those who think the only way to help the needy is by traveling to far-flung places.

"What about your backyard? Your community?" asks Loya, the daughter of two UTEP alumni.

A junior chemistry major with aspirations of practicing medicine in El Paso, Loya has participated in research on the East Coast and in Chile. She has seen people in need in both places. But the 19-year-old has her heart set on helping the needy in El Paso.

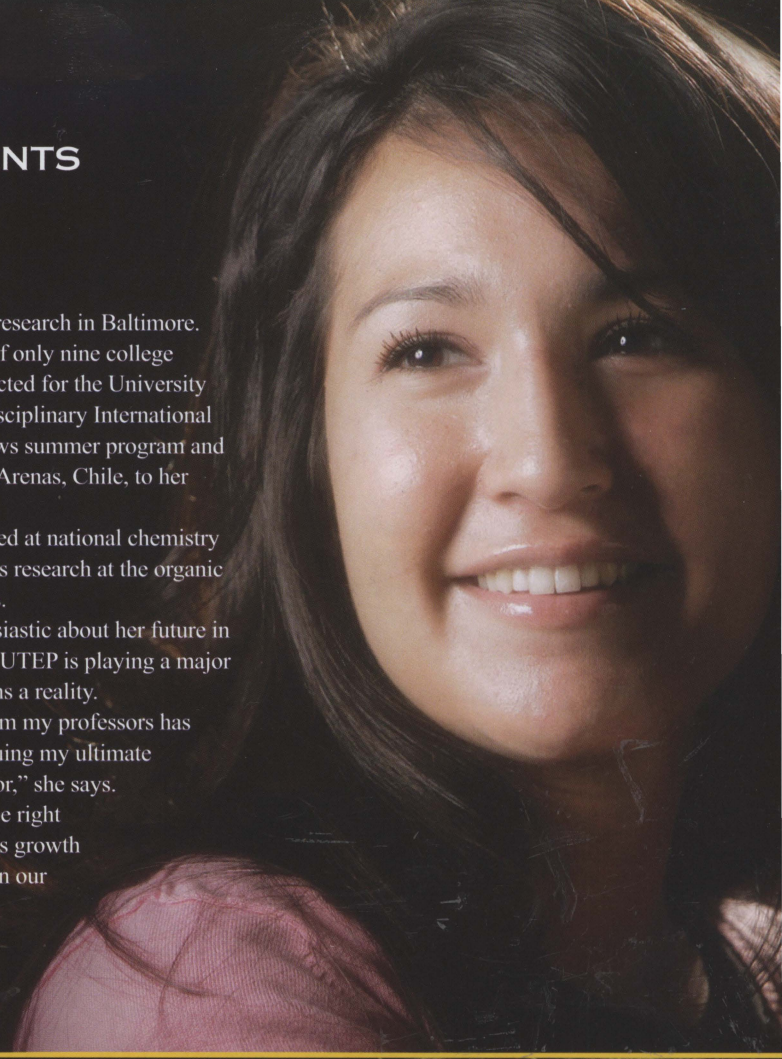
With years of school and training ahead, Loya has found other ways to give back to her hometown now. She serves at an all-volunteer medical clinic in west El Paso where people from all over the region access the clinic's many free services.

Loya graduated from Americas High School in 2005. After her freshman year at UTEP, she was named a Howard Hughes Fellow at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and spent the summer conducting research in Baltimore. In 2007, Loya was one of only nine college students nationwide selected for the University of Washington's Multidisciplinary International Research Training Fellows summer program and added research in Punta Arenas, Chile, to her resume.

She has also presented at national chemistry conferences and conducts research at the organic chemistry lab on campus.

Loya remains enthusiastic about her future in her hometown, and says UTEP is playing a major role in making her dreams a reality.

"The mentorship from my professors has helped guide me in pursuing my ultimate goal of becoming a doctor," she says. "El Paso is the place to be right now. There is tremendous growth within our city and within our university."



ANN GATES

After earning her bachelor's in mathematics from UTEP in 1970, Ann Gates got married, worked as a software developer and started a family. But she knew she wanted more.

"I wanted to go to graduate school when I graduated college, but there was no one pushing me," says the 58-year-old Gates.

When her job began requiring more technical skills, Gates realized she needed formal training. She took undergraduate computer science courses at UTEP and was intrigued by the low numbers of women and Hispanics with advanced degrees.

"I started thinking about the reasons that prevented these groups from continuing their graduate studies," she says, "and I realized that I was one of those people who wanted to go to graduate school but hadn't."

Now a professor and the department chair for computer science, Gates credits UTEP professors Dan Cooke and Andrew Bernat with helping her take the final steps.

"Dr. Bernat nominated me for a GE Faculty for the Future Fellowship," she says. "He made me promise I'd finish my Ph.D."

She did, receiving her doctorate in computer science from New Mexico State University in 1994.

Gates has since dedicated herself to teaching and research. She has been honored for outstanding teaching, producing innovative research and being one of the nation's 100 most influential Hispanics.

Along with fellow computer science professor Vladik Kreinovich, Gates recently received a grant from the University of Texas System STARS program, which helps universities retain high-quality faculty by awarding funding for equipment and laboratories. The funds are helping build cyberinfrastructure to advance research in geoscience.

Gates has also received grants from the National Science Foundation, Sandia National Laboratories, NASA and the Army Research Laboratory.

Gates says she uses her research and teaching to help her students achieve their goals.

"I take a lot from my own life experiences," she says. "It's about working with students, deliberating developing students so they can realize their potential."

Finding a voice/en dos idioma

Bilingual creative writing program thrives

by Laura Cruz Acosta

While working as a teacher in Buenos Aires, Betina González knew she wanted to do more than teach.

She wanted to write novels. But she wasn't sure how to find her writer's voice.

"In Argentina, they don't have programs to become a writer. They have programs where you can learn to be a critic," González says. She soon learned about a program at UTEP that suited her passion.

Believed to be the only one of its kind in the nation, the Bilingual Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program at UTEP is helping poets, playwrights and writers like González from across the United States and Latin America find their voice in more than one language.

The program has produced more than 70 graduates who have gone on to publish celebrated pieces. Several have won major awards, including the prestigious Premio Nacional de Cuento de Colombia, the University of California at Irvine's Chicano-Latino Literary Award, the Concurso Nacional de Novela Joven de Mexico (National Mexican Prize for Young Novelists), and many more.

"I thought it was amazing that UTEP had a program that allowed you to get a degree in writing in Spanish, English or both," says González, who graduated from UTEP in May 2006 and has won Argentina's highly coveted 2006 Premio Clarín de Novela for her novel, "Arte Menor."

Now living in Pittsburgh and working on her next book, "Juegos de Playa," González says the Bilingual MFA program was challenging because she had to learn to write in English.

"But it was also liberating for me," she says. "It became natural to play with the second language."

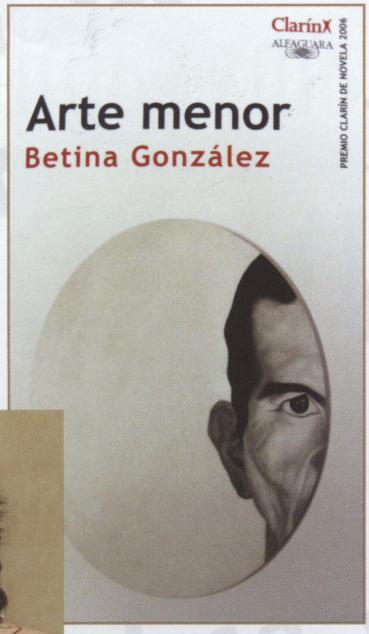
Benjamín Alire Sáenz, interim chair of UTEP's creative writing department, says the three-year program is striving to be a writing center for the Americas, showcasing diverse literature and cultures.

"El Paso is far away from what is considered to be the center of culture in Austin or D.C. You look at Juárez and they are looked at the same way by the Distrito Federal (Mexico City)," Sáenz says. "But I believe we're at the heart of the Americas. We can become a center of literary culture because our geographic location already says so."

Sáenz says students come from all over Latin America and the United States and thrive in the program's close mentoring practice.

> "I thought it was amazing that UTEP had a program that allowed you to get a degree in writing in Spanish, English or both."
>
> — Betina González

Photo by Chad P



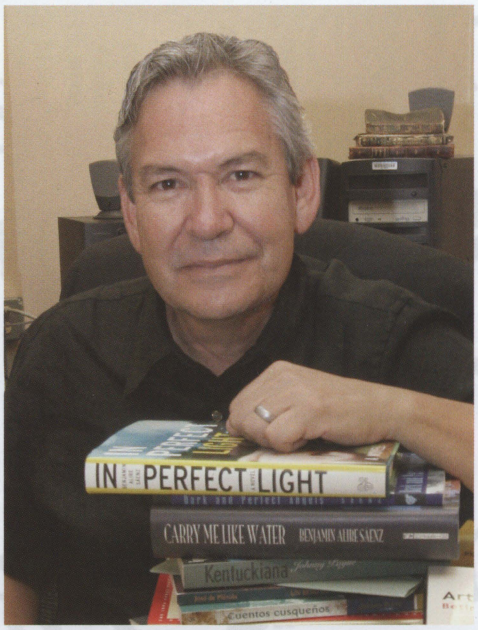


Photo by Laura Trejo

UTEP grad Betina González, left, is the 2006 winner of the coveted Premio Clarín de Novela for her book, "Arte menor." At right is interim chair of the Creative Writing department Benjamín Alire Sáenz, shown with recently published books by UTEP students and alumni.

El Paso Community College professor Mauricio Rodriguez, a 2003 graduate of UTEP's program, says the mentorship is one of the reasons for the program's success.

"The faculty had a lot to do with my choice to go into creative writing. The faculty is very well grounded." says Rodriguez, director of EPCC's Chicana and Chicano Studies. "The professors are widely published and nationally recognized."

Beyond the faculty, Rodriguez said the opportunity to speak in two languages was highly enticing.

"I spoke in more than one tongue and so it was natural to write in both," he says. "It fits me and my personality, my culture and ethnic background."

For Colombia native, Juan Hincapié, the program filled a desire. He came to UTEP with a bachelor's degree in business.

"I had become obsessed with reading and I wanted to write, so here I am," Hincapié says. "It is a common path. I came here looking for a lot of things and I've found so much, but mostly I've found discipline. It's been great. It has exceeded my expectations."

Hincapié will graduate in May 2008 and complete his thesis, which includes a collection of short stories titled "Gringadas," and a novel titled "23 Idiotas."

Sáenz says he hopes the program continues to grow and attracts the funding necessary to reach writers from Europe and around the globe.

"It's difficult to find those big, federal grants," he says. "Creative writing is not the sciences. There aren't millions of dollars to do this. So it's going to take some time. One day we're going to have students from all over the world studying and writing here."

The Write Stuff

Numerous UTEP students and alumni of the Bilingual MFA in Creative Writing program have been recently published, several of them honored with prestigious awards. Among them:

- **"Falsas Alarmas"** by Juan Álvarez (2005); winner of the Premio Nacional de Cuento Ciudad de Bogotá
- **"Mudas las Garzas"** by Selfa Chew (2007)
- **"Azogue en la Raíz"** by Selfa Chew (2005)
- **"Arte Menor"** by Betina González (2006); winner of the 2006 Premio Clarín de Novela
- **"Trabajos del Reino"** by Yuri Herrera (2004); winner of the 2003 Premio Binacional de Novela Frontera de Palabra/Border of the Words
- **"Some Clarifications y Otros Poemas"** by Javier O. Huerta (2007); winner of the University of California at Irvine's Chicano/Latino Literary Prize
- **"The Confessional"** by J.L. Powers (2007)
- **"El Perro, el Voyerista, la Ambulancia y la Vecina"** by Manuel José Rincón Domínguez (2007); winner of the Premio Nacional de Cuento Ciudad de Bogotá
- **"Santuarios Desierto Mar"** by Juan Armando Rojas (2004)
- **"Fábulas y Antifábulas"** by César Silva Santisteban (2004)
- **"Noche de Fundaciones"** by José Javier Villarreal (1996)
- **"Dama Infiel al Sueño"** by Minerva Margarita Villarreal (1991)
- **"Pérdida"** by Minerva Margarita Villarreal (1992); winner of the 1990 Premio Nacional de Poesía Alfonso Reyes
- **"Epigramísticos"** by Minerva Margarita Villarreal (1995)

Putting dreams, ambitions WITHIN REAC

Investment, validation key to successful future

Following is a summary of UTEP President Diana Natalicio's remarks during the 2007 convocation State of the University address.

When UTEP alumnus and NASA astronaut Danny Olivas lifted off toward the International Space Station in June, we realized that not even the sky is the limit for UTEP! Thanks to Danny, we know that our loftiest dreams and ambitions are attainable.

Just as the movie "Glory Road" brought visibility to UTEP athletics in 2006, Danny's performance put a spotlight on UTEP's success in providing opportunities to talented young people in this region, and validated the quality of the educational programs we offer.

That same UTEP quality was recognized in other, more quietly celebrated, ways during the past year. A major accomplishment was UTEP's re-accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Student Success Plan

A new requirement for SACS accreditation was a Quality Enhancement Plan to address an issue of particular importance to UTEP.

We elected to focus our plan on how to more effectively foster "Student Success in the Middle Years," the time between the end of the first college year and degree completion. This focus recognized the success of UTEP's Entering Student Program and the strong first-year foundation it provides. It also acknowledged that despite this good start, many UTEP students' progress toward degree completion continues to be disappointingly slow.

We developed the Student Success Plan.

The plan included two principal components: curriculum renewal and academic and career advising. We have focused considerable attention on the academic progress of a cohort of UTEP students to identify factors that appear to distinguish those students who graduated from those who did not.

Funded by the Lumina Foundation, this research has offered us interesting insights into the experiences of our students and helped guide interventions in areas such as tutoring and supplemental education, advising and career counseling, personal financial management training and developmental education.

Work in developmental education has been particularly energizing because it has involved partnerships with the El Paso Community College and all 12 independent school districts in this region. The goal of this College Readiness Initiative is to enable all high school graduates to enroll at EPCC or UTEP with sufficient preparation to move directly into college-level-credit courses without the need for remediation.

Another innovation, the Bachelor's in Multidisciplinary Studies degree, has proved its value to many. Since its establishment in June 2006, 170 students have graduated with BMS degrees, and 270 students were registered as BMS majors in spring 2007.

The second major initiative in UTEP's Student Success plan is a comprehensive program of competent, carefully structured advising that provides all students with individualized opportunities for thoughtful academic and career advice.

Staying on track

Up to this point, I have talked about "degree completion" rather than "graduation rates."

I make this distinction because the traditional graduation rate metric presents a severely distorted picture of the performance of most U.S. universities, especially those like UTEP that serve first-generation and low-income students in large urban settings.

The problem is with the metric itself, not with the students or the universities that serve them.

The calculation of graduation rates is deceivingly simple. The denominator consists of all the first-time, full-time, degree-seeking freshmen who enroll at a university in a fall semester. The numerator is the total number of that group who graduate four, five or six years later.

To be counted in the graduation rate calculation, a student must initially enroll as a full-time freshman and graduate from the same university.

We awarded more than 2,100 undergraduate degrees at UTEP last year, and an astonishing 70 percent of those graduates did not count in our official graduation rate. Why? Because for the most part, they didn't begin their enrollment as first-time, full-time freshmen at UTEP; they came to us as transfer students from EPCC or another college or university, or they may have enrolled as part-time students.

Metaphorically speaking

Using trains as metaphors, we argue that there are two basic types of higher education institutions in the United States.

One is what we call an "express train" institution. Most small and more affluent private colleges fall into this category. Students typically enroll as first-time, full-time, degree-seeking freshmen, and most of them graduate from the same institution four or five years later. These students board the express train as a cohort in, say, fall 2006, and ride together as the Class of 2010 on the express train to graduation.

In contrast, the experience of students at most public universities is often more analogous to a ride on a "commuter train." At each semester break, the commuter train stops at a station, where some students get on -- transferring in from other colleges and universities or returning to school after a hiatus. Others get off to tend to personal, employment, military or other obligations, or to earn money to return to school later.

So where did this graduation rate metric come from? The NCAA created it in 1991 to ensure that student athletes' progress toward completing their academic degrees was uniformly monitored. Congress and the Department of Education extended its impact far beyond intercollegiate athletics.

With today's increasing interest in performance measures and proposals to link funding incentives to them, institutions like UTEP can no longer allow judgments to be made about our effectiveness based on such a metric.

Although we are confident that implementing our Student Success Initiative plan will result in some improvement in UTEP's official graduation rate, we also know that we must continue to work hard to develop alternative and more informative metrics.

Such metrics might include growth in the number of degrees awarded, number of at-risk students who complete degrees, and degrees awarded in high priority areas, such as engineering or nursing.

INVESTING IN FACILITIES

- The Texas Legislature and the UT System partnered to provide a $120 million investment to expand and upgrade science and engineering core facilities.
- The UT System Board of Regents committed $50 million to construct a Health Sciences Complex to house the College of Health Sciences and School of Nursing on or contiguous to the main campus.
- The Sun Bowl Parking Facility was completed, accommodating nearly 1,700 vehicles.
- A new 25,000-square-foot bookstore will be built next the Sun Bowl parking garage
- The second phase of the Kelly Hall renovation project was completed, housing the Office of Strategic Initiatives, Regional Geospatial Center, Technology Transfer Office and Purchasing.
- Thanks to the generosity of donors Paul Foster, Jeff and Sharon Stevens and many other supporters of Miner athletics, UTEP is building a new men's and women's basketball practice facility and ticket center.
- A student-supported referendum to increase recreation fees will support the expansion of the Swimming and Fitness Center.

We do count

During the past year, UTEP granted a total of 2,106 bachelor's, 700 master's, and 44 doctoral degrees in such high-demand professions as health care, teaching, science and engineering.

Ignoring that accomplishment grossly undervalues the contributions to our society made by most universities, and especially those that serve low-income and first-generation students.

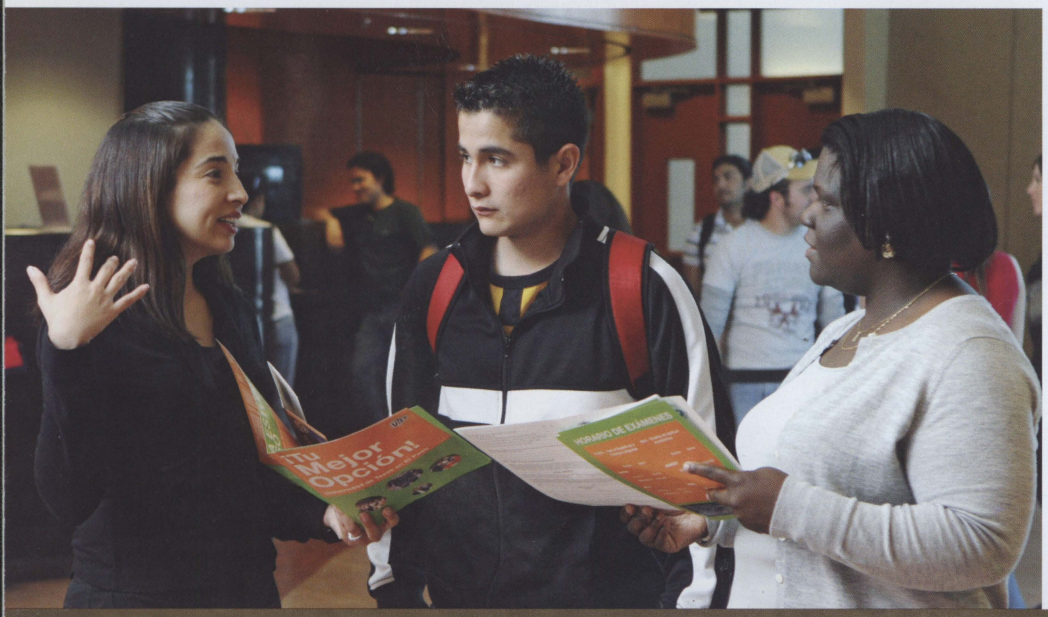
As one of our alumni said after hearing my presentation at a local meeting, "Dr. Natalicio, I may not have counted in UTEP's graduation rate, but UTEP sure did count for me and my family." And that's really the point, isn't it?

Paying for college

Dwindling state support of public higher education in Texas plays a more significant role in successful degree completion at UTEP than it does at institutions with more affluent student populations. Even small tuition increases, when coupled with rising costs of everything from textbooks to gasoline, affect the enrollment decisions of UTEP students.

Our students also tend to be loan-averse—UTEP ranks among the top three universities nationally with the smallest student debt burden upon graduation. Instead of borrowing money to finance their education, UTEP students often adopt a pay-as-you-go strategy.

UTEP has tried to respond to students' financial challenges through a variety of innovative strategies, including the UTEP Promise program, which offers all students with an annual family income of $25,000 or less a financial aid package that eliminates all out-of-pocket expenses for tuition and fees.



During the recent Legislative session, we enthusiastically supported a modification in installment tuition regulations, eliminating a requirement that students pay one-half of their tuition and fees at the time of registration.

UTEP now offers students the option of paying their tuition and fees in five equal installments over the course of the entire semester. And to enable students to consider the financial implications of the work-school choices they make, we are also incorporating personal financial management modules into the first-year seminar and a variety of advising settings.

Committed to excellence

We recognize that our commitment to access and affordability must always be coupled with an equal commitment to excellence. Offering access without excellence will not serve UTEP students well, because when these students graduate, they must compete with their counterparts from universities across the world, and we must prepare them to do that.

What that means is that we must attract and retain competitive faculty, acquire state-of-the-art equipment and technology, and invest in research and academic programs.

Our costs to compete for faculty talent and to upgrade facilities and equipment are the same as those at other universities, but we cannot simply increase tuition, as they often do, to generate the necessary resources.

We must be more creative and entrepreneurial in developing strategies that assure continuing progress toward excellence while maintaining our commitment to provide access to the students in this region.

Research capacity

Another major investment in UTEP's success is external grant funding generated by faculty and staff members.

During the past year, 446 proposals with a total value of more than $207 million were submitted to a broad range of federal agencies, foundations and corporations, and more than $47 million in new grant awards were received.

UTEP continues to rank fourth among all public universities in Texas in total federal grant support; and total federal research funding has grown to nearly 30 percent of UTEP's General Revenue appropriation, ranking us third in the State.

These grants and the many others represent a major financial investment in UTEP as well as a validation of our research capacity. We are also very proud that we have become a national model for demonstrating that strategic investments by federal agencies in capacity-building to promote greater Hispanic participation in research careers yield strong returns.

Completion of the new Bioscience Research Building, construction of the Chemistry and Computational Science Building, renovation of the engineering/science core complex, and construction of the new College of Health Sciences/School of Nursing building, all of which will occur during the next three years, will have a highly positive impact on our efforts to recruit and retain outstanding faculty and to become even more competitive in securing grants to conduct cutting-edge research in biomedical and health sciences as well as other areas of science and engineering.

Reaching top-tier

Many of you will recall that the Washington Advisory Group report to the UT System in 2004 established for UTEP a goal of $100 million in annual research expenditures by 2015. We responded at that time that we would indeed achieve this ambitious goal if significant investments were made in our human resources and facilities infrastructure.

Thanks to the UT System and the Texas Legislature, significant investments have been made. Those investments, and our demonstrated competitiveness to date in growing annual research expenditures, convince us that the WAG goal is well within our reach.

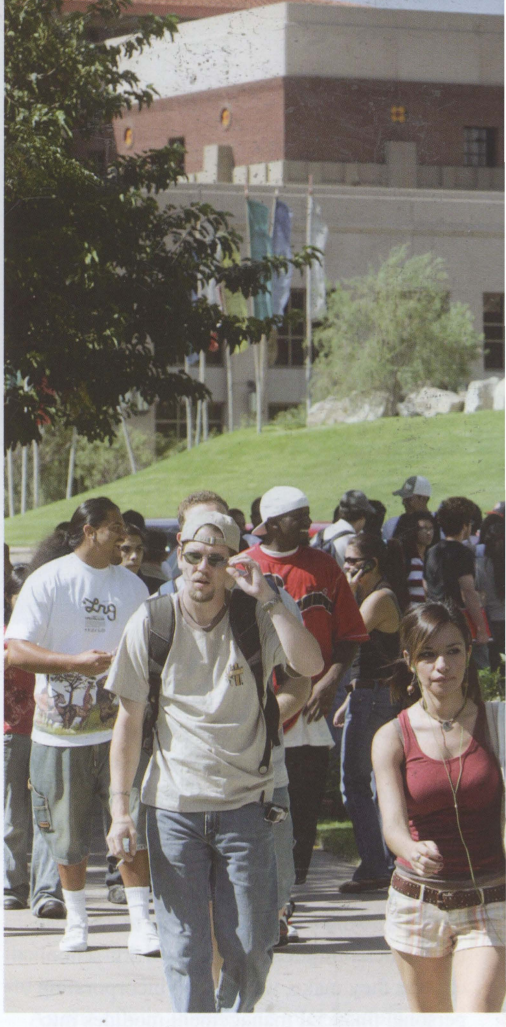
During the past year we also applauded the long-awaited investment by the Texas Legislature in the establishment of Texas Tech's four-year medical school in El Paso, and Paul Foster's generous contribution to it. The medical school represents many new opportunities, including clinical/translational research collaborations between UTEP faculty members and their new Texas Tech colleagues. UTEP is committed to be supportive of Texas Tech's efforts to assemble the faculty and facilities required to admit its first cohort of medical students in fall 2009.

GROWING RESEARCH ENTERPRISE

- A broad multi-disciplinary team won a five-year, $5 million award from NSF to establish the Cyber-ShARE Center of Excellence.
- A dozen faculty in four departments won a competitive renewal of a 4-year, $6 million MBRS-SCORE grant to support biomedical and health research
- Researchers at the Center for Transportation Infrastructure Systems (CTIS) secured $1.2 million in support from a variety of agencies
- The Upward Bound program received four-year renewals of two major grants totaling $3 million.
- The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency awarded UTEP a $2 million grant to establish a multi-dimensional Intelligence Center for Academic Excellence
- UTEP received a five-year, $2 million renewal of its College Assistance Migrant Program
- UTEP led a UT System consortium in securing a five-year renewal of NSF funding for the Alliance for Minority Participation program

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

- The psychology department admitted students to its new Ph.D. program in general psychology
- A Ph.D. in chemistry has been approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, becoming UTEP's 14th doctoral program
- Doctoral programs in computational science and in teaching, learning and culture have been endorsed by the UT System Board of Regents and await action by the Coordinating Board
- Ph.D. program proposals are in preparation: ecology and evolutionary biology; biomedical engineering; communication, public administration, and transnational society, culture and politics; nursing practice; and physical therapy.



Post-graduate opportunities

Successful growth in UTEP's research agenda is closely tied to the development of graduate programs, particularly at the doctoral level. UTEP granted a total of 44 doctoral degrees during the past year, and 395 doctoral students are enrolled this fall, both record-high figures. But we know that these records will quickly be surpassed as our maturing doctoral programs produce more graduates, and several new programs are launched.

Doctoral programs are well aligned with UTEP's access and excellence mission. Growth in the number and size of UTEP's doctoral programs, combined with our student demographics, has led to our ranking among the top 10 universities in the U.S. in granting doctoral degrees to Hispanics in engineering.

UTEP is not only offering more academic options, we are also assuring that these programs are of the highest quality, enabling graduates to perform extremely well on professional licensure exams and to compete successfully for exciting career and post-graduate educational opportunities.

This region's best and brightest young people are increasingly recognizing UTEP's growing national stature: 56 percent of the area's top 10 percent high school graduates who enrolled at Texas public universities last year chose UTEP. This is a strong validation from El Paso's talented high school graduates who entrust us with their talent, dreams and future opportunities.

Investing in the future

Many high-profile investments have been made in UTEP's mission to achieve both access and excellence: creating high-quality educational opportunities for residents of this region; preparing a workforce for this region and the world; and contributing to the quality of life in our community.

Considering the huge yields that UTEP has achieved on these investments during the past year, it may be tempting to conclude that investment is mostly about external stakeholders, such as the National Institutes of Health, the UT System and supportive alumni; or that it's mostly a matter of financial contributions.

However, to make UTEP the success story that we have become, it's important to emphasize that investment is also very much about each of us on this campus.

We are all investors in UTEP, too, committing our talents and expertise to foster our students' success, build excellence, and optimize the impact of external investments.

This academic year, we re-commit ourselves to the more than 20,000 students who have come to us with their dreams and aspirations, and to the promise that we will do everything that we can to help make those dreams come true.

GRANT HELPS BATTLE HEALTH DISPARITIES

Photo by J.R. Hernandez

The Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center at UTEP has received a $6.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health that will significantly advance the center's research in helping eliminate racial and ethnic health inequalities across the nation.

The five-year grant comes from the NIH's National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, established by the passage of the Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act of 2000.

The HHDRC at UTEP aims to research and find solutions for health disparities – differences or discrepancies between population groups in prevalence of disease, injury, premature death or disability.

The largest growing minority group in the United States, Hispanics are also among those most at risk when it comes to ethnic disparities in health care. The persistence of these ethnic disparities are increasingly being recognized and addressed by national health organizations.

UTEP's location at the heart of the U.S.-Mexico border, coupled with the unique bicultural expertise of its faculty and student researchers, position the university in a national leadership role in the area of minority health care and Hispanic health disparities.

The HHDRC at UTEP opened in October 2003 with the support of a $4.1 million grant from the NIH and is a collaborative effort between UTEP and the University of Texas at Houston School of Public Health – El Paso Regional Campus.

With the new $6.8 million grant, the center will continue to work toward understanding and reducing health disparities by supporting two-year research projects with funds ranging from $20,000 to $80,000.

The center will also expand the efforts to train and educate faculty and student researchers and share the results of the research with the community.

Photo by J.R. Hernandez

ENROLLMENT SURPASSES 20,000

Enrollment at UTEP has surpassed 20,000 students–marking the largest enrollment in the university's 93-year history.

"We are pleased that so many students come to us each year with their dreams and aspirations," UTEP President Diana Natalicio says. "We will do everything we can to help make those dreams come true."

Census Day data for the fall 2007 semester show a total student enrollment of 20,154–a 1.6 percent increase over last fall. This semester's figures mark the sixth consecutive record fall enrollment at UTEP.

University officials attribute the increased enrollment to growth in degree offerings, academic and research opportunities, and new and improved tuition assistance plans. UTEP's achievements as the top producer of Hispanic professionals in an array of fields continue to garner national attention, making the university a national leader in educating minorities.

Photo by J.R. Hernandez

UTEP GRAD ON STAMP

File photo

UTEP alumnus Ruben Salazar, a trailblazing newsman credited with chronicling race relations in Los Angeles in the 1960s and 70s, will be commemorated on a stamp to be issued in 2008, the U.S. Postal Service has announced.

"He was a groundbreaker for Latinos in this country, but his work spoke to all Americans," Postmaster Gen. John E. Potter says. "By giving voice to those who didn't have one, Ruben Salazar worked to improve life for everybody. His reporting of the Latino experience in this country set a standard that's rarely met even today."

Salazar was killed by a tear gas projectile while covering the riots in East Los Angeles in August 1970. He was 42. Salazar will be among five stamps honoring U.S. journalists.

Born in Juárez, Mexico, Salazar moved to El Paso as an infant. He graduated from Texas Western College (now UTEP) in 1954 with a bachelor's degree in journalism.

Salazar got his start in 1955 at the El Paso Herald-Post, and later worked at the Los Angeles Times where he won numerous awards for his reporting on Latino issues in the community. As a Times correspondent in the 1960s, Salazar covered the Dominican Republic, the Vietnam War and Mexico.

Salazar is believed to be the first Mexican American journalist to work as a reporter for the Los Angeles Times, have a column in a major English-language newspaper, and work as a foreign correspondent.

In 2003, the Department of Communication at UTEP established the Ruben Salazar Spanish Language Media Program, which allows undergraduate students to take bilingual classes in print and electronic media. Guest lectures, workshops, internships in Spanish-language media and seminars for media professionals are also offered.

File photo

A mural in South Central El Paso honors Salazar.

GRAN PASENOS

Photo by J.R. Hernandez

UTEP's highest honor for non-alumni friends and supporters, the Gran Paseño Award, has been presented this year to a couple internationally recognized for their work in student retention and graduation.

The award was presented during fall 2007 convocation to Dr. John Gardner, Executive Director of the Policy Center on the First Year of College, and his wife, Dr. Betsy Barefoot, CO-director and Senior Scholar at the Policy Center.

"Drs. Gardner and Barefoot are very special friends of UTEP," President Diana Natalicio says. "For nearly 20 years they have shared their professional expertise, have been a sounding board for our ideas, have motivated and encouraged all of us, and have given UTEP visibility on national and international stages."

Gardner and Barefoot were key consultants in the development of UTEP's Student Success in the Middle Years initiative. The plan focuses on curriculum renewal as well as academic and career advising to help students in their "middle years" of college complete their degree.

Gardner is a renowned author and speaker who's received numerous awards for his pioneering work in creating programs to enhance the learning, retention and graduation of students in transition.

Barefoot's work at the Policy Center focuses on the development of instruments and strategies to evaluate and improve students' first-year experience. She is also a well-known author and speaker, whose work serves to guide colleagues on campuses across the country.

COME HOME TO BEEMS IN 2008

The College of Education is hosting its 15th Annual BEEMS Conference March 6-8, 2008.

The Bilingual Educators Emphasizing and Mastering Standards annual conference attracts some 700 bilingual-education advocates from across the nation and Mexico to UTEP. The conference offers administrators, teachers and parents policy updates on bilingual education, teaching skills and awareness for success.

The conference will feature guest speakers, pre-conference institutes for administrators, strands for educators and parents, international school visits and a Mexican fiesta.

The college invites all graduates of Projects BEEMS, BECMS, CBTL and BEEM to the 2008 conference. A 15-year reunion will celebrate *Quince Años Cultivando Líderes Bilingues.*

Information: 915-747-8420 or 915-747-5615 or online at **http://academics.utep.edu/beems**

NEW SCIENCE DEAN

Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Anny Morrobel-Sosa has been named dean of the College of Science and professor of chemistry at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Morrobel-Sosa is responsible for the vision and future of the College of Science's 20 degree programs, including the fast-growing bioscience programs.

She is founder and president of The Micaela Group, an organization helps universities develop strategic solutions for the recruitment and advancement of women and minority faculty in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Morrobel-Sosa has held senior faculty and administrative appointments at the University of Alabama and California Polytechnic State University. She served as dean of the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology at Georgia Southern University from 2003-2006.

A native of the Dominican Republic, Morrobel-Sosa received a bachelor's degree in physics and chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico, a master's degree in chemistry from the State University of New York-Stony Brook and a doctoral degree in chemistry from the University of Southern California.

NATIONAL MAGAZINE FEATURES UTEP

University of Texas at El Paso students and faculty are featured in an October 2007 issue of Diverse: Issues in Higher Education, the nation's leading magazine on diversity in higher education.

The students and faculty were interviewed and photographed for the magazine's cover story, "Cultural and Linguistic Ambidexterity," which explored the benefits bilingual students enjoy when looking for jobs and in the workplace.

The story looks to UTEP as a model institution when it comes to preparing students to work and succeed in international, multi-cultural and multilingual settings.

"It might sound like a no-brainer that being bilingual or multilingual helps students planning engineering and just about any other career," the article states. "But it is certainly true and is becoming more important as the economies of nations become more intertwined."

The article features Diana Ramirez, a 23-year-old metallurgical engineering student at UTEP, whose bilingual skills and bicultural background played a key role in her success during an internship at a General Motors castings plant in Defiance, Ohio. Several other students and faculty are also featured.

To read the article, visit **diverseeducation.com/artman/publish/article_9805.shtml.**

TOP-NAME PUBLIC FIGURES INSPIRE STUDENTS

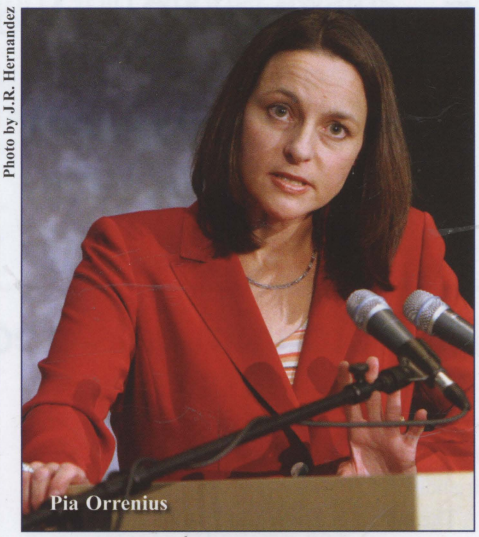


Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Pia Orrenius

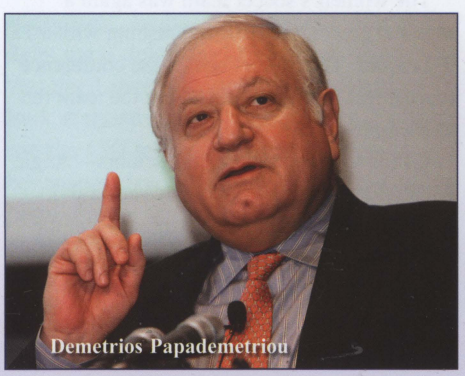
This year's Millennium and Mexico Today lecture series continue to bring top-name speakers in an array of fields to UTEP and the community.

Since its inception in 2000, the Millennium Lecture Series has welcomed more than 30 prominent speakers to campus to present on topics that have a broad impact on society and culture. This year's theme, "Defining Security in the 21st Century," explores the many facets of security that have become central themes in political debates and popular media coverage.

The Mexico Today Lecture Series offers the public an opportunity to learn more about the political, economic and social trends of Mexico and their impact on the future of the U.S.-Mexico border region.

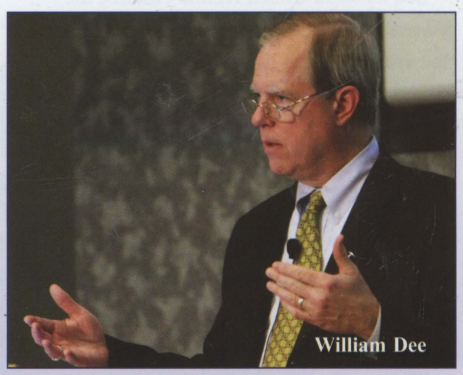
This year's speakers have included:

- Gen. (Ret.) Gordon Sullivan, president and chief operating officer of the Association of the United States Army
- Demetrios G. Papademetriou, co-founder and President of the Migration Policy Institute
- William P. Dee, president and CEO of Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., an environmental consulting firm.
- Pia M. Orrenius, a senior economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.



Demetrios Papademetriou

Photo by J.R. Hernandez



William Dee

Photo by J.R. Hernandez

Stories by David Peregrino

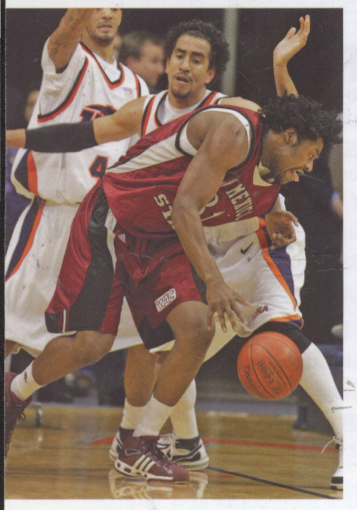
Basketball Heats Up

The UTEP men's and women's basketball teams are off to a great early-season start, with key wins over their Interstate 10 rivals, NMSU.

Junior guard Stefon Jackson scored a game-high 30 points in an 84-76 defeat of the Aggies in front of 9,773 fans at the Don Haskins Center on Nov. 27.

A day later, the women's team downed previously unbeaten NMSU 72-66 in an exciting overtime win in Las Cruces.

At press time, the men carried a 4-1 record, while the women improved to 3-1 on the young season.



This year, Coach Tony Barbee has the physical, hard-rebounding team he's been looking for—senior centers Victor Ramalho and Jeremy Sampson gained size and strength in the off season, and freshman center Wayne Portalatin is making a welcome contribution off the bench.

Jackson is the Miners' scoring machine. Senior Marvin Kilgore and freshman Randy Culpepper are also lighting up the scoreboard with solid play at point guard.

On the women's side, last year's Conference USA Freshman of the Year Jareica Hughes is coming through in the clutch. Hughes hit a three-pointer with one second left to force the overtime against NMSU.

Led by head Coach Keitha Adams, the Miners are coming off a best-ever 22-8 season, and are looking to dominate again. Other players to watch include 6-foot-5 center Izabela Piekarska, who leads the team in blocked shots, and sophomore forward Timika Williams, one of the team's rebounding and scoring leaders. N

For more news and information about UTEP athletics, visit
www.utepathletics.com

Cross-country takes C-USA title

Ereng named Coach of the Year

Led by Stephen Samoei, the men's cross country team finished first through fifth place at the C-USA championship in Santa Teresa, N.M., scoring a perfect 15 points to win the title.

Samoei, a senior from Eldoret, Kenya, won the individual title with a time of 24:40.01. He was followed by Patrick Mutai (25:02.3), Nicodemus Ng'etich (25:05.7), Japheth Ng'ojoy (25:07.3) and Dominic Tanui (25:14.3).

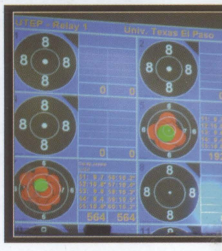
Head coach Paul Ereng was named C-USA Men's Coach of the Year. He led the team this year to three meet titles, including the Lobo Invitational and the Pre-Nationals Meet. This is Ereng's fifth season at UTEP. N

Rifle program gets electronic scoring

UTEP's renowned rifle team has added a state-of-the-art electronic scoring system to its range that will make the sport more spectator-friendly.

The system replaces paper targets and allows fans to follow individual shooters and team shooting scores on screens.

Under coach George Brenzovich, the Miner rifle team has qualified for three consecutive NCAA rifle championships. The team used their new electronic scoring system for the first time against Alaska-Fairbanks on Oct. 20. N



Soccer delivers another winning season

The women's soccer team was again a regional power this season, finishing with a 13-7-2 record. The Miners hosted the conference tournament in November, where the team fell to Memphis in the semifinals.

UTEP says goodbye to five seniors—Angie Kleinfelder, Brittany Popoff, Jessica Salvi, Jami Tullius and Kristin Wernimont—at the end of this season, but will never lose the great memories of exciting games on University Field and the stunning win over Texas in the 2005 NCAA tournament. N

Thank You for Coming Home

Dear Alumni,

Thank you to all that returned back to the Alma Mater for Homecoming 2007. Homecoming Week was filled with many great events that allowed for all Miners to come back and reminisce with friends, family, faculty and staff about your time here.

As we embark on a new year, I would like for you to consider becoming a dues-paying member of the UTEP Alumni Association. Your membership dues enable the Association to support UTEP and the students by providing programs, services and scholarships.

GO MINERS!

Richard Daniel, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice President for Alumni & Constituent Relations

SAVE THE DATE!
UTEP Alumni Association

Annual Meeting
Wednesday, May 7, 2008
www.ia.utep.edu/alumni
1.866.GO.MINERS

2008 Distinguished Alumni and Gold Nugget Awards

The UTEP Alumni Association is looking for a few outstanding alumni and is currently accepting nominations for the 2008 Distinguished Alumni and Gold Nugget Awards. If you know of, or are an outstanding graduate, visit us online or contact the Alumni Relations Office to learn more about these prestigious awards, and how you can nominate one of our outstanding alumni.

Looking Back…

When Cedric Hustace came back to UTEP last year to celebrate his 50th Class Reunion, he came with pen, brush and paper in hand to sketch and paint images of his alma mater. Hustace returned again this year with his collection of UTEP images, which were featured in a special exhibit as part of Homecoming 2007. Though many of Hustace's works can be found in collections around the world, his painting of Old Main now hangs on campus in the Peter and Margaret de Wetter Alumni Center.

Help Make a Difference

Parents and family can now play a key role in the education of their UTEP students by joining the UTEP Parents Association. The Parents Association provides support for students and works to ensure they have the resources that will provide access to academic excellence. Make a difference by getting involved, call 1.866.GO.MINERS.

MINER ON THE MOVE

When asked what he's been up to since graduating in 1992, Michael J. Carrasco draws on movies and television shows to explain his career path. He has earned a front-row seat for some of the biggest political events in recent years.

After earning your bachelor's in political science, you left El Paso. What inspired that move?
I always wanted a public service career, so after graduation I thought a great deal about where I could do the most good. I decided to move to Washington, D.C.

I worked for three wonderful U.S. senators. I got an up-close education in politics and policy that was an incredible learning experience. My very first day working in the senate started with the confirmation hearings for Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer. I saw major legislation crafted. I witnessed an impeachment trial. I witnessed the 9-11 events from D.C.

Stepping onto the floor of the U.S. Senate is an incredible experience. I understand Jefferson Smith (*Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*) a little better now.

You manage a forensic consulting firm, which you compare to CSI. Is it anything like the glamorous shows we see on TV?
In the 21st Century we use technology for everything, including misdeeds – stealing data, mass deletions or hacking – and you need investigators to take a hard look at those digital crime scenes. I often use the CSI television show analogy because everyone who has seen that show immediately understands the connection: putting a puzzle together to discover what really happened, and that is always exciting!

What lessons from UTEP do you carry with you today?
All those experiences helped shape where I am today. Stay connected to key people. Cultivating relationships is very important to your success, and while it takes time and effort, the rewards are worth it! Always have a reality check. Find a mentor who can help you make sense of your place in the word and help you create the necessary balance between work and life. Recognize that people have something to contribute and create an environment where all can learn from their mistakes and bring out their strengths.

What do you miss most about El Paso?
My family. The friends I grew up with. I know my kids miss their grandparents and their cousins. I miss seeing the Franklin Mountains. I miss not being able to go to Ruidoso whenever I feel like it. And of course, I miss the food – nothing like Chico's Tacos on a Friday night. While I have made my life here in the D.C. area, El Paso will always be my home.

'50s

Harriet B.A. Winters (B.A. '54) is serving a third term as president of the board of the Advocacy Center for the Children of El Paso.

Rodger D. Collons (B.S.C.E. '57) is professor of legal studies at Drexel University's LeBow College of Business in Philadelphia. Collons resides in Phoenixville, Pa.

Hector Holguin Jr. (B.S.C.E. '58) is chief executive officer of SecureOrigins Inc., an El Paso-based software company which has been awarded $2 million from Texas' Emerging Technology Fund to develop its products.

'60s

Dr. Catherine M. "Kay" Porter (B.S. '62) is the sport psychologist for the Oregon Track Club Elite team, which is training for the 2008 Olympic trials. Porter is a sport psychologist and psychotherapist in Eugene, Ore.

Barbara Horak (B.B.A. '67), of El Paso, is the editor of "Real Abortion Stories: The Hurting and The Healing," an Amazon.com Top 100 Bestseller.

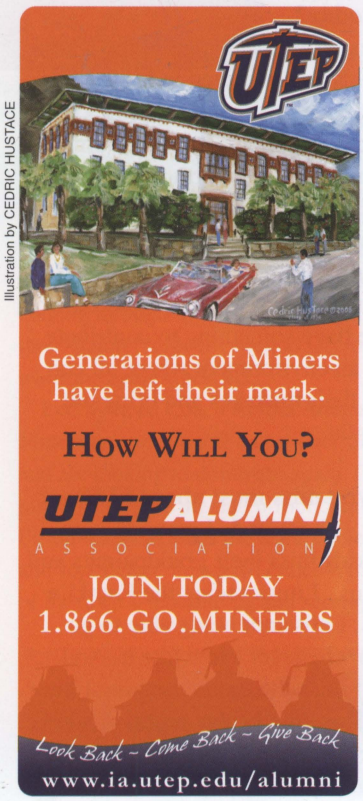


Illustration by CEDRIC HUSTACE

'70s

Cesar Caballero (B.B.A. '72) is the university librarian and dean at California State University, San Bernardino.

Andy W. McCuistion (B.B.A. '73) is city manager for Canton, Texas. McCuistion resides in Waxahachie, Texas.

David P. "Dave" Leibson (B.S.Ed. '74; M.A. '79) is bassist for Austin-based blues band Diamond Simon and the Roughcuts. Leibson, who plays music for the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, also has recorded two CDs of bilingual music with Mexican folk singer Leti de la Vega.

Enrique "Henry" Quintana Jr. (B.A. '75; M.A. '94) is a teaching fellow for the fall semester at the UTEP Department of Communication. Quintana is public relations manager at El Paso Electric Co.

Peter E. Hosey (B.A. '76) was named one of San Antonio's best lawyers in the August 2007 issue of Scene in SA Monthly. Hosey is a partner in the Business Transactions section of Jackson Walker L.L.P.

Gilberto E. Monarez (B.B.A. '76; M.Ed. '87) received two NASA scholarships to attend the United States Space Foundation Summer Institute in Colorado Springs, Colo. Monarez also received a scholarship to participate in the Northrop Grumman Foundation Weightless Fights of Discovery science and engineering education program that incorporates zero gravity flight experiences for teachers. He is a computer teacher at Austin High School and resides in El Paso.

Juan M. Soltero (B.S. '76; M.P.A. '85) is area port director for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance facilities in Dublin and Shannon, Ireland.

Victor Arias Jr. (B.B.A. '78) is a senior client partner at talent management company Korn/Ferry International in Dallas.

José Carlos Diáz (M.A. '78) is the author of "EE.UU.: Una nación bajo Dios?" Diaz resides in Seaside, Calif.

Jan B. Hollowell (M.Ed. '78) retired from J.F. Drake State Technical College in Huntsville, Ala. Howell worked as instructor/manager for the Individualized Prescribed Instruction Lab for 18 years.

Monte J. Hollowell (M.S.I.E. '78) retired after 31 years of government service, first in the U.S. Army as an air defense artillery officer and then as a general engineer in the Advanced Science and Technology Directorate of the Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Hollowell resides in Huntsville, Ala.

Capt. John Rolph (B.A. '78) is a member of the U.S. Court of Military Commission Review. The court sits in Washington, D.C. He also is chief judge of the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals.

Irene Chavez (B.A. '79) is chief executive officer of Providence Memorial Hospital in El Paso.

Marian Jacklich (B.A. '79) owns an accounting business and is co-owner of dental device manufacturing company Special Products Inc. Jacklich lives in Kissimmee, Fla., and serves on the Technology and Health Industries committees of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

'80s

Florida Simon Dotson (B.S.E.E. '80) earned her Texas real estate broker's license. Dotson, a partner and realtor with Pathway Real Estate Advisors, is the proprietor of Pathway Consultancy Services and sits on the Pearland Independent School Board.

Harsha E. Joesoef (B.S.C.E. '80; M.S.C.E. '81) is the president of FedEx Indonesia. Joesoef lives in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Francisco "Frank" Rodriguez Jr. (B.S.Ed. '80) is a secondary literacy coach for the Corpus Christi [Texas] Independent School District.

Fernando Gireud (B.S.E.E. '82) is the vice president for safety, environmental, power marketing and international affairs at El Paso Electric Co. Gireud is also a state of Texas certified professional engineer.

Dawn M. Summers (B.S. '83) is a lieutenant with the San Diego Police Department.

'90s

Sally A. Hurt-Steffen (B.S.N. '90; M.S.N. '94), UTEP's 2003 College of Health Sciences Gold Nugget Award recipient, is chief executive officer of Sierra Providence Eastside Hospital in El Paso.

Kathleen M. "Kathi" Cox (B.S.N. '91) obtained a master of science in trauma/critical care/acute care nurse practitioner and post-master's certification in teaching in nursing and health professions, both from the University of Maryland at Baltimore. Cox has matriculated into the Ph.D. program at the university, and will pursue research into healthy work environments.

Lt. Col. Drysdale H. Hernandez (B.A. '91), recently promoted to lieutenant colonel, commands the 48th Mission Support Squadron at RAF Lakenheath in the United Kingdom.

Rhonda J. Molix-Bailey (B.I.S. '92) is a mathematics author for MacMillan/McGraw-Hill, and runs her own consulting company, Mathematics by Design. Molix-Bailey resides in DeSoto, Texas.

Kevin Quinn (B.A. '92) is a member of the Housing Authority of the City of El Paso board of directors. A sergeant in the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Quinn will serve on the board until February 2009.

Michael H. Sandidge (M.S. '93) is chief executive officer of Las Vegas-based Gold & Silver Minerals Inc. Sandidge lives in Wenatchee, Wash.

Jeffrey T. "Jeff" Wooten (M.S. '94), of Rio Rancho, N.M., is

owner of Wooten Engineering, which serves New Mexico and the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Kelly Overley (M.Ed. '97; Ed.D. '06) is the recipient of both the 2007 Outstanding Fundraising Professional award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Texas El Paso Chapter, and the Top Producer Award from the Texas Tech University System. As senior director of development for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso, Overley secured the largest donation ever received by a Texas Tech institution. In October, she was appointed vice chancellor for institutional advancement for the Texas Tech University System in Lubbock.

Gustavo Reveles Acosta (B.A. '97), education reporter for the El Paso Times, is a National Association of Hispanic Journalists board of directors member.

Imelda E. Torres (B.S.I.E. '99) is the 2006-2007 Volunteer of the Year for the Junior League of Shreveport-Bossier in Louisiana.

'00s

Edward R. "Ray" Ruiz (B.S. '02) is a licensed attorney in the San Francisco offices of Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP. Ruiz lives in Oakland, Calif.

Send us your news

Got news to share? Send us your name, year of graduation, degree and the information you'd like to share with other Miners. (Please include a daytime phone number.) E-mail us at **nova@utep.edu** or write us at Nova Quarterly, University Communications, The University of Texas at El Paso, 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968.

www.utep.edu/nova

Salomon Chavira Jr. (M.B.A. '04) is president of Credit Flex Financial Services, a Corona, Calif.-based mortgage broker.

Kevin L. Hatcher (Ed.D. '04) is the athletic director at California State University, San Bernardino.

Joe C. Devance Jr. (B.M.S. '06) joined Philippine Basketball League team the Welcoat Dragons in August. Devance was the first overall pick in the PBA rookie draft.

Betina S. Gonzalez (M.F.A. '06) is working toward her doctorate in Latin American literature at the University of Pittsburgh.

Tiffany N. Tajiri (B.S. '06) is a recipient of a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation scholarship. Tariji, a resident of Atlanta, intends to attend the Georgia School of Professional Psychology.

In Memoriam

Fred H. Brookes (B.S.M. '47) Arvada, Colo.; Sept. 1, 2006.

Bowen R. Leonard Jr. (B.S. '47) Kennewick, Wash; Feb. 18, 2007.

Dorothy J. Chrapliwy (B.S.Ed. '66) El Paso; April 1, 2007.

Dr. Marshall J. Rowdabaugh (B.A. '41) Albuquerque, N.M.; May 17, 2007.

Walter E. "Gene" Porter (B.S.Ed. '72) El Paso; July 18, 2007.

Winifred E. Houser (B.A. '42; M.A. '54) El Paso; July 21, 2007.

Ana M. Mora (B.A.'81; M.Ed. '91) El Paso; July 21, 2007.

Pasquale J. "Pat" Neve (B.B.A. '78) El Paso; July 21, 2007.

Robert H.W. "Bobby" Booth (B.A. '49; M.A. '52) El Paso; July 23, 2007.

Mary P. Jenson (M.A. '46) El Paso; July 23, 2007.

Peter L. Bright (B.S. '75) El Paso; July 25, 2007.

Mary A. McCallick (B.B.A. '59) El Paso; July 27, 2007.

Lt. Col. George F. "Ben" Aiken (B.A. '60) Fox Island, Wash.; July 29, 2007.

Stanley W. "Bill" Brewer (B.A. '54) Knightstown, Ind.; Aug. 4, 2007.

Gloria A. Thomas (B.A. '69) El Paso; Aug. 5, 2007.

Raymond J. Haddad (B.A. '51) El Paso; Aug. 13, 2007.

Antonio F. Vasquez (B.S. '72) El Paso; Aug. 19, 2007.

Greenberry "Joe" Bailey (B.B.A. '71) Erskine, Minn.; Aug. 28, 2007.

Judge Berthold A. "Pete" Hartman (B.A. '56) Karnes City, Texas; Aug. 28, 2007.

Willis B. McDonald II (B.S.Ed. '79) Austin, Texas; Aug. 28, 2007.

Richard M. Price (B.S. '48) Lubbock, Texas; Aug. 29, 2007.

William F. Rike Jr. (B.B.A. '41) El Paso; Sept. 1, 2007.

Maria A. Sanderson (M.Ed. '67) El Paso; Sept. 4, 2007.

Denise M. Sebald (B.B.A. '84) Henderson, Nev.; Sept. 6, 2007.

Olive Blythe (B.A. '39; M.A. '53) El Paso; Sept. 8, 2007.

Derrick E. Smith (B.A. '84) El Paso; Sept. 9, 2007.

Emily Gebler (B.S.Ed. '61) El Paso; Sept. 20, 2007.

Lillian Miller (B.A. '51) El Paso; Sept 21, 2007.

Compiled by David Thomas

Alumnus behind Hanna-Barbera music dies

Randy Van Horne, the UTEP alumnus and El Paso native behind the ensemble that sang the theme songs for "The Flintstones," "The Jetsons," "Yogi Bear," and other classic Hanna-Barbera cartoons, has died. He was 83.

His son Mark told the Los Angeles Times that Van Horne died of cancer on Sept. 26.

The Randy Van Horne Singers were one of the most requested studio session groups of the 1950s and 1960s. They recorded hundreds of television and radio commercials and worked with artists like Dean Martin, Mel Tormé and Juan Garcia Esquivel.

"I first had the pleasure of meeting Randy Van Horne in Los Angeles a couple of years ago," UTEP President Diana Natalicio says. "He told fascinating stories about his experiences working in Hollywood."

Van Horne visited UTEP last year during Homecoming to donate his extensive collection of musical arrangements to the university's music department.

Generations of Miners have left their mark.

How Will You?

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Look Back ~ Come Back ~ Give Back

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