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NOVA

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
QUARTERLY



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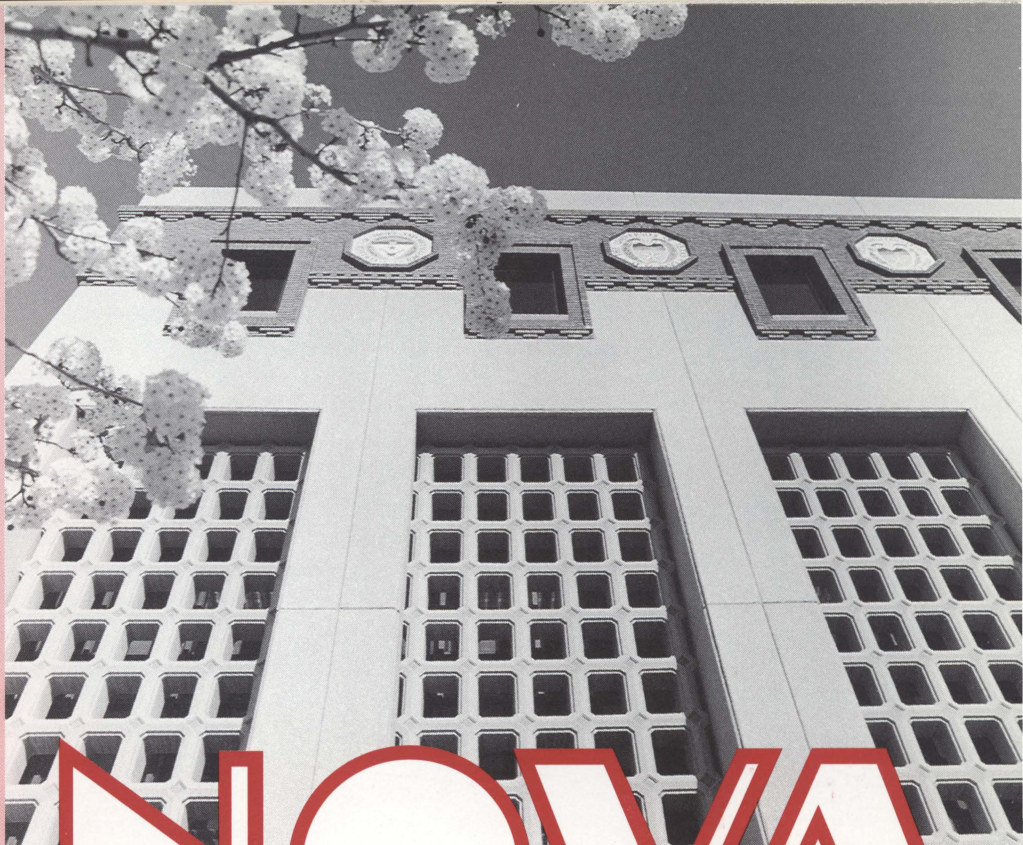
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ON THE COVER:

Trilobite fossil, a marine invertebrate from the middle cambrian era, can be found in the El Paso area. Photograph and concept by David Flores.



NOVA

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FROM THE EDITOR

It has become a strategic trademark for UTEP to harness the power of its traditions to propel it forward to meet present and future challenges. Since its beginnings when it was founded to serve the regional mining and petroleum industrial needs, UTEP has evolved in response to the changing times. It was the first university in the South to lift the discriminatory ban on black student enrollment. Today, as the nation's largest Hispanic-majority university, UTEP is a model for capitalizing on the diversity of its students and the community it serves.

Indicators of UTEP's continued commitment to the community are visible in many of its academic programs and outreach efforts. Some of these programs have been highlighted in past issues of NOVA. In this issue M.A. Maier writes about one that is a microcosm of UTEP—the geology department. Although geology degrees were not offered until 1929, geological sciences served as one of the foundations for UTEP's future growth. The evolution of the geology department is the story of a department that embodies the university's ideals in everything from excellence in teaching to its responsiveness to community needs—not only locally but internationally as well.

Few people are aware that UTEP served as one of the original training grounds for the 1960s Peace Corps program that sent Americans to remote parts of the world. Today, UTEP is again involved with the Peace Corps, but the university's program takes a different twist, as you'll read in Rob McCorkle's story on returning Peace Corps volunteers. The story looks at how this program draws on a potential pool of expertise to serve the region's needs in education and health.

While both the UTEP geology and Peace Corps programs are in full swing, UTEP is forging ahead with new projects. You may recall the State Legislature's South Texas Border Initiative special appropriation of \$35 million for new building construction and renovations and academic programs at UTEP. Observers may wonder when the programs will come on line. Few, however, realize the complexity of launching new academic programs. Aggressive and systematic plans are underway, but program development involves recruiting new faculty and enhancing library holdings and, in some cases, building new physical facilities.

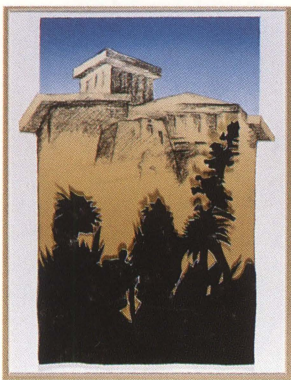
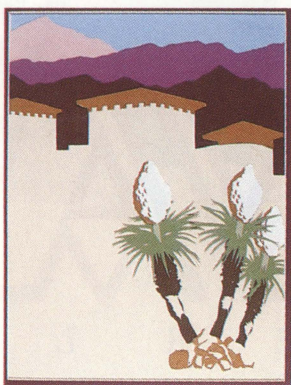
The South Texas Border Initiative funding is not a quick fix. Hopefully these monies will not be a one-time shot in the arm. Underfunded universities serving border communities require long-term support to build the programs needed in their regions. But with no guarantees that the special appropriations will keep coming, UTEP is moving decisively to build the foundation for additional graduate and undergraduate programs.

New Ph.D. programs in environmental science and engineering, biology, public administration and history, among others, are on the drawing table. Construction for a new classroom building and renovations in Old Main, Magoffin Auditorium, and the Physical Science, Liberal Arts, and Psychology buildings are expected to begin in 1995. Non-state funding has also been identified, and in some cases secured. The NIH (National Institutes of Health) grant for UTEP's Biomedical Research Center, for example, will help the university build the infrastructure for a doctoral program in biomedical sciences.

On other fronts, UTEP continues to provide a leadership role in forging relations with Mexico. President Diana Natalicio recently accepted an invitation from the U.S. ambassador to Mexico to serve on the board of directors of the U.S. - Mexico Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange. The number of collaborative research projects with Mexican universities continues to grow. No matter where you look on campus, from the College of Education to engineering and science, people at UTEP are involved with Mexico.

In future months, NOVA will bring you the details of these exciting projects.

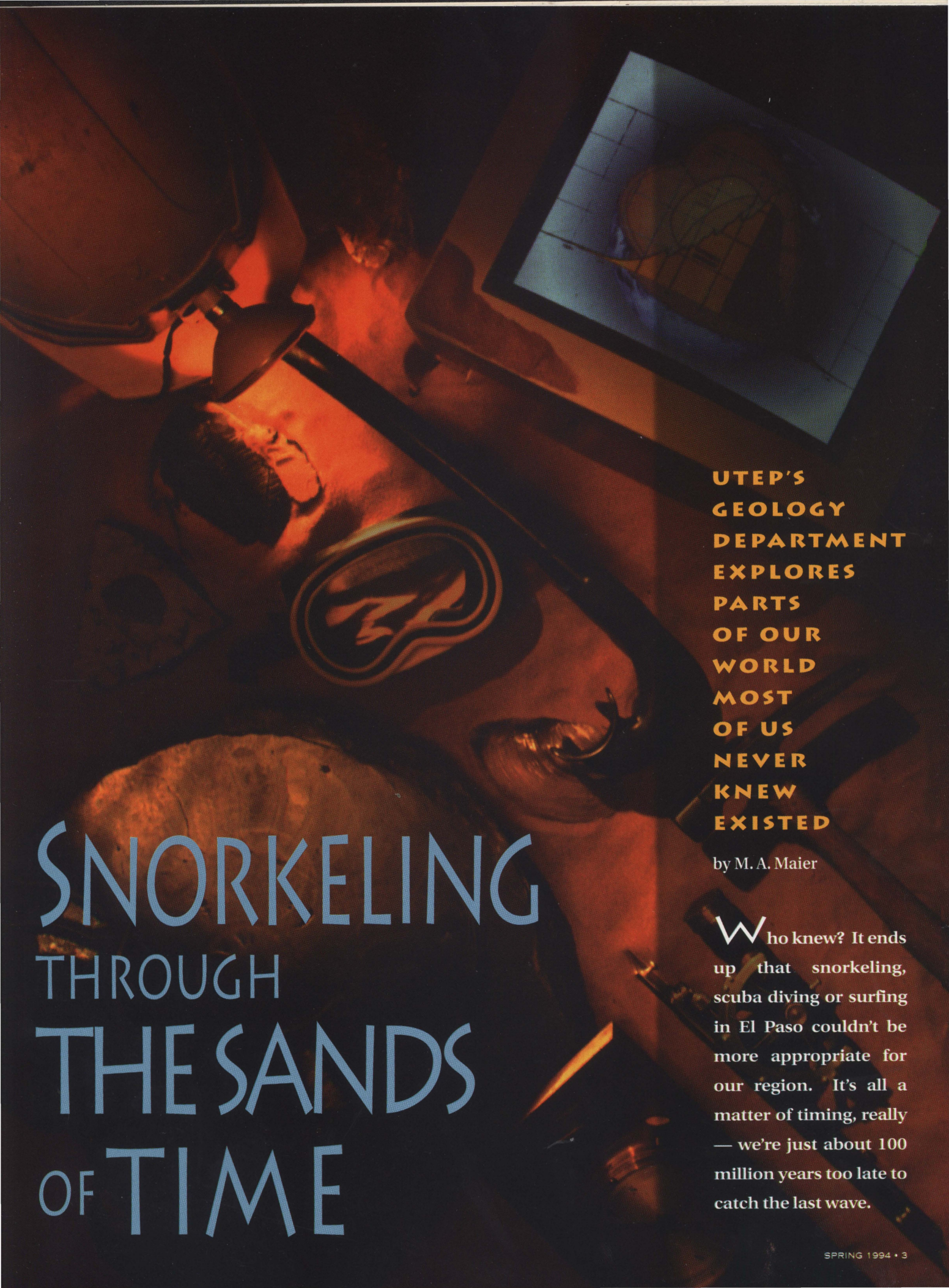
—Arturo Vasquez



Winners of the 1993 President's Annual Student Art Award, "Views of UTEP"

Top: Madeline J. Mulkey

Bottom: Omar Chavez



**UTEP'S
GEOLOGY
DEPARTMENT
EXPLORES
PARTS
OF OUR
WORLD
MOST
OF US
NEVER
KNEW
EXISTED**

by M. A. Maier

SNORKELING THROUGH THE SANDS OF TIME

Who knew? It ends up that snorkeling, scuba diving or surfing in El Paso couldn't be more appropriate for our region. It's all a matter of timing, really — we're just about 100 million years too late to catch the last wave.



"This would have been a good place to go snorkeling at one time," says Dr. Kathy Marsaglia, a sedimentologist in UTEP's geology department who specializes in deep marine sand. Snorkeling may be out of the question today, but you can still get a good look at some of El Paso's sea life with a quick trip to Scenic Drive. Large fossilized coral and sponges along this road, only minutes from campus, are just one of the reasons that UTEP's geologists look upon the El Paso region as a geological paradise.

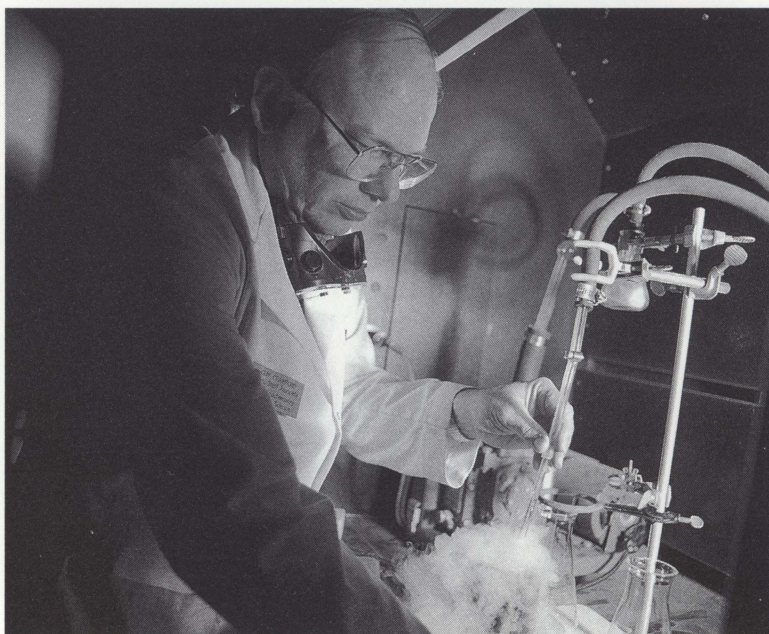
"Our region is just a fantastic geologi-

cal laboratory," says Dr. Randy Keller, geological sciences department chair. "People come from around the world to study it." Part of the wonder of the region seems to be the incredible variety of geologic features amassed within a relatively small area. For geologists, this translates into something for everyone to study, whatever their interests might be. The lower reaches of Transmountain Road, for example, offer something old — truly old — 1.2-billion-year-old rock formations. At the other extreme, Kilbourne Hole, a 20,000-year-old volcanic cone 40 miles west of El Paso, and Valley of Fire State Park, a 3,000-year-old volcanic flow at the northern end of the Tularosa Basin, are practically newborn formations in geologic terms. Petroleum researchers can study the Franklin Mountains' exposed rock layers to learn what it looks like *under* the Permian Basin in the oil fields around Midland and Odessa. And even those of us who are oblivious to our surroundings can stand in awe before the wonders of nearby White Sands and Carlsbad Caverns.

ment tries to do local geology to help our community understand our area, and then do international geology to establish our department internationally."

Research specialties range from Mexican mining problems to Kenya's continental rift. In addition to study in their own fields, most of the faculty have taken on research related to environmental issues in recent years as the demand for environmental geology has grown.

Dr. Diane Doser, for example, who is a geophysicist, is a specialist in earthquakes south of Los Angeles into Baja California,



Guy Crawford, materials science Ph.D. candidate, prepares to synthesize new materials for semi-conductor research.

cal laboratory," says Dr. Randy Keller, geological sciences department chair. "People come from around the world to study it."

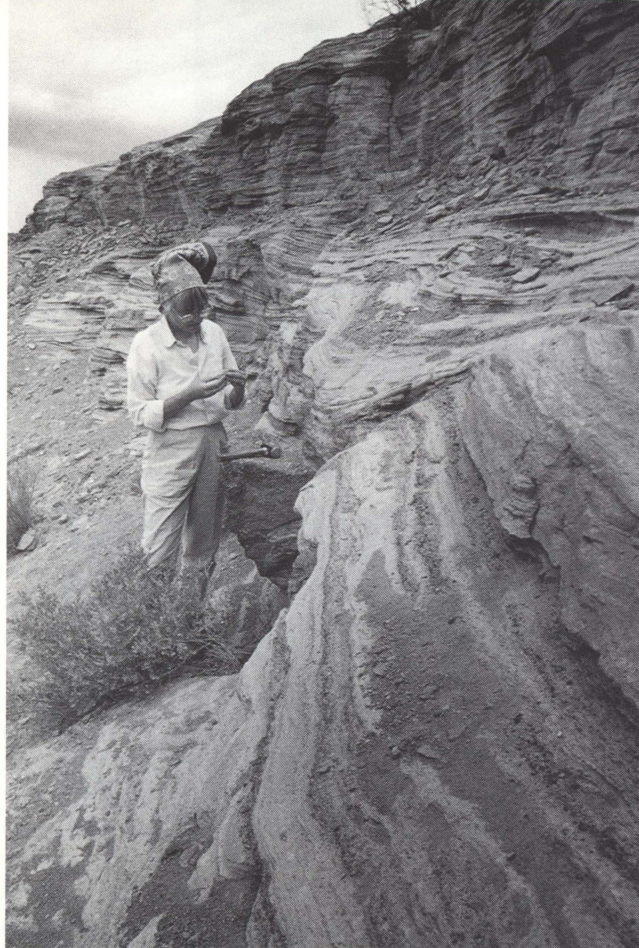
Part of the wonder of the region seems to be the incredible variety of geologic features amassed within a relatively small area. For geologists, this translates into something for everyone to study, whatever their interests might be. The lower reaches of Transmountain Road, for example, offer something old — truly old — 1.2-billion-year-old rock formations. At the other extreme, Kilbourne Hole, a

UTEP's geologists seem to draw energy from these surroundings that radiates into their study of the earth's materials and processes, here and around the world. "There's a sense of growth, of enhancement in the department — a sense of momentum," says Dr. Libby Anthony, who specializes in igneous petrology, or the study of volcanic rock.

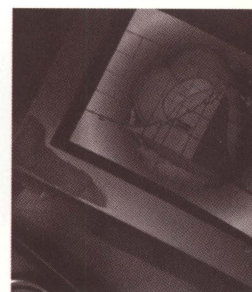
"This department is unique in that we have lots of younger faculty," Marsaglia explains. "We have a mid-sized faculty, but with incredibly broad research areas and interests. Everybody in the depart-

Mexico, and west of the San Andreas fault. She does extensive historical research of earthquakes early in this century to better understand what happened then, how certain faults react, and how often we can expect recurrences. Because of her research, Doser is on an automated system that sends her computer bulletins concerning large earthquakes and aftershocks worldwide, including the Los Angeles quake in January.

According to Doser, even good ol', stable El Paso has some earthquake potential. "There's a fault on the east side



Dr. Elizabeth Anthony does field research in Kilbourne Hole about 40 miles from El Paso in New Mexico. The crater is lined with layers of basaltic rock formed by lava flows thousands of years ago that may yield clues about volcanic fields — their cycles of calm and periods of activity.



of the Franklins that's probably moved in the past 5,000 to 10,000 years, probably with a magnitude seven earthquake," reports Dr. Doser. A local engineering firm has recently started to study this fault with an eye to updating building designs and codes for our area.

At the same time, Doser is studying the Sunland Park landfill to find out how water travels among rocks and through the parched soil of the area. She hopes to discover what happens to contaminants under these conditions. In related research at the national level, Doser is studying the flow of such contaminants as transformer fluid and jet fuel in projects with both Sandia and Los Alamos national laboratories.

Dr. Nick Pingitore, originally a carbonate petrologist (studying rocks made from marine organisms) who now works primarily in geochemistry and materials science, came to UTEP 17 years ago, in part to become involved in a more practical, market-driven approach to geology. Since that time, the market has shifted dramatically from oil and mining to environmental problems, and his own move into geochemistry and the operation of the electron microprobe (a

computerized microscope that makes it possible to look at and identify elements in a space 75 times narrower than a human hair) has been advantageous in adjusting to the shift.

The former New Yorker explains: "All environmental problems are really chemical interactions on a geologic playing field." Sounding a lot like comedian George Carlin, he's fond of adding,

"I used to train scientists; now I train garbage men and women."

While Pingitore has three or four different projects going at any given time with Exxon Production Research in Houston, he's also involved with four graduate student studies of contaminants in El Paso's soil right now.

"Geology students used to discover or create wealth," he says. "Now, students are paying back (society) with environmental work. I hope they're efficient because this is the tax we're paying for our old approaches."

Dr. Anthony has a primary interest in young volcanic rock. She's able to do research of national significance by concentrating on recent volcanic formations in the El Paso region, such as the Kilbourne Hole volcanic cone, the Valley

of Fire volcanic flow, and even the dark volcanic flow rock near San Miguel, just across the New Mexican border in the Mesilla Valley. An interesting problem for geologists is that they are currently much better at dating ancient geologic formations than these more recent ones.

Anthony collaborates with Los Alamos National Laboratory to develop an accurate dating system for materials arising from geologically recent occurrences, such as these El Paso-area formations, that are measured in thousands of years instead of tens of thousands or millions. They hope the system will eventually be useful for dating materials in such diverse fields as anthropology, global climate studies and earthquake studies.

At the same time, Anthony works with senior faculty member Dr. Phil Goodell in collaboration with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on an environmental study in Mexico's Chihuahua state. The Mexican site bears remarkable resemblance to Yucca Mountain, Nev., the only site in the United States being considered as a national high-level nuclear waste disposal site. The Chihuahua site has naturally occurring uranium deposits,



making it possible for the researchers to study the migration of radioactive materials under circumstances nearly identical to those at Yucca Mountain for future environmental planning.

"We seem to be branching into environmental research development ahead of the curve of many universities," says Anthony.

In addition to its breadth of research specialties and its strong move into environmental geology, UTEP's geology department distinguishes itself from others around the nation and world by its faculty's ratio of females to males. With female faculty in geology hovering under 10 percent nationally, UTEP believes it has an unprecedented number and percentage of women, with five women making up one-third of the department's 15 members.

"We didn't go on a crusade to hire women," Dr. Keller explains. "We just went for the best qualifications." Newer female faculty members appreciate not having to worry about tokenism, and the entire faculty notices a positive effect on

student recruitment, particularly of female graduate students.

Wendi J. W. Williams, a doctoral candidate in petrology and economic geology, considered this an important factor in her decision to study at UTEP.

"I liked the innovative geology here, and I also wanted to work with a woman," Williams says. "Hearing UTEP's geology department had several female faculty members helped. I'd never had female faculty in geology before."

Doser was the department's first female faculty member when she arrived eight years ago. She believes that undergraduate women are positively affected by seeing that women can and do make it through the system. Male students seem happy with the diversity as well.

"Male graduate students have said they were attracted to the department because having women faculty makes the department look more open-minded," she notes.

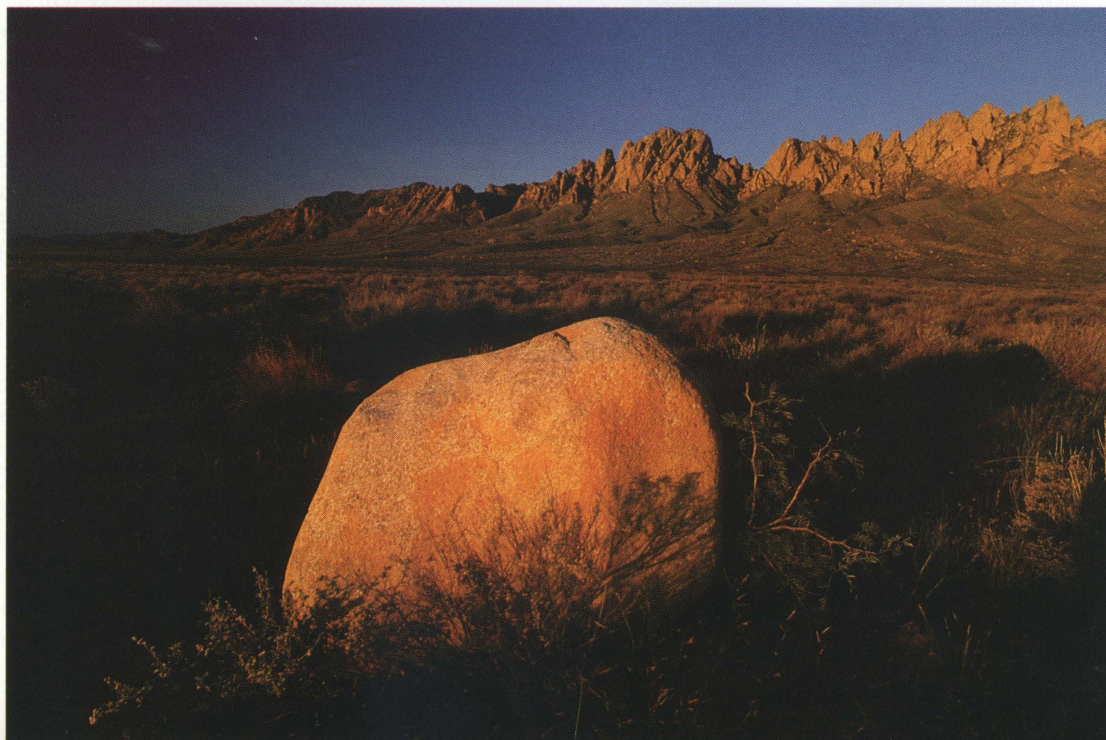
Recently, the Geological Sciences Building itself has become a recruiting tool for talented students and researchers alike. Three years ago, the department

moved into what used to be UTEP's old library, a structure that's been transformed into what now feels like a beautifully designed machine, humming with activity. The energy in this building is subdued but palpable. Lab after lab—visible to passersby through walls of windows—reveal professors and students working on basic research and projects for government and industry.

Pingitore glides through the open hallways with the presence and contentment of a priest in a cathedral. "This building is an incredible strength for the department," he says, sweeping his hands across the building's panorama. Pingitore came up with the idea of the windowed labs as a recruiting tool for students who can look in and see the exciting activities going on inside. But his ulterior motive was to allow the students and faculty working within to feel a part of the world they're studying as they carry on their research.

Microscope rooms, well-equipped classrooms and spacious offices with spectacular views of geologic formations abound. Scattered like gemstones among

The Organ Mountains near Las Cruces, N.M. are part of the Rocky Mountain range that extends into the southwestern desert. Photo by Bruce Berman





Leticia Y. Estrada, graduate student in geological sciences, works with Dr. Nick Pingitore on the electron microprobe analyzing silver-sulfur-selenium-tellurium compounds that could lead to the development of new semi-conductors.



The old library building, renovated in 1991, now houses the Department of Geological Sciences.

the building's four floors are dozens of labs, many designed around advanced and highly specialized equipment, such as the rooms for the electron microprobe, X-ray and neutron activation machines.

Department veterans, in particular, see how vividly their state-of-the-art facility symbolizes geology's growth in stature since the opening of the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy in 1914. While geology was an integral part of the college's mining focus from the beginning, it didn't grow into a separate department until 1931. The department's fluctuating growth since that time has been tied to market demands, such as oil and mining booms and busts, as well as the ever-expanding research areas requiring geologic information.

Geology's broad applications in fields from engineering to biology led to its being established as UTEP's first Ph.D. program in 1974, 15 years before another doctoral program was put into place at the

university. Yet for years the department had to attempt to work as a cohesive department while its faculty and facilities were strewn among seven buildings on campus. Since moving into their new facility, geology faculty and students act very much as if they are sitting on one of the great precious metal finds of the century. It's a quiet excitement, but one that obviously overflows into both research and learning.

Department chair Keller quietly directs the department's resources and energies into the primary goal of educating students. The faculty's varied research specialties, regionally and globally, become learning opportunities for students. To this end, every grant proposal is written to create opportunities for students to be active research participants, both in the field and in the indoor labs. The region's natural laboratories mean that undergraduates, as well as

graduate students, are involved in frequent field studies. And, when the research stretches around the world, students go along for the lesson.

Keller's study of the Kenya rift in East Africa has produced valuable information about what he calls the world's classic example of an active continental rift, where the earth's crust pulls apart and a valley drops. UTEP geology students have had the opportunity to be a part of this internationally significant research, accompanying Keller on each of his three trips to the Kenya site. During the 1990 expedition, Keller recruited Kenyan Ekal Imana as a student in UTEP's doctoral geophysics program.

In February, Keller and six students, including Imana, travelled to Kenya for three weeks of seismic study of the rift. Since he began the project in 1985, Keller, his students and his U.S. and European collaborators have discovered numerous similarities between the Kenya feature





Graduate students collaborating on the international Kenya Rift research project meet with Dr. Randy Keller before traveling to Africa in February for a month of field research.

left to right, Carlos Montana, Don Roberts, Dr. Randy Keller, Ekal Imana, Allison Bruce, Julie Whitelow.

and another prominent active continental rift — our own Rio Grande Valley.

The geology faculty is acutely aware of the changing demands of industry and employers for geology graduates. To prepare students for this shifting market, the department stresses a diverse training regiment that includes hands-on research experience.

"Industry likes our graduates because of their broad training and our giving them a little real-world element of education," says Keller. "We tell students a lot about industry."

Keller offers as example a class that brings in an expert to talk about current EPA regulations and another in which students learn to do seismic data manipulation identical to that being done in today's oil companies. "Our students can walk into a company tomorrow knowing exactly what to do," says Keller. "We even work on their speaking and writing for real-world applications."

The department encourages student participation in professional meetings, even at the undergraduate level. When a conference is scheduled within driving distance of El Paso, the geology department may take as many as 20 students to see what goes on in their professional community. This year, the department

has managed to get grant support to send graduate students to important international meetings in Japan and Australia.

And each spring, the graduate students and some upper-division undergraduates are given complete responsibility for putting on their own professional meeting at UTEP. They learn to solicit industry sponsors and judges, and to publish a collection of abstracts from the papers they present.

Keller admits the number of geology majors, particularly at the undergraduate level, rises and falls with market demand for geologists. But as demand has decreased in oil and mining in recent years, it has increased dramatically in environmental fields. Students from Mexico, who have traditionally made up a healthy portion of the department's enrollment, continue to come to UTEP.

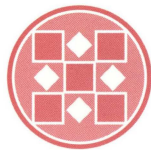
"Our border location makes us a perfect location for Mexican students," says Pingitore. "While we used to train mostly Mexican mining executives, now we train environmentalists from Mexico."

Doser sees the environmental focus continuing to grow. "This comes out of things like NAFTA," Dosier explains. "It reflects the desire of our students and the demand of the community. We're much more aware now of our environment."

In response to this demand, the geology department has mounted an effort to train current El Paso-area teachers in earth science and to encourage more students to pursue the field as a teaching career. In addition, the university is discussing the possibility of a new Ph.D. program in environmental science and engineering. The geology department sees itself as a major participant in such a program.

Maybe we won't be snorkeling in El Paso again any time soon, but events like California's recent earthquakes remind us that life on earth will always be affected by the earth's greater processes. While human concerns and market demands may change the focus of geology's study from time to time, our need for continued inquiry will persist. This means that as far as we can gaze into the future, we'll find UTEP's faculty and student geologists hard at work in their laboratories. That might mean working close at home in the Franklin Mountains, or at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, or aboard a ship in the Indian Ocean collecting core samples of deep marine sand, or in Kenya studying a continental rift that is strangely reminiscent of home in the Rio Grande Valley, half a world away. ■





Dr. Diane Doser, the first of five female tenure-track geology professors to be hired at UTEP, is immersed in nature's processes. Her specialty is a branch of geology called geophysics, and the part she's concerned with is seismology – the study of sound waves propagating through the earth, whether caused by earthquakes or explosions.

Doser turned down job offers in the oil industry following her undergraduate degree and opted to go to graduate school. She earned a doctoral degree in 1984 at the University of Utah.

"Of course, academia has its own pressures – teaching, research, publishing, and so on – but universities, overall, are more flexible and receptive, somehow more family oriented, than commercial employers," she explains, her clear, modulated voice traveling easily as she rests on a mound of pillows in a sunlit bay window full of cacti at her Canutillo home.

"I decided I'd prefer to teach and do research because it suits my lifestyle better," she recalls, her left hand moving to rest on her tummy, now pregnant with her second child.

Doser graduated from high school in the early 1970s already set on becoming a geologist. Today, she is an expert on the history of earthquakes in the western United States.

"Dr. Doser is not only El Paso's earthquake expert," explains doctoral candidate Donald Roberts, "but people across the country call her after an earthquake."

Doser has combed historical archives for information about quakes that occurred between 1900 and 1960 – the 60 years prior to the time when scientists began using standardized earthquake measuring techniques. Her research has produced valuable data that is used in preparing for future earthquakes – predicting their average magnitude, the severity of potential surface ruptures and the frequency and force of aftershocks.

Currently, she is funded by the National Science Foundation to study how seismic waves travel through the top layers of the earth. The research could provide information about how fluids such as industrial contaminants seep through



DR. DIANE DOSER, GEOLOGY PROFESSOR

By S. Gail Miller

fractures in the ground, making their way to underground water supplies. In another application of the research, airports would be able to prevent potential damage to their runways.

"Knowing how sound travels through pavement can tell us when the surface will crack," explains Doser. "For example, one of our graduate students is exploring the rate at which water freezes under pavement. We hope the sound waves will tell us when the ground is frozen and when it's not – very useful information for the people involved in deciding the safety of a runway under changing weather conditions."

Doser was born in rural Michigan to parents who came from scientific backgrounds. "My mother worked as a physicist at General Electric until I was born," Doser says. "In those days it just wasn't acceptable to have a child and a career at the same time."

As a child, Doser first traveled to the western United States – today the focus of most of her research – to spend the summer months on her grandparents' sheep ranch in Wyoming.

When she was 21, she met her future husband, Mark. Both were doing graduate

work, but at different universities.

"It took us several years to figure out how to make a life together," she says, laughing. "First, Mark was at Purdue and I was at Utah. Then, when I went to Caltech for my post-doctoral work, Mark was still working for Exxon in Houston. We married eight years after we first met, in the same church my parents were married in, at Fort Bridger, Wyoming."

Doser was hired at UTEP in the mid-1980s and is described by her colleagues and students as a wonderful teacher – tough but fair.

"I like teaching both graduates and undergraduates," she says. "My concern is method, especially with the non-geology majors in our introductory courses. I'm interested in getting students to relate the course material to the things in their environment – water supply and waste management and storm flooding in some of our poorly planned housing developments."

How, she asks, can we expect the public to support science if we don't present its relationship to daily life in terms the layperson can understand?

This semester, Doser is teaching a course that brings non-university experts to the classroom. Personnel from Sandia National Laboratories, for example, discuss with students how to apply geology to developing environmental impact studies and environmental restoration work.

"The courses she's developed at this level are quite novel," says Dr. Randy Keller, geology department chairman. "And she's adamant about student involvement in the public sphere."

This is a matter-of-fact approach to teaching in a discipline that Doser says is becoming increasingly cross-disciplinary. Master's and doctoral students – the geology department has about 40 of them – work with students in the Department of Civil Engineering and with Sandia Labs, conducting research in the field of geotechnical engineering. A combination of geology and geophysics, this cross-fertilization expands the role of both geologists and engineers, enabling them, for instance, to better advise industrial and commercial builders.



PARTNERS

I never met Virginia Farah. I caught a glimpse of her once — across a crowded ballroom at the University's 1991 Scholarship Dinner. I had intended to make my way to her table; to meet and personally thank the uncommonly generous woman to whom I had written so many times expressing UTEP's appreciation for her contributions to student scholarships. A virtual ocean of people and the commencement of the evening's program intervened and, good intentions notwithstanding, I never met Virginia Farah.

And yet, I feel I know her. Although she passed away three years ago, evidence of her character and spirit abounds at UTEP:

Through the Virginia H. Farah Foundation, she began making substantial gifts to the university in 1984. That year, she established two Frank N. Farah Scholarships in Science for undergraduates, two Clifford J. Farah Scholarships in Business for undergraduates and two James Farah Scholarships in Business for graduate students. These six were upgraded to the Presidential Excellence scholarship level in 1985. In December 1989, Mrs. Farah created four additional scholarships in business and two new awards: the Frank N. Farah Presidential Scholarship in Computer Science and the Frank N. Farah Presidential Scholarship in Engineering.

Over the past decade, the Farah scholarships have supported dozens of highly talented students, opening doors to opportunity, encouraging the desire to excel.



VIRGINIA FARAH

Speaking for those who have directly benefited from Virginia Farah's generosity, Diego Alvarado says, "My undergraduate experience would have been very different without the scholarship."

The senior metallurgy student explains: "First of all, I wouldn't be a senior because I would have had to work part-time. With the scholarship, I have been able to focus on my school work and related extracurricular activities. Without it, I think it would have taken me six to seven years to get my undergraduate degree."

Alvarado is a member of the American Foundry Society Chapter in El Paso and the Minerals, Metals and Minerals Society. He is also involved in the Engineering Expo and various other activities UTEP designed to encourage high school students to go to college and major in the sciences — activities he

couldn't have participated in without the extra time his Farah scholarship makes possible.

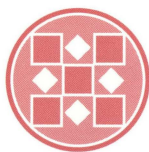
In addition to the scholarships at UTEP, Virginia Farah made numerous and substantial contributions in her lifetime. She sponsored baseball teams for underprivileged children, making gold rings for all of her team members; she financed the replacement of retiring police dogs at the El Paso Police Department; and always gave generously to the Orthodox Christian Church and to numerous local charity fundraising events.

With an eye toward eternity, she made provision in her will for a testamentary gift to permanently endow the Virginia H. Farah Foundation. Citing a desire to return to the world many of the blessings bestowed upon her in life, she thus provided a vehicle through which she could continue to support the causes closest to heart — the Orthodox Christian Church, disadvantaged children, older citizens and education.

True to her spirit, Foundation trustees have recently announced the creation of a new scholarship. In honor of Virginia's granddaughter, the Deanna Farah Scholarship in Art will be awarded for the first time in the Fall 1994 semester.

As I've said, I never met Virginia Farah, but her deeds reveal her to be a caring, compassionate, generous woman.

Janis Cavin
UTEP Development Director



THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

UTEP's Alumni Association is an organization of former students and faculty members that promotes the interests and general welfare of the university. The association assists UTEP in its mission for achieving academic excellence, by supporting and sponsoring valuable programs, projects, and activities. The Alumni Association also serves as a conduit for fellowship. In sponsoring several activities, the association provides opportunities for alumni to come together and participate as a group in the growth of their alma mater.

Joining the Alumni Association is one way UTEP graduates have demonstrated their commitment to the university and its past, present and future students. If you aren't a current Alumni Association member and wish to join, send a minimum annual contribution of \$25 per person to the academic program of your choice. Mail your donation to the UTEP Alumni Association, Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Tex., 79968. Include your year of graduation or the years you attended UTEP on your check, and indicate the college, department, academic program or scholarship for which your donation is intended. A membership card will be mailed to you upon receipt of your contribution.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Members of the Alumni Association are invited to participate in the wide array of programs, projects and activities sponsored by the association, such as the following:

- Alumni Credit Card
- Alumni Directory
- Annual Public Service Announcements
- Annual Back to School Kickoff Picnic
- Annual Season of Lights Program
- Class Reunions
- Distinguished Alumni Awards and Reception
- "Follow the Miners" Trips
- Football and Basketball Pre-game Parties
- Gold Nugget Awards
- Golden Grads Anniversary Certificates
- Homecoming Events such as Post Bonfire Party and Parade Float Awards
- Library Usage
- New Faculty/Staff Welcome Luncheon
- Out of Town Alumni Reunions
- Regional Alumni Chapters
- Scholarships
- Student Recruitment
- Top Ten Senior Awards
- User Accounts for Computer Networking



The Creole Jazz Band played for Matrix Society members at the annual Fat Tuesday party held Feb. 15.

1994 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Jody Mullings, *President*
Martini DeGroat, *President-Elect*
John Shaw, *Vice President*
Ron Rush, *Treasurer*
Romelia Ramos Juarez, *Secretary*
Doris Goodman, *Past President*

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Ana Luisa Walcutt
Donald L. Williams
Tony Woo

1994 CALENDAR OF ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Mark your calendar now and make plans to join your friends for the many exciting events scheduled throughout 1994. For more information on these events, please call the Alumni Office at 747-5533.

- 9th Annual Fun Run/Walk, April 30
- Top Ten Seniors Banquet, May 12
- Annual Kickoff Picnic, Aug. 28
- UTEP vs. NMSU Pre-game Football Party, Sept. 17
- "Follow the Miners" to the Alamodome: UTEP vs. Air Force, Sept. 24
- UTEP vs. Hawaii Pre-game Football Party, Oct. 1
- Homecoming Week, Oct. 17 - 22
- Distinguished Alumni Award Reception, Student Bonfire/Spirit Rally, Oct. 21
- UTEP vs. BYU Pre-game Homecoming Party, Oct. 22
- UTEP vs. Fresno Pre-game Football Party, Nov. 12
- Season of Lights Ceremony, Nov. 29

MINER MANIA ACROSS THE NATION

Springing up in various locations across the country are UTEP alumni chapters and clubs. These organizations are all relatively new, but they are gaining momentum. The chapters and clubs are one way alumni can collectively keep aware of and share in the development and growth of their alma mater.

• NORTH TEXAS

On Feb. 17, Dallas/Ft. Worth area alumni gathered at Reunion Arena to watch the Dallas Mavericks take on the Indiana Pacers and their 6'9" forward Antonio Davis, a former UTEP Miner. The evening, arranged by the North Texas Chapter of UTEP's Alumni Association, proved to be a fun-filled one for all attending.

For more information about the North Texas Chapter and its upcoming activities, call Robert Jimenez, chapter president, at (214) 506-0456.

• WASHINGTON, D.C.

Alumni in Washington, D.C. are interested in forming a chapter of the UTEP Alumni Association. To express your interest or for more information, contact Robert Giron at (301) 650-1368 or Bea Navarette Maestras at (703) 313-8489.

• LOS ANGELES/ ORANGE COUNTY

Alumni in the Los Angeles/Orange County area are currently in the process of establishing an alumni chapter. They held their first meeting last year at Pepper's Restaurant in Artesia. Joining the spirited group that evening was Harry Flourney Jr., a member of UTEP's 1966 NCAA championship basketball team. Recently, the group chartered a bus to San Diego to cheer on the Miners. The group of 30 included alumni, family and friends.

For more information about alumni activities in the Los Angeles/Orange County area, contact John Solis at (310) 334-8269 or Ernie Federico at (310) 496-3500.

• JUÁREZ

Promoting the UTEP's Mexican alumni who return to Mexico, helping them validate and legalize their degrees in Mexico, and assisting and encouraging



Mary Stevens, a lecturer in the accounting department of the College of Business Administration, was one of many volunteers who helped to contact alumni during the 31st AFE telephone campaign.

Mexican students during their college careers are the objectives of the alumni association in Juárez. Rigoberto Delgado, Coordinator of Mexican students at UTEP's International Student Services Office, opened the group's first meeting.

For more information about the alumni activities in Juárez, contact Marina Gonzalez de Moss at (0115216)-18-33-73.

• AUSTIN

On May 10, 1993, Austin area alumni met at the Guest Quarters Suite Hotel, visiting with old friends and getting re-acquainted with former classmates. The alumni reception led to plans (currently underway) to establish an Alumni Association chapter in Austin. For more information about alumni activities in Austin, contact Aaron Cranford at (512) 244-7634.

9TH ANNUAL FUN RUN/WALK

Put on your sneakers, get out your shorts, and join the Alumni Association on April 30 for the 9th Annual Fun Run/Walk. The event, scheduled to begin at 7:30 a.m., consists of a 5K (3.1 mile) course which starts at Kidd Field and proceeds through the university. Whether you choose to walk or run the course, one choice is clear: that of entering the event and showing your support for UTEP and its Alumni Association. Everyone is welcome to enter. For more information, call the Alumni Office at 747-5533.

"FOLLOW THE MINERS" TO SAN ANTONIO

Alumni, friends, and fans are invited to join the Alumni Association for a weekend "Miner" excursion to San Antonio. Make plans now to cheer the Miner football team to victory against Air Force in the new Alamodome on Sept. 24. The following two packages are available:

- Package 1 - A two night, three day trip, departing from El Paso on Friday, Sept. 23, at 3:30 p.m. and returning on Sunday, Sept. 25, at 2:50 p.m. The package, approximately \$475, includes airfare, hotel, football tickets, ground transportation, and pre-game reception. Hotel accommodations are at the St. Anthony.

- Package 2 (for alumni, friends, and fans who need local accommodations only) - Hotel for one night, football tickets, ground transportation, and pre-game reception. Cost is approximately \$175.

Space is limited, so don't delay in clearing your calendar for this exciting event. For information or reservations, call the Alumni Office at 747-5533.

COMING SOON FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION...

- The first ever Alumni Directory to be published in 1995; and,

- An official UTEP Alumni Association credit card. Look for upcoming details on how you can be a card-carrying member.

CLASS NOTES

UTEP ON THE LINE

Imagine having the task of contacting 18,000 alumni in only 10 days! Impossible? Not if the driving force behind the effort is a team of 60 dedicated phone volunteers a night, as was evidenced recently during UTEP's 31st Alumni Fund for Excellence (AFE) telephone campaign.

For two weeks, students, faculty, staff, and alumni volunteers made phone calls to UTEP graduates across the nation. The calls were made Monday through Thursday and Saturday of each week from the Sun Bowl press box. The purpose of this annual campaign was to raise funds to support the university's many valuable academic programs.

The program to be supported is determined by the graduate. "A central part of AFE is providing our alumni with various options," said Marcia Cohen, coordinator of alumni affairs. "Alumni can designate their contribution to a specific college, department, or program, or denote it as 'unrestricted', which means that the support will be used at the discretion of President Diana Natalicio for those programs which have the greatest need."

AFE also serves another purpose. "Through AFE, we are able to update our alumni records and touch base with our ever-growing alumni family," said Cohen.

Last year, volunteers successfully made 28% more contacts and increased the number of pledges by 10%.

While the results of this year's campaign were not yet in, Cohen was optimistic that this year's total will surpass the 1993 effort.

"I am confident that this year's effort, as a result of all the help we received from our volunteers and the pledges made by our alumni, will be a huge success," said Cohen. "And I'd like to add that our alumni, whether contacted or not, are encouraged and welcomed to participate in this year's campaign."

HELP NEEDED FOR SPRING CLEANING

Are you currently receiving two copies of NOVA? Is your issue being mailed to your parents' home? Is the name on the mailing label your maiden name and you'd like it to reflect your married name? If you answered "yes" to any one of these questions, or if you know of anyone who is a UTEP graduate and is not receiving NOVA, please contact the Alumni Office at (915) 747-5533 so that we change our records.

30s ▼

Robert Stevenson (B.A. '36) was chosen Outstanding Ex-Student at the Texas College of Mines in 1963. Currently a professor of musicology at UCLA and editor of *Inter-American Music Review*, he was invited by Venezuela's Minister of Culture to be the keynote speaker at an International Music Festival in Caracas in October, 1993. He has been the recipient of several honorary degrees, including an honorary doctorate from the Universidade Nova in Lisbon, Portugal, in June 1993, an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1992 and an honorary doctorate of music from The Catholic University of America in 1991.

Sheldon P. Wimpfem (B.S. '39) was the Texas College of Mines' Outstanding Ex-Student in 1954 and currently resides in Luray, Va. He has written *Tin Peaks and Silver Streams*, a book chronicling his 60 years of mining experiences around the world, and he is looking for a publisher. Until the break-up of the Soviet Union, he worked for the Defense Nuclear Agency involved in underground structures for people and missiles.

40s ▼

David L. Carrasco (B.A. '42), a former coach and athletic director at the American University, in Washington, D.C., was honored posthumously at a ceremony on Feb. 5, 1994, by a group of his former students. He was recognized for his many accomplishments during his tenure, including being named the 1958 NCAA Division II Basketball Coach of the Year, his appointment as Olympic Games Attache in Mexico City in 1968 and being the first faculty member to recruit black athletes. He was well known in El Paso as director of the Jobs Corps Center which now bears his name.

Georgina Jacquin Sanchez Tugman (B.A. '47; M.A. '52) moved to San Diego, Calif., in 1957 with her late husband, **A. Ernest Sanchez**, M.D. (B.B.A. '48). Dr. Sanchez served the community with such distinction until his death in 1984 that the Mayor of San Diego proclaimed May 6 as "Dr. A. Ernest Sanchez Day" in honor of the doctor's dedication to bettering health care services for all citizens of San Diego regardless of race, creed or economic standing. As the first Mexican-American doctor in the city, he was especially beloved by the Hispanic community. Mrs. Sanchez Tugman was honored as the "1993 Special Medical Mother" by CHAMA (the California Hispanic-American Medical Association) for her contribution to Dr. Sanchez's work in the Hispanic community. She is now married to Leonard Tugman, a retired teacher.

50s ▼

Ralph S. Dickinson (B.B.A. '57) retired as manager of joint facilities at the Southern Pacific Transportation Co. in January 1994 after 34 years of service. He earned his M.B.A. from U.T. Austin in 1959.

Rosa Ramirez Guerrero (B.A. '57; M.E. '76) was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Austin on Jan. 29, 1994, for her contributions to dance, young people and multicultural understanding. She is one of 74 women to be honored since 1984 for their unique talents and accomplishments in their particular fields.

Roger Ortiz, D.D.S., (B.A. '57) was named Dentist of the Year by the Texas Academy of General Dentistry at its annual Lone Star Dental Conference in Austin. A graduate of the University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston, Ortiz has a private dental practice in El Paso.

60s ▼

Samuel Carreon (B.S.C.E. '63), a consulting engineer, was presented the Outstanding Achievement Award from El Paso Natural Gas Company in January 1993 for his innovative approach to pipeline construction across stream crossings in a high water table environment.

Chance Williams (B.A. '63), a 20-year veteran of Southern California Gas Co., was promoted to manager

of the utility's new expanded Pacific Region based in Torrance, Calif., in August 1993. Williams had previously worked as a reporter and producer for the CBS News Los Angeles Bureau. He is a member of the American Gas Association, the Pacific Coast Gas Association, the Urban League and the NAACP.

Gerald J. Rubin (B.S. '65), chairman and executive officer of Helen of Troy, has been elected to the board of directors of Texas Commerce Bank in El Paso. His civic activities include the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce and the El Paso Symphony Orchestra.

Raymond O. Mergenthal (B.A. '67; M.Ed. '71) retired from the Federal Civil Service in January 1993 after 24 years of service. His last assignment was as an Educational Systems Specialist at the Navy's Fleet Combat Training Center in San Diego.

Capt. Richard Eason (B.S. '69) was incorrectly identified as a crew member of the combat store ship USS San Jose in the Winter 1993 edition of NOVA. He actually served as captain of the ship, which was recently decommissioned. Capt. Eason has since been transferred to Norfolk, Va., where he will serve as operations officer of the entire Atlantic Fleet.

Alice E. Valdez (B.M. '69), director of Houston's Multi-Cultural Education and Counseling for the Arts, recently received the Barbara Jordan Leadership Award in Visual and Performing Arts. Among her many other honors are induction in 1989 into the Hispanic Women's Hall of Fame, the Fiestas Patrias Distinguished Hispanic Award, the Jefferson Award for Community Service and recognition from LULAC, Tau Beta Sigma Sorority and the Alley Theater.

70s ▼

Jack DeVore (B.A. '72) has retired as assistant to Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentson. The former El Paso TV newsman, who worked for 20 years as press secretary to Bentson when he was a U.S. senator, is returning to Austin to work part time for a political consulting company.

Hector Martinez (B.S.C.E. '75) has been named projects manager for M.E.E. General Contractor in El Paso. Martinez, a former business manager for Brown and Root Services Corporation in El Paso and Houston, will be responsible for administrative oversight.

Irma Calderon Woodruff (B.A. '75) is the assistant to the executive director of the Southwestern Bell Foundation. She has been with the company for twenty years and is responsible for their first major Spanish-language advertising/marketing campaign. She is past president of the Hispanic Association of Communications Employees and currently serves on the board of the National Hispanic Employees Association.

Victor Arias (B.B. '78) has joined the management team of Faison-Stone Las Colinas, Inc., as executive vice president and national marketing director. He will oversee the company's local and national land marketing and development. Arias holds an M.B.A. from the Stanford Graduate School of Business and serves on the national board of directors for the Stanford Business School Alumni Association. He is the co-founder and past president of the National Society of Hispanic M.B.A.s.

Eric P. Braschwitz (B.B.A. '79) resides in Bowling Green, Ky., where he has taken a position as assistant corporate controller of Camping World, Inc.

80s ▼

Jesus Miguel Araujo (B.S.Ed. '80), a teacher for ten years, was named Educator of the Week by the El Paso Herald-Post. He currently teaches health, coaches and instructs folklorico at Bowie High School.

Jaime Barceleau, CAPT/USA Res. (B.A. '80) was presented with the General of the Army Omar Bradley Award by the El Paso chapter of the Association of the United States Army during its annual banquet in

October 1993. Barceau was recognized for his development of programs for children with special health care needs at the El Paso Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Orthopaedics Department.

Saul Gonzalez, II, J.D., (B.S. '82) has joined the staff of the Texas Civil Rights Project, which is dedicated to working on civil rights cases and bringing about structural change and reform on behalf of the Texas poor. Gonzalez has worked as an attorney for the Legal Hotline for Older Texans and has volunteered for the Political Asylum Project, Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas and Capital Area AIDS Legal Project.

Hector Villa (B.S. '83), currently head of the Texas Water Commission and its director for border affairs, will head the El Paso office of the new Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. His immediate goals are to improve the environment and create partnerships between citizens and government agencies.

Jose J. Baca, M.D., (B.S. '85) has become an associate of Anesthesia Consultants Associated in El Paso. A lifetime resident of El Paso, Baca is a graduate of the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston.

Van E. Hagan, P.E., (B.S.C.E. '85) was recently promoted to assistant director of public works/city engineer by the city of Odessa, Texas. Prior to his promotion, he served in the city's Public Works Department as assistant city engineer.

Hector Vasquez, P.E., (B.S.C.E. '85) was hired by the city of Odessa, Texas, in September 1993 as superintendent of solid waste. He directs more than 50 employees in collection, route support and land filling operations for the Public Works Department.

Ismael Leggareta (B.S.C.E. '86) was honored as Outstanding Ex-Student of Bel Air High School at its homecoming celebration in October 1993. Legareta is president of the El Paso Jaycees, serves on the boards of the Salvation Army and the Private Industry Council and is a member of the UTEP Alumni Association.

Rachel Gutierrez (B.B.A. '88), president of the El Paso Natural Gas Co.'s Toastmasters Club 2461, is the new area eight governor for the Toastmasters International District 23.

Patricia Clara Imai (M.Ed. '88) is one of the outstanding teachers chosen by the El Paso Herald-Post as Teacher of the Week. She has taught early childhood at Ramona Elementary School in El Paso and has just completed her certification for mid-management.

Dean R. McAlister (B.B. '88) has been appointed market research analyst for the Zeneca Pharmaceutical Group in Wilmington, Del. The company is among the nation's top research-based pharmaceutical companies. She has been with the company since 1988.

Deanna Sue Nasser, CPA, (B.B.A. '88 Cum Laude) was UTEP Student Association President from 1986-88, a Top Ten Senior in 1988 and Alumni Fund for Excellence Co-Chairman in 1993. She is currently an international auditor in the Financial Management Development Program at Cooper Industries, Inc., a Houston-based Fortune 100 manufacturing company.

Julian Martinez (B.S.E.E. '89) has been named director of the Minority Engineering Program at Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colo. Prior to this appointment, Martinez was an electrical engineer at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Port Hueneme, Calif. He was chairman of the Hispanic Employment Program and developed tutoring programs for "at risk" high school students in the Ventura County area. He is past president of the UTEP chapters of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and the Mexican-American Engineering Society and is currently working on a master's degree in electrical engineering.

Gustavo Zepeda (B.B.A. '89) and his wife, **Marissa**, have returned to their native El Paso from California to open the trendy Dolce Vita Coffee Shop in Kern Place.

Kent Byus (B.B.A. '91) was named dean of education for the Southwest Institute. Byus earned his master's degree in international marketing from Texas Tech University.

Phillip Garcia (B.S.E.E. '91) presented research findings on "Satellite Imaging of the Kuwait Oil Fires" and conducted research at the Cooperative Institute of Research in the environmental sciences at the

University of Colorado. He has accepted a position as a member of the technical staff at AT&T Bell Laboratories in Holmdel, N.J.

OBITUARIES

Claud Boykin (B.A. '28) August 1990. At the College of Mines, he was captain of the football team. By profession he was an independant oil man who discovered several new fields near Taft, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Jewel, and a son.

J. Verle Groce (M.A. '50) April 15, 1993 in Leesburg, Ind. Until his retirement in 1969, he was employed by the El Paso Independent School District for twenty years as principle of several elementary schools and assistant principle of El Paso High School.

Ilana H. Garcia (B.S.Ed. '83) July 23, 1993. She graduated from UTEP with honors and was named Outstanding Teacher Candidate of 1984 by the College of Education. She was a fourth-grade teacher at Pebble Hills Elementary School, where she was named Teacher of the Year in 1987-88. She is survived by her husband, Robert, two daughters (both UTEP graduates), two sons (both UTEP students), her mother and four brothers.

Donald Francis Bevan (attended T.C.M.M. '30's) Sept. 7, 1993. He was a World War II veteran and member of Masonic Lodge #1172. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Imogene, a son, a daughter and five grandchildren.

Kenneth James Neubert (B.S. Ed. '76) Oct. 21, 1993. He retired from the Army after 20 years of service and had resided in El Paso for 30 years. He was a member of the D.A.V. and N.A.U.S. Survivors include his wife, Eileen, two sons, three daughters, four brothers, a sister and nine grandchildren.

Mary Ruff (B.A. '56) Oct. 22, 1993. An El Paso resident for 48 years, she was a retired teacher and a member of Trinity First United Methodist Church. She is survived by her husband, Edgar, two daughters, a son, a sister and four grandchildren.

Alma Mary Plemons (M.A. '50) Oct. 25, 1993. She had been a resident of El Paso for 49 years and was a retired teacher who had taught at Bell, Lincoln, Franklin, Hillside, Morehead and Lamar schools. She was an active member of Park Hill Christian Church and a volunteer at Sun Towers Hospital. Survivors include a niece, five great-nieces and a great-nephew.

John E. (Jack) Haley (B.A. '57) Nov. 5, 1993 in Indio, Calif. He had worked as an industrial process engineer in the molded cellulose product industry since 1963 and developed many processes and machines for his employers. He is survived by his wife, Betty, six children and eight grandchildren.

Stephen Clifford Preslar (B.A. '71) November 1993.

Donald Berry Henderson (attended UTEP) Nov. 11, 1993. A lifelong resident of El Paso, he attended Coronado High School where he lettered in golf. He served in the Navy from 1977 to 1979. He is survived by his father, Donald S. Henderson, his mother, Marjorie, his grandmother, two sisters and a brother.

Arturo Buenaventura Alvarez (B.S.C.E. '59) Nov. 14, 1993. A long-time El Paso resident, he worked as a civil engineer in the United States and Saudi Arabia. He also was a math and science teacher in the El Paso Independent School District. Survivors include two brothers and two sisters.

Elizabeth Adelia Bregg (retired UTEP Professor Emeritus of Nursing) Nov. 14, 1993 in Niagara on The Lake, Ontario, Canada. Prior to coming to El Paso, she taught at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio.

Hilda Dittmer Wooldridge (sister-in-law of UTEP donor Bernice Dittmer) Nov. 22, 1993 at the age of 98. She had been a resident of El Paso for 85 years. In 1971, Mr. and Mrs. Dittmer established the Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wooldridge Endowed Library Fund in their honor.

Daniel O. Titus (B.S.Ed. '58) Nov. 27, 1993. He was a native El Pasoan.

Ambrose Burnside Burns (B.S.Ed. '73; M.S.Ed. '74) Dec. 12, 1993. An Army veteran, he was a member of the Masonic Lodge #30, El Paso Scottish Rite Bodies, V.F.W. and D.A.V. and was Scoutmaster for Troop #165.

Survivors include his wife, Lois, a daughter, three sons, a sister and five grandchildren.

Herbert A. Kitchin, USA (Ret) (M.Ed. '70) Dec. 17, 1993. He was a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam conflicts and had retired from the army after more than 20 years of service. He lived in El Paso 35 years and was a teacher at Parkland High School and member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Survivors include three sons, a daughter and a sister.

Kristin Gonzalez (B.B.A. '75) Dec. 26, 1993, in Mesa, Ariz. She worked as a financial analyst for Samaritan Health Services for 16 years. She was a member of the American Institute of Public Accountants, the Healthcare Financial Management Association, the American Diabetes Association and the L.D.S. Church. She is survived by her parents, Bill and Peggy Gonzalez, and two sisters.

George Burdette Woodworth, COL/USA (Ret.) (B.S. Ed. '70) Jan. 2, 1994. He served in World War II and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. After retiring from the military following 32 years of service, he was a teacher at Austin High School in El Paso. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen, two sons, three daughters, a sister, a brother and 10 grandchildren.

Thomas M. Carson, LTC/USA (Ret.) (B.S. Ed. '71) Jan. 5, 1994. The former El Paso County librarian was a 32nd Degree Mason and a member of the Scottish Rite, the Retired Officers Association, the Historical Society and Westerners Corral. Survivors include his wife, Lois, a son, two daughters, a brother, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Joseph M. Rector III (B.B.A. '50) Jan. 16, 1994, in El Reno, Okla. He retired as chairman of the board of 1st National Bank of El Reno. He is survived by his wife, Sue, four sons, eleven grandchildren and his mother.

Albert Lee Nedow (B.B.A. '67) Jan. 17, 1994. He was a resident of El Paso for 28 years and a member of Congregation B'Nai Zion, Temple Mt. Sinai and Chabad. Survivors include his wife, Rachelle, two daughters, a sister and brother.

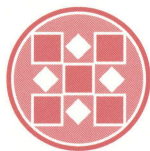
Karen S. Ponchard (B.A. '91) Jan. 18, 1994. She lived in Europe for 26 years and taught languages for Berlitz Schools. After returning to El Paso in 1989, she taught language and ESL courses at UTEP and the El Paso Community College. She is survived by two sons, her parents, her grandmother and four sisters.

Vida Lucille White (B.A. '51; M.A. '53) Jan. 22, 1994. She taught at Mesita Elementary School in El Paso for 17 years and was president of the El Paso Teachers Association in 1961-62. She served two terms as state president of the Texas Association of Childhood Education, was president of Delta Kappa Gamma and was worthy matron of the Grandfalls, Texas, Chapter of Eastern Star. In addition to being a long-time member of the Grandfalls Union Church, she was a charter member of Coronado Christian Church in El Paso. She is survived by her husband, John.

Rebecca R. Nave (B.A. '48) Jan. 24, 1994. She was a native El Pasoan and a member of Queen of Peace Catholic Church, the Queen of Peace Ladies Guild, the El Paso Woman's Club and the Officer's Wives Club. Survivors include a son and a sister.

Edna Mae Vallian Strain (B.A. '40) Jan. 30, 1994. A resident of El Paso for 56 years, she retired from teaching for the El Paso Independent School District after 23 years of service. She was the widow of William S. Strain, professor of geology at UTEP for 37 years. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, the A.A.U.W. and Friends of the Westside Library. Survivors include a daughter, a grandson, a sister-in-law and a nephew.

Alice Jackman Nelson (M.A. '55) died Feb. 1, 1994 in Ojai, Calif. She was an elementary school teacher in El Paso for 47 years prior to her retirement in 1972. In 1981, she moved to Ojai to be near her brother, Royal Jackman, also a graduate of the university. In El Paso, she had been a member of Trinity First United Methodist Church and was a Daughter of the American Revolution. She is survived by her brother, two nephews and two nieces.



MINER ALUM NEW COMMUNICATION CHAIR

The new chairman of the Department of Communication envisions a host of changes that will marry technology with communications to create a cutting edge program that capitalizes on UTEP's border environment and predominantly Hispanic student body.

Dr. Henry T. Ingle seems uniquely qualified to lead the university's communications and technological development into the 21st century. Due to his extensive experience in the use of new information technology in the private, public and academic sectors, Ingle also assumes dual responsibility as the assistant vice president for technology development.

The multitalented El Paso native grew up in the Lower Valley as one of five sons of Mexican immigrants, but left 30 years ago to pursue a graduate education. His mother and other elderly relatives still live here, as do the relatives of his wife, Yolanda, whom he met at Texas Western College (UTEP) while working toward his 1965 bachelor's degree in mass communications.

Ingle has a master's degree in communications media from Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Communications and a Ph.D. in interdisciplinary studies from Stanford University, where he earned a master's degree in communications media and methods in 1966. He has directed a number of programs at the national and international level that blend educational methods and communications technology that is his passion today.

The former dean of the College of Communication at California State University-Chico, Ingle left in 1987 to serve as a senior postdoctoral research fellow in communications at The Claremont Graduate School and The Tomás Rivera Center for Policy Studies. He founded and still serves as executive



Dr. Henry T. Ingle

director of a non-profit technical assistance, planning and training agency called "Connecting to Change."

At UTEP, Ingle envisions creation of a five-year transborder communication program that emphasizes such areas as information technology, intercultural communications and media issues, and capitalizes on the "unique bilingual and bicultural skills of our students."

Other short- and long-range plans include starting a speaker's bureau in the department to get people from the media – locally, regionally and nationally – to come speak to journalism classes. Ingle also wants to build partnerships with communication departments in New Mexico and Mexico to build on each others' strengths.

Ingle sees a not-too-distant day when students and faculty in Mexican colleges and universities could access UTEP resources through distance-teaching technologies. He wants to organize professional development seminars at UTEP on weekends that would attract communications professionals seeking to improve their skills.

The dynamic communicator also plans to reach out to the business community to seek financial partnerships that would lead to the renovation of the communication department's outdated facilities.

CENTENNIAL MUSEUM ADDS RESEARCH ARM

The Centennial Museum has formed its first formal partnership with an academic department to greatly expand its collections and to add a strong research component to the museum.

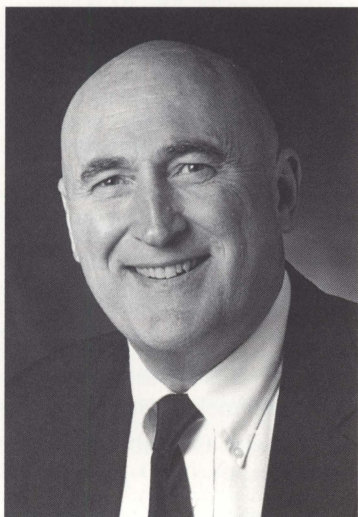
"We're extremely excited about our partnership with The Laboratory for Environmental Biology," museum director Florence Schwein says. "The museum collection has been enhanced by 110,761 objects."

Most of the objects – ranging from part of a prehistoric elephant's palate with teeth still intact to hundreds of tiny rodents stored in neat rows in drawers – are located in the environmental biology lab on the second floor of the Biology Building. Six curators oversee more than 100,000 specimens collected over the past quarter century by UTEP biologists and students, including extensive herpetology, paleontology and herbarium collections.

Lab director Art Harris believes the partnership will provide the museum not only with a strong research component, but also with access to a cadre of biology professionals who can share their expertise and provide opportunities for a greater variety of museum exhibits. Biological sciences associate professor Carl Lieb, who served as the director of the Centennial Museum for two years, has a unique perspective on the partnership.

Says Lieb, "The Centennial Museum has been perceived as a sort of attic over the years for anyone in the community who wanted to donate their collection for safekeeping. But the museum is much more than that and has a greater role to play. This marriage helps solidify its position as a more complete university museum offering exhibits, research and education."

HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Michael Kolitsky

KOLITSKY TAKES HIGH-TECH REINS

Dr. Michael Kolitsky has taken the wheel to guide UTEP on its technological journey down the nation's new information superhighway.

Kolitsky, a biology professor and former director of California Lutheran University's Optical Data Design Center, was named by President Diana Natalicio as assistant vice president for instructional technology.

Kolitsky's mission is to find new ways to use technology in teaching and to train professors to create teaching tools that take advantage of the computer-driven technology. One of Kolitsky's primary responsibilities is to direct planning for the new \$15 million classroom building that will be a showcase for state-of-the-art teaching technology.

"Using technological teaching tools means that we bring as much of the real world into the classroom as possible," Kolitsky says. "It allows us to break new ground and encourage teachers to rethink how we teach."

While at California Lutheran University, Kolitsky designed a videodisc that uses video footage and computer animation to simulate a semester's worth of microscope work in a vertebrate embryology laboratory. Students used a computer and videodisc player to

simulate study normally performed with a microscope and did it in less time than usual. For his creation, Kolitsky received the Distinguished National Science Curriculum Innovation Award from EDUCOM.

Through a new Multimedia Teaching and Learning Center, Kolitsky will train UTEP students and professors to create similar computer and video teaching aids.

Kolitsky holds a bachelor of science degree in biology from Juniata College and a Ph.D. in cell physiology from Temple University.

TEACHER ED CURRICULUM REVAMPING

Thanks to a generous state grant, a handful of professors in the College of Education and their students are preparing to test a new curriculum that is expected to lead to profound changes in the way UTEP educates teachers.

Fifteen education majors inaugurated the program at the beginning of the spring semester. Under the revamped curriculum, students attend university classes during the first five weeks of the semester, and spent the following 10 weeks as interns in public schools.

The curriculum was developed through the UTEP Center for Professional Development and Technology with a \$1.6 million grant from the Texas Education Agency. It puts education students into public school classrooms earlier in their training than more traditional curricula. It also is expected to foster cooperation between professors who teach related classes, make public school teachers important partners in the education process and lend more structure to the series of courses that future elementary and secondary teachers take at UTEP, says Dr. Deborah Miller-Wood, the center's new research and evaluation coordinator.

The curriculum divides the required

teacher education courses into four semester "blocks" of related classes and field work. The professors who teach the courses in each block will work together to develop their lesson plans, and each class in the block will be attended by the same group of students.

Miller-Wood says UTEP's courses will become much more meaningful to students because the blocks will help them see how everything they are learning fits together. In addition, under the new curriculum professors will spend less time in university classrooms and more time in the public schools where they can observe the student interns.

Dr. Norma Hernandez, who has taught at UTEP for 20 years, says the new curriculum will reflect at the university level the kind of integrated instruction that school districts expect public school teachers to carry out in their own classrooms. If education students are expected to learn to teach reading as a part of science class, they should be taught to teach reading at the same time they are being taught to teach science, she says.

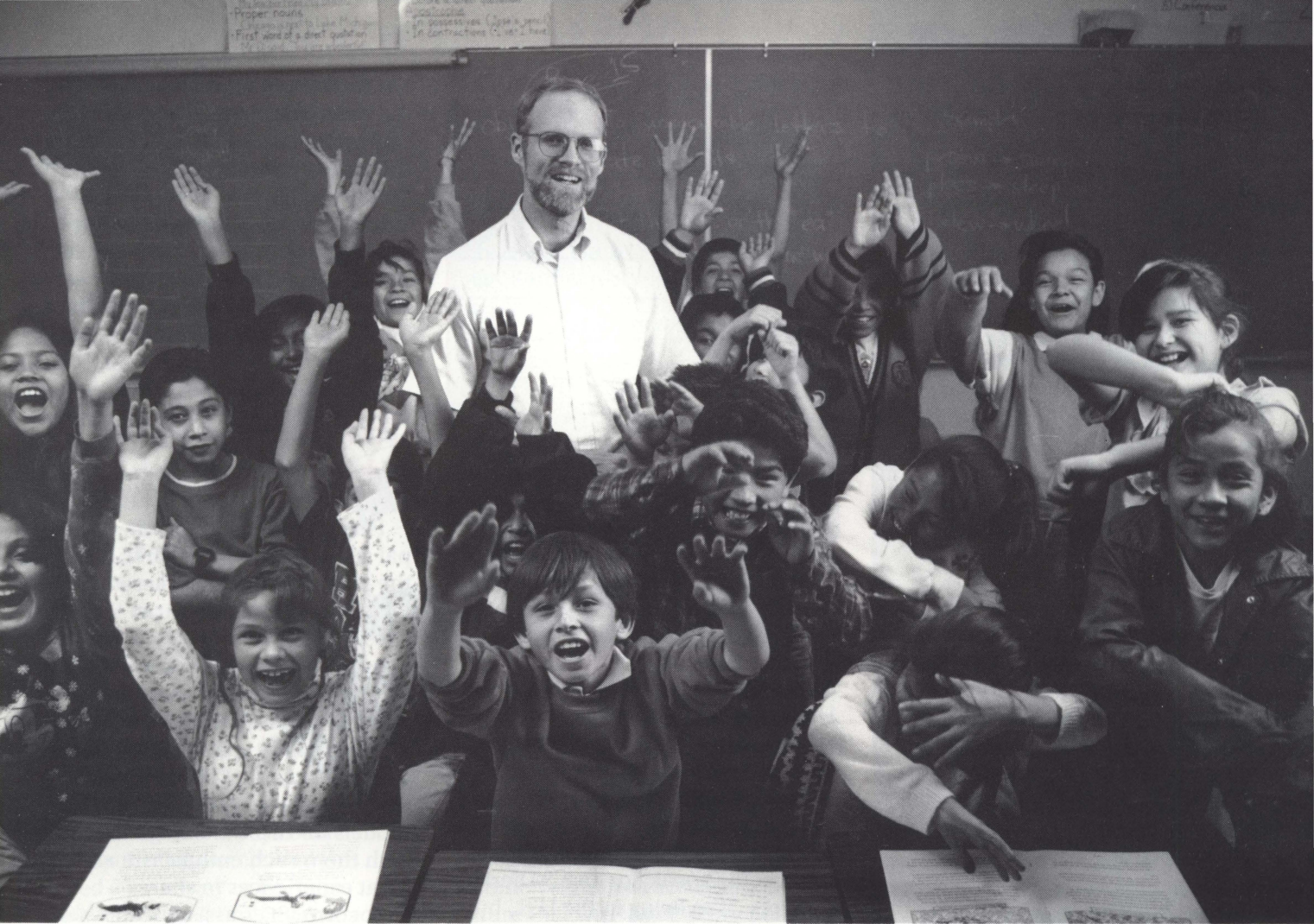
But Hernandez admits that making the concept catch on collegewide will be a challenge.

"I'm going to have to go out there to the schools and show my students how to teach using real live kids," Hernandez says. "That is going to be very different from the kind of instruction that most of us are used to."

And what do the schools get out of this experiment?

To begin with, 68 classrooms in which UTEP interns and teaching residents will work will get three new computers, a laser printer and an overhead projector capable of projecting the contents of a computer screen.

"There could eventually be as many as three instructors and interns in a single classroom," Miller-Wood says. "Parents are going to love this because there certainly will be a lot more learning going on."



Returned Peace Corps volunteer Richard Dierkes generates heartfelt enthusiasm in his young charges at Escontrias Elementary School in El Paso's predominantly Hispanic Lower Valley.

Like many itinerant "twenty-something" Americans completing two years of foreign service in the U.S. Peace Corps, Oklahoman Roger Arbabi faced an uncertain future at home. The degreed biologist postponed the inevitable return to the United States for another year by signing on as a naturalist guide in Ecuador's Amazon River basin. As that job was ending, Arbabi learned of a new program at UTEP that would afford him the opportunity to continue his education at a reduced cost while serving as a salaried teacher on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Today, the 28-year-old teaches physical science to El Paso high school students during the day and takes evening classes at UTEP to earn his alternative teacher certification. After taking 21 hours to complete his composite science certification this May, Arbabi will pursue his master's degree while continuing to teach "at

PEACE CORPS SPIRIT

LIVES ON
IN BORDER
CLASSROOMS

risk" students at Coronado High School. Now, he sees his future clearly.

"I've always had my foot in the door toward education. I was interested in teaching this type of student," says Arbabi of his young charges. "They're not the choice students, but I enjoy them and don't have a problem working with them. Several students are English-deficient, so my Spanish comes in handy."

Arbabi and more than 100,000 other returned Peace Corps volunteers (RPCVs) represent the benevolent legacy of a program created by John F. Kennedy 32 years ago to help promote world peace — the U.S. Peace Corps. Through the Peace Corps Fellows/USA Program, Arbabi and 19 other UTEP Peace Corps "fellows" are using their bilingualism, cultural sensitivity and other skills developed abroad to

enrich the lives of underserved and often disenfranchised people living along the U.S.-Mexico border.

UTEP, which had one of the nation's first Peace Corps training programs in the early 1960s, has signed pacts with the U.S. Peace Corps establishing two fellows programs: one in the College of Education and one in the School of Public Health, a cooperative program between UTEP and the University of Texas at Houston Health Science Center. Both programs are receiving high marks from participants, educators, school children and administrators.

Fellows in the Classroom

UTEP's education fellows program, begun in the summer of 1992 with two returned Peace Corps volunteers (RPCVs), has grown to a total of 16 people who teach in five El Paso area school districts while working on their teacher certification and graduate degree. The response to the burgeoning partnership from university administrators, public school officials, returned volunteers and students alike has been overwhelmingly positive.

One need look no further than Escontrias Elementary School in the rural community of Socorro, where many residents speak only Spanish and retain close ties to nearby Mexico, to find proof of the fellows program's success.

Typical of many El Paso schools in rural school districts spread along the Rio Grande Valley, Escontrias Elementary's student body is more than 90 percent Hispanic, and most youngsters come from a low socioeconomic background. It was into this third world-like setting that Richard Dierkes, a 29-year-old Philadelphian who had served in the Peace Corps in Central America, found himself thrust in 1992 as one of UTEP's first two fellows. Using fluent Spanish and mementos from his travels in Costa Rica, Chile, Peru, Argentina and other Latin American countries, Dierkes established instant rapport with his bilingual fourth-grade students, bringing subjects like social studies and

Peace Corps Quick Facts

No. of countries	92
No. of volunteers	6,200
Average age	30
Oldest volunteer	86
Minority representation	12%
Countries served 1961-92	111

Gender of volunteers

Male	48%
Female	52%

Service by region

Africa	38%
Latin America	28%
Europe/Middle East	19%
Asia/Pacific	15%

science to life. So effective was Dierkes in the classroom that he was named the school district's top rookie "Teacher of the Year."

"One of the biggest reasons why I moved out here (El Paso) was because I wanted to be somewhere that I could speak Spanish," Dierkes remarks. "I'm living in the U.S., but it's not the typical cross-section of America. It's almost like being in the Peace Corps except it's a little bit more urban."

Though the bilingual education major has found preparing lessons

and teaching to be a lot of work, he likes teaching and feels he can relate well to his students. "I'm sensitive to those who don't know the host country language," he explains. "There are two girls who don't speak any English. I know what that's like because I had to learn Spanish when I was 23 and lived with a Costa Rican family. It's tough, and people laugh at you."

Educators Give Program High Marks

Helen Tornatta, assistant principal at Escontrias Elementary, sings the praises of both Dierkes and fellow Peace Corps veteran Robert Trussell who spent two years in Ecuador working with street children and now is a resource teacher in Socorro. Trussell is seeking teacher certification in special education.

Says Tornatta, "The returned Peace Corps volunteers are great role models for these kids. And they bring with them such enthusiasm and great experiences to share."

Socorro ISD's assistant superintendent for human resources, Tom Marce, shares Tornatta's opinion of the returned volunteers, adding that their lack of formal teacher training is no hindrance to their classroom performance.



U.S. Peace Corps Director Carol Bellamy mingles with Robert Trussell's bilingual students at Escontrias Elementary School in Socorro during her whirlwind visit to El Paso in December. Later that evening, Bellamy spoke at the UTEP Commencement.

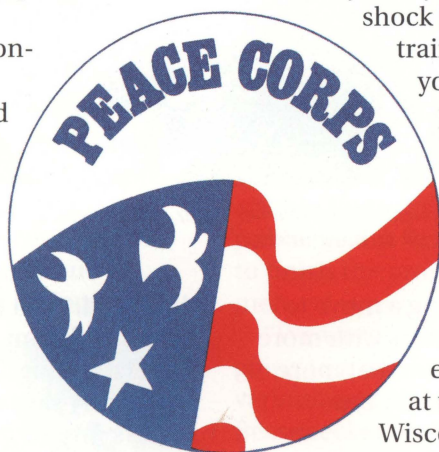
"I attribute their success to the experiences most Peace Corps fellows had that gives them an extremely well-rounded approach to teaching children, particularly in school districts where students come from such diversified backgrounds," Marce says. "Besides, for most fellows, teaching was a major responsibility, so they're not novices. From all contact I've had with the program, I feel it's an extremely valuable resource in recruiting qualified teachers."

Like Dierkes, Wisconsin biologist Jim Dewane was attracted to the UTEP fellows program because he wanted to maintain his Spanish – a foreign language he learned while doing public health and construction work in the Peace Corps in Ecuador.

"Teaching had always been in the back of my mind, and this seemed a good way to become certified quickly. I find it very exciting, challenging and satisfying to cultivate and direct the energy and curiosity of their young minds," says the third-grade teacher at Canutillo Elementary.

Though Dierkes and Dewane have found coming to a bicultural border community has helped ease their transition from the Peace Corps back into the States, they and many other RPCVs experience a sort of reverse culture shock that UTEP program coordinators seek to minimize through social activities and support groups composed of other former Peace Corps volunteers living in El Paso. UTEP has formed an advisory committee of ex-volunteers to help the university fine tune the fellows program, evaluate applicants and to serve as a support group for candidates who visit El Paso to interview with the school districts.

Assistant Dean of Education Dr. Tom Wood directs the Peace Corps education fellows program at UTEP. He has seen some returned volunteers struggle with their new lifestyle in the United States.



"You need to remember that when people are in the Peace Corps everything is taken care of for them – housing, medical care and other necessities – so they don't have to do much for themselves. So, it's a real adjustment coming back home."

Dr. Kathleen Staudt, a political science professor, remembers leaving part of her heart and soul in the Philippines, where she served in the Peace Corps from 1966-68.

"They always talk about culture shock in Peace Corps training programs, that you need to be prepared to deal with it at first in a foreign country," Staudt says. "But when I returned to the U.S., that's when I went through the real culture shock experience. I enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, but all the while I was longing for the culture to which I had become very much accustomed – a culture that was much more personable, warmer and much different from ours."

Wood contends that's just one reason why the fellows program makes so much sense for both the returned volunteer and the public schools.

"The notion was that these people were coming back after two years abroad, and in many cases, without anything to transition into," he says. "The thinking was that the type of service these people were in would be ideally suited to the challenges of classrooms faced with real at-risk situations."

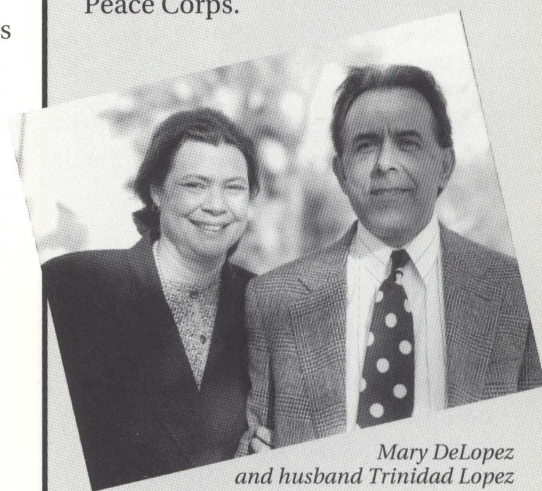
UTEP Program Growing

Proof of the program's success is evident in the increase in the number of participants from two the first year to 16 the second. Wood hopes to add another 20 fellows this summer for the 1994-95 school year. Wood's assistant, Jane Enright, says she's already received 10 applications and numerous inquiries from Peace Corps volunteers curious about the UTEP program.

PEACE CORPS SPIRIT

ALIVE IN UTEP FACULTY, STAFF

The legacy of the U.S. Peace Corps lives on in seven university faculty and staff who, in the late 1960s, heeded the exhortation of a youthful John F. Kennedy to "ask what you can do for your country." What these idealistic youth opted to do was join the U.S. Peace Corps. Recently, they were asked to share some of their thoughts about their days in the Peace Corps.



Mary DeLopez
and husband Trinidad Lopez

MARY DELOPEZ, French lecturer, worked during the late 60s on the director's staff at a Peace Corps training center in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, where she met her future husband and fellow faculty member, art educator Trini Lopez.

"It was truly wonderful. It was kind of like going to camp on a tropical island. We lived at Camp Crozier in the rain forest, ate in the

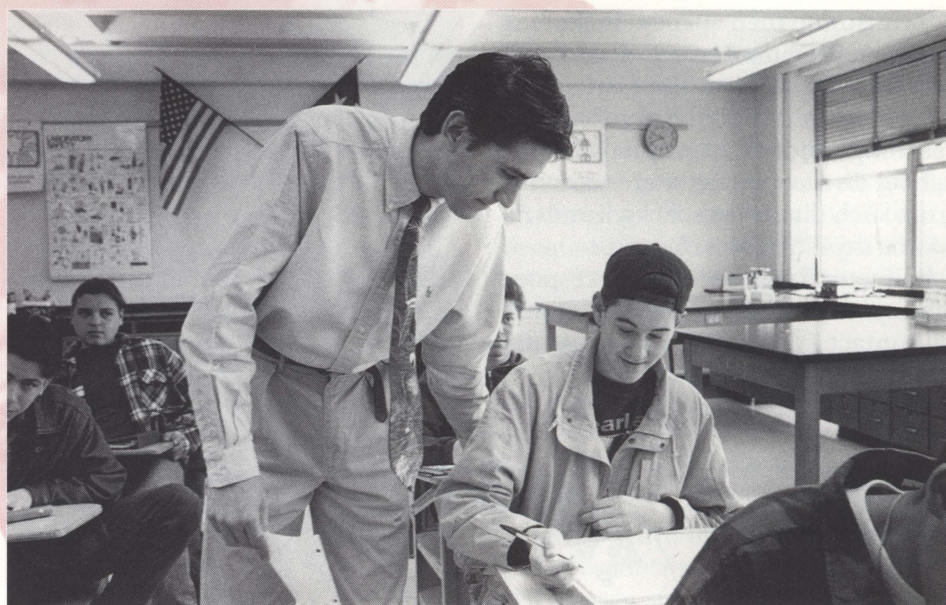
UTEP is one of 18 universities nationwide participating in the 10-year-old program that is supported by more than \$9 million in private sector funds. The initial programs provided scholarships for returning Peace Corps volunteers interested in teaching mathematics, science, bilingual education and special education. In 1990, however, the program began adapting the model to address shortages of professionals in the fields of health, social work, business and community development. Former volunteers receive a subsidized education and paid jobs in the community in return for a two-year commitment to the program.

During the first year, qualified applicants complete a six-hour summer semester program, then are placed in a full-time "alternship" in a school district while pursuing university course work during the academic year. They spend the second year completing alternative certification in a specialty area by taking 12 semester hours, while continuing to teach full-time. Most will come out of the program with not only teacher certification, but also with a good start on a master's degree or a graduate education degree.

Terry Myers, the principal of O'Donnel Elementary in Fabens, 30 miles east of El Paso, says former Peace Corps workers do well in the classroom. O'Donnel employs Louis Daeuble, a Stanford University graduate with a master's in urban planning, and Ohio State alumnus Richard Weaver, who worked on rural sanitation projects while serving in Ecuador.

Says Myers of his unusual faculty members, "They are more mature individuals with more real life experiences to share with their students than the typical freshman teacher coming right out of college. They seem to be strong, focused individuals who definitely have the desire to teach and are willing to go above and beyond what's normally expected of beginning teachers."

Arturo Pacheco, a former Peace Corps volunteer and the dean of the College of Education, believes UTEP is a perfect place for the fellows



Coronado High School physical science teacher Roger Arbabi, who served in the Peace Corps in Ecuador, helps a student with an assignment.

program. He is leading a move to provide future educators with more field-based experiences that more closely mimic the Peace Corps experience.

"I think one of the biggest drawbacks we face in education today oftentimes is a teaching force with no experience in diversity," Pacheco contends. "I think once people have that experience, they become much more sensitive to the special needs of different kinds of students. That was a wonderful part of the Peace Corps, and that's being seen in those returned volunteers in the schools."

Pacheco, who served in Thailand in the 1960s, believes the challenge to every Peace Corps volunteer is figuring out how to be effective in a certain setting. "That should be the same challenge to every teacher," he insists.

U.S. Peace Corps director Carol Bellamy, who was UTEP's commencement speaker in December, echoes Pacheco's call for a more humanistic touch to teaching that can take a lesson from her agency.

"What the Peace Corps does best is small, grass roots, people-to-people organization. One of its most important goals is to get people out there to know Americans just a little and help our citizens understand and respect other cultures better, if only through the returned volunteer. Even though 7,000 volunteers can't save

the world, each one who comes back brings with him cross-cultural understanding."

Bellamy says early review of the fellows program shows that 80 percent of those who have been through the program are still teaching five years later. She notes, however, that the national organization's emphasis on education has moderated as the Peace Corps has begun to expand into the public health and community development arenas.

Public Health Fellows Program

The move toward training more returned volunteers for public health careers is seen in El Paso, where UTEP last May became only the second university in the nation to launch a public health fellows partnership with the U. S. Peace Corps. Program coordinator Marilyn Farber, an epidemiologist in the School of Public Health at UTEP, has enrolled five RPCVs in the new fellows program that leads to a master's degree in public health. UTEP's public health school is a satellite program of the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston.

In the two-year public health program, Peace Corps volunteers attend classes while working on university-related health research

projects or gaining field-based experience in community health centers and social service agencies. The focus of the fellows program is border health with a bicultural and binational emphasis.

Farber says the fellows program is sorely needed in many El Paso-Juárez communities where abject poverty, low education levels, tainted water supplies and inadequate sewage treatment facilities lead to a high incidence of health hazards. Though funding for stipends and community positions for the health fellows have been slow in coming during the early stages of the program, Farber says there's plenty of interest from applicants, and progress is being made.

"We've had a whole lot of inquiries about the program, about 43 asking about entering the program



Twenty-eight-year-old UTEP student Chris Bessenecker finds the skills he developed in the Peace Corps in Honduras serve him well in his public health internship along the Texas-Mexico border.

next fall," Farber, herself a former Peace Corps volunteer, says. "We're in the process of educating the community that the program exists in hopes that they'll write an intern position into their funding requests."

Karen Fauss, 27, heard about UTEP's public health fellows program while wrapping up her Peace Corps duty in the Central American country of Belize and came to El Paso early this year. She says she

jumped at the chance to work on a graduate degree in public health, especially in a border environment that's not totally unlike her Peace Corps experience.

"The program sounded nice, but challenging," says Fauss, who's taking classes in public administration, health planning and epidemiology this spring. "There's a language barrier to deal with, and you've got to try to understand the people's background. Understanding is a prerequisite to being effective whether here or abroad."

Former Honduras volunteers Chris Bessenecker, 28, and his wife, Tracy Gorman, 27, were also enticed by the UTEP fellows program that offered them an entrée into the public health field. They're pressing to finish the program by this summer.

"We were attracted by the idea of going to a border area and the various aspects of public health," Bessenecker explains. "We enjoy the Hispanic culture and the people. The classes have been very good."

Bessenecker is putting his community-based Peace Corps experience to good use. Working for the university's Center for Environmental Resource Management (CERM), the Iowa native is participating in a federally funded project to determine the behavioral risks of residents in a Juárez *colonia* so an educational program can be developed to improve household hygiene and to disinfect the community's water.

Bessenecker's wife and the two other health fellows have been working as research assistants in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

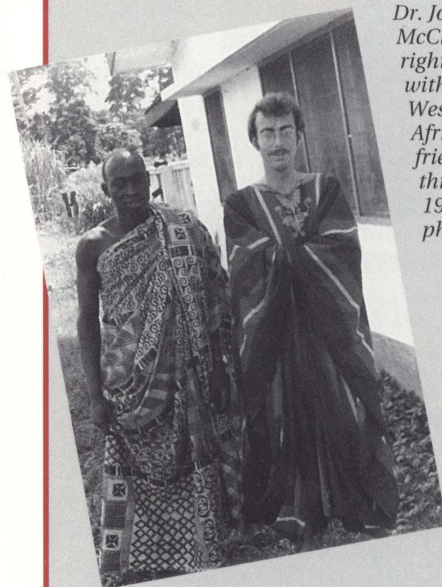
No matter where UTEP fellows serve, they are helping to fulfill the third goal of the Peace Corps envisioned in 1961 by JFK: to bring the volunteers' experiences and skills gained through service overseas back to the American people. Thus, the program has come full circle – home to a campus where three decades ago the Peace Corps trained some of its first volunteers for service in foreign lands. ■

dining hall, swam in the camp pool and were like a big family. Almost everyone was in their 30s, idealistic and believed fervently in what they did. Meeting idealistic people doing something that they felt would make a difference was very inspiring."

DR. TRINIDAD LOPEZ,

associate professor of art, spent from 1966 to 1968 teaching and conducting education training workshops for the National Ministry of Education in Bogota, Colombia.

"I worked at three different normal schools where adolescents were trained to be elementary school teachers, and I also taught art to kids. I was getting experience in the field, as well as learning how to be an administrator. It got me real interested in management. I might be a starving artist somewhere today if not for the Peace Corps. It's amazing how everything has worked out. That one act of signing up for the Peace Corps had a tremendous impact on my life."



Dr. John McClure, right, poses with a West African friend in this 1960s photo.

DR. JOHN MCCLURE, assistant professor of metallurgy and materials engineering, taught school "in the bush" from 1968 to 1970 in Ghana, West Africa.

"We had very little contact with the outside world. We could have listened to the BBC on radio, but our batteries would run down. We read a lot. One volunteer had a subscription to TIME Magazine. Every once in a while you'd get the sense of time passing you by like

PERSISTENCE LANDS UTEP GRAD IN PEACE CORPS

by Denise Bezick



"People at the center were al-

ways paying attention to the jobs that I was doing, and they always wanted to know if I learned to do these things in the United States or in Mexico," Torres says. "I would always say, 'I told you, I learned this at UTEP.'"



Isela Torres displays photographs of herself wearing the costume of the indigenous people with whom she worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador.

Isela Torres had never heard of the Peace Corps when she took a seat in her first college classroom as a UTEP freshman in her early twenties nearly 14 years ago. And if she had, she probably wouldn't have given the organization a second thought.

The renegade eldest daughter in a family of 15 from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, was too concerned about whether she'd have enough money to buy groceries and pay next month's rent to think about using an education she didn't yet have to benefit others. And she was too worried about whether she'd make it through college with the English she'd learned as an El Paso factory worker to imagine that she could represent the United States in a foreign country.

Nonetheless, today Torres is training for a one-year Peace Corps assignment on an Argentinean economic development project. She recently returned from a two-year Peace Corps stint in Ecuador. There, she spent her week-



teaching accounting and marketing to communities of indigenous weavers in the mountains north of Quito. Her weekdays were filled with a whirlwind of projects to improve production and efficiency at Quito's Centro Muchacho Trabajador, a non-profit vocational training center for street children and their families.

The center, run by the Catholic church, operates seven workshops in which the families that come to the organization for food, housing and other assistance learn carpentry, automotive repair, sewing and other marketable skills. Torres says the center was a laboratory in which she applied what she learned in UTEP business classes and in the numerous jobs she held while struggling to pay for her education.

She developed computerized systems for tracking inventory and sales, for determining if new products will be profitable and for managing cash flow.

"People at the center were always paying attention to the jobs that I was doing, and they always wanted to know if I learned to do these things in the United States or in Mexico," Torres says. "I would always say, 'I told you, I learned this at UTEP.'"

When Torres returned to UTEP in November while visiting her family in El Paso, she carried copies of corporate-style reports that she left behind in Quito so that her work could be continued in her absence,

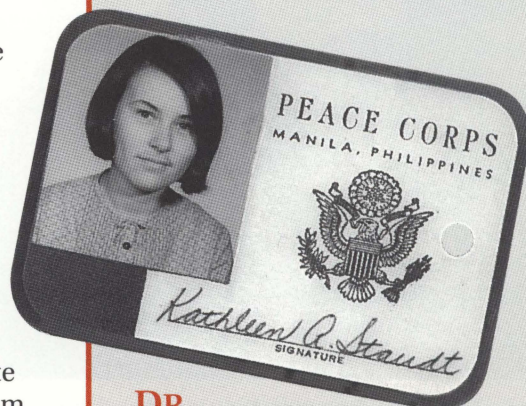
and she talked about eventually using her 1989 UTEP bachelor's degree in marketing to run a public assistance organization in El Paso.

"I know I can come back to El Paso, start working for a company and buy a car and a house, but that's not the point," Torres said. "The United States has offered me and my family a lot. I joined the Peace Corps because I want to repay some of what I have received. Now, I don't feel like I need a lot of things for myself. I want to continue to help people who have less than me."

The story of how that frightened but determined college freshman became a dedicated public aid worker began in the late 1970s, when Torres graduated from the Preparatoria Chamizal high school in Juárez and announced, to the dismay of her working class mother and father, that she wanted to go to college in the United States. Torres was the oldest of her parents' seven daughters, and she was expected to work to help support her younger brothers and sisters.

"My family didn't have any money," Torres remembers. But her dad was a U.S. citizen and a Vietnam veteran, and Torres knew that, through him, she could get permission to work in the United States and was eligible for citizenship. After working a year for subsistence wages in a Juárez factory, she landed a job making ski

when you'd read about things like the problems at the National Democratic Convention in Chicago. On one hand, I had this feeling that it was good to be away from all of that, but another side of me knew that these were important times that I should be taking part in."

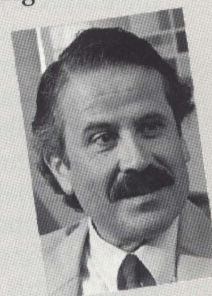


DR. KATHLEEN STAUDT, professor of political science, was sent in 1966 to the Philippines where she was involved with language training and logistical support for fellow volunteers. She also co-taught modern math to Filipino children.

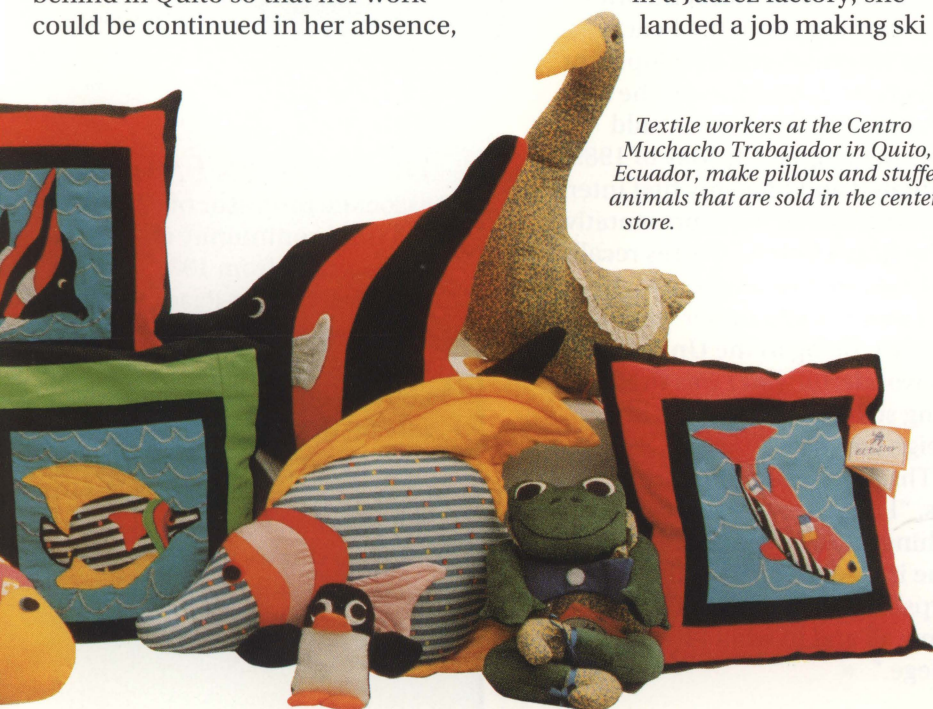
"I left part of my heart and soul in the Philippines. I lived with a family in a wonderful place. I fell in love with everything that was part of the experience. As a person, I came back not only internationalized, but strongly driven to continue my education. I credit the Peace Corps with really changing my life and giving it direction."

DR. ARTURO PACHECO, dean of education, joined the Peace Corps in 1965, heading for Thailand immediately after completing his studies at San Jose State.

"For me, the Peace Corps was an overwhelmingly formative experience. Going in I had no aspirations to go into education and be a teacher, but it transformed me into someone with a very strong interest in education, and I've been committed to that discipline ever since. In the back of my mind is the value of that Peace Corps experience and the importance of not only



Textile workers at the Centro Muchacho Trabajador in Quito, Ecuador, make pillows and stuffed animals that are sold in the center's store.





Isela Torres poses for a snapshot with a friend in Ecuador.

jackets in the Viola Sportswear factory in El Paso. Torres sent some of her paycheck home to her family every month and was still able to save enough money for tuition to enroll in UTEP in the fall of 1980.

"In the first class I took in English, on the first page of my book, on the first line, on the first word, I had to use a dictionary," Torres remembers, laughing today at her early frustration. "I was trying to take Introduction to Psychology in English, and it was very hard."

Still, she kept at it for nearly ten years, working part-time sales jobs to pay her tuition, and at times failing as many classes as she passed. Her persistence, dedication and tenacity helped her avoid being kicked out of the university altogether, and Torres remembers telling professor after professor how desperately she wanted to learn.

"I really like the way people treated me here," she says. "(UTEP President) Dr. Diana Natalicio was the speaker at the naturalization ceremony of one of my sisters, and she said that this is the land of opportunity, that it depended on us to take advantage of it. It was very true for me. Since I didn't get any support from my family, I depended on a lot of people at the university to help me.

"The professors would tell us that if we needed help, we should go see

them in their offices," Torres remembers. "I was always the first person in line."

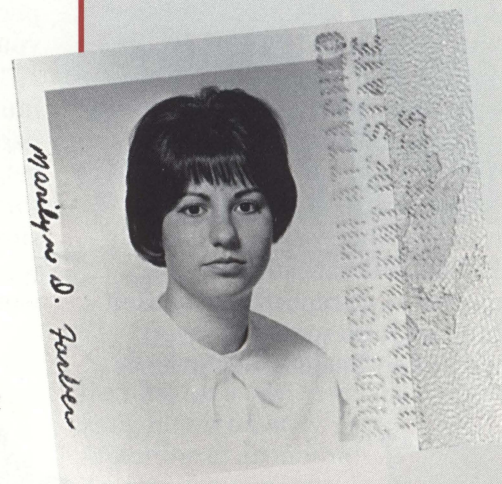
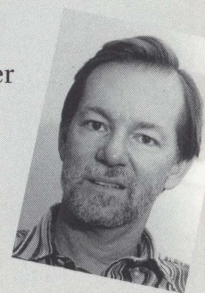
Finally, in 1985, Torres' father landed a job as a custodian at UTEP, and he moved the whole family to El Paso. Though her family didn't understand her desire to finish school despite years of setbacks, Torres convinced her dad to let her move home. She was finally able to concentrate on her studies. Torres switched her major from psychology to business in the hopes that numbers would be easier to master in English than behavioral theories. After learning about the Peace Corps' international development projects through a friend, she also had a goal to which she would apply her degree. "By May of 1989, I graduated and I had my first interview with one of the representatives of the Peace Corps," Torres recalls. "They wanted to send me to Africa. But I said I would rather work in Latin America. Being in the United States was wonderful, but I was tired of trying so hard to do things in a foreign language.

"Through the Peace Corps," she says, "I discovered that I can do a lot of things that I never would have done if I hadn't been in the Peace Corps. It gave me a lot of confidence in myself and in what I learned in college." ■

the book knowledge about cultural diversity, but also the concrete people-to-people interaction that helps people learn how to navigate in an unfamiliar culture."

DR. JON AMASTAE, professor of languages and linguistics, served from 1968 to 1970 on the island of Dominica in the West Indies and later trained other volunteers on St. Lucia.

"What you learn is the most important. Most returned volunteers, if they're being honest, would admit that for all the good they did for somebody else, they got more out of it than those they were sent to help. One of the key things you find out is that other people aren't fundamentally different than you no matter the circumstance, their color, their race or language."

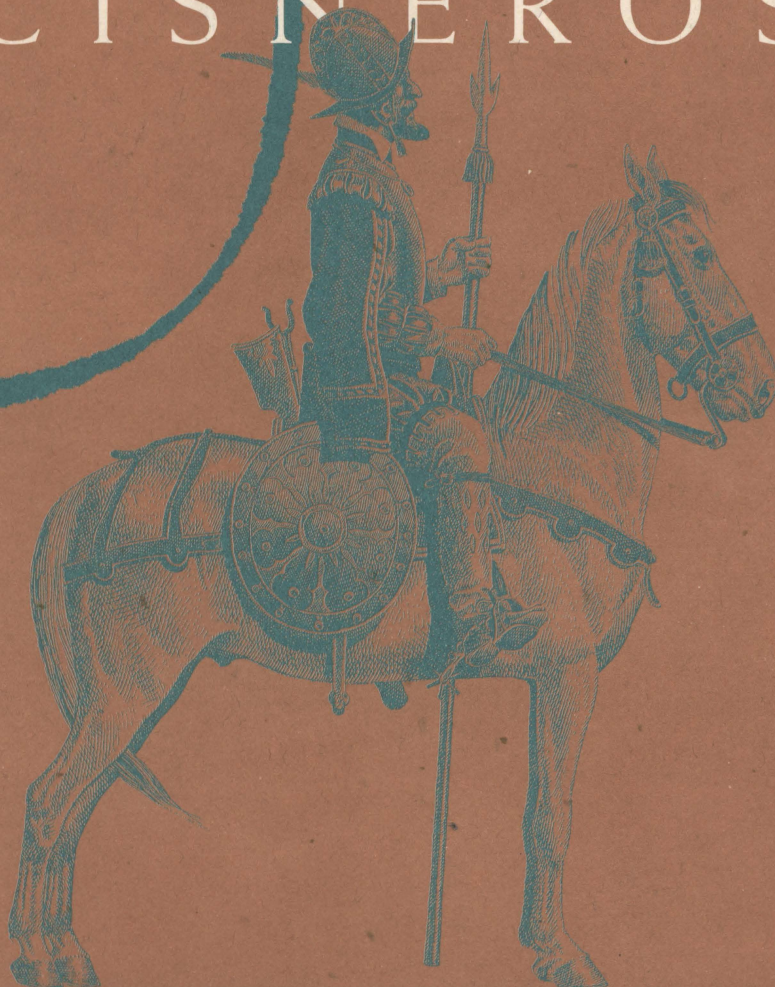


DR. MARILYN FARBER, associate professor of epidemiology, did rural community development in Colombia from 1967 to 1969.

"I was the first Peace Corps volunteer in the village and went by myself. I really got into the Spanish culture. It really built up my self-esteem to be 21 and to be looked up to. It was hard coming back to the States. I'm always impressed with the returned volunteers I meet because there's this tremendous friendship among people who have the experience in common."



CISNEROS



Produced in response to popular demand, this Limited Edition, 16" x 20" print by José Cisneros, adapted from the cover of *José Cisneros: An Artist's Journey*, will be available in April 1994. The print, limited to 1,000, will be numbered and signed by the artist. NOVA readers receive a 20% discount. Availability will be ensured through early, prepaid orders. Shipping and handling of \$3.50 per print includes mailing tube.



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