

Guide to
MS001
UTEP College of Engineering records

1970s – 2014 Span Dates,
1990s – 2000s Bulk Dates,

5 inches (linear)

Processed by Abbie Weiser
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Citation: UTEP College of Engineering records, MS001, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department. The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department
University of Texas at El Paso

Historical Sketch

Created by Senate Bill 183, the State School of Mines and Metallurgy was founded in 1913 due to El Pasoans' requests for a school to train mining engineers and metallurgists to help support the local mining and smelting industries. In 1914 the State School of Mines opened on land and buildings east of Ft. Bliss that were formerly occupied by the El Paso Military Institute. University of Texas Regents named Stephen Worrell as the first dean. On its official opening day, September 23, 1914, twenty-seven male students enrolled in the School. By 1916 two women, Ruth Brown and Grace Odell, also enrolled. Later that year a fire destroyed the School's main building and the campus relocated to land donated by El Pasoans in the Sunset Heights area. After viewing British explorer's Jean Claude White's photographs of the Kingdom of Bhutan in the April 1914 issue of *National Geographic*, Kathleen Worrell, wife of the dean, recommended that the new campus adopt Bhutanese-style architecture because of the similarities between Bhutan's and El Paso's landscapes. Construction on the new buildings began in 1917, and by the end of the 1910s, enrollment grew to over a hundred students.

During the 1920s the school's name was changed to the College of Mines and Metallurgy, El Paso and it merged with El Paso Junior College. This merger caused enrollment to increase to 400 students. The 1920s also saw the establishment of several student life traditions, including the creation of the *Flowsheet* yearbook and Homecoming. In 1931 John G. Barry became the College's first president, though financial troubles from the Great Depression put the College at risk for closure. Despite the difficult economic environment of the 1930s, the College continued to expand. An athletic field was constructed in 1933 (named after longtime dean and professor John W. "Cap" Kidd), and the Centennial Museum opened on campus in 1937. Three years later, the University of Texas Regents approved the creation of the College's first graduate degree (the Master of Arts).

World War II caused many changes at the College of Mines as enrollment declined significantly as young men and women served in the military and in wartime industries throughout the early 1940s. Young women were also encouraged for the first time to take classes in male-dominated fields, such as engineering, to help alleviate worker shortages. After the war ended in 1945 and the passage of the GI Bill of Rights, returning servicemen and women increasingly attended college, and the College of Mines' enrollment reached 2,000. Because of the large number of veterans attending the College of Mines, the school established housing for married veteran students and their families in an area called "Vet Village." In 1949 the College's name changed to Texas Western College of the University of Texas.

The 1950s – 1970s brought several important developments to the campus. As Texas Western College, the school added several buildings to the campus, including Magoffin Auditorium, the Science Building, the Women's Gym, and Miners Hall during

the early 1950s. In 1952 Texas Western Press was founded by printer Carl Hertzog, and in 1953 the Schellenger Research Laboratory was created. Moreover, in 1955 Texas Western College became the first white Texas public college to admit African American students after a lawsuit was filed by Douglass School student Thelma White who was denied admission because of her race. Highlights from the 1960s and 1970s include: the training of the nation's first Peace Corps class in 1961, the construction of Sun Bowl Stadium in 1963, winning the NCAA national championship under Coach Don Haskins in 1966, and protests by MECHA and La Mesa Directiva against school policies and practices in 1971. Texas Western College changed its name to the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) in 1967, and during the late 1960s a Chicano Studies program was established. In 1974 UTEP started offering its first doctoral degree – in Geological Sciences.

Throughout the 1980s – 2000s UTEP continued to expand as both undergraduate and graduate enrollment dramatically increased. The new six-story library was completed in 1984, and in 1988 Dr. Diana Natalicio became UTEP's first woman president. In 2004 UTEP celebrated its 90th anniversary and will celebrate its centennial in 2014. As of 2010 UTEP has over 20,000 registered students and is divided into eight colleges: the College of Business, the College of Education, the College of Engineering, the College of Health Sciences, the College of Liberal Arts, the School of Nursing, the College of Science, and the University College.

During the Fall 2018 semester the College of Engineering had 3,992 undergraduates and 610 graduate students enrolled in its programs (80% male, 20% female), and 88 faculty members. Some of the degrees offered by the College include Civil Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Engineering Leadership.

Professor Albert Ronke of the Drama Department designed the College of Engineering's seal, which was incorporated into the official university banner in 1981.

[Sources: UTEP web site; College of Engineering web site; UTEP Collection, MS001]

Series Description or Arrangement

Records are in chronological order.

Scope and Content Notes

The College of Engineering records, a series of the UTEP collection, MS001, date 1970s – 2014. Types of records include photographs, newsletters, publications, and other printed materials. These records are arranged in chronological order.

Provenance Statement

Transferred from the UTEP College of Engineering, 2019.

Restrictions

None.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the UTEP College of Engineering records must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, UTEP College of Engineering records, MS001, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Notes to the Researcher

See also:

UTEP collection, MS001

UTEP course catalogs

The Flowsheet

[UTEP Oral Histories](#)

Container List

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	1	Photographs – professors [unidentified, Carlos McDonald, Miguel Izquierdo, Glenn Gibson]	circa 1970s – 1980s
1	2	<i>Paso a Paso: Minority Research Center of Excellence</i> , newsletter	Spring 1989
1	3	<i>The University of Texas at El Paso</i>	circa 1989

		[promotional publication]	
1	4	<i>Engineering Today</i> , Vol. 2, No. 1	Summer 1991
1	5	<i>E-Visions: A Student Newsletter</i>	February 1992
1	6	<i>Graduate School Guide</i>	1996
1	7	<i>College of Engineering Facts, 1997 – 1998</i>	September 1998
1	8	<i>ECE: Electrical and Computer Engineering</i> , newsletter	Fall 1999, Fall 2000, Fall 2001
1	9	<i>Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Factbook 1999 – 2000</i>	September 2000
1	10	Search Committee Manual	circa 1990s – 2000s
1	11	<i>Endowed Faculty</i>	June 20, 2000
1	12	<i>C.E. The Next...Generation, Newsletter and News</i>	Fall 2000
1	13	<i>CETal News</i> , Volume 1, Issue 2	March 2001
1	14	<i>UTEP IT Support News</i> , Vol. 2, Issue 8	May 2001
1	15	<i>Electrical Engineering Self-Study Report, 2001-2002 Visit</i>	July 2, 2001
1	16	<i>TEXETHICS Newsletter: Communicating Engineering Professionalism and Ethics in Texas</i> , Vol. 2, No. 1	Summer 2001
1	17	<i>A Building Program for the Engineering Complex Addition at The University of Texas at El Paso</i>	October 2001
1	18	<i>College of Engineering Strategic Planning Document 2001 – 2005 Draft</i>	circa 2001
1	19	<i>Proposed Schemes, Engineering/Science Complex Addition</i>	February 20, 2002
1	20	<i>Connections: Quarterly Newsletter of the Model Institutions for Excellence Initiative at the University of Texas at El Paso</i>	Winter 2001, Spring 2002, Fall 2002
1	21	Homecoming events poster	October 14 – 19, 2002
1	22	<i>Electrical and Computer Engineering, App. 1, 2007 – 2008 Visit, Self-Study Report</i>	2007

1	23	<i>Engineering Vistas</i> , Vol. 3, No. 1	Winter 2009
1	24	Photograph and announcement, Joseph Pierluissi, Grand Marshal	December 13, 2014