

Guide to
MS001 UTEP Alumni Association records

2000 – 2008, Span Dates

1 foot, 3 inches (linear)

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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.

The Alumni Association “is a nonprofit organization created to support and celebrate UTEP alumni throughout the world.” Created in 1923 (when the school was still the College of Mines), the Alumni Association sponsors and hosts a variety of activities throughout the year. L.A. Nelson served as the Association's first president, John Schaffer was the first secretary, and Fred L. Fox was the first treasurer. From 1938 – 1959, the Alumni Association published *Nugget* (magazine for alumni). Currently, a board oversees the Alumni Association and there are 13 different chapters or networks in the U.S. and Mexico (as of 2019). The Office of Alumni Relations is located in the Margaret and Peter de Wetter Alumni Center.

[Sources: UTEP web site; UTEP collection, MS 001]

Series Description or Arrangement

These records are minimally processed.

Scope and Content Notes

The UTEP Alumni Association records, MS001, date 2000 – 2008. Types of records include agendas, publications, flyers, images, clippings, and UTEP ephemera. These records help document the activities of the El Paso chapter of the UTEP Alumni Association and the career of El Paso astronaut Danny Olivas.

Provenance Statement

Donated by Melanie Thomas in 2019.

Restrictions

None.

Literary Rights Statement

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

Notes to the Researcher

These records relate to the El Paso chapter of the UTEP Alumni Association.

Container List

Box #	Folder #	Title	Year
1	1	<i>UTEP Visitor's Guide</i>	2007
1	2	Brochures, and newspaper clippings about event from the Alumni Association	March 2008
1	3	Information about Minerpalooza event	2007
1	4	Agenda for meetings and events	
1	5	Forms and agendas for the season of lights lighting ceremony	December 2006
1	6	File folder with flyers, DVDs and UTEP bumper stickers	
1	7	File folder with pictures of events, flyers, contacts list, by laws of the association, forms	
2	1	Orange file folder containing a spring 2008 commencement, invitations, newspaper clippings, football games flyers	2004-2008
2	2	4 copies of <i>NOVA</i> magazines	2000-2002
2	3	Agendas, meetings, minutes, financial reports	
2	4	File folder with agendas, minutes, association by laws	
3	1	<i>NOVA</i> magazines	2002, 2006, 2007
3	2	4 copies of <i>El Paso Magazine</i> , Danny Olivas on the cover	February 2007
3	3	Danny Olivas images	
3	4	UTEP stickers, homecoming flyers, envelope with pictures and stickers of Danny Olivas	
3	5	File folder with pictures, <i>NOVA</i> magazine, homecoming flyers about Danny Olivas	

3	6	<i>The Prospector</i> [student newspaper], NASA stickers, flyers, and pictures of astronauts	
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