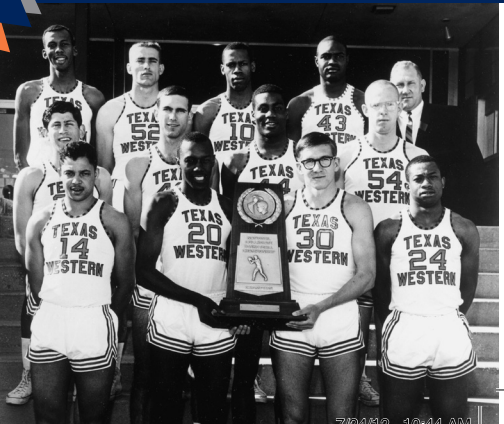




LAYERS of HISTORY

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



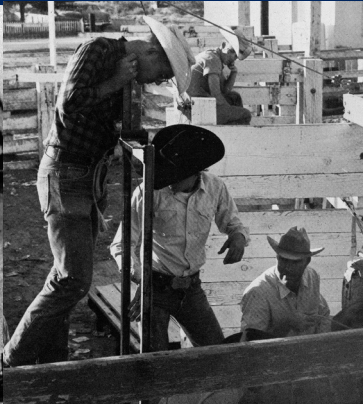
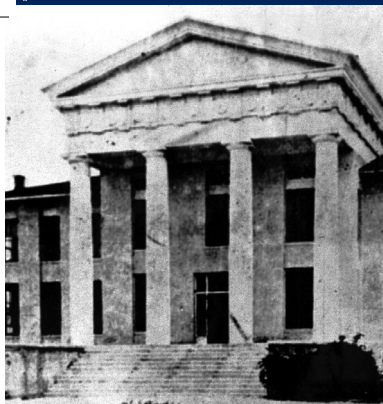
LAYERS



HISTORY

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

By Keith A. Erekson



Layers of History

The University of Texas at El Paso will be 100 years old in 2014. Over the course of the past century, nearly everything about the institution has changed. It moved location once, changed names four times, grew from enrolling 27 to more than 22,000 students, and expanded its mission to embrace both educational access and academic excellence. And yet, in the midst of such profound transformations, many things have remained the same. The institution has always been shaped by its geographical location, by wider political and cultural contexts, and by the needs of the residents of the El Paso region.

The story of The University of Texas at El Paso is a story of shared aspirations. Community members, campus leaders, faculty, and students have all brought their hopes and dreams to the campus. Sometimes they transformed the school through conscientious planning and coordinated effort; other times they reacted as best they could to powerful outside influences.

UTEP's history can be understood by the five aspirations that shaped its development. The small **mining school** that opened in 1914 soon expanded into a **city college** in the late 1920s. National impulses after World War II pulled it into a wider **regional college** before campus leaders actively moved to establish a **regional university** in the early 1960s. Finally, in the mid-1980s, the institution moved toward becoming a **public research university**.

Over the course of several decades these aspirations have accumulated in layers as each new set of goals built on those that came before. Over the course of a century, all of the layers have been built and blended into today's university. Excavating back through the layers, we observe the way that history has unfolded and how the past is connected to the present. The layers of dreams and aspirations established during the first century of UTEP's history provide the context for thinking about the next century of the University's future.



- 1902 *El Paso Herald* issues first call for a college
- 1903 International Miners' Association meets in El Paso and resolves to secure a school in the city
- 1907 El Paso Military Institute opens
- 1913 Texas State Legislature authorizes a mining school
- 1914 El Paso city leaders commit to support the school, State School of Mines and Metallurgy opens, 27 male students enroll (1 from Mexico)
- 1915 First issue of student publication *The Prospector*
- 1916 First commencement, first female students, fire destroys the main building
- 1917 Five El Pasoans donate (current) land, Bhutanese architecture urged by Kathleen Worrell
- 1919 Renamed U. T. Department of Mines and Metallurgy, Student Association established
- 1920 St. Patrick's Day student initiation ritual begins, renamed College of Mines and Metallurgy
- 1923 Alumni Association established, "M" painted on Franklin Mountains, J. W. "Cap" Kidd becomes dean

Mining School, 1913-



Aerial view of campus in 1923.

UTEP's story began at least a decade before the founding of the institution. This early period reveals two influences that would shape the institution over the coming century: the aspirations of El Paso community members for their school and the guidance of state leaders—the school has always been directed by the Board of Regents of The University of Texas and its first three leaders carried the title of “Dean.”

City leaders called for a mining school as early as 1902 but The University of Texas in Austin, which already had mining courses on the books, blocked the request. Thwarted in this attempt, the city worked with Fort Bliss to establish

a short-lived Military Institute. In 1910, when UT announced it would no longer enroll students in its mining program, El Paso leaders jumped again at the opportunity. State legislation passed in 1913 authorized the creation of a school – if local leaders would put up the money for it. In the spring of 1914, the El Paso Chamber of Commerce announced that it had received commitments to the amount of \$50,000, enough to purchase the available Military Institute campus and reopen in the fall as the State School of Mines and Metallurgy. Over the coming years they would donate money, land, and time to the success of the school.



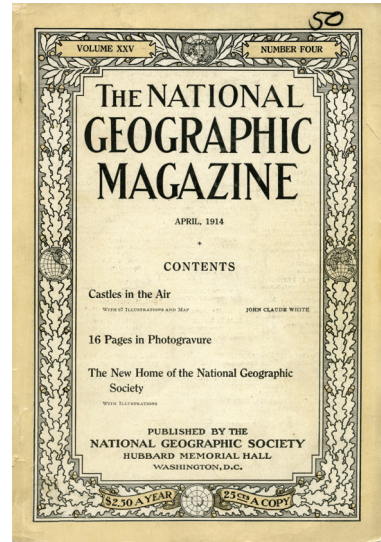
Twenty-seven students enrolled to begin classes on September 23, 1914. Tuition was free, but fees were set at \$30. After a fire in 1916 destroyed the Main building of the four-structure campus, the school moved to its current location.

Seeing a similarity between El Paso's foothills and the mountains of Bhutan featured in a National Geographic cover story, Kathleen Worrell urged her husband (Dean S. H. Worrell) to persuade the Regents to build the school in this distinctive style. In 1919, the U.T. System was formally established and the mining school became the first branch in the System. The following year it was renamed

the College of Mines and Metallurgy. By 1923, a handful of buildings could be seen clinging to the hill in which students practiced mining under the direction of the dynamite-welding dean J. W. "Cap" Kidd. The entrance to the mineshaft they dug is still accessible and the Bhutanese architecture is still dominant. The story of the Miner Nation had begun.

Left: Old mining equipment.

Right: *National Geographic Magazine* issue that inspired the campus Bhutanese architecture.





- 1927 College of Mines merges with El Paso Junior College
- 1929 First homecoming
- 1931 College of Arts and Education established
- 1932 Gold Diggers organized
Holliday Hall and Hendricks (now Kidd) Field
- 1935 First Sun Bowl game TCM vs. El Paso High School
- 1936 Centennial Museum, Men's dorm (Worrell), Women's dorm (Benedict)
- 1937 Admin/Library building (Geological Sciences)
- 1939 Enrollment reaches 1,000
- 1942 First graduate degree (MA)
- 1943 First reference to a live burro mascot named "Dynamite"

City College, 1927-



Aerial view of campus in 1934.

New aspirations for the tiny mining school surfaced as soon as it opened its Bhutanese doors in the current campus location. Unsatisfied with merely a mining school, El Paso community leaders worked to establish an additional College of the City of El Paso, and the two schools shared the same facilities during the 1917-1918 school year. When leaders in Austin forbade the mining faculty from teaching city college students, the newer college folded in 1920. However, the El Paso School District seized the torch and

opened a junior college on the top floor of the new El Paso High School. Eighteen students enrolled in the fall of 1920, followed by 106 in 1921—thirteen more than were then at the Texas College of Mines (as the school was informally known).

In 1923, the Board of Regents considered merging the two schools but could not act without legislative action. Over the next three years, calls for a merger erupted publicly with news stories and letters to the editor circulating as widely



and wildly as private rumors and criticisms. By the middle of the decade, Austin leaders calculated that they would save about \$60,000 per year by moving mining classes back to their main campus and leaving El Pasoans to their own little college. El Paso politicians convinced the Chamber of Commerce to again move in favor of the College of Mines, arguing that a branch of the state university was more valuable than a local junior college. Early in 1927, state leaders expressed willingness to add more subjects to the College of Mines—particularly teacher training—and in May the junior college held its last commencement and merged into the College of Mines in the fall. In 1931, the college’s head became a “president” and a new “school” of arts and education

joined a “school” of mining and metallurgy.

Penny-pinching and pluck kept the school open during the Great Depression. New Deal money funded Holliday Hall and Kidd Field while a state appropriation brought a new museum; dorms and a library followed. Many of UTEP’s earliest traditions can be traced back to this layer: Homecoming, an annual Sun Bowl football game between the college and El Paso High School (that was later expanded), a mascot, the Gold Diggers performing group, and the rivalry between the colleges of engineering and liberal arts. Enrollment reached 1,000 in 1939, and three years later liberal arts awarded the college’s first graduate degree.



The Gold Diggers, football team, and lettermen sweaters.



- 1946 Vet Village, Cotton Memorial, men's dorm (Hudspeth)
- 1947 Enrollment reaches 2,000, Union Building, women's dorm (Bell)
- 1948 University Women's Club
- 1949 Renamed Texas Western College
- 1950 Magoffin Auditorium, Science Building (Psychology)
- 1952 Texas Western Press
Kidd Memorial Seismology Observatory
- 1953 Schellenger Research Labs
- 1955 Administration Building, first African-American students admitted

Regional College, 1945-



Aerial view of campus in 1954.

Whereas local and state agendas had blended to create the mining school and stretch it into a city college, national impulses would prove more influential in shaping the institution's destiny for the next two decades. The onset of World War II cut enrollment from 1,200 to 700, but the G.I. Bill sent veterans to school in record numbers and the student population swelled to more than 2,500 by 1947. These new students tended to be older, married, and more studious. To respond to such rapid growth, college

leaders brought in temporary housing and a "Vet Village" sprang up where the Health Sciences and Nursing Building now sits (shown above in the top left).

National stirrings over civil rights likewise reached the campus. In 1954, Thelma White graduated from El Paso's Douglass High School and applied to colleges in El Paso and Las Cruces. Because African-Americans were prohibited from attending undergraduate programs in Texas, she went to New Mexico, but in the spring of 1955 she

filed a lawsuit. While the case worked its way toward victory in the U.S. District Court in El Paso, the Board of Regents voted to admit African-Americans to the El Paso branch of the university. In the fall of 1955, 12 African-American students were admitted to the first college in the state of Texas to desegregate its undergraduate program (UT Austin had previously desegregated its graduate program).

The college responded to external influences by reaching outward to forge partnerships with other institutions in the region and gain recognition throughout the nation. Student publications placed highly in intercollegiate competitions and the ROTC rifle team won the national championship in 1954. Faculty members wrote books about literature and the Southwest, earned recognition for metalwork and sculpture, and hosted an international organization of teachers. Carl Hertzog launched Texas Western Press in 1952 and the following year the Kidd Seismic Observatory joined a network of regional geographic analysis. The establishment of the Schellenger Research Labs in 1953 marked the college's entrance into research contracting, with projects funded by a government and



The campus took a distinctive “western” feel with riding stables, a live mascot, and a champion rifle team.

private industry client list that would grow to include White Sands Missile Range, Asarco, El Paso Natural Gas Company, the U.S. Army, NASA, and the National Science Foundation.

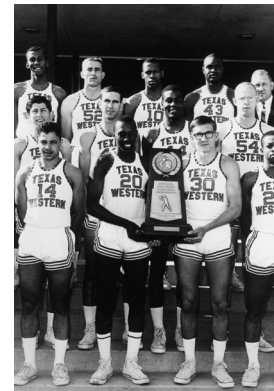
The school acquired a distinctly western feel during this era, though many elements do not remain: Riding stables rose (1945) and fell (1958), new rodeo grounds were later replaced by the Brumbelow Building and a driving range by the Don

Haskins Center, Vet Village was dismantled in 1963, the Schellenger Research Labs flourished before fading. However, several campus buildings were constructed: Cotton Memorial, the east end of the Union Building, Magoffin Auditorium, the Science Building (now Psychology), and the lower levels of the Administration Building. In 1949, this regional college received a new name that identified both its emerging regional reach and its physical relationship to the rest of the state—Texas Western College.



- 1961 First Peace Corps class trained on campus
- 1962 Enrollment 5,000, Mission '73 Committee
- 1963 Sun Bowl stadium, Bureau of Business and Economic Research
- 1966 Basketball championship, last mining engineering degree, first African-American faculty member
- 1967 Renamed The University of Texas at El Paso, School of Arts and Sciences divided into schools of business, education, science, and liberal arts
- 1968 Enrollment 10,000, Inter-American Science Program
- 1969 Cross country championship, first African-American president of Student Government Association
- 1970 Chicano Studies Program
- 1971 First National Teacher Corps, first (two) African-American cheerleaders, MEChA and La Mesa Directiva protest
- 1972 Raza Unida Party convention in El Paso, last *Flowsheet*, Minority Schools Biomedical Support Program
- 1973 Center for Inter-American and Border Studies

Regional University, 1960-



Left: Aerial view of campus in 1982.
Right: National basketball championship team.

In 1960, a new administration set out to harness the overlapping local, state, and national impulses that had produced a mining school, stretched it into a city college, and pulled it into a regional college. President Joseph M. Ray would lead Texas Western College from 1960 to 1968 on the path, as he later described it, toward “becoming a university.” Celebration of the school’s golden jubilee (50 years) in 1963 produced the institution’s first strategic plan from the Mission '73 Committee and followed three years after the formation of a faculty council. In 1967, the school was renamed The University of Texas at El Paso.

The regional university achieved success on three very specific goals. First, the University grew immensely. As the baby boom generation came of age, student enrollment rose from 5,000 in 1962 to 10,000 in 1968 to 15,000 in 1977. Campus facilities expanded in fits and starts, with the rapid acquisition of private homes, the construction of new annexes, and the conversion of dorms into office and classroom spaces. Permanent structures arose in the form of a field house (Memorial Gym), liberal arts building, and physical science building in the 1960s; education, fine arts, engineering, nursing, and special events (Haskins Center) facilities in the 1970s;

and a business administration building and library in the early 1980s. Students gradually shifted from campus housing residents to commuters.

Second, the Ray administration made the deliberate decision to use athletics to achieve national recognition—a strategy that produced almost immediate results. The construction of a new Sun Bowl stadium (1963) financed by a county bond issue was followed by a television contract with CBS in 1968 and an expansion in 1982. Men’s teams won national championships in basketball (1966), cross country (1969 and through the 1980s), and indoor and outdoor track and field (throughout the 1970s and 1980s).

Finally, the administration conscientiously focused on and invested in the El Paso border region. The institution created a Bureau of Business and Economic Research (1963), an Inter-American Science Program (1968), a Chicano Studies program (1970), and a Center for Inter-American and Border Studies (1973). The last mining engineering degree was awarded the same year that Coach Don Haskins’ African-American starters won the national basketball championship. UTEP was named by the National Institutes of Health as one of 38 charter institutions for the Minority Schools Biomedical Support Program (1972).

As a result of the administration’s new priorities, student demographics gradually shifted to reflect the predominantly Hispanic



Students from The Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA).

population of the El Paso region, triggering a slow wave of social change across campus. Student activities with Confederate themes silently disappeared and fraternities and sororities began to accept Hispanic members. Chicano students called for greater representation in the faculty, relevant courses, and appropriate student services—a movement that culminated in December 1971 when they staged a public protest that included burning one administrator in effigy and trapping the University’s president in his office. The Regents responded by sending a new president, Arleigh B. Templeton, to restore order. He allowed the Chicano Studies program to grow, appointed the first Hispanic dean, and used his political ties in Austin to secure funds to expand the Sun Bowl stadium. The University became the nation’s top producer of Hispanic engineers in 1984, and the following year exactly 50 percent of students were Hispanic.

- 1974 First doctoral program, academic “schools” re-designated “colleges,” Norma Hernandez becomes dean of College of Education (first academic dean to be either UTEP grad, female, or Hispanic), cartoon mascot Paydirt Pete named by contest
- 1975 Track and field indoor/outdoor championship, Project BETO (Bilingual Education Training Opportunities)
- 1976 UT nursing baccalaureate (est. 1970) becomes UTEP School of Nursing
- 1977 Enrollment 15,000, Inter-American Science and Humanities Program
- 1979 First doctoral degree awarded
- 1980 First costumed mascot “Sweet Pete,” Heritage Commission
- 1981 Women’s Studies Program, Honors Program
- 1982 Sun Bowl addition, first female president of Student Government Association, Business Administration Building
- 1983 Dinner Theatre
- 1984 University Library, top producer of Hispanic engineers, Women’s Center
- 1985 50 percent of students are Hispanic



- 1986 Majority Hispanic student population, PASE Program, Named leader in US-Mexico cooperative research, Mother-Daughter program
- 1987 Diana Natalicio becomes first female/faculty member president
Retention Council
- 1988 NSF minority research center of excellence
- 1989 Second doctoral program, Center for Environmental Resource Management, Center for Highway Materials Research
- 1990 Center for Lifelong Learning (Osher Institute), Minerpalooza
- 1991 Decision in *LULAC et al. v. Richards et al.* (1987), Season of Lights
- 1992 El Paso Collaborative for Academic Excellence, Border Biomedical Research Center, Miner Foundation
- 1993 South Texas/Border Initiative allocates \$33M, CIERP
- 1994 First Mexican citizen as president of Student Government Association, Heritage House
- 1996 African-American Studies program and center, Public Policy Research Center, NSF Model Institution for Excellence, Stanton Building acquired

Public Research University, 1986-



Aerial view of campus in 1994.

In the second half of the 20th century, many American universities aspired to become public research universities – institutions that could combine nearly universal access to a college education with the highest quality in teaching and research. UTEP’s expanding regional university brought access to the El Paso borderlands, but successfully adding the layer of excellence would require the right context and the right leadership – at the same time.

The context came into place during the 1980s. Economic hard times in the previous decade reduced public funding

and prompted UTEP to look for money in new places, particularly in the form of new and larger research grants. The University’s growing student body had been gradually shifting to reflect the region’s racial and socioeconomic demographics, and in 1986 Hispanic students became the majority. That same year, the state legislature approved the PASE Program, an initiative that permitted students from Mexico to pay in-state tuition. All three developments led to UTEP’s designation in a bi-national study in 1986 as a leader in U.S.-Mexico cooperative research. The next year, the Mexican American Legal Defense and

Educational Fund (MALDEF) initiated a class-action lawsuit charging the state with discrimination against Mexican American students in south Texas by inadequately funding higher education.

In the midst of these transitions, the Board of Regents selected Diana Natalicio to lead UTEP – first as interim president in 1987 and then as president in 1988. The first female and first former faculty member to occupy this position, Natalicio immediately articulated a vision for the institution that rejected what she termed a “collective inferiority complex” about border life and invoked the region’s assets in pursuit of the American Dream of educational opportunity.

During the past 25 years, UTEP has developed simultaneously along several important lines. Partnerships with K-12 education and the El Paso Community College have strengthened the preparation of incoming students. Changes in faculty merit pay and hiring priorities have increasingly rewarded research and scholarly activities while encouraging their integration into undergraduate education. The state approved UTEP’s second doctoral program in 1989 and eight more followed by the end of the century. Several research centers sprouted up during the 1990s and external research grants have been leveraged into new funding opportunities. The resolution of the MALDEF case prompted state legislative appropriation of several million

dollars to the campus in the mid-1990s, and the seizing of other public funding opportunities has permitted a steady building program with a more meticulous eye toward Bhutanese architecture. A variety of economic development initiatives sought to bring improved health care, career training, and lifelong learning opportunities to the El Paso region.

Recognition of UTEP’s achievements has come from many sources. The National Science Foundation designated UTEP as a minority research center of excellence in 1988 and as a model institution for excellence in 1996. Four years later the Carnegie Foundation reclassified UTEP as a doctoral/research intensive institution. In 2008, the state of Texas named UTEP as one of seven (now eight) emerging Tier One institutions. In 2011, the Carnegie Foundation added recognition for UTEP’s community engagement, and the U.S. Department of Defense identified the institution as military friendly. At the end of the first decade of the 21 century, annual research expenditures have reached \$70 million and UTEP faculty have become recognized leaders in many fields. Student enrollment has pushed beyond 22,000 – 75 percent of UTEP students are Hispanic and 55 percent are female.

1997	Center for Effective Teaching & Learning, Don Haskins in Hall of Fame, Undergraduate Learning Center
1998	Center for Civic Engagement, Law School Preparation Institute
1999	Chihuahuan Desert Gardens, \$52M in grants
2000	Miner Village, designated as doctoral/ research-intensive, 10 doctoral-level programs
2002	May/wintermesters, Sam Donaldson Center, Larry K. Durham Center
2004	Border Security Conference, Academic Services and Biology buildings, Ruben Center
2006	Disney’s <i>Glory Road</i> movie, Hilton Garden Inn
2007	Enrollment 20,000, Foster-Stevens Basketball Center
2008	\$77 million in grants, designated as emerging Tier One
2009	University Bookstore building
2010	Mining Minds sculpture
2011	100,000th degree awarded, designated as engaged (Carnegie) and military friendly (DoD), Student Recreation Center, Health Sciences Building and pedestrian bridge
2012	Chemistry and Computer Science Building



- 1598 Don Juan de Oñate arrives in the valley
- 1659 Spaniards establish El Paso del Norte (present day Ciudad Juárez)
- 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo
- 1881 Southern Pacific Railroad connects El Paso to the coasts
- 1887 Custom smelter built (later named ASARCO)
- 1914 El Paso Chamber of Commerce commits \$50,000 for mining school
- 1924 Woman's Auxiliary founded
- 1957 Raymond Telles elected first Hispanic mayor of El Paso
- 1960 Development Program organized
- 1963 Mission '73 Committee produces 10-year plan for TWC, Alumni Fund instituted
- 1964 Excellence Fund established for special expenditures
- 1968 Development efforts reorganized into UTEP Foundation
- 1989 2001 Commission sets goals for the new century
- 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement implemented
- 1997 Legacy Campaign seeks \$50 million by 2001 (\$66 million raised)
- 2004 Centennial Commission sets vision for 2014
- 2010 2014 Commission, Centennial Campaign seeks \$200 million by 2014

The Paso Del Norte Community



The transformation of a mining school into a research university occurred in collaboration with the community of the Paso del Norte region. Over the past century the University has enjoyed local support, generally avoiding both the town-and-gown rivalry that emerges in some small communities and the disconnect that arises in large urban environments.

Business and civic leaders in the region opened their pocketbooks to support the school. After the state legislature authorized a mining school in El Paso, the Chamber of Commerce came through with the \$50,000 needed to make the proposal a reality. When a fire at the original location rendered the facilities

unusable in 1916, five El Paso residents came forward to donate additional land for a fresh start in a new location. During the next 25 years, ASARCO donated 150 acres of land, and since then hundreds of individuals and businesses have contributed to the University's programs, scholarships, construction projects, and fundraising campaigns ranging from the Excellence Fund of the 1960s to the Legacy Campaign of the 1990s to the Centennial Campaign of the 21 century.

The El Paso community also came through on many occasions when a lack of funding or an excess of bureaucracy in Austin threatened the school's existence. A friends



group and woman's auxiliary were organized in the 1920s to raise money and promote the school. During the Great Depression, El Paso High School loaned biology equipment, chairs, desks, and blackboards. On at least two occasions, local citizens put up money to pay faculty salaries so that classes could resume in the fall. In the 1960s, a handful of businessmen negotiated property acquisitions on behalf of the University, sometimes closing delicate deals with their own funds when formal processes moved too slowly.

This is not to say that the community and University have not experienced friction. Mining prospectors worried that student assaying services would provide unfair competition. Residents objected to the large "M" on the Franklin Mountains (it was moved in 1967) and accused faculty members

of being communists. Some alumni of the regional college era struggled to accept the demographic changes that began during the 1960s. Eyebrows raised in tandem with the Goldiggers' hemlines. Students complained of poor campus food and customer service; some publicly criticized professors who taught in Spanish or heavily-accented English.

In many ways, however, the community and University are deeply entwined. Citizen committees in the 1960s provided strategic planning advice for development, athletics, engineering, and land acquisition. In recent years this process has been extended to long-term planning for the University and for various colleges and departments. The community's signature Sun Bowl game and attending activities occur in the Sun Bowl Stadium through the long-term collaboration of the Sun Bowl Association,

city and county governments and voters, the University, the Board of Regents, CBS, corporate sponsors, local businesses, and fans from throughout the region. Students become alumni who find jobs in the region and raise children who choose to become students at the University. The University of Texas at El Paso simply could not exist without the community at the pass.

UTEP Now

The campus of The University of Texas at El Paso has grown extensively over the past century. After a fire destroyed its original site, the school moved to its current location where it has grown from five buildings in 1917 to more than seventy today. Nearly all of the buildings have incorporated Bhutanese architectural elements—massive sloping walls, high inset windows, overhanging roofs, and dark bands of brick inset with mosaic-tiled mandalas. Bhutanese tapestries, wood carvings, and flags decorate the campus. From humble origins in Old Main to the most recent \$69.2 million Chemistry and Computer Science Building, The University of Texas at El Paso is truly a campus like no other in the world.

Painting by Adan Contreras.

15

22,640
students

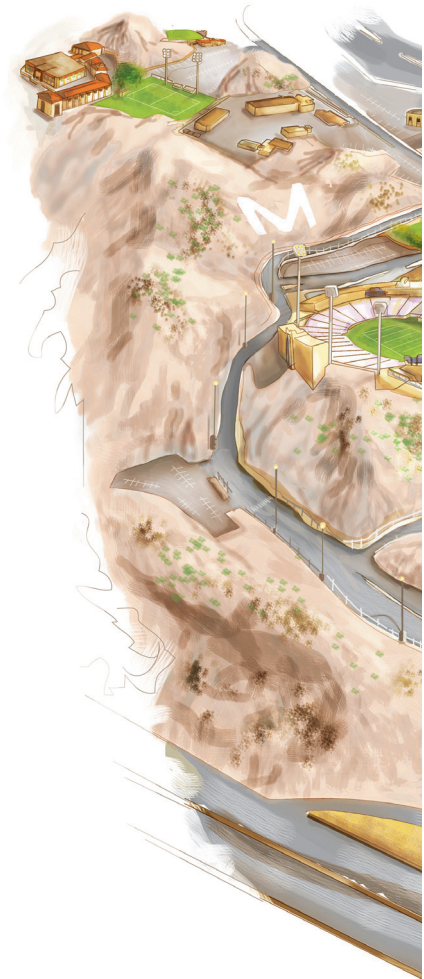
1,241
faculty

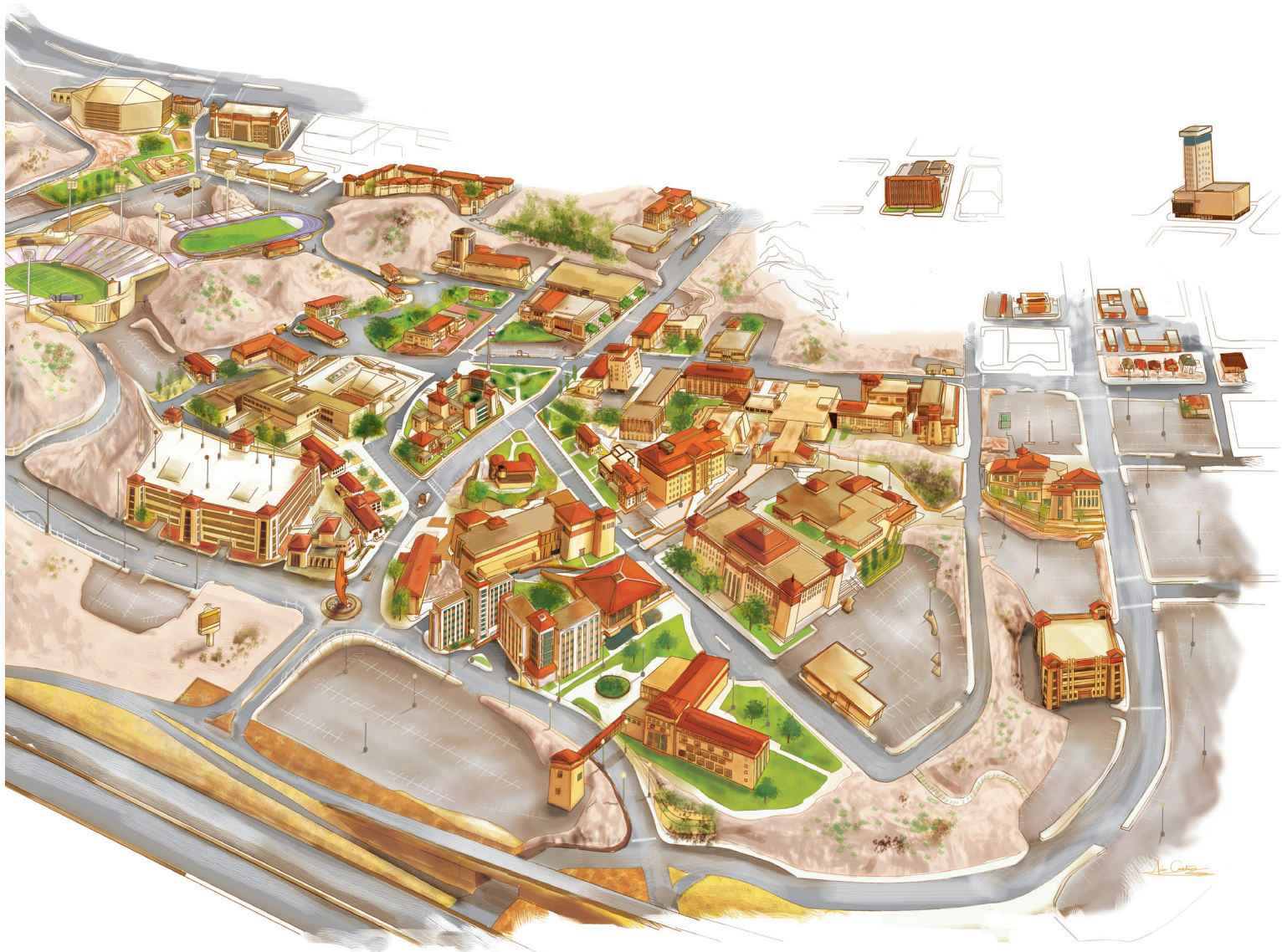
79 master's

70 bachelor's

19 doctoral degrees

\$404.6 million operating budget,
nearly \$70 million in annual
research, alumni in 80 countries
around the world.







Layers Past and Future

After a century, all of the layers of aspirations that have shaped UTEP remain present in some form. No longer a little mining school, it is home of the Miner Nation and Paydirt Pete and a top engineering school for Hispanics (seven years running); no longer just a city college, it continues to host numerous partnerships with El Paso schools and businesses; no longer a regional college or regional university, it looks outward from the borderlands to cultivate international exchange programs and internationally renowned research projects. Arts and culture, science and business, education and health now form part of an institution that connects past and present, city and region, student and faculty, nation and world.

The transformations at The University of Texas at El Paso form part of a larger story of societal change throughout the 20th century. Founded during the Mexican Revolution, the school has participated in the century's other revolutions, from expanded access to higher education after World War II, to increased civil rights for ethnic minorities and women during the 1960s and 1970s, to changed demographic realities since the 1980s. UTEP's layered past provides the prologue for its second century.

Note on Sources

Four essential books cover the first 75 years of UTEP's history. The occasion of the school's 50th anniversary prompted Francis L. Fugate's *Frontier College: Texas Western at El Paso, The First Fifty Years* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1964) and President Joseph M. Ray's *On Becoming a University: Report on an Octennium* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1968). The occasion of the 75th anniversary produced Nancy Hamilton's *UTEP: A Pictorial History of The University of Texas at El Paso: Diamond Jubilee, 1914-1989* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1988) and *Diamond Days: An Oral History of the University of Texas at El Paso* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1991), compiled by Charles H. Martin and Rebecca McDowell Craver. President Diana Natalicio's annual convocation addresses document UTEP's history over the past 25 years, while significant archival collections are maintained by the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department of the University Library, the Heritage House, the Institute of Oral History, and University Communications. Ongoing explorations of UTEP's history are under way at the Transformations history blog (<http://transformations.utep.edu>).

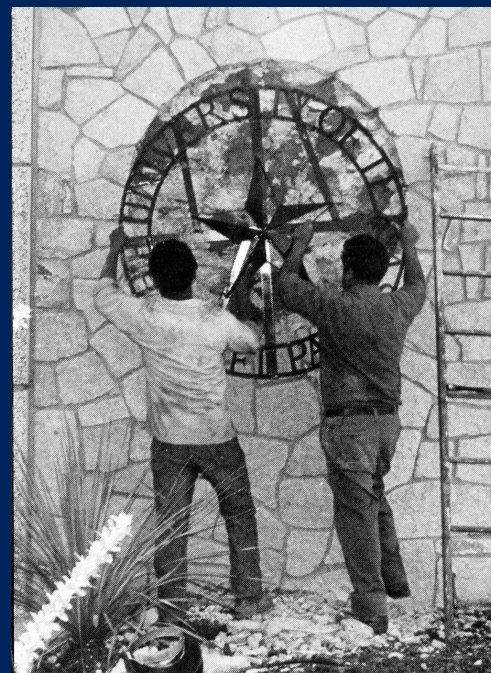
About the Author

Keith A. Erekson is an assistant professor of history at The University of Texas at El Paso and founder and director of the Center for History Teaching & Learning. In 2011, the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System awarded him its prestigious Outstanding Teaching Award. He is the author of *Everybody's History: Indiana's Lincoln Inquiry and the Quest to Reclaim a President's Past* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2012) and the editor of *Politics and the History Curriculum: The Struggle over Standards in Texas and the Nation* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012).

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Throughout 2014, The University of Texas at El Paso will celebrate its past accomplishments, showcase its present strengths, and look forward to the future. We aim to involve students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends in a University wide effort to reinvigorate and establish traditions, foster pride, and develop national and international recognition of UTEP's academic and research excellence.

