

# HOMECOMING 2010



## UTEP HOMECOMING GUIDE 2010





Homecoming 2010

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# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

## *Distinguished Alumni*

Every year, The University of Texas at El Paso honors a group of men and women whose achievements stand out as monuments to dedication, integrity and hard work. They are the finest among us. They are the Distinguished Alumni.

We do not cite them solely for their accomplishments, however. We recognize them because they inspire others, the current generation of students who will follow their path, guided by their bold examples. Setting the bar high is hard, and reaching it is even harder, but neither can be done without mentors.

This year, the University has selected three Distinguished Alumni who will be celebrated during Homecoming week. Please join us in honoring those who have honored us through their achievement and example.

# 2010

**UTEPALUMNI**  
ASSOCIATION



# Ceci Miles Mulvihill

Ask Ceci Miles Mulvihill '69 what inspires her work and what she liked best about her undergraduate days at UTEP, and the answer is the same. It comes with an exclamation point: "People!"

It is no wonder, then, that Miles Mulvihill now heads RMPersonnel, the successful integrated personnel and business services firm based in El Paso. As the president of a 3,000+-employee, six-state operation focused on human resources, she has the opportunity to build on her passion for people. "We get to help the business owner, and at the same time the job seeker," she said. "It's great when you can find the connection. I have worked with so many marvelous people!"

Her passion for the business side of helping people goes way back to a part-time job in the personnel office at The Popular department store.

With 10 children to educate, her dad paid only her Texas Western tuition. "We had to work, had to find jobs for everything else, for books, clothes, just everything. I had to really learn to organize myself, with job, sorority and my classes. That was a great challenge," she remembered.

And she loved the whole experience: job, sorority, clubs, football games and "basketball—oh, my goodness, basketball in 1966!"

The university experience, which culminated in a bachelor's in education, brought lessons both in and out of class. She learned in her first Spanish class not to be so sure she really "knew" *anything*. And though she was

an admitted science-phobe, the surprising rush of teaching the mysteries of the amoeba to nine-year-olds convinced her that it's important to try "what you think you *don't* like." The most essential lesson of all, though, was the passion and satisfaction she found in that necessary part-time college job.

Later, although she enjoyed the challenge of teaching her young students, she kept her hand in her dad's customs brokerage business—in the personnel office. When life changes in 1987 required a bigger paycheck, she channeled her powerful passion for people into Integrated Personnel Services, which evolved, with family help past an early failure, into today's RMPersonnel. Now, the company she and her sisters started with their father's help is ranked 147th in *Hispanic Business's* annual list of the U.S.'s top 500 Hispanic-owned businesses, and has the second-highest volume of the list's El Paso firms. The secret to her success? "Look for your passion!"

Miles Mulvihill's dedication to people extends to numerous community and civic groups, including the El Paso Zoological Society, the Regional Economic and Development Corp. (REDCo), UTEP's Centennial Commission and Campaign Leadership Council, College of Education Advisory Board, Development Board and the Paso del Norte Group. Last fall, she was one of 35 role models honored by the Paso del Norte Entrepreneurship Oral History Project, and she was the 2006 UTEP Department of Education Gold Nugget.





# Hank Cohen

The fast-paced life Hank Cohen leads as CEO and Partner in Trifecta Entertainment & Media, which plays an increasingly influential role in the entertainment industry's dynamic indie-syndie segment, seems far removed from his days at The University of Texas at El Paso.

Since playing Miner baseball for his dad, El Paso legend Andy Cohen, he has risen steadily in his field, and most would view his previous position as CEO of huge and profitable MGM Television as a pinnacle. But Trifecta, the fully integrated multimedia development, production, distribution, sales and programming company Cohen created with his ex-MGM management team, is revolutionizing the marketplace and promises to be his crowning achievement.

An unmotivated pre-law student, Cohen reluctantly answered his dad's challenge to audition for an El Paso Playhouse production. Showing up with sister Marina along for moral support, he found that the project was *Death of a Salesman*, the only play he'd ever read. Encouraged by this serendipity, he won a leading role. From the first rehearsal to the final curtain, he "enjoyed everything about it." And he knew that the entertainment world was where he belonged.

Cohen, the 2001 College of Liberal Arts Gold Nugget, quickly moved to the Communication Department's Radio-TV-Film program. From then on, college was no longer work; it was play. In a hurry now to finish his education and move on, he didn't do university theater, but after earning his bachelor's degree in

mass communication in 1978 he set off to tour the country in dinner theater for several very enjoyable years.

The fun of live theater couldn't last forever, so Cohen went to Burbank, where the connection between UTEP mentor John Siqueiros and *The Tonight Show* producer, El Paso native and 1970 UTEP Distinguished Alumnus Rudy Tellez, gained him an interview at NBC. A bit older by now than the usual studio page, Cohen still made the waiting list. When his turn came, he began a rapid trajectory: he moved only a short time later from page staff at NBC to his first network executive job at ABC. It was that leap that eventually propelled him to the top of MGM Television.

With the creative and savvy Cohen at the helm, MGM Television produced and distributed such hit series as *Stargate SG-1* and its spin-offs, as well as *Dead Like Me*, *Jeremiah*, and the syndicated hit show *She Spies*.

"Not to be trite," Cohen said, "but if you find what you love, you'll not only succeed, but you'll never feel like you're even working."

UTEP's inclusive, "grounded" atmosphere laid a solid foundation for Cohen's endeavors. The security of acceptance on his own terms lent resilience when the bumps and disappointments came. And when he became President at MGM, he said, he knew he could either become what the high-flying television business expected him to become, or "stay me." He chose wisely: he stayed Hank Cohen.





# Mike Loya

Mike Loya '77 thrives on competition. Loya heads Vitol Inc., the muscular American arm of The Vitol Group, one of the largest energy trading companies in the world. Multibillion-dollar Vitol beats the competition through the efficiency and diversity of product and partnerships that are hallmarks of its powerful global presence.

Competitiveness always has been a factor in Loya's success. "I always wanted to be the best at what I did...You're proving yourself to yourself." It was like that going from El Paso, where he was raised the oldest of seven high-achieving siblings in a first-generation Mexican-American family, to the Harvard Business School. And it has been like that ever since.

His competitive project at present is the assembly of a first-class electricity trading team. "It's like a pro team. You try to get the best players, your stars and your support players. The challenge is identifying, recruiting and getting the best of the best for your team," he said, with all the enthusiasm of an NBA coach. Early in his career, the object was to get ahead, but now "it's more internal: can I stay on top of the game?"

Loya's game at UTEP was rugby, one that rewarded his competitive drive and a passion he took with him to Harvard. He continued to play club rugby as his business career advanced, in Houston and in London. "I was good," he said.

He was good at his classes, too, but it was more than class work that contributed to his future success. "We had labs on Friday afternoons," he remembered, "and you would go

in and play with messy fluids." The professors were accessible, and students often joined them off-campus after lab, developing the ability to relate well to educated, intelligent people. "That helps you a lot in life," said Loya, the 2006 Gold Nugget from the College of Engineering.

Loya had planned to leave UTEP after two years to study architecture, but he stayed for the stimulating mechanical engineering curriculum and faculty. Business beckoned, however, as the right fit for his competitive nature. And to be the best, he decided, he should earn an MBA from Harvard. The idea of the Ivy League, distant from UTEP in so many ways, intimidated him at first, he said, but "pretty soon I realized I had a very good education. I had nothing to be insecure about." He received his M.B.A. in 1979.

Now, he's interested in seeing that tomorrow's students have a chance at a good education, too. With little time to spend in civic activities these days, one board he makes room for is YES Prep, an innovative multi-campus charter school initiative in Houston that, through its rigorous curriculum and "whatever it takes" attitude, places 100 percent of its graduates—95 percent of whom are Hispanic or African-American—in four-year colleges.

Above all, Loya is a believer in risk-taking. "You may stumble along the way, but take calculated risks," he offered, "and don't overestimate the downside, or you'll make sub-optimal decisions. Don't play it safe. Take chances."



The University of Texas at El Paso and the UTEP Alumni Association are proud to present the 2010 Gold Nugget Award recipients. These outstanding alumni are recognized by each of the University's colleges and schools for their achievements and dedication.

## 2010 GOLD NUGGET AWARD RECIPIENT



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION

**ROBERT W. "BILL" GILMER**

B.A., Economics, '68

Robert W. "Bill" Gilmer, Ph.D., is proof that the quality of a university is best measured by the success of its graduates.

As the vice president in charge at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, El Paso Branch, this UTEP alumnus now recruits UTEP graduates.

"I work very closely with several UTEP graduates at the branch," he said. "They're all top-notch. If you respect the graduates, you have to respect the institution."

He has earned the same respect he gives the UTEP alumni who work for him.

Gilmer's bachelor's degree in economics in 1968 propelled him to a successful career that has earned him a Gold Nugget Award from UTEP's College of Business Administration.

He earned master's and doctoral degrees in economics from The University of Texas at Austin and set out on a career path that began with a researcher position at the Institute for Defense Analyses, an Alexandria, Va., think tank.

Since 2002, he has overseen Federal Reserve operations for West Texas and Southern New Mexico, including the annual receipt of more than \$10 billion for regional banks.

Gilmer also is the El Paso Branch's senior economist, researching critical issues including energy interests and the border economy. By determining which areas of the local economy are weak or strong, Gilmer's research helps protect client assets.



## 2010 GOLD NUGGET AWARD RECIPIENT

Even in an age when the recession has taught every household the meaning of the term “budget,” few individuals understand the word as well as David Rapisand.

As the director of financial analysis and overhead control for the Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co. in Fort Worth, Texas, he is responsible for a \$2.6 billion operating budget.

Rapisand’s remarkable budget management skills have been a tremendous asset to his company, the nation’s leading maker of jet fighters. The company relies on him to keep a firm rein on expenses. Analyzing strengths and weaknesses, Rapisand, a 1976 UTEP graduate with a bachelor’s degree in accounting, determines the budgets for each department, cutting back where he sees waste and inefficiency.

“When I present a budget plan, I put all the dots together,” he said.

It’s a demanding job, one that requires both business acumen and strong character. Rapisand has shown he’s up to the task, and that has earned him this year’s Gold Nugget Award from the College of Business Administration. In addition to his financial duties, Rapisand, who also holds an M.B.A. from Loyola University in New Orleans, has launched a significant recruiting effort at UTEP, maintaining a close relationship with the University.

“Since 2007, we have hired just over 40 UTEP alumni,” he said. “UTEP delivers. These kids get a fine education, and our executives are totally impressed. They tell me, ‘Bring them on.’”



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION

**DAVID RAPISAND**

B.B.A., Accounting, '76

## 2010 GOLD NUGGET AWARD RECIPIENT



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**SUSAN RUTLEDGE CREWS**

B.S., Education, '68; M.Ed.,

Guidance and Counseling, '72

Susan Rutledge Crews embodies the notion that the greatest triumphs in life are those that you help others achieve. That philosophy has guided her as a counselor for nearly 40 years.

A recipient of the 2010 Gold Nugget Award from UTEP's College of Education, Crews earned her bachelor's degree in education (1968) and a master's in guidance and counseling (1972) from the University. Like many of this year's award recipients, she felt humbled by the honor.

"I immediately thought of the many outstanding educators I have met during the last 41 years," she said. "To receive such an award was earth-shaking for me."

Crews need not have been surprised. She is the lead counselor for the El Paso Independent School District, where her responsibilities include coordinating the guidance and counseling programs at 36 PK-12 campuses. Crews has won numerous awards, including the Governor's Educational Award of Excellence.

"My goal as a professional counselor is to lift up the people around me," she said. "If I can help other people taste success and overcome barriers, no matter how small, I can help them attain the tools to cope with almost any life situation.

"My largest success," she said, "is realized every day when I see my clients, students and interns look at the real issues that may be plaguing them and the tools they need to move past their pain into a place of hope and possibility again."



# 2010 GOLD NUGGET AWARD RECIPIENT

Upon learning he had been selected to receive a Gold Nugget Award from UTEP's College of Engineering, Jose "Joe" Cardenas took a journey no travel agency can set up: he went back in time.

"Going back to 1974, the year I got my civil engineering degree, I said, 'Who would have thought?' I never dreamed of an honor like this."

After graduating, he worked as a petroleum engineer and later joined an engineering consulting firm. In 1990, he and another UTEP alumnus, Roberto Moreno, launched their own civil engineering consulting company, Moreno-Cardenas Inc.

"We look back and say we're glad we were too naïve to understand the risk we were taking," he said.

It was a risk worth taking. The company focuses on public works projects for the city and state. It was the lead engineering firm for the Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant, a joint venture of Ft. Bliss and El Paso Water Utilities to help a water-starved region cope with future shortages. The plant earned Moreno-Cardenas the Texas Council of Engineering Companies award for the top engineering project in Texas in 2008.

Cardenas also has lent his leadership skills to organizations including the Housing Authority for the City of El Paso and the Texas Board of Professional Engineers.

Another rewarding experience is the fact that his brother, who graduated three years earlier, also is receiving a Gold Nugget Award from the College of Engineering this year.



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING  
**JOSE "JOE" CARDENAS**  
B.S.C.E., '74

## 2010 GOLD NUGGET AWARD RECIPIENT



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

**TOMAS "TOM" CARDENAS**

B.S.C.E., '71

For Tomas "Tom" Cardenas Jr., receiving the Gold Nugget Award from UTEP's College of Engineering is a family affair.

Cardenas receives the honor this year along with his younger brother, Jose "Joe" Cardenas. They earned bachelor's degrees in civil engineering three years apart: Tom in 1971, Joe in 1974.

It's not the first time they have received the same award. The Texas Society of Engineers, El Paso Chapter, named Tom the year's Outstanding Young Engineer in 1982. Joe received the award a year later.

Each was selected for the Gold Nugget Award on his own merits. For Tom, that meant being one of the most successful entrepreneurs in El Paso. He launched Cardenas and Associates, a civil engineering design and consulting firm, in 1983.

"In 1985, a friend approached me with an opportunity to do construction management on a facility in Mexico City, so we started ECM International Inc.," Tom said. "He later left [the business], and I became sole owner of two companies."

Tom sold Cardenas and Associates in 1996, allowing him to focus on ECM. As president of the company, Tom has managed more than 70 million square feet of facilities construction for local and international projects representing more than \$60 billion.

"The solid base of learning provided by UTEP during my four years [there] allowed me to comfortably and confidently undertake new challenges," he said. "The well-rounded curriculum along with excellent professors was the beginning."



# 2010 GOLD NUGGET AWARD RECIPIENT

As a UTEP engineering professor from 1977 through 2003, when he was granted emeritus status, Juan Herrera, Ph.D., operated under one guiding principle: the more his students achieved, the more he himself achieved. By that standard, Herrera was a huge success.

One student was John “Danny” Olivas, Ph.D., the former NASA astronaut and 2006 UTEP Distinguished Alumnus who flew two space shuttle missions.

“Danny was an ace, an achiever,” Herrera said. “But he was not my only great student. I saw many of them do as well or better than students from Yale or Harvard.”

Herrera knows about accomplishments. He earned two bachelor’s degrees from UTEP—one in mechanical engineering in 1969 and the second in metallurgical and materials engineering in 1970. He also holds a master’s degree in mechanical engineering (1970) from the University. This year, he is a UTEP College of Engineering Gold Nugget Award recipient. The honor reflects his success in both the academic and business worlds.

He earned a doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of Houston in less than two years. Then, after joining UTEP’s College of Engineering, he co-founded a small but successful engineering consulting firm with fellow UTEP alumnus and professor, Steve Stafford, Ph.D. That company, Herrera, Stafford & Associates, has found a deep recruiting pool at UTEP.

“I know what great engineers these students can be, you better believe it,” Herrera said.



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

**JUAN HERRERA**

B.S.M.E., '69; B.S.Met., Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, '70; M.S.M.E., '70

## 2010 GOLD NUGGET AWARD RECIPIENT



COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

**VIRGINIA MARTINEZ**

B.S.W., '89

Virginia Martinez launched her UTEP career in her early 30s, but whatever she experienced in lost time, she made up for with determination and enthusiasm.

She enrolled at UTEP in 1987—a decision fueled by her love for a job she had just started: secretary for the agency now known as the Texas Department of Human Services.

“When I left the office on my first day of work, I said to myself, ‘I want to be a social worker,’” she said.

After earning her social work degree from UTEP in 1989, she completed a master’s degree in social work from The University of Texas at Austin in 1992.

She found a position at what is now El Paso’s University Medical Center, where today she is the senior social worker for the Crime Victim Services Program.

“I identify patients who need help: victims of assault or domestic violence or other crimes,” she said. “I assess their needs, guiding them to agencies that may help them, either emotionally or financially.”

Martinez was chosen this spring as the Social Worker of the Year by the Texas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, and this fall will be honored by UTEP’s College of Health Sciences with the 2010 Gold Nugget Award.

“You start by helping your clients get their noses above water,” she said. “When you help them, you help society.”



# 2010 GOLD NUGGET AWARD RECIPIENT

A young woman studying painting at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Beverly Penn was captivated by a huge work of art when she visited El Paso in 1977. The work of art was the city itself.

“That early impression of the natural world in and around El Paso influences my art to this day,” she said.

Inspired by the splendor of the region, she moved to El Paso, enrolled at UTEP and was introduced to metal as an artistic medium.

“Some cutting-edge work was being done in the Art Department, particularly in the area of metal,” Penn said.

With her fine arts degree from UTEP completed in 1982, she went on to a distinguished career that has earned her a Gold Nugget Award from the College of Liberal Arts. An art and design professor at Texas State University in San Marcos for the past 20 years, Penn has exhibited her sculpture and jewelry internationally.

Her recent works include bronze castings of weeds and other botanicals harvested near her home in Austin. A review in the online magazine *TheDetroit.com* lauded Penn as one of the artists whose “deep thought and fine craftsmanship have established the continued relevance of metalsmithing.”

Penn’s pieces are in the permanent collections of, among others, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum in New York and the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**BEVERLY PENN**

B.F.A., Studio Art/Sculpture, '82

## 2010 GOLD NUGGET AWARD RECIPIENT



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**BERTHA TOSCANO**

B.A., Spanish, '33

It's not often that one individual can outdistance an entire university. But Bertha Toscano has done it.

UTEP will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2014; Toscano will beat the University to the punch by one year.

In the meantime, the 97-year-old graduate of what was then the Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy has received an honor she says she does not deserve—a Gold Nugget Award from the College of Liberal Arts.

"It has made me very happy," the Mexico City resident said. "But I don't think I deserve it. Maybe UTEP is honoring me because of my age."

Toscano is a marvel of longevity, but her modesty belies her accomplishments. Toscano's remarkable career spanned nearly 40 years at ASARCO, where she was a human resources director at the company's now-shuttered copper smelter in El Paso and at facilities in Mexico City. For much of that time, she was one of the company's only female executives.

Toscano, who earned her degree in Spanish in 1933, will attend this year's UTEP Homecoming, an event she has attended every year since her 50th class reunion in 1983.

"My goodness, I'm so old," she said, laughing. "I don't know what I'm doing here. I think God lost my file upstairs."

UTEP did not lose her file, and is proud to honor her for her professional achievements.

## 2010 GOLD NUGGET AWARD RECIPIENT

Matthew “Matt” Diethelm, Ph.D., UTEP’s College of Science Gold Nugget Award recipient, believed the knowledge of electronics and digital computers would take him far. He just did not realize how far.

After graduating from Texas Western College (now UTEP) with a mathematical sciences degree in 1963, he worked for General Electric, focusing on mission planning for NASA’s Apollo space program in Florida.

“It was an amazing experience, and I never really realized exactly what we had done until the moon landing in 1969,” he said.

The moon landing came a year after he had transferred to Phoenix, where he earned master’s and doctoral degrees in engineering from Arizona State University. He began the second phase of his career in 1979, joining Intel Corp.

“The first few years with Intel were incredibly dynamic,” he recalled. “The moment that stands out most for me is my appointment as vice president for systems group in 1987. This was for me a high honor and responsibility, [as] the senior people [I was] involved [with] were, and are, the builders of completely new technology and businesses.”

Diethelm retired in 1998, but retirement did not lead to inactivity. He was vocal about his belief that all children can learn when provided with proper teaching environments and was named to the Arizona State Board of Education, where he served from 2003-06, including one year as president.



COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

**MATTHEW “MATT” DIETHELM**

B.S., Mathematical Sciences, '63



## 2010 GOLD NUGGET AWARD RECIPIENT



COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

**LAURANCE NICKEY**

B.S., Biological Sciences, '51

Laurance Nickey, M.D., a 2010 College of Science Gold Nugget Award recipient, attributes his successful medical career to the day he decided to attend UTEP.

“Going to UTEP was the smartest thing I ever did in my life,” said Nickey, who earned his biological sciences degree in 1951 from what was then Texas Western College.

“I had outstanding professors, and I enjoyed myself tremendously,” he said.

A medical degree from Baylor University in Houston followed. Nickey then interned as a pediatrician before he was drafted by the Army in 1958 and stationed at Fort Chaffee, Ark., as a staff pediatrician. A year later, he was transferred back to El Paso and assigned to William Beaumont Army Medical Center. He has been in El Paso ever since.

After his military service ended in 1960, Nickey launched a pediatric practice. He retired in 1982.

Retirement led to public service. Nickey directed the El Paso City-County Health and Environmental District from 1983-1995. He also was president of the Paso del Norte Health Foundation from 1996-1998. So significant were his contributions that he won the Conquistador Award, the City of El Paso’s highest honor, twice.

“What stands out for me is being in El Paso,” he said. “It’s been a wonderful experience, and the progress at UTEP—oh my God, what a wonderful thing for the community.”

## 2010 GOLD NUGGET AWARD RECIPIENT

Mary Lou “Lou” Valdez is working hard to ensure your safety—with every bite you eat, every pill you take, every medical device you use, and every time you powder your nose.

Named associate commissioner for international programs with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2009, Valdez, a 2010 College of Science Gold Nugget Award recipient, helps oversee the agency that regulates food, drugs, cosmetics and medical devices imported from overseas.

“The FDA is looking ahead on how to manage the increasing challenges and complexities of the global landscape,” she said. “Products that Americans consume are increasingly imported from other countries, developed and developing countries alike.”

Valdez has worked for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) since 1991. Prior to her recent appointment with the FDA, she was deputy director of the HHS Office of Global Health Affairs.

She now helps lead the FDA’s efforts to position the agency globally. The goal of those efforts is to expand the agency’s capacity to oversee imported food and medical products, and to increase standards for safety and manufacturing quality in other parts of the world, thereby ensuring that Americans are protected as they continue to benefit from the advantages of a global marketplace.

Valdez credits her UTEP experience—she earned a bachelor’s in biological sciences in 1986—with helping her meet the challenges faced by the FDA.

“My strong orientation toward public service was influenced by my time at UTEP,” she said.



COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

**MARY LOU “LOU” VALDEZ**

B.S., Biological Sciences, '86

## 2010 GOLD NUGGET AWARD RECIPIENT



SCHOOL OF NURSING

**YVONNE ACOSTA**

B.S.N., '83; M.S.N.,

Nursing-Maternal/Child, '88

As a lawyer, Yvonne Acosta might seem an unlikely choice for the Gold Nugget Award from UTEP's School of Nursing.

When people note the chasm between law and nursing, however, she responds that she has built a bridge between the two professions.

After graduating from UTEP with bachelor's (1983) and master's (1988) degrees in nursing, she worked at an El Paso hospital in various capacities, including staff nurse and patient educator in newborn and obstetrics nursing. She also found time to serve as an associate professor of nursing at UTEP.

And yet, somehow, that was not enough. She wanted to do more, and she hit on a novel idea: she would become an advocate for those in the profession she had chosen and loved—nursing.

"I have always had a passion for law and nursing," she said. "I wanted to mesh both fields. When I was at the hospital, nurses and doctors were named in lawsuits if there was a bad outcome. I thought people should understand how hard they fought for a patient. [The doctors and nurses] needed protection from liability challenges."

Acosta left nursing to pursue a law degree, graduating from St. Mary's University in San Antonio in 1995. She is now a lawyer at ScottHulse in El Paso, working tirelessly to defend the professionals with whom she once served.

"I felt my nursing background gave me insight to defend them even more zealously," she said.



## 2010 GOLD NUGGET AWARD RECIPIENT

Life in the country often means life in the slow lane, an escape from the frenzy of urban living. Not for Gloria Bombach, who has spent most of her career in rural towns in Texas and Oklahoma, where the rewards have been as big as the workloads.

Seeking neither fame nor fortune, she found her payoff in the significant impact she has made on traditionally underserved regions.

A 2010 recipient of UTEP's School of Nursing Gold Nugget Award, Bombach graduated with a nursing degree in 1977.

"I had a wonderful education," she said. "I loved my teachers. They helped instill within me a passion for nursing."

In 1980, she and her husband, a general physician, opened a practice in Boise City, Okla., population about 1,200. As the clinic's business manager, she found time to conduct free seminars throughout the area on self breast examinations and Lamaze childbirth methods.

"There was an opportunity to make an impact," she said. "I was a pioneer when it came to preventive care. It was hard to quantify, but I did notice improved health among the townspeople."

Now divorced, she has been the school nurse for the Dalhart (Texas) Independent School District for the past five years. With a population of 7,000, Dalhart is larger than Beaver and Boise City, but still small enough that more than 1,000 school children depend almost solely on her for quality care.



SCHOOL OF NURSING  
**GLORIA BOMBACH**

B.S.N., '77

UTEP VS. RICE • OCT. 9, 2010 • KICKOFF 7:05 PM

With a full slate of fun activities to reunite friends from years past, Homecoming week is a great opportunity to get a firsthand look at the exciting changes on the UTEP campus. Great things are happening at the University, and Homecoming 2010 is the time to celebrate all the reasons why we're proud to be Miners!

**Sunday, Oct. 3**

**SGA Homecoming Pageant**

6 p.m. Magoffin Auditorium

**Wednesday, Oct. 6**

**Miner Morning Mania**

5 a.m. Outside Larry K. Durham Sports Center

**Open House: The History of UTEP**

10 a.m. - noon UTEP Heritage House

**Lip Sync Competition**

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Union Plaza stage

**College of Health Sciences/School of Nursing Gold Nugget and Friends Recognition Ceremony**

3:30 - 5 p.m. College of Health Sciences, 1101 N. Campbell (Morgan Roderick Auditorium)

**Thursday, Oct. 7**

**Open House: The History of UTEP**

10 a.m. - noon UTEP Heritage House

**Department of English Homecoming Reception**

1:30 p.m. Hudspeth Hall foyer

**College of Business Administration Gold Nugget Reception**

4 p.m. Lobby of the Business Administration Building

**College of Liberal Arts Gold Nugget Ceremony and Reception**

4 p.m. Stanlee and Gerald Ruben Center for the Visual Arts

**College of Science Gold Nugget Reception**

4 p.m. Geology Reading Room

**Homecoming Float-Making Party**

6 p.m. - 1 a.m. P-9 parking lot (by Kidd Field)

**Friday, Oct. 8**

**College of Education Gold Nugget Breakfast**

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Templeton Suite, Union Building East

**Open House: The History of UTEP**

10 - 11:45 a.m. UTEP Heritage House

**Civil Engineering Luncheon**

11:30 a.m. El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center

**Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally**

Noon Starting at P-9 parking lot (across from Memorial Gym). Route from Randolph to Robinson to Oregon to University, ending at Wiggins. The Pep Rally immediately follows

the parade at Memorial Triangle.

**Department of Sociology and Anthropology Student and Faculty Welcome Orientation**

1:30 p.m. Old Main

**Varsity Club Reception**

5 - 7 p.m. Hilton Garden Inn

**UTEP Black Alumni Network Meet and Greet**

5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Followed by a Homecoming Celebration 9 p.m. - midnight Hilton Garden Inn

**Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner**

6 p.m. Don Haskins Center

**WAC 10th Anniversary Dinner**

7 p.m. Larry K. Durham Sports Center, Hall of Champions

**Golddigger Alumni Reunion Activities**

Time and location: TBA

**Saturday, Oct. 9**

**College of Engineering Alumni and Gold Nugget Breakfast**

9 - 11 a.m. El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center

**Welcome Back to Political Science**

9 - 11 a.m. Benedict Hall, Room 205

**Open House: The History of UTEP**

10 - 11:45 a.m. UTEP Heritage House

**Department of Communication Homecoming Brunch**

10 a.m. - noon Cotton Memorial, Room 207

**College of Education Pre-Game Party**

Noon Heritage House lawn

**Campus Activities Board (CAB) Alley Non-alcoholic Tailgate for Students**

Noon - 3 p.m. CAB Alley is located between the parking garage and the Fox Fine Arts Center

**University College Homecoming Tailgate**

3 p.m. Behind Kelly Hall on the back patio

**UTEP Alumni Association Pre-Game Party**

4 - 6:30 p.m. Glory Road Practice Field

**Varsity Club Tailgate**

4 p.m. Glory Road Practice Field

**Graduate School Tailgate**

4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Academic Services Building patio

**Law School Preparation Institute Homecoming Tailgate**

4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Glory Road Practice Field

UTEP Golddigger Savannah Laneaux and cheerleader Jimmy Salais





# PAYDIRT PETE TURNS 30

## CLASS OF 1960

### Golden Grad Reunion Schedule of Events

#### Thursday, Oct. 7

Registration 9 a.m.  
Peter and Margaret de Wetter  
Center

Campus Tour 11 a.m.  
Peter and Margaret de Wetter  
Center

Welcome Luncheon 1 p.m.  
Larry K. Durham Sports Center,  
Hall of Champions

Dinner and Dance 7 p.m.  
Ardivino's Desert Crossing

#### Friday, Oct. 8

Open House and Bookstore Visit  
8:30 a.m. to Noon  
Peter and Margaret de  
Wetter Center

Homecoming Parade and Pep  
Rally Noon  
Memorial Triangle

Alumni Luncheon 1:15 p.m.  
Peter and Margaret de Wetter  
Center

#### Saturday, Oct. 9

Heritage House Tour  
10 - 11:45 a.m.  
Peter and Margaret de Wetter  
Center

Class of 1960 Golden Grad  
Reunion Luncheon  
Noon to 2 p.m.  
Tomas Rivera Conference  
Center

UTEP Alumni Association  
Pre-Game Party 4 - 6:30 p.m.  
Glory Field/Practice Field

Homecoming Football Game 7:05  
p.m. UTEP vs. Rice Sun Bowl  
Stadium



One of the most recognizable faces in the city is celebrating his 30th birthday in September. Since 1980, Paydirt Pete has been a mascot and goodwill ambassador for The University of Texas at El Paso. As with most of us, Pete has changed his style during the past three decades. Sometimes he's needed a shave and a haircut, other times a different outfit or a nip/tuck. Today, when he's not in the gym, he can be found at UTEP athletic events entertaining fans. He looks forward to another year where he can wield his mighty pickaxe in support of the Miners. Pete said life begins at 30. Come by the Sun Bowl and see for yourself.



## FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 4 vs. Arkansas - Pine Bluff  
Sun Bowl  
7:05 p.m.

Sept. 10 at Houston \*  
Houston, Texas  
8:15 p.m.

Sept. 18 vs. New Mexico State  
Sun Bowl  
7:05 p.m.

Sept. 25 vs. Memphis \*  
Sun Bowl  
7:05 p.m.

Oct. 2 at New Mexico  
Albuquerque, N.M.  
4 p.m.

Oct. 9 vs. Rice \*  
Homecoming  
Sun Bowl  
7:05 p.m.

Oct. 16 at Alabama  
at Birmingham  
Birmingham, Ala.  
2 p.m.

Oct. 23 vs. Tulane \*  
Sun Bowl  
7:05 p.m.

Oct. 30 at Marshall \*  
Huntington, W. Va.  
1 p.m.

Nov. 6 vs. Southern Methodist \*  
Sun Bowl  
7:05 p.m.

Nov. 13 at Arkansas  
Fayetteville, Ark.  
TBA

Nov. 20 at Tulsa \*  
Tulsa, Okla.  
TBA

\* Conference Game  
All games are Mountain Time.



The disappointing end to last year's 4-9 football season generated some changes on the Miners team, but most importantly, in the attitude of the players.

# Redemption

BY JOE VELARDE

## The 2010 Miner Football Preview

### TEAM LEADERS HOPE THE OFFSEASON ADJUSTMENTS WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN 2010.

Led by 11 returning starters, including record-setting running back Donald Buckram, quarterback Trevor Vittatoe and defensive back Braxton Amy, these Miners choose to focus on their team's future.

The desire to win has been evident in the locker room for the better part of the grueling eight-month offseason. Team leadership is stronger than ever, said Head Football Coach Mike Price, who enters his 29th year as a collegiate head coach—his seventh with the Miners.

"It's been a really great attitude going into the season," Price said. "I keep telling them, 'It's your team.' They're talking, they're leading, and they're ready to jab that pickaxe into the ground."

One of the biggest keys to UTEP success this year will be Buckram, a senior electronic media major who rushed in 2009 for 18 touchdowns and 1,594 yards. His yardage total eclipsed a 62-year-old UTEP record—1,548 yards by Fred Wendt in 1948. He wound up with the third most rushing yards in the country.

The player from Copperas Cove, Texas, was a semifinalist for the 2009 Doak Walker Award, given to the nation's top running back for his performance on the field, in the classroom and in the community.

Buckram holds the Miners records for most 100-yard games with nine and most 200-yard games with three. The coach predicts the running back will achieve greater success this year with the help of the "biggest, fastest and most athletic offensive line" he's coached at the University.

"(Buckram's) the whole package," Price said. "He's a dominant leader on the team, and an outstanding young athlete."

The coach also holds high hopes for his quarterback, who along with a sound receiving corps, could be part of a dynamic air attack. While Vittatoe, a senior business administration major, has sharpened his physical mechanics, Price is just as enthusiastic about the changes in the player's mental preparation.

"His attitude has changed immensely," Price said of the player from Bedford, Texas. "It's his attitude and desire to be everything he wants to be."

Vittatoe threw for 3,300 yards last season and 17 touchdowns. One of his main targets this year will be Kris Adams, senior business administration major. He finished with 580 yards on 42 catches last season, but racked up 980 yards on 50 grabs in 2008.

"With this (offensive) line and these players, I'm expecting us to put up a lot of points," Price said.

While UTEP's offense has been consistent during the Mike Price era, the same cannot be said about the defense. Last year, the Miners' allowed a combined 402 points and 5,363 yards.

New defensive coordinator Andre Patterson has installed a fundamental 4-3 scheme to clamp down on opponents. Patterson is a former assistant head coach at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

"I really think Coach Patterson is a great 'x and o' guy," Price said. "He's more than just a coach, he's a teacher of both the players and the coaching staff."

One of the team's key defensive weapons will be Braxton Amy, a leadership studies graduate student. Price called the Richmond, Texas, native the best all-around athlete on the Miners' squad. He thinks the defender and Buckram are potential All-American candidates.

Amy re-introduced himself last season as a UTEP powerhouse with a team-best five interceptions. He led the Miners with stops (112) and interceptions (5) in 2007, but was sidelined with a knee injury the following year. Deshawn Grayson, who had an impressive rookie season with 65 tackles in 2009, will join Amy in the defensive backfield.

As for Buckram, he knows the Miners' conference foes have him and the team in their crosshairs, but he is not worried because the team will be competitive. Their last four losses were by seven points or less.

"We're a good, strong and tough team. We've got a new coach on defense, and we got strong leadership. There's no excuse why we can't get it done this year," Buckram said. ➤



Senior running back Donald Buckram broke a 60-year-old school record with an impressive 1,594 yards and 18 trips to the end zone last season.





The University of Texas at El Paso  
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# MINER SPIRIT

David Vasquez, a former Miner Top Ten Senior and 1994 graduate of The University of Texas at El Paso, is beginning his 14th season as head coach of the UTEP Cheerleaders.

With their high-flying acrobatics and catchy Miner cheers, the UTEP squad has become known as one of the top collegiate cheerleading programs in the nation. The orange and blue-clad Miners placed third at the USA Collegiate Cheerleading Championships in 1998, 1999 and 2002, and won the Hollywood in Hawaii Cheerleading Competition. A few members of the team were flown to Honolulu to represent UTEP in a documentary on the sport.

The squad hit paydirt when they won the collegiate and open adult divisions and were named Grand National Champions at the American Grand National Championships in Las Vegas in 2003. They also showed off their Miner spirit in an appearance on MTV while in Las Vegas in 2005.

As a proud Miner cheerleader from 1991-94, Vasquez also serves as coordinator of UTEP's Liberal Arts Teacher Preparation program. As a former high school teacher, he enjoys working closely with future educators. He recently was appointed co-director of the Center for Arts and Science Education (CASE), which is responsible for certification testing and is a liaison for the College of Liberal Arts.

Vasquez has a master's degree in educational policy and planning from The University of Texas at Austin. ☑