



Guide to

MS 001

## The University of Texas at El Paso Collection

1914 – 2011 Span Dates,  
1930s – 1990s Bulk Dates

Processed by Abbie Weiser

Transferred by the University of Texas at El Paso.

Citation: The University of Texas at El Paso Collection, MS 001, 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

## Biography or 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 90<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

## Series Description or Arrangement

Due to the large volume of records, finding aids for the UTEP Collection were done for each series. Click on the links below to access individual guides.

Series include:

Academic and other departmental records

[Athletic Department records](#)

[Bhutanese Style Architecture Collection](#)

[Chicano Pre-Law Society records](#)

[Drama Department records](#)

[Energy Center records](#)

[Faculty records](#)

[Faculty Senate records](#)

[Financial records](#)

[Geology Department records](#)

[Graduate Council records](#)

[History Department records](#)

News and Information Department records

[Music Department records](#)

[Photograph Collection](#)

[Presidents' and Deans records](#)

[Publications Collection](#)

[Schedules Collection](#)

[Staff Council records](#)

[Student Association records](#)

UTEP Organizations records

## **Scope and Content Notes**

The UTEP Collection dates 1914 – 2011, bulk 1930s – 1990s. Types of records include catalogs, programs, media guides, clippings, memorandum, newsletters, photographs, ephemera and artifacts, correspondence, reports, financial ledgers and receipts, scrapbooks, minutes, publications, and other printed materials. These records help document the activities of UTEP students, faculty, and staff, and chronicle the school's history since 1914.

## **Provenance Statement**

Transferred by the University of Texas at El Paso and donated by various individuals.

## **Restrictions**

Some materials are restricted.

## **Literary Rights Statement**

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## **Notes to the Researcher**

This master guide links to finding aids for individual series in the UTEP Collection, MS 001.