College of Business Administration
Centennial Celebration
1914 - 2014
Greetings! Friends, graduates, students, staff, and faculty join us in celebration of the 100th birthday of The University of Texas at El Paso! The College of Business Administration is proud to contribute to and to be part of UTEP’s Centennial. We look back through time and are humbled by accomplishments of legions of students, staff, faculty, alumni, and friends. Each of you, of us, COBA Miners contributed to this evidence of perpetual success.

We gather here in this document, examples of excellence and of the history of business studies at UTEP. Please review the short biographies of esteemed alumni. Each represents a recognition of the excellence of graduates. Each has a story to tell. Each pinpoints a faculty member, who provided a necessary statement of confidence or introduced them to a chosen profession. Each went forward to master their professions and gave back to UTEP, our College, and our students in significant and transformative ways. This College would not have accomplished its history of excellence without them. In each of their summaries is the story of our College of Business Administration.

Please enjoy this reading and know that each of our Gold Nuggets and Distinguished Alumni hold the regiment flag for all alumni of this College. They hold it high providing each of us with a focal point for the achievement of excellence.

We hope that you will also review the history of business studies at UTEP beginning in 1914 and continuing to this day. Your College of Business Administration is perhaps one of the most relevant business colleges in this nation and in the world. We empower our students with a pathway to success and an environment in which they can experience excellence in business education. Each of our students is a trust, an agreement, a contract, and a shared responsibility to build on the past in order to create the future. We wish all of us well and pray that we keep faith with all Miners who have led us to this day.

Go Miners into your next Century of Excellence!

Dr. Robert Nachtmann, Dean
Betty M. MacGuire Distinguished Professorship in Business Administration
1910
- State School of Mines and Metallurgy started on a Monday, Sept. 28, 1914
- First cohort of students graduated 3 years later
- First Course in Economics of Mining and Mine Management
- Political Economy course introduced
- Move to new campus
- The College of the City of El Paso and its School of Commerce becomes a branch of the School of Mines
- Accounting offered for the first time

1920
- Five Business courses were offered, depending on degree
- Full-fledged department of Business Administration came into existence under the direction of Abi Elizabeth Beynon

1930
- Combines Business and Economics department
- First Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Business Administration and Economics major.
- First separate BA degrees in Economics or Business Administration

1940
- First Bachelor of Business Administration under School of Arts and Sciences
- Texas College of Mines becomes Texas Western College

1950

1960
- Business and Economics (later Economics and Finance) were split into separate departments under the School of Arts and Sciences
- School of Business Administration was established
- College of Business Administration was formally founded
- Texas Western College becomes The University of Texas at El Paso
- A third department, Accounting, was added
1970

- COBA received approval to create the MBA program
- Regents made the decision to construct the new Business Administration building

1980

- New College of Business Administration Building
- National Accreditation by American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business for graduate and undergraduate programs

1990

- MBA went into online and off-campus environments
- UTEP MBA began a partnership with The Boeing Company to offer a pilot Accelerated MBA
- Beginning of Border Regional Modeling Project

2000

- First Ph.D. Cohort in International Business
- Dean Robert Nachtmann assumed leadership of COBA
- Three AMBA cohorts launched in part hosted by the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, Wells Fargo Bank, and GECU

2010

- Opening of Graduate Business Center in downtown Chase Building
- EMBA began in an 18-month cohort format
- FTMBA launched as a 22 month daytime format
- MBA ranked #1 in the nation for five consecutive years
- Ph.D. in International Business is recognized
- BS/MBA Joint degree program is launched
- Proposal to the UT System Board of Regents and to our State of Texas Legislature for the construction of a new College of Business Administration Complex
History of Business Studies at UTEP 1914-2014

And

The Emergence of the UTEP College of Business Administration

The University of Texas at El Paso, known as UTEP, is the second oldest academic component of the University of Texas System. In 1913, the Texas Legislature approved the launch of the State School of Mines and Metallurgy – now birth of the Miners and UTEP. The State School began on Monday, Sept. 28, 1914, when twenty-one students walked onto the El Paso Military Institute campus, east of Fort Bliss. Business studies began that first year. The catalog of the State School of Mines and Metallurgy required all engineering students to take a business course known then as “Economics of Mining and Mine Management.” It then launched in 1915 a course in “Political Economy”. The foundation of the future business college at UTEP was struck.

The first campus, located on land that is now part of the Fort Bliss Army post, was destroyed by fire a few years after the college's inception and the school moved in 1916 to the present campus on the western foothills of the Franklin Mountains. This new campus acquired its very distinctive trademark – its Bhutanese style architecture -- when Kathleen Worrell, the wife of the State School’s first dean, decided that the Bhutanese architecture would complement the rugged desert terrain at the college’s new site.

During this period, the faculty of the College of the City of El Paso and its School of Commerce voted to become part of the School of Mines in 1918. They hope to be adopted by the State School but it never became official. The state declared that all relationships with the College of the City of El Paso were to cease and it became the El Paso Junior College. In 1921, no more courses could be offered that would compete with the private El Paso Junior College.

In 1927, following UTEP’s transformation into a general college, a full-fledged department of Business Administration came into existence under the direction of Abi Elizabeth Beynon, the first female department head in UTEP’s early history. Following the expansion of the curriculum in 1927, the College of Mines (now UTEP) transformed into a general college while maintaining its mining engineering program. All of the new courses not associated with engineering became known as "arts and sciences." In 1931, the “arts and science” curriculum became a four year Liberal Arts college operating under its own president. Business and Economics were established as combined departments and, in 1932, the school received authorization to award a Bachelor of Arts degree. At this point, the non-engineering curriculum became known as the School of Arts and Education with Charles A. Puckett as its first dean. That same year, the Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and Economics is approved with the first degree being awarded in 1933. By 1935, separate Bachelor of Arts majors were awarded in Business Administration and Economics.

With the 1939-1940 academic year, the College of Mines reorganized and changed the name of the "Arts and Education" to "Arts and Sciences," with Puckett remaining as dean. In 1946, a student could choose a Bachelor of Arts with a Business Administration or Economics Major or a Bachelor of Business Administration. The Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy became Texas Western College in 1949 following World War II in recognition of the steady broadening of the College’s offerings and interests.
President Joseph M. Ray, in 1966, once again reorganized the College breaking the School of Arts and Sciences into four separate schools: Liberal Arts, Education, Science, and Business Administration. The year of “Glory Road” also witnessed the historical beginnings of the formal organization and unit of UTEP -- our College of Business Administration (COBA). COBA was founded with nine optional he year of “Glory Road” also witnessed the historical beginnings of the formal organization and unit of UTEP -- our College of Business Administration (COBA). COBA was founded with nine optional concentrations of study. That year Dr. John Marvin Richards became Dean of the School of Business Administration and the Texas Legislature changed the institutional name of Texas Western College to The University of Texas at El Paso.

1973 was a major step forward for our College of Business Administration with the addition of graduate degree offerings. COBA's dean, Dr. Richards received approval to create the MBA degree on April 13, 1973 and launched the program in fall 1973 with five evening courses. Dr. Thomas F. Lee became dean in 1975 and, by 1976, the annual total MBA degrees conferred had risen to 25 including the first three women recipients.

From 1973 to 1982, courses were taught in the Liberal Arts Building. COBA was led during this period by Dr. Weldon C. Neill, who became dean in 1977; and by Dr. Gertrude Dawson, who was named interim Dean in 1982. July 1983 witnessed the appointment of Dr. Ronald W. Hasty as COBA's Dean. Critical to COBA's organizational structure, Dean Hasty led the construction of the new Business Administration building, which began in 1979 and was opened in 1983.

Research in the business disciplines was woven into the fabric of COBA. In 1984, the Bureau of Business and Economic research published the El Paso Economic Review and the Southwest Journal of Business and Economics. A year later, COBA became a Texas Census Data Affiliate and contracted with the Small Business Administration to administer the Small Business Institute. In 1986, it published its revision of the Statistical Abstract of El Paso, Texas, the first in 10 years. The College also undertook responsibility for the Center for Professional Development in 1983; and by 1986 was offering yearly over 100 non-credit workshops and seminars for over 2,000 professionals in the El Paso Area.

Over the next five years, COBA revised its curricula, established new admission and retention standards, and hired 33 new faculty and professional staff -- all of which contributed to the accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) for all undergraduate and graduate programs, which was acquired for the first time in 1989. This was, and is, very important for the Graduate and Undergraduate Business Administration programs and for the Accounting programs of the College. Today, fewer than 5% of business schools throughout the world have earned this prestigious designation. The College continues strict accreditation reviews every five years and has proudly maintained its distinguished designation.

In 1991, Dr. Timothy P. Roth became Interim Dean and was followed by Dr. Frank Hoy. Under Hoy's leadership, several advances became part of COBA's fabric. The MBA went into online and off-campus environments. The UTEP MBA began a partnership with the Boeing Company to offer a pilot Accelerated MBA (AMBA) at Boeing’s El Paso manufacturing facility. Tom Fullerton joined the UTEP Department of Economics & Finance in 1996. Jointly with personnel from the Texas Center for Border Economic Development, Professor Fullerton laid the groundwork for the Border Region Modeling Project (BRMP). Thanks to the support of corporate investors, the BRMP continues to successfully conduct research that has contributed to the human and economic development of the United States-Mexico border region.
April 2003 marked another milestone for the College. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the proposal for a new International Business doctoral program. This Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Program in International Business emphasizes strong quantitative research methods. The Ph.D. program in International Business started in 2004 and graduated its first doctoral student four years later. The program was designed to prepare new generations of faculty from diverse backgrounds to meet critical research and teaching challenges projected in international business and business education.

In July of 2004, Dr. Gary J. Mann was selected as interim Dean for the college. The following year, when Dean Robert Nachtmann assumed leadership of COBA, he quickly moved to update the MBA curriculum and hire professional dedicated staff in order to grow the MBA program. UTEP “re-launched” the AMBA program in fall 2007 with two large cohorts hosted in part by the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce and Wells Fargo Bank. In fall 2008, another large AMBA cohort was launched through a hosting partnership with GECU.

In 2008, the UTEP MBA received its first national ranking, placing 6th in Hispanic Business magazine’s “Best Business Schools” top 10 list. In 2009, the program moved into 2nd place. During the next five years, the program received the #1 ranking by Hispanic Business in an unprecedented sequence of best in nation awards for MBA education of Hispanics.

Dr. Nachtmann responded to the increasing demand for MBA alternatives by proposing new executive and full-time MBA formats. In spring 2010, COBA celebrated the grand opening of a 12,000 sq. ft. facility in the Chase Building downtown that featured three classrooms, student collaboration areas and administrative offices. By spring 2011, The UTEP GBC was home to four AMBA cohorts, two EMBA cohorts and a FTMBA cohort.

During the following years, the UTEP MBA received several other accolades among them ranking in “Best of the Best MBA Schools” by Professional Woman's Magazine and Hispanic Journal; ranking among the world's top 35 “Rising Star” business schools identified by FindyourMBA.com; named the best “Example of Excelencia” for graduate programs by Excelencia in Education, a Washington D.C. non-profit dedicated to identifying best practices in Latino/a educational attainment; Excelencia in Education recognized the Ph.D. program as one of the nation's best at increasing academic opportunities and achievement for Latino students, and the College was awarded the “Vision of Excellence” by the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Today, the UTEP Master of Business Administration (MBA) is internationally ranked and recognized for innovation and the success of its graduates. The doctoral program has graduated more than forty students, who currently hold academic appointments throughout Texas and the nation.

The Mike Loya Center for Innovation and Commerce was founded in 2012 through generous contributions from UTEP alumnus Mike Loya. The Center connects the College of Business Administration and the College of Engineering. Together, these Colleges innovate for UTEP and for our regional economy. The Loya Center provides faculty across both Colleges with research funding, graduate students with fellowships, supports students in the creation of new businesses, and, in 2014, launched joint BS/MBA degree programs, that enable undergraduate Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, and Industrial Engineering students to obtain a BS degree in their discipline and an MBA from COBA in a compressed five-year format.
The Center for Hispanic Entrepreneurship (CFHE), a research entity within the College of Business Administration, is also re-energized this year. Its goal is to conduct research in new business creation and to assist in the development of Hispanic businesses. It provides, in partnership with the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the necessary information and training to those in need of business knowledge, and also supports the business community of professionals, students, and scholars.

The Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness, founded in 2014, serves as a multi-disciplinary research platform for the creation and application of practical research in order to help foster the region's competitive capacity. The Hunt Institute brings together regional stakeholders from the public and private sectors to examine issues and offer policy insight into areas such as business development, education, infrastructure and urban planning, energy and natural resources and public health.

Today, we find the College of Business Administration to be organized around three departments: Accounting and Information Systems, Economics & Finance and Marketing and Management; and seven academic degrees. All supported by a dedicated research/teaching faculty and managed by a professional staff for growth and development. The efforts of past and current leaders, faculty, students, staff, alumni, and friends of COBA have provided UTEP with the confidence necessary to propose to the UT System Board of Regents and to our State of Texas Legislature the construction of a new College of Business Administration Complex comprised of 215,000 gross square feet. The proposed complex will enable the re-consolidation of all undergraduate and graduate business education on the UTEP campus and add greatly needed conference space with associated parking.

The College of Business Administration at The University of Texas at El Paso has always shared with the University its fundamental mission to provide the highest quality education to the citizens of El Paso and the West Texas region. Its successful history is reflected in that of its students, alumni, staff, and faculty and in the enhancement of the personal and professional lives of community residents.
Gold Nuggets
and
Distinguished Alumni
1965 - 2014
Maria E. Alvarez (GN)
Victor Arias (GN, DA)
Juan G. Ayala (GN)
Michael A. Brochu (GN)
Paul H. Carlton (DA)
Eric J. Chan (GN)
Robert J. Cintron (GN)
Lola B. Dawkins (GN)
J. Stephen DeGroat (GN)
Martha DeGroat (GN)
A. Wynnell Dryden (GN)
Edward Escudero (GN)
Richard G. Fleager (GN)
Robert W. Gilmer (GN)
Robert C. Heasley (GN, DA)
Gary R. Hedrick (GN)
Donald S. Henderson (DA)
James K. Hunt (GN)
Jack Hunt (GN)
Dorothy Hunt (GN)
Renard U. Johnson (GN)
James J. Kaster (GN)
Maury P. Kemp (DA)
John G. Lapham (GN)
David H. Lindau (GN)
Betty M. MacGuire (GN)
D. Edward Martin (GN)
Kenneth T. Murphy (GN)
Richard W. Myers (GN)
David M. Rapisand (GN)
Joe R. Saucedo (GN)
Robert E. Skov (GN)
Mark C. Terrell (GN)
H. Brooks Travis (DA)
Francisco (Pancho) Uranga (GN)
Ignacio Urrabazo (GN, DA)
Danny L. Vickers (GN, DA)
Carlos Villa (GN)
Aaron Wechter (GN)
B. Marshall Willis (DA)
Robert V. Wingo (GN, DA)
Paul R. Yetter (GN, DA)
Maria E. Alvarez

There is nothing you can’t achieve, professionally or personally, if you are prepared - higher education credentials are about as close to a guarantee of success as you can get in life.

Maria Alvarez is principal of VeraVista Business Solutions in San Francisco. Previously, Alvarez was Chief Operations Officer of ELM Resources of Oakland, California, and Vice President with JP Morgan Chase Bank for 17 years. She was appointed as a member of a team of 100 executives working on a special corporate re-engineering project that took her to the Bank’s Trust offices in Dublin, Luxembourg and the Channel Islands.

Alvarez is involved in the nonprofit sector and is a member of the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Zoological Society, member of the Boards of the Columbia Alumni Association of the Bay Area, the Coro Hispano of San Francisco and Friends of the Mission Campus of CCSF. As a pro-bono volunteer, Alvarez led the re-opening of The Mexican Museum of San Francisco.

While in New York City, she served for nine years on the JP Morgan Chase Corporate Diversity Council. In 1993, Alvarez was selected by the National Child Labor Committee, along with Hillary Rodham Clinton to receive a Lewis Hine Award for exemplary work on behalf of youth. She has been recognized in a book on corporate volunteering, Heroes After Hours by David C. Forward.

Victor Arias

Anyone’s career goal should be an intersection between professional and personal objectives - that is only possible when the values are consistent in both.

For many people, résumés are no more substantial than the paper on which they are printed—documents to file and ignore until it is time to hunt for a job. Not so for Victor Arias Jr., whose résumé looks like 10 résumés compressed into one. A senior client partner for Korn/Ferry International, the largest executive search and recruitment firm in the world, Arias has served on enough boards, panels and commissions to qualify him as an expert in time management.

Arias received his bachelor’s in business administration in management from UTEP in 1978. After earning his master’s in business administration degree in finance and accounting from Stanford University in 1982, he went on to become the first Hispanic graduate of the Stanford Graduate Business School to sit on the Stanford Graduate Business School to sit on the Stanford University Board of Trustees. He also was appointed by then-President George W. Bush to the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships, designed to provide gifted and motivated Americans with firsthand experience in the governing process.

Juan G. Ayala

UTEP opened doors, not only outside El Paso, but to the world. I learned that no matter what society expects of you, based on how you look or where you’re from, you can succeed if you are given the opportunity.

You have to succeed on your own - you need to have drive, you need to have intestinal fortitude, you need to have ‘ganas,’ and you need heart to do that.

By his own definition, Juan Ayala was a high school student in El Paso in the mid-1970s with a tendency toward “underwhelming” academic achievement. But UTEP saw something in Ayala that he knew he possessed in himself — the drive, commitment and determination to gain a university education and pursue a career in the Marines. Ayala did just that, earning his bachelor’s in business administration in management and a commission as a second lieutenant in the Marines in 1979. During more than 30 years in the Marines, Ayala moved up the ranks and now serves as inspector general of the Marine Corps based in Washington, D.C. He previously served as chief of staff of the U.S. Southern command in Miami. In August 2011, he was promoted to major general. Ayala firmly believes it was the opportunity UTEP gave him as a probationary student that made his goals a reality.

Awarded Gold Nugget in 2011

Awarded Gold Nugget in 2007

Awarded Gold Nugget in 2000

Named Distinguished Alumnus in 2009

Awarded Gold Nugget in 2011
Michael A. Brochu

“Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, worn out, and loudly proclaiming, ‘Wow! What a ride!’ ”

Michael A. Brochu is the CEO at Global Market Insite Inc. Brochu has more than 20 years of senior-level experience and operational excellence, including senior executive and directorship positions in emerging growth technology, software and digital entertainment companies such as Loudeye, Primus Knowledge Solutions and Sierra On-Line.

Hs experience in outsourced business solutions has guided Primus to becoming one of the first technology companies in the country to transfer its client-server software solutions to the web. Brochu has been the President and CEO of Loudeye Corp. since January 31, 2005. He developed strategic partnerships with major industry players including Nokia, Microsoft, MSN, MTV, Target, O2 and Cingular Wireless, as well as strong relationships with content providers, including major record labels such as Sony, Universal, Warner and EMI.

Paul H. Carlton

“Carlton placed a great deal of emphasis on the importance of having accounting students. He would always have one or two, juniors or seniors, working for his firm.”

When Paul H. Carlton entered the College of Mines in the fall of 1936. Carlton was a member of the Kappa Sigma Kappa fraternity and president of his junior class. When he graduated in 1940 with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, Carlton worked full time for the Bixler and Robinson firm until he was drafted in 1941. In 1952, he was made a partner in the firm of Bixler, Carlton, Dickenson and Rister Certified Public Accountants and he was a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Carlton returned to El Paso and taught accounting courses at the College of Mines in the evenings from 1947 to 1950 and banking courses for employees of El Paso’s banks from 1951 to 1952. He was appointed as trustee by the El Paso School Board of Trustees in 1967 to fill the unexpired term of a retiring trustee and was subsequently re-elected by the voters of El Paso to serve a six-year term in 1968. He was elected again for a six-year term in 1974, and again in 1980. In 1964, he was named chairman of the City-County Coordination Committee of the Mayor’s Advisory Council also state director of the Texas Society of CPAs for 1964-66.

Eric J. Chan

“Believe in yourself
   Enrich your knowledge
   Luck favors those whom are more prepared
   Identify your passion
   Evolve and change with time
   Victory and success will come
   Embrace life; be humble”

Eric J. Chan studied at The University of Texas at El Paso where he attained his B.B.A. in management and accounting. He is founder and CEO of Asian Rice House Ltd., an import and export industry. His company represents Jazzmen Rice from Louisiana and his representation covers Asian countries in the quality rice market. This quality rice is being sold in Hong Kong and is in the process of expanding into various other Asian markets.

Recipient of the Gold Nugget Award from the College of Business Administration in 2007, Chan is the current President of I Love Dogs Inc., a company that operates websites based on the theme of loving one’s dog. The company specializes in dispensing premium grade vitamins and supplements for dogs, as well as luxurious canine lifestyle products and their family of websites offers content and information such as directories of dog-friendly places and locations of veterinarian clinics. Chan also is active on social media and involved with helping animal rescues and dog shelters.
Robert J. Cintron

“Dare to dream beyond the boundaries of your own limitations. Use your strength of character and drive to help you reach your full potential...then help others around you do the same.”


Cintron has been CEO of Del Sol Medical Center since 2007 and was instrumental in establishing the hospital as a leading medical center on a national scale.

He was designated a top performer in key quality measures by the Joint Commission, a national accreditation organization, with Del Sol Medical Center ranked in the top 5 percent in the nation in maternity services, general surgery and gastrointestinal surgery.

A member of the UTEP Centennial Campaign Leadership Council, Cintron attributes his success to his faith, his family, his mentors and UTEP.

Lola B. Dawkins

“Like what you do and do well what you like.”

Lola B. Dawkins is a 1954 business graduate of Texas Western College (now The University of Texas at El Paso). She received her Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin in 1962. She taught in the UTEP College of Business Administration for 20 years before her retirement in 1984. The College of Business today is testimony to her tireless efforts as Chairman of the Building Committee prior to and during construction of our facility.

Dawkins served as chair of the Department of Business and was the first managing editor of Southwest Business and Economic Review. Her excellence in teaching yielded her the Trans Pecos Business Education Association Teacher of the Year (19th District) award on two separate occasions and the Texas Business Education Association Teacher of the Year Award. In 1998, Dawkins was recognized by the Board of Governors of Beta Gamma Sigma. Dawkins considers her recognition as professor emerita one of her greatest honors.

Since her retirement, Dawkins is active with Hospice of El Paso, on the Board of Directors of the El Paso Lighthouse for the Blind and a member of the Executive Council of the UTEP Heritage Commission.

The Lola B. Dawkins Endowment for Business Education was established in 1986 to benefit business students.

J. Stephen “Steve” DeGroat

“Clearly, my education is my most valuable asset. Because of this, I also believe that the greatest gift that we can give to other people is the opportunity created through higher education.”

J. Stephen “Steve” DeGroat is the owner and Regional Managing Planner of Lincoln Financial Investment Advisors in El Paso. His 37 years in the financial services business includes serving business owners and individual clients in all aspects of financial planning, including life, health and disability income insurance. He is currently an investment advisor representative.

DeGroat has long been involved in civic and community activities. He is a member of the UTEP Development Board, Director of the University Medical Center Foundation of El Paso and is Chairman of the Board of the El Paso First Health Plans Inc.

DeGroat has taught at The University of Texas at El Paso and the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at SMU.

He holds a B.B.A. and an M.B.A. in finance and marketing from The University of Texas at El Paso.
As General Manager of Southwestern Bell in El Paso, Martha “Martini” D. DeGroat handled company initiatives in 57 West Texas communities, including Amarillo, Abilene, Midland and Odessa. The responsibility was nothing new to DeGroat, who worked her way up from repair service supervisor to regional sales manager and then general manager before retiring in May.

A 1978 graduate of UTEP with a bachelor’s degree in business, DeGroat was named one of the Top 10 Influential Business Women in El Paso in 1996 and was inducted into the El Paso Commission for Women’s Hall of Fame in 2000.

A native El Pasoan, she continues to strengthen her ties to the community through work with organizations including the Junior League, the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce Board, the United Way Board, the YMCA Board and the El Paso Symphony Board, among others.

“A. Wynnell Dryden was recognized as a College of Business Administration Gold Nugget in 1993. Ms. Dryden graduated from Texas Western College in 1952. She dedicated her life to teaching business education at Technical High School and El Paso High School. She was department chair for 17 years at El Paso High School and retired after 36 years in public education.

Today, she teaches part time at the Jewish Community Center Preschool, teaching computers to children from two to five years old. She has more than 60 years in education and was named Business Education Teacher of the Year for the El Paso District and the State of Texas.

Edward Escudero, president and CEO of Sierra Finance, is a veteran finance professional who has contributed 16 years of expertise and experience to Sierra Finance. As the former secretary and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Petro Stopping Centers L.P., Escudero held the vital role of managing various departments such as accounting, audit, financial planning, risk management and information systems, among others. Escudero also is the vice president and CFO of C&R Distributing, a major distributor of fuel, and owner of convenience stores in the El Paso area. In his earlier career, Escudero held various financial positions, including controller with Yazaki North America.

Escudero is community minded and serves on several boards, including Public Service Board, Medical Center of the Americas Foundation, El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and The University of Texas at El Paso on the Internal Audit Committee, 2014 Commission and COBA Advisory Board. He also is a member of several associations, including the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants, and the El Paso Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants. He received his B.B.A. in accounting from the University of Texas at El Paso.
Richard G. Fleager serves as senior vice president of customer care and external affairs at El Paso Electric Co. With 35 years of experience in the energy and information systems industries, Fleager began his career with El Paso Natural Gas Company in 1973 where he maintained various positions such as vice president of information systems, director of information systems, director of gas accounting, manager of gas settlement systems and supervisor of financial statements. He has overseen the operations of El Paso’s natural gas utility since 1997 and also has been vice president of El Paso Electric Co. since April 1, 2009. He previously served as vice president of the western region of the Texas Gas Service Company Inc.

Fleager also is active in several community organizations, which include the Del Sol Hospital Advisory Board, the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, Project Arriba, the U.T. El Paso Development Board, The University of Texas at El Paso School of Business Advisory Council, and the Boys and Girls Club Foundation. He holds a master’s and a bachelor’s degree in business administration from The University of Texas at El Paso. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Robert W. Gilmer is the current director of The University of Houston’s Bauer Institute for Regional Forecasting. He was the vice president in charge at the El Paso branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas for 9 years. Prior to that, he worked for the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Houston Branch, as a senior economist and vice president.

He is a member of the Paso del Norte Group, the Business Advisory Council at The University of Texas at El Paso, and a member of the Advisory Board of Directors at the Cameron School of Business of the University of St. Thomas.


Robert C. Heasley is a business and economics graduate from The University of Texas at El Paso. From 1967 to 1968, he was president of the Alumni Association. He is member of the President’s Development Board of UTEP and a member the President’s Associates.

Heasley has held the position of president at various associations, including El Paso Association of Life Underwriters in 1965 and 1976, the General Agents and Managers Association in 1974, and El Paso Chapter of CLU in 1972. He is a Life Member of the Million Dollar Round Table.

He is currently a member of the Foundation Board for YMCA of El Paso, El Paso Country Club Board of Governors, the Sierra-Providence Health Network and the El Paso International Airport Board. Robert is an active member of El Paso Country Club, Los Viejos Social Club and the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity Alumni Assoc.

Heasley received the Man of the Year recognition from El Paso Association of Life Underwriters and the Business Leadership and Achievement Award, The Outstanding Ex-Student and the Gran Paseño Award from UTEP. Among his honors, he received the Gold Nugget Award from the College of Business Administration.
Gary R. Hedrick

“Making a career out of something you truly enjoy is fundamental to any kind of success, however you measure it.”

Gary R. Hedrick earned his B.B.A. in accounting in 1977 and immediately began working with the electric company as an accountant. While continuing his position there, he enrolled in evening graduate classes and completed his master’s of business administration in 1982 at UTEP. He also completed management and development programs at Harvard University and is proud of his UTEP education.

Hedrick has been with El Paso Electric for 27 years, serving as the company’s treasurer, vice president of financial planning and rate administration, and chief administrative officer. In 2001, he was named the company’s president and CEO. He serves on UTEP’s Business Advisory Council and Development Board, El Paso Greater Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, United Blood Services Advisory Board and The Children’s Miracle Network of El Paso Board. He also has served as chairman for the EPISD Fund.

Awarded Gold Nugget in 2004

Donald S. Henderson

“Establish realistic goals and work like a beaver to obtain them and don’t ever give up.”

A 1956 B.B.A. graduate of Texas Western College, Donald S. Henderson is known for his term as mayor of El Paso from 1975 to 1977, during which time his administration established the city’s public transportation system, revitalized the downtown area through the El Corredor Project, paved the way for the present-day Emergency Medical Services, and set up the Organization of U.S. Border Cities to focus attention on problems on the border.

In 1965 he started the Don Henderson Insurance Agency with Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, recognized by that company as doing the most outstanding job over a ten-year period in building a new agency in the entire 130-year history of Penn Mutual. He is the only person from El Paso to be president of the Texas General Agents and Managers.

He entered politics in 1975 when he was elected alderman in charge of Parks and Recreation. He served until 1975, when he ran for mayor, and was elected and held the position for 20 years. He served as chairman of the Wade Hattrick Fund for the COBA, the first endowment that College has ever received.

Named Distinguished Alumnus in 1980

James K. Hunt

“Success is 99% perspiration, 1% inspiration. Don’t confuse effort with results.”

James K. Hunt earned his B.B.A. in economics from The University of Texas at El Paso in 1972 and an M.B.A. in finance and accounting from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton Graduate School of Business. He worked at Citicorp for more than 14 years, culminating in the role of Senior Credit Officer and Vice President and Area Head for the Far West U.S. leveraged lending group.

He was President and CEO of the Anchor Pathway Funds and SunAmerica Series Trust where he managed an $8 billion asset portfolio. Hunt joined SunAmerica in 1990 where he was the executive responsible for the acquisition of First City Texas Leasing in 1991, Southeast Bank Leasing in 1993 and Imperial Premium Finance in 1994.

In 2001, he cofounded private equity firm Bison Capital, where he was Managing Partner and CEO. Hunt is Chairman, CEO and CIO of Boston-based THL Credit and THL Credit Advisors. Under his leadership, THL Credit went public in 2010.

Awarded Gold Nugget in 2011

Hunt currently serves on the board of directors of Lender Processing Services Inc.
Jack L. Hunt and Dorothy “Dot” Woodley Hunt are native El Pasoans and alumni of The Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy, now the University of Texas at El Paso.

Dorothy “Dot” Woodley Hunt was born in El Paso, Texas, February 3, 1920. A lifelong resident of El Paso, she graduated from Austin High School and attended the Texas College of Mines where she earned a degree in business in 1941. Hunt spent her lifetime serving her community and was most notably involved with the El Paso Symphony, the El Paso Museum of Art, the El Paso Historical society, and the El Paso YWCA (which now has a branch named in her honor, the Dorothy Woodley Hunt Lower Valley Branch).

Jack L. Hunt was born in El Paso, Texas, on January 12, 1921, and was a lifelong resident. He graduated second in his class from the Texas College of Mines (currently UTEP) in 1942. Upon graduation, he entered the United States Navy and was a graduate of the Navy Supply Corps School at Harvard University. He served in North Africa, Italy, and Guam and resigned his commission in 1947 as a Lieutenant Commander and returned to El Paso. In 1947, after serving five years as an officer in the partnership with his father Marion L. Hunt and brother J. Kelso Hunt, Jack co-founded the forerunner of Hunt Building Corporation, Hunt Sales, now Hunt Companies Inc. Jack served as its President and CEO until his retirement in 1977. Jack also was actively involved in the El Paso community where he founded and served as the Director of the Rio Grande Food Bank.

Proud of their alma mater, the couple established the Jack and Dorothy Hunt Endowment for Entrepreneurship in 1994. In 1996, they were the recipients of the UTEP Gold Nugget Award.

In addition to their community accomplishments, Dot and Jack were devoted parents, raising three children, sons Woody L. Hunt and Mike Hunt (also a UTEP graduate), the current CEO and president of Hunt Building Corporation; and daughter Camille Hunt Robison an investment manager for a subsidiary of Prudential Insurance Company. They were the proud grandparents of ten grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren.


In 2004, Johnson was recognized as the Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Administration, El Paso District. In 2009, Johnson served as Chairman for the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He has been a member of the Paso Del Norte Group and the boards of the University Medical Center Foundation, United Way of El Paso County, the YWCA Foundation, the El Paso Association for the Performing Arts, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of El Paso. He also has served on the board of directors for Sierra Providence Medical Center East.

In January 2011, he was named a director of the Texas Lyceum. The Federal Reserve Board of Governors appointed Johnson to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas’ El Paso Branch board of directors in Jan 2012. He is a lifetime member of the UTEP Alumni Association and he also serves on the University’s 2014 Commission (Outreach Committee), Centennial Campaign Leadership Council and College of Engineering Advisory Council.
James J. Kaster earned his B.B.A. in 1957, graduating with honors. After a tour of duty with the Navy in Korea, he returned to El Paso, serving as president of St. Margaret’s Orphanage, was a part of the Rescue Mission Board, and piloted medical supplies over the Barranca del Cobre. He volunteered for the Ski Patrol at Sierra Blanca (now Ski Apache) for four years. In 1964, he was named Outstanding Young Man of the Year of El Paso. He served as president of the El Paso Downtown Lions Club, was the Lions’ District Governor and twice received their International President’s Award, as well as Lions International’s highest award, the Ambassador of Goodwill.

In 1970, El Paso elected him to the Texas House of Representatives, where he served four consecutive terms. He was appointed El Paso County Tax Assessor-Collector in 1977, and was elected to the position in 1978. He resigned to become Clements’ Legislative Liaison, working for the Governor’s viewpoint on more than 200 bills. He was a member of the Texas Industrial Accident Board, appointed by then-Gov. William Clements.

Maury P. Kemp, who completed his bachelor’s in business administration in 1952, is the first to admit he was not a scholar when he attended Texas Western College. Best known for his automobile dealerships, Kemp also is active in real estate, oil, insurance and financial enterprises.

Since acquiring his first Ford dealership in 1957, Kemp has operated numerous dealerships in Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado. Kemp Ford has been recognized for many years as one of the major Ford dealerships in the nation. In 1979, he purchased the Martin Building in downtown El Paso and restored it as a Texas Historical Landmark. In 1980 First Financial Enterprises Inc. was formed as a holding company for Kemp’s non-automobile business interests which include First Savings and Loan Association of El Paso. In addition to his numerous business interests, Kemp serves on community boards and helps with fundraising campaigns for organizations such as United Way, Boy Scouts and the El Paso Symphony. He has been president of the El Paso Museum of Art and also is involved with the art museum in Palm Springs. The College of Business Administration honored Kemp in 1980 with its Business Leadership and Achievement Award.

John Lapham serves as managing director and co-head of leveraged finance for money-management company PineBridge Investments. Lapham graduated with a B.B.A. from UTEP in 1974 and later earned an M.B.A. from The University of California, Los Angeles.

Prior to the PineBridge spin-off, Lapham worked as co-Manager of the Leveraged Loan Group at AIG Global Investment Group, having joined that company upon its acquisition of SunAmerica in 1999. At SunAmerica, he was a Managing Director in the Corporate Finance Group. Previously, he had been a senior vice president in the investment banking group at Oppenheimer & Co.

Lapham is Chairman of the Al Wooten Jr. Heritage Center, an after-school program and study center that provides a safe haven and intervention programs for underprivileged youth in South-Central Los Angeles. He also serves on the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles, Ketchum-Downtown board of managers.

Lapham member of UTEP’s Centennial Campaign Leadership Council and the Cornerstone Society. He served on UTEP’s Business Advisory Council from 2008-2010. In 2010, he established the John G. Lapham III Endowed Scholarship, which supports students majoring in finance. He also committed to a deferred gift, which will augment the John G. Lapham III Endowed Scholarship.
David H. Lindau

“Success is a journey, not a destination. Helping others solve their problems is the best part of the journey.”

David Lindau is the senior wealth advisor and former president of Lauterbach Financial Advisors, LLC in El Paso. He earned his bachelor’s degree in accounting in 1961 and a master’s degree in professional accountancy from The University of Texas at Austin. He is a certified public accountant, financial planner, and valuation analyst. Lindau joined the Lauterbach Financial Group in 1964 and served as a General Services Partner of Lauterbach, Borschow & Co., Certified Public Accountants, until the founding of LFA by Lauterbach, Borschow & Co. in 1999.

His professional affiliations include a lifetime membership with Texas Society of Public Accountants, the National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts and the Financial Planning Association.

Lindau is a member of the UTEP Trust - Shareholder level; the Cornerstone Society the Development Board, which he serves as chair of the gift planning committee and the planned giving council. He previously was a member of COBA’s Accounting Advisory Council, the Legacy Campaign Board of Fellows, Top Ten Selection Committee, Alumni Association Board, and the President’s Associates Board. Additionally, Lindau has established three permanent endowments at UTEP: the Guille M. Lindau Endowed Scholarship in Nursing, the Fred G. Lindau Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Engineering, and the David and Guille Lindau Endowed Scholarship.

Betty M. MacGuire

“Graduating with a degree in business can be useful to you all of your life as it has been to me. My accounting degree allowed me to be a part of my husband’s business affairs on a daily basis, and it gave me the skills and confidence to help in making some bold decisions about a career and lifestyle. As a result, I believe that our lives were richer, more motivated, and satisfying.”

Betty M. MacGuire received her B.B.A. in 1948 from the UTEP College of Business Administration. Betty is the owner and operator of MacGuire Ranches located in Marfa, Texas. Ms. MacGuire was president and is honorary lifetime vice chair for the El Paso Community Foundation Board of Trustees. The Plaza Theater Patio Room and the YWCA El Paso Del Norte Region Child Development Center, both located in El Paso, were named in her honor. Because of their belief in the importance of educators, Ms. MacGuire and her husband, John T. MacGuire, presented professorship endowments to the College of Business Administration and the College of Engineering.

Betty MacGuire is a member of the President’s Associates and the Martix Society. She is very active in the community thru civic involvements including Junior Achievement, the National Farmer’s Organization, the Confederate Air Force (Amigo Airsho), the 99’s (International Women Pilots Organization), the Pan American Round Table, and the Lee and Beulah Moor Children’s Home.

D. Edward Martin

“It matters less where you’ve been than where you’re going, and, as you pursue your dreams and goals, remember to extend a hand to those who will need your help along the way.”

Edward D. Martin began his higher education at Texas Western College and graduated four years later in 1968 with a B.B.A. from The University of Texas at El Paso. He was drawn to the campus he had the opportunity to travel from his home in Pecos to participate in the regional science fair competition on campus when he was 15 years old.

He worked in the accounting department for a year and a half and was also employed part time for El Paso National Bank, now JP Morgan Chase Bank, while he was a student.

Since 1989, Martin has been an audit partner and the head of the Eisner-Not-for-Profit Industry Group, as well as a member of the firm’s Legal Support Services practice. Previously, he was KPMG’s partner in charge of its Metropolitan New Life litigation support efforts.

Throughout his professional career, Martin has enjoyed keeping in touch with the dedicated faculty at UTEP such as Anne Leahy, whom he greatly respects for her dedication to the students and her profession.
Kenneth T. Murphy graduated from Texas Western College (now UTEP) in 1960. He is the former chair, treasurer and director for the Texas Bankers Association. Murphy’s career in banking began in 1962 as a national bank examiner, which entailed assignments in Abilene and Dallas, Texas, and Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 1968, he joined First National Bank & Trust Co. in Tulsa as vice president. In 1971, he returned to Texas and joined the First National Bank of Abilene as vice president. He was named President of the bank in 1975 and was promoted to CEO in 1981. The bank’s assets now total more than $3 billion. He also served as president and CEO of the company from 1985 until 2001 and as chairman of the board from 1986 until 2008. He continues to serve on the Board of Directors. His honors and civic involvement include serving as chairman of the Texas Banker’s Association from 1990-1991, Class A director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas from 1999-2002 and Outstanding Citizen of Abilene in 2003.

Richard Myers is vice president of planning and logistics for Coach Inc. in New York City. He received his bachelor’s in accounting in 1967 from the UTEP College of Business Administration. Mr. Myers was recruited to El Paso from Kansas, on a basketball scholarship. He was a member of the 1966 NCAA Championship Basketball Team. From an athletic standpoint he feels that it was probably the best time to have been at Texas Western. He liked El Paso and for a time, made it his home. He is married to Elsie Myers. They have three children and four grandchildren and reside in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Myers has spent 13 years in his current position. Prior to that, he was senior vice president of inventory and logistics, Farah Inc., where he worked for 20 years in several other executive-level positions. His community service includes being a lifetime member of the UTEP Alumni Association and being the former president the UTEP Ex-Letterman’s Association Community, former member of the Rotary Club and former member of the Lions Club.

David M. Rapisand is responsible for the managing, forecasting and controlling a budget of more than $2.6 billion. 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. 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. He is the creator of the Rapisand Family Endowed Scholarship at UTEP, which helps students beat the high cost of college by providing them with funding for tuition, fees and other academic expenditures. The scholarship is a way for him to give back to the UTEP community, as he strongly believes in the responsibility of alumni to help educate those that come after them.
Joe R. Saucedo

“In life there will be many decisions that determine your career going forward. Evaluate the pros and cons of each before deciding the course of action. Choose well and you will succeed.”

Joe Saucedo earned a bachelor's of Business Administration from the University in 1966 and a M.B.A. from University of Washington Pacific Coast Banking School in 1982. He combined his aptitude for finance and management with his passion for helping others succeed. He started out by working as a cost accountant for North American Rockwell after college. He worked his way up to president and CEO of Queen City Bank in 1982, and in 1992 founded Bolsa Resources Inc., his own management-consulting firm. Saucedo also serves on the board of directors of ICU Medical Inc. He has been a board member since 2001 and is chairman of its Audit Committee and a member of its Compensation Committee.

Awarded Gold Nugget in 2013

Robert E. Skov

“By enrolling at this university you have made one of the most prescient decisions of your life. You now need to take advantage of the tremendous resources (faculty and materials) that have been placed at your disposal.”

Robert E. Skov was honored at the 1997 Homecoming Reception in October. Born and raised in El Paso, he graduated from Ysleta High School, earned his bachelors with honors in economics from Stanford University, and his Master of Science in economics from UTEP with a 4.0 GPA.

Skov, in partnership with several family members, owns Skov Farms & Cattle Company. He also is the secretary and treasurer in LL & SS Corporation, Real Estate Development and Director of the El Paso County Improvement District No. 1. During the past twelve years, Skov has been involved in cotton promotion and marketing, directing trade teams to Asia and Europe.

Skov is very active in the community, working for United Way, Toys for Tots, and the El Paso County Livestock Show and Auction. He is a member of the College of Business Advisory Council and the UTEP Development Board. He is trustee for Paso Del Norte Health Foundation and a past member of the Providence Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees.

Awarded Gold Nugget in 1997

Mark C. Terrell

“We live in an incredible community full of opportunity, and each and every one of us has the opportunity to make the community even better.”

Mark C. Terrell received his bachelor's in business administration from The University of Texas at El Paso in 1967.

During Terrell's 35 year career in public accounting he served on a number of not-for-profit boards in each of the communities in which he practiced, and he has spoken extensively on both audit committee and broader corporate governance issues. Terrell served as non-executive Chairman of the Board for CTI. Terrell also served as a Director of Verint Systems Inc. from April 2012 to February 2013.

Terrell served as the Partner in Charge and Executive Director of KPMG’s Audit Committee Institute (or ACI) from 2000 to 2004, in which capacity he established the ACI mission and strategy. Terrell was a KPMG audit engagement partner from 1979 to 2000 and acted, from 1985 to 2000, as the office managing partner of three KPMG offices – El Paso, Texas; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and St. Petersburg, Florida. Terrell has served on the Comverse Technology Board since July 2006 and the Comverse Board since October 2012. Since his retirement from KPMG in 2004, Terrell has participated extensively as a faculty member of the National Association of Corporate Directors.

Awarded Gold Nugget in 1985
H. Brooks Travis has lived in El Paso since childhood and is a graduate of El Paso High School. In 1935, he graduated from the Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy (now The University of Texas at El Paso), after having served as president of the Student Association in 1934. Travis is manager of the El Paso office of Prudential Insurance Company. He is chairman of the Board of Directors of the First Savings and Loan Association, a member of the board of the advisory board of the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company. A former alderman of the City of El Paso, he has been president of civic organizations ranging from the Camber of Commerce to the Yucca Council of the Boy Scouts. He has maintained close ties with the College of Business Administration, and he has twice served as chairman of the Special Gifts Committee of the Alumni Fund for Excellence.

Francisco Uranga is vice president and Chief Business Operations Officer of Foxconn Mexico Precision Industry Co., S.A. de C.V. for Latin America. From 1998 to 2004, he served as Secretary of Industrial Development for the state government of Chihuahua, Mexico. Previously, he served as deputy chief of staff and then chief of staff for Mexican Commerce and Trade Secretary Herminio Blanco, where he actively participated in implementing NAFTA and in negotiating key agreements with the Mexican government as part of the country’s trade liberalization. Today, he serves as the corporate vice president and chief business operations officer for Latin America at Foxconn, a Taiwanese conglomerate considered the largest electronic manufacturing services company in the world.

Uranga earned his bachelor’s degree in marketing in 1986. He is a Lifetime Member of the UTEP Alumni Association who also serves on UTEP’s Centennial Commission. He aspires to become a key player in the economic development of the El Paso-Juárez region.

Ignacio Urrabazo has used his steady regional banking success to become one of America’s leading authorities on minority and small business banking. Urrabazo’s banking record in Texas has helped elevate him to a position of influence in the U.S. banking industry. As the former Chairman of the Board of the National Bankers Association in Washington, D.C., Urrabazo’s latest banking commitment is a nonprofit foundation he helped establish and organize, along with the members of the National Bankers Association and the American Bankers Association.

Urrabazo served in the U.S. Marine Corps and earned a bachelor’s in business administration in finance and economics at The University of Texas at El Paso and an M.B.A. from The University of Texas at San Antonio. He also has an advanced banking degree from Southern Methodist University’s Southwestern Graduate School of Banking.

Urrabazo’s professional achievements have led to numerous awards and honors, including the 1986 Hispanic Banker of the Year award from the Hispanic California Bankers Association and in 2000 he was inducted into the Laredo Business Hall of Fame.
Danny L. Vickers

Danny Vickers earned his B.B.A. (1977) and M.S. in economics (1990) from The University of Texas at El Paso. Danny has built numerous successful businesses from nothing more than an idea. He is proud of the fact that he has never failed at business and he never had to lay off employees during economic downturns. Danny started his career at Holguin Corporation and worked his way up to president at the age of 27.

In 1985, Danny helped start the Alps Corporation. Yearning to get back to the computer industry, Danny started EDM International in 1988, which provides data processing and software development services. EDM has customers from all over the U.S. and competes against companies in many parts of the world including India, China and the Caribbean.

Aside from his business successes, Danny led the effort to convince the U.S. government to establish El Paso and Juárez as one air shed for environment cleanup. A part of that effort was the creation of the Dedicated Commuter Lane at the Stanton Street Bridge that reduced vehicle pollution and enhanced economic competitiveness.

Danny attributes his success to his supportive wife, his hard work and the academic preparation that he received from the College of Business.

Carlos Villa

The Honorable Carlos Villa was President of the El Paso Young Lawyers Association from 1978 - 1979, and was voted Outstanding Young Lawyer, El Paso, Texas, in 1979. He is a member of the El Paso Bar Association and was a Director in 1977, and again in 1993. He served as a member of the Professional Ethics Committee of the Supreme Court of Texas until 2002.

In 1993, Villa was appointed by Governor Ann Richards to serve a six-year term on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, which sits in Austin, Texas. The Texas Senate confirmed his appointment in 1995. During his tenure on the Coordinating Board, he sat on various committees and was Chairman of the Committee on Community and Technical Colleges.

Villa was elected in 2002 as judge for the county court at law Number Five of El Paso County, Texas and has served in that capacity since 2003 to the present. In 2004, Villa was recognized by the El Paso Young Lawyers Association as the Outstanding Jurist of El Paso for 2003-2004.

In 2007, he was recognized by the Mexican American Bar Association of El Paso as the recipient of the Judge Herb Cooper Lifetime Achievement Award.

Aaron Wechter

Aaron Wechter completed his bachelor’s degree in business administration at the University in 1949. After graduation, he served as an ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve. When he returned to El Paso, Wechter began building custom-made homes and eventually branched out to build apartment complexes and shopping centers.

Wechter, a native El Pasoan, has been active in the community throughout his career. Wechter was a well-known and respected leader in the community in business, civic and philanthropic causes and has particularly devoted himself to the El Paso Jewish community. He is a member of the Advisory Council of the College of Business, a member of the board of directors for the El Paso Economic Development Board, State National Bank, YMCA and El Paso Symphony Orchestra. He also served as president of the El Paso Jewish Federation and as Campaign Chairman for United Jewish Appeal. The National Council of Jewish Women awarded Wechter with the Hannah G. Solomon Award as an individual who has changed the lives of others through his leadership efforts and service. Wechter has also established two endowments for the College of Business Administration.
B. Marshall Willis

Marshall Willis earned a bachelor’s in business in 1942 from the then-Texas Western College. Marshall Willis became a tremendously well-regarded El Paso community leader. His numerous professional and civic appointments included positions as Director of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the mayor’s Citizen’s Advisory Council.

At UTEP, Marshall Willis chaired the committee that planned and sponsored the bond issue to finance the University’s Sun Bowl Stadium. He also served as President of the Alumni Association and Chairman of the Sports Publicity Advisory Committee. After his death in 1969, the B. Marshall Willis Library Memorial Endowment was established in his honor.

"The Willis family understood the importance of this University for the people of El Paso, and I know that I and all future Willis Scholarship recipients will add further honor to the legacy they have established."

Named Distinguished Alumnus in 1967

Robert V. Wingo

Robert V. Wingo has nearly 30 years of marketing and advertising experience and commitment to excellence fuels the Sanders\Wingo team. He graduated from The University of Texas at El Paso with a bachelor’s in business administration in marketing and advertising in the early 1970s.

His decades of leadership in strategy, business development and client-side marketing have made him a trusted authority in the industry. Wingo intuitively knows how to match and grow talent capabilities and client needs.

Generosity with his knowledge and experience has led to a wealth of civic involvement and public service over the course of his career. In the 1990s, Texas Governor George W. Bush made Wingo a member of the Finance Commission of Texas. In January of 2004, Texas Governor Rick Perry appointed Wingo to the Texas Economic Development Corporation Board, where he served as president. Governor Perry also appointed Wingo to a position on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

On a national scale, Wingo sits on the board of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation. Other board service includes seats on the boards of Las Palmas Del Sol Medical Centers and Wells Fargo Community Bank.

"Respect plus trust equals opportunity."

Awarded Gold Nugget in 2002
Named Distinguished Alumnus in 2013

Paul R. Yetter

R. Paul Yetter is co-founder of Yetter, Warden & Coleman L.L.P., a high-stakes business and technology litigation firm that has won more than $1 billion in judgments and settlements. Yetter is a nationally recognized attorney who received his B.B.A. in 1980 and his M.B.A. in 1982. He later earned his juris doctor from Columbia University in 1983. Yetter serves as chair of the alliance for Judicial funding Inc., a nonprofit, nonpartisan group that assists the legislative efforts of the Texas state judiciary. He also serves as trustee of the Texas Judicial foundation, which funds state judicial education programs.

Yetter is a member of the southern district of Texas Committee on admissions; and a member of the Columbia Law school Board of Visitors. He has been named a Texas Super Lawyer by Texas Monthly magazine and among the top ten trial lawyers in the Country by the national Law Journal. He received a Presidential Citation for service to the state bar in 1996.

"Success is often a matter of sheer perseverance. So, press on - regardless... and never underestimate how far you can go with hard work."

Awarded Gold Nugget in 2005
Named Distinguished Alumnus in 2008