2014 marks UTEP’s Centennial celebration, bringing many activities and events to the UTEP campus as well as to the department of communication. On behalf of the department, we invite all communication department alumni to attend our Homecoming Brunch, at 10:00 am on Saturday, October 11, 2014 in front of Cotton Memorial. We will recognize our Hicks-Middagh outstanding alumni winner, Dino Chiecchi, who is currently the administrative editor at the San Antonio Express-News, and longtime supporter of UTEP, the department, and our students.

We also welcome our newest faculty members, such as Dr. Yannick Atouba, who completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Rutgers University before coming to UTEP in August of 2014. Dr. Sarah Upton also joined the communication department’s faculty as a postdoctoral fellow and Rare faculty member in July of 2014, after completing her doctoral degree at the University of New Mexico. Kate Gannon, who worked as an adjunct faculty member for the department over the past academic year, became a full time faculty member and is working with our Borderzine online publication. Carolyn Mitchell and Zita Arocha were promoted to associate professors-of-practice, while Dr. Roberto Avant-Mier earned tenure this past year. In addition, departmental faculty members worked with UTEP students in advertising and public relations to promote internships and other unique opportunities such as the UTEP time capsule led by Dr. Martina Myers, while other UTEP students participated in study abroad programs through the department in Indonesia and Spain. Rare program faculty members worked with our master’s students in Mexico, Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Micronesia, and the Philippines. As our department grows, we are expanding our borders not just in the El Paso-Juárez area, but around the world. Hope to see you at our Homecoming Brunch on October 11!

Please see our departmental webpage for other departmental information at: http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=academics.utep.edu/comm
The Department of Communication is pleased to announce this year’s winner of the Hicks-Middagh, Dino Chiecchi, the administrative editor of the San Antonio Express-News. He has also served as the editor of Hispanic publications, among other job duties at San Antonio Express-News. He previously worked for the Associated Press (2000-2005) and the Tucson Citizen (1999-2000), among other news organizations. Chiecchi, who graduated from UTEP’s Department of Communication in 1985, has been a long standing supporter of our students, faculty, and department. He has also been long involved with the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, an organization that UTEP’s journalism students and faculty have been involved with for professional development. The Hicks-Middagh award, named after Virgil Hicks and John Middagh who both served as administrators at UTEP, is given every year to an alumnus/alumna who best represents excellence in the communication field.
New Faculty Members Join Department of Communication

Dr. Sarah Upton, a new postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Communication, completed her doctoral degree at the University of New Mexico in July 2014. Her area of study is intercultural communication, with a focus on community organizations that use invitational and social change approaches. Dr. Upton completed her master’s degree at Georgetown University in 2010, and her bachelor’s degree from UTEP in 2008; she majored in electronic media in the Department of Communication. Given that her research areas focus on border issues, she is excited to be back in El Paso, and is teaching a course called “Border Communication” this semester. We welcome her back to UTEP, as a faculty member and alumna.

Dr. Yannick Atouba also joins the Department of Communication as a new faculty member. Before moving to El Paso, Dr. Atouba completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Rutgers University, after completing his Ph.D. degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2013. He comes to UTEP with an accomplished publication record in the area of organizational communication and quantitative research methods. He has published, along with his co-authors, in journals such as the Western Journal of Communication, Communication Yearbook, Management Communication Quarterly, and the Journal of Communication. He completed his master’s degree at North Dakota State University in 2007, and his bachelor’s degree at the University of Buea (Cameroon) in 2004.

Professor Kathleen Gannon taught as an adjunct professor in the Department of Communication during the fall 2013 and spring 2014 semesters. We now welcome her as a full time faculty member, replacing one of our valued colleagues, Lourdes Cueva Chacón, who recently left UTEP to begin her doctoral work at the University of Texas at Austin. We are excited to have Kate Gannon in the department, as her expertise in multimedia journalism is a huge benefit for the department’s journalism students. She worked as an editor and newsroom manager for more than 25 years with mid-size and community newspapers and web outlets (such as Fort Collins Coloradoan, The El Paso Times and the El Paso Herald-Post), leading the transformation to using available and emerging technologies to engage and inform audiences. She has helped develop new web products, data journalism projects, and expanded multimedia storytelling across a variety of platforms. She is experienced as a social media trainer for professional and community networking. She is also working with Borderzine, along with Professors Zita Arocha and David Smith-Soto as well as other community engagement efforts, such as Journalism in July and the Dow Jones Multimedia Academy.
A new designation for professors was created at UTEP as requested by the chair of the department, and on behalf of two of our outstanding professors who are also excellent practitioners. The category of Professor-of-Practice was instituted at UTEP for the first time for the fall 2014 semester. Carolyn Mitchell, professor of advertising, and Zita Arocha, professor of multimedia journalism, received this designation as Associate Professor-of-Practice, starting September 1, 2014. Their dedication and extensive work and support of our students, plus their professional backgrounds in their respective areas demonstrate the need for this category. We are very pleased to have this new designation, and congratulate both Professor Mitchell and Professor Arocha for this promotion.

In addition, Dr. Roberto Avant-Mier earned tenure this year, largely for his excellent publication record and service and teaching in the department. Dr. Avant-Mier also teaches in the Rare-UTEP joint master’s program, working with the M.A. cohort in the Philippines. His book, *Rock the Nation*, is an example of his excellence in scholarship. He also has numerous journal articles and regularly attends and presents professional papers at national and international conferences.

Finally, Dr. Stacey Sowards was promoted to full professor this year, based on her scholarship, grant work in Indonesia, service to the department and discipline, and excellence in teaching. She received the UT Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award in 2011 (along with Professor Carolyn Mitchell in the same year), and the Western States Communication Association Distinguished Teaching Award in 2013.

KTEP and the Department of Communication welcome John Carrillo as KTEP’s new director of development. John completed his master’s degree in the department in May of 2014, under the direction of Dr. Roberto Avant-Mier. John and the KTEP team have already completed two successful fundraising endeavors, congratulations to them on surpassing their fundraising goals this year!
Dr. Arvind Singhal recently traveled to London because of his expertise in health communication. The event was hosted by Member of Parliament Pamela Nash, and was presided over by Lord Collins of Highbury. Singhal was invited to participate in this event on account of his scholarly work on the role of communication strategies in globally mitigating the HIV/AIDS crises, and his ongoing work (since 2010) as one of the eight members of the globally constituted Independent Monitoring Board of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. In 2004, a decade ago, the National Communication Association honored Singhal’s “Combating AIDS: Communication Strategies in Action” volume with the Distinguished Book Award in Applied Communication, and this body of work was recognized and referred to during this parliamentary event. While in UK, Singhal also conducted workshops on the Positive Deviance approach to social change at Girls Not Brides, a London-headquartered international consortium of NGOs, with the explicit goal of eradicating child marriage around the world. Earlier in the year, Singhal was invited by UNICEF to a Global consultation on child marriage in Kathmandu, Nepal, to weigh in on the value of the positive deviance approach in combating this harmful and highly prevalent practice in several countries of Asia and Africa.

“it's nerve-racking, exciting, intimidating, yet thrilling all at the same time;” that is how Senior Communication major Lorraine T. Perez described her reaction to being named a 2013-2014 Campus Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives Research Assistant. The COURI program is a highly competitive research funding pool that awards year-long research assistantships to promising undergraduates undertaking a research project with a faculty mentor. In Lorraine's case she will be mentored by Dr. Richard Pineda, associate professor and director of the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies on a project that will examine political speech and civic participation in social media. Dr. Pineda was equally excited about the award, "Lorraine is an excellent student and I have enjoyed watching her develop as a scholar," he added, "I think this will be a great project and one that hopefully cements Lorraine's plans to pursue a graduate degree." The COURI assistantship provides financial support for the student over the course of the year as well as research training and enrichment activities such as workshops and additional mentoring for each student. Plus the project allows for each student to develop a unique bond with their mentor and the research; Pineda has high hopes for the project, "I would like Lorraine to be able to have the research experience as well as the experience of submitting the project to a communication journal for potential publication."
Watch for big changes to Borderzine in the coming weeks. We are almost ready to unveil our website redesign that captures the fresh, bold style of a dynamic digital media company.

The design uses big, beautiful photographs to add instant appeal on the home page and draw readers in to the latest top stories. New features encourage readers to engage with Borderzine and to easily share content with their social networks.

The new site uses the responsive web design approach which means it will automatically be resized to be readable on the screen whatever device a viewer uses. This makes us compatible with the latest mobile and tablet trends.

Other additions include:

> Interactive photo and video galleries are being added to the front page to better showcase multimedia work.

> Student contributors will be highlighted on the article pages with their photos and bios prominently displayed alongside their stories.

> The comments system will be run through a Facebook plugin to promote greater distribution of our content.

> Special projects theme pages are being added to display work produced through Borderzine workshops and training as well as through strategic partnerships with other Hispanic-serving universities.

Borderzine.com already averages about 30,000 page views a month with readers from around the world. With the redesign and an increased use of social media and promotional campaigns we expect to keep growing and accelerate spreading the word about the top-notch communication students being produced in the UTEP Communication Department.
Borderzine Names Digital Pioneer as Web Content Manager

Borderzine, a digital media outlet dedicated to promoting diversity in media, has named multimedia editor and digital strategist Kate Gannon as digital content manager.

Gannon has more than 25 years experience on the leading edge of change in newsrooms. She was news systems editor at the El Paso Times where she oversaw technology research and training for journalists and supervised the newsroom’s new media department for online, broadcasting and non-daily publications.

In 2005, Gannon was named new media manager of content for the Fort Collins Coloradoan where she helped develop multimedia, data and other digital strategies to successfully grow Coloradoan Media Group into the leading news and information provider in Northern Colorado. She returned to El Paso in 2011 with her husband, El Paso Times Editor Robert Moore, and has been working as a digital content and social media consultant.

“I believe Kate’s extensive experience as a journalist, new media manager and teacher make her an excellent fit for Borderzine,” said Borderzine Director Zita Arocha. “She will provide the vision, creativity and new media expertise to build on our program of providing skills and opportunities to young Latino journalists and serving the information needs of our communities.”

Gannon, who joins Borderzine founder Arocha and Executive Editor David Smith Soto in the project, will be building on the work of longtime Borderzine Webmaster Lourdes Cueva Chacón, who left to pursue her PhD at UT Austin.

Based at the University of Texas at El Paso, Borderzine is an innovative program and web magazine that cultivates bilingual, bicultural journalists and media professionals through mentoring and training, internship placement programs and partnerships with news media and other institutions. Students and professional contributors cover the stories and angles that are often overlooked by mainstream media, demonstrating the importance of including a variety of voices in media outlets to more accurately reflect the communities they serve. Gannon can be reached at webmaster@borderzine.com

A graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso, Gannon has a Bachelor’s degree in journalism and earned her Master of Fine Arts degree in bilingual creative writing. She teaches courses in audio and video production and multimedia writing at UT El Paso.
Communication Students

Study Abroad in Spain

In the summer of 2012, instructors Hector Enriquez, Dr. Selfa Chew and Ramón Villa developed an interdisciplinary course that was implemented in Seville, Spain during the Maymester summer schedule. This was the first time a course was implemented with different disciplines with the same learning outcomes for a study abroad program course. The students selected were required to produce a documentary, an eBook, and a photographic exhibition while enjoying the learning experience in a new country.

The interdisciplinary experience was enhanced by participating in different lectures that related to the different topics of the course, which included history, language, religion, art, culture, and food. To further enhance the international traveling experience with an interdisciplinary methodology, the professors and the class documented local communities and their importance to their region. They visited important Jewish synagogues, Muslim mosques, and Christian churches in the southern region of Spain known as Andalucía. History students covered different topics that required them to write about topics that would later be used to be part of the eBook.

Language and Linguistic students photographed different aspects of the places visited and that led to a photographic exhibition at the Mexican Consulate of El Paso and the UTEP library. Students from the Communication discipline documented different historians, tour guides, guest instructors, and students with video cameras and sound recording devices that later produced an hour long documentary about the three different cultures that made Spain a global importance. The three different cultures discussed in the documentary were the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian communities that developed in Andalucía.

The students who participated in this interdisciplinary experience began to understand the different points of view that politics and religion can offer to someone who is studying history, language, or digital media. Many students made connections with the past to the present cultural temperature we live in today. This course has been implemented over the last three years and continues to have a successful outcome with students and the interdisciplinary experience.

Useful Links about the Project:

To view the documentary, please follow the link below:
https://youtu.be/Vpg-2XJ-9guE

To download the eBook, follow this link

Here are some write-ups about our experience:

Estudian las comunidades judías, musulmanas y cristianas de la Edad Media en Andalucía

Culmina UTEP documental que se filmo en Espana
http://diario.mx/El_Paso/2012-11-18_a2ef3984/

Our presentation on the interdisciplinary experience at the AT Summit
http://at.utep.edu/ats/2013/index.php/program/19-abstracts/16-creative-studios-break-out-session
The UTEP Forensics Team is eagerly anticipating a new season of competition for Fall 2014 after a multifaceted, energetic and successful record of activity in recent competition seasons. UTEP’s talented speakers and debaters are actively engaged not only in fulfilling the Forensics Program’s central mission of representing UTEP’s academic excellence in competition with colleges across the nation, but also in various outreach activities.

The team continues to travel widely to tournaments and workshops from coast to coast, racking up approximately 17,000 miles in 2013 alone (almost all of which involved long hauls on the road in vans as opposed to air travel), with more miles projected to pile up as 2014 progresses. UTEP Forensics’ longstanding record of qualifying students every year since 1984 to compete in the most prestigious national tournament, the AFA-NIET, as well for multiple other challenging national level contests, remains unbroken, and UTEP’s speech and debate competitors are determined to keep their future success rate equally high.

Recent UTEP Forensics Program outreach initiatives include the launching of a new pairing of current competitors with high achieving alumni in an expanded Showcase program format, first presented on campus in Spring 2014 as a Centennial event. Our next Centennial event will be a bigger Showcase in Fall 2014 (November 25th) featuring active competitors and alumni greats. Additionally, in Summer 2014 UTEP Forensics offered a reconceived summer high school speech education project hosted on the UTEP campus, the J. M. Witherspoon Summer High School Forensics Workshop, which offered instruction to students from area high schools. This workshop is planned to be a yearly summer initiative for the Team. Also, UTEP Forensics continues to contribute instructional help to local middle school and high school speech programs, as it has over the years. Yet another outreach initiative is still under negotiation: the UTEP Forensics Program has been contacted by the New York office of IDEA-US, a branch of the International Debate Education Organization, to collaborate on a workshop plus a public debate on immigration issues, projected for 2014.

Other outreach activities have included team members volunteering to work with the public at the El Paso Zoo, and contributing to team visibility on campus by manning a karaoke booth at Minerpalooza.

Under the guidance of Director of Forensics Mary Trejo and Debate Coach Michael Brooks, the UTEP Forensics Program has provided generations of students with the research and critical thinking skills that allow them to excel scholastically and personally. Most importantly, team membership has given UTEP students inclusion in a community of excellence in which creative thinking is nurtured and hard work is always tempered with a spirit of fun. Clearly, the future is bright for the UTEP Speech and Debate Team in this new academic year!
Thirteen UTEP students participated in a study abroad program in Indonesia and Japan during the summer of 2014. As part of the department’s United States Agency for International Development grant that established a university partnership with the University of Mulawarman in East Kalimantan province in Indonesia, the students studied conservation efforts and campaigns in Indonesia for four weeks before spending three days in Tokyo with our colleague, Yoko Kawamura (from Kumamoto University).

Communication students worked on a conservation education campaign in the city of Samarinda’s botanical gardens. Several orangutans have been placed there for lack of another facility. Along with colleagues at the University of Mulawarman, who jointly manage the botanical gardens, signs were created to better inform local visitors about orangutans and their habitats.