Many changes have taken place in recent times. Here is a synopsis:

- **Niescja Turner** has joined the Department in the Spring Semester. **Welcome!**
- **Jorge López** is the new Chair of the Department. **Oops!**
- **Clarence Cooper** is the new Assistant Chair of the Department. ; **Menes mal !**
- **Rosa Fitzgerald** and **Verne Smith** are now tenured Associate Professors. **Congrats!**
- **M.S. enrollment** grew to 17 students in the Spring 2002. **Very Good!**
- The new departmental **web page** is **http://www.utep.edu/physics**. Check it!
- **Ramon Lopez** was awarded the Sun-Earth Connections NASA grant. **Excellent!**
- In 2001 **Arlene Larabee**, **Dwight Russell** and **Paul Wang** left us. **Good Luck!**

**Adios Sharp . . .**

by C. H. Cooper

It is with great sorrow that we kick off this first issue of *Physica*, the newsletter of the Physics Department. Last November, our friend, colleague, and professor to some of us, C. Sharp Cook, lost his final battle with cancer.

Sharp joined the UTEP faculty in 1970 as Chairman of the Physics Department. Dr. Cook came to UTEP soon after being the Head of the Physics Division of the Naval Radiological Defense Lab. He received his Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics from Indiana University in 1948. A successful career followed with a long list of accomplishments. To name a few:

- Project Officer for Operation Teapot, Nevada Test Site. He investigated effects of fallout radiation.
- Fullbright Research Scholar at Aarhus University in Denmark. He worked on gamma and beta-ray spectroscopy and supervised a graduate student in research.
- With the U.S. Naval Radiological Defense Lab he was Head of the High Temperature Physics and Solid State Physics Branch; Head of the Nucleonics Division; Physics Consultant to the Director.

While at UTEP, he participated in:

- The University Biohazards Committee.
- The El Paso Solar Energy Task Group.
- The University Coordination Committee for the Texas Energy Council.
- The El Paso Radiation Center Foundation.
- Established the "C. Sharp Cook Physics Professorship Fund" to allow a senior faculty member time to pursue creative activities, such as research.
- Established the "C. Sharp Cook Graduate Scholarship Fund" to support a worthy and deserving graduate students in the Physics Department. Contributed to more than a dozen university funds.

Dr. Cook was a member of many prestigious professional and honor societies including the coveted Fellow of the American Physical Society.

We will miss our friend and we thank him for all the outstanding contributions to our university and our community. He is survived by his son, Wayne; his daughter, Sherma; and his wife, Marian.
Clockwise from top left corner Cathy Chacon, Tim Robinson, and Miguel Cortes, Alan Dean, Sharp Cook, Clarence Cooper, ???, Veronica Alvarado, Alfonso Zamudio, Jose Lozano, Jorge López, Fefo Aranda, Sergio Chaparro. The occasion? López’s tenure party at La Hacienda.

WANTED: Old Photos
Want to appear on Physica?
Send your old photos to the Editor!
We promise to return them ASAP!
Or, better, send them digitized by e-mail!

Congratulations to our new M.S. and Ph.D. graduates
• José Aguilar (Ph.D. Mat. Sci.)
• Marco Ávila
• Elia Benítez
• Omar Vargas
• Alex Puga

Where are YOU?
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• Dr. C. Sharp Cook Graduate Scholarship Fund
• T. E. Morris Graduate Scholarship Fund
• Let the Chair decide how to use this donation

You can also contribute during UTEP’s annual phone campaign organized by the development office.