

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

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The year in review

JANUARY

■UTPB enrollment climbed again, and the university saw an increase in the number of students seeking bachelor's degrees and the number of students seeking master's degrees in 2007. There were 2,534 students enrolled for bachelor's programs in Spring 2007, up from 2,400 in Spring 2006. There were 464 students enrolled in master's programs for Spring 2007, up from 353 in Spring 2006.

■UTPB's Nancy Fyfe Cardozer Gallery was in full bloom when the Grover E. and Sally M. Murray Prolea Paintings Collection exhibit opened Jan. 26. This collection of floral watercolors by New Zealand watercolor painter Zoë Carter was donated to the university by Lubbock's Sally M. Murray, widow of Grover E. Murray, Texas Tech president from 1966-1976.

■UTPB's new biomechanics lab also opened in January. The biomechanics program focuses on the mechanics of tissues, joints and human movement. Research in these areas is conducted in this new, state-of-the-art lab for human movement analysis, mechanical testing and computational modeling.

FEBRUARY

■The West Texas Coalition for Innovation & Commercialization (WTCIC) awarded UTPB \$12,500 for a new economic diversification project. The UTPB Alliance for Innovative Energy Technology Commercialization promotes the development and commercialization of alternative energy sources.

MARCH

■UTPB's on quality, students and academics landed the school in another national news magazine. On March 4, U.S. News & World Report recognized UTPB for outperforming other University of Texas campuses.

"What's more, Permian Basin also had a greater percentage of students either employed or enrolled in a graduate program within a year after graduation for every year between 2001 and 2004, when compared with its counterparts in El Paso and Dallas," the article states. "These are the sorts of statistics students should consider when looking at colleges . . ."

APRIL

■The name of the Permian Basin's first performing arts was announced after a \$10 million gift by Lissa and Cy Wagner of Midland and Ellen Noël of Odessa. The center's name, "The Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center," was announced by James R. Huffines, chairman of the University of Texas System Board of Regents, at a news conference that also included Texas Speaker of the House Tom Craddick, State Senator Kel Seliger and State Representative Buddy West.

■UTPB announced the creation of a new scholarship honoring beloved Midlander, Doc Dodson. The Doc Dodson Athletic Trainer Scholarship pays tuition for students enrolled in the UTPB Athletic Training Program. "I am very proud of this scholarship," Dodson told a small crowd gathered in the UTPB athletic trainer rooms. "This field has grown a great deal and there are many modern day treatments. You can see the kind of facilities we have here."

MAY

■Texas Railroad Commissioner Michael L. Williams was the guest speaker for UTPB's spring commence-



A visitor to UTPB's Nancy Fyfe Cardozer Gallery examines a painting from the Grover E. and Sally M. Murray Prolea Paintings Collection exhibit in January. When the show opened, it was the first time all 154 paintings had been seen together.

2007

was another banner year for the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. The university experienced another year of enrollment growth, saw completion of fundraising efforts for the Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center and achieved three more national accreditations. Read more about our biggest stories of the year.

ment. Williams, who also chairs both the Governor's Clean Coal Technology Council and the FutureGen Texas Advisory Board, brought the FutureGen concept to West Texas almost two years ago when he presented an outline of the concept at a meeting at CEED. Soon after, a group of West Texans, including UTPB staff and graduates, began working on the Permian Basin FutureGen proposal to the state.

■Dan Keast, assistant professor of music education at UTPB, and Morningside College alumnus, was recognized as the 2007 Alumni Educator of the Year.

■UTPB broke ground on renovations for the Industrial Technology building to include the addition of four labs, including a manufacturing lab, petroleum mud lab, research lab, petroleum simulation lab, a conference room and more office space. Renovations were complete in August, in time for the start of the 2007-2008 school year.

■UTPB Professor Doug Hale was selected as a 2007 Piper Professor. This prestigious award is given to just 15 professors statewide each year by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation. Competition for the award is tough. Nominations for the award come from every institution of higher education, including two and four-year colleges and universities, both public and private.

JUNE

■In June, supporters of the project to raise additional funds for the construction of the Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center said pledges for more than \$19.2 million had been secured since mid-April, ensuring funding for \$66 million in construction costs and initiating a significant permanent endowment fund to support the future operations, programs and maintenance of the center.

■Next, supporters of the Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center learned that the UT System Board of Regents approved an additional \$3.5 million in Permanent University Funds (PUF) for the facility. This brought the total sup-

port from PUF to \$6.5 million. The new funds will be used for construction costs. Construction is expected to begin around January 2009 with occupancy expected by mid-year 2011.

JULY

■Kinesiology professor Patricia Sherblom was selected to receive the 2007 Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (TAHPERD) University Physical Education Teacher of the Year Award. Professor Sherblom is the associate professor of kinesiology as well as the chairperson for the kinesiology department.

■UTPB learned it could start awarding new grant money for bilingual education teacher training to students wanting to become teachers in hard-to-fill areas. The university was selected to receive a federal grant that will pay \$299,680 each year for a period of five years.

■UTPB's social work received initial accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education. UTPB is the only university within 140 miles that has a nationally accredited social work program. "This is very exciting news for us because social work programs must be fully accredited for graduates to be eligible to be licensed," explained UTPB professor and program coordinator Kay Ketzenberger.

AUGUST

■UTPB learned that Chevron Technology Ventures, a division of Chevron U.S.A., would be providing about \$600,000 over the next two years for research to establish polyols as an intermediate platform from hydrolysis and hydrogenation of biomass carbohydrates. Demonstration of the economic viability of the polyols platform is particularly important for the 1996 U.S. Patent to make hydrocarbon fuels directly from polyols.

■UTPB's HT3R program received \$195,000 in grants from the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The grants formed and support the Nuclear Energy Education project, or NEED, at the university.

HT3R Program Director Jim Wright said the grants are used to provide scholarships, paid internships and a faculty mentor/teaching position. The NEED program seeks to increase the number of students who enter the field of nuclear studies.

SEPTEMBER

■President Watts announced that enrollment was up for the seventh year, with 3,586 students enrolled.

"We are very excited to see so many fresh faces here on campus," President David Watts said. "From classrooms to the courts, this is a vibrant university."

Admissions director Trey Wetendorf said this year's freshman class was the largest class to date. Wetendorf said that more international students are coming to the university, too. UTPB has enrolled students from Brazil, China, Mexico, Australia and Norway.

■UT Permian Basin and the John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute announced that retired White House Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove would be the speaker for the November Distinguished Lecture Series. Rove was Deputy Chief of Staff to President George W. Bush until his scheduled departure due to resignation at the end of August 2007.

OCTOBER

■President Watts announced that the

School of Education received national accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. NCATE is the professional accrediting organization for schools, colleges and departments of education in the United States. UTPB is one of only 13 Texas universities to meet NCATE's standards and the second University of Texas institution.

■Susan Lara, the vice president of student affairs at UTPB, was named a Texas Association for Bilingual Education (TABE) 2007 Higher Education Honoree. This award honors outstanding individuals that have earned the recognition, respect and admiration of bilingual educators and their community.

NOVEMBER

■WASHINGTON - Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison secured another \$1 million for UT Permian Basin's HT3R nuclear energy project. This was the second time Hutchison has secured money for HT3R. The HT3R facility will be used to conduct research in alternative energy sources and educate and train engineers in new nuclear reactor technologies that will generate electricity at efficiencies above 50 percent with no green house gasses. Additionally, the excess process heat from these reactors is sufficient to economically create hydrogen from water and syngas from coal. The project is a partnership between UTPB, the cities of Midland and Odessa, Andrews County and General Atomics.

■After five years of hard work and dedication, the UTPB Art Program was awarded accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

NASAD is the national accrediting agency for art and design as well as related disciplines. It is an association of 277 schools of art and design. UTPB is only the sixth Texas university to earn this prestigious designation.

DECEMBER

■UTPB strings director, Tom Holstad, received the 2007 Society for New Communications Research Award of Merit. He received the award for his book "Voices of the Virtual World: Participative Technology & the Ecclesial Revolution," which he co-authored with Jennifer McClure.

■Christmas came early for two high-achieving students in the Permian Basin. Permian High School student Alma Garcia and UTPB student Ana Olivas got the surprise of a lifetime when they took part in the live recording of Superlatina, the new Odessa-based TV talk-show. Thanks to UTPB, both girls received scholarships for a combined total of about \$17,000.



Faculty members for the Industrial Technology Program and others break ground on building renovations.