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# Password

*VOLUME 63, NO. 1* *SPRING 2019*

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# Remembering "Lalo":
## Abelardo Delgado, Chicano Activist and Poet

*By Abbie Weiser*

Abelardo Delgado was one of most prolific writers of the Chicano Movement, and his ties to El Paso ran deep. Born in Boquilla de Conchos, Chihuahua, Mexico, Abelardo "Lalo" Barrientos Delgado (November 27, 1931 – July 23, 2004) was a professor, social worker, activist, and writer. He is best known for his social activism, writings, and strong influence on Chicano literature.[1] Delgado often published his works simply as "Abelardo" or "Lalo."

Delgado and his mother moved to the *segundo barrio* in El Paso, Texas in 1943, and he graduated from Bowie High School in 1950, where he served as vice-president of the National Honor Society and co-editor of the school newspaper.[2] After high school, Delgado worked in construction and at restaurants to support himself. At age 21, he married Lola Estrada, and in 1955, he began working at Our Lady's Youth Community Center in El Paso. At the community center, he helped young Mexican Americans find jobs and advance their educations despite unequal opportunities and segregated classrooms. He also worked to prevent drug use and gang activity in El Paso.[3] These experiences helped fuel his activism in the Chicano Movement of the 1960s. Eight years after graduating high school, Delgado entered college in El Paso. He graduated from Texas Western College (now the University of Texas at El Paso) in 1962.

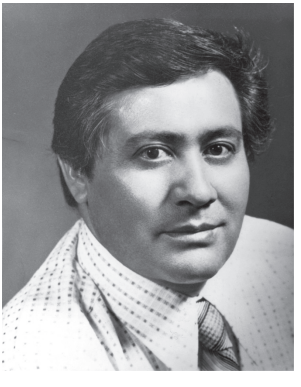

*Figure 1. Writer and community activist Abelardo "Lalo" Delgado (1931-2004) from the* El Paso Herald-Post *records, MS348, UTEP Library Special Collections.*

Delgado was active in a variety of social-justice causes from the 1960s to the early 2000s. He participated in César Chávez's farm labor movement during the early 1960s and advocated for immigrants during his long career. After leaving his position at Our Lady's Youth Community Center, Delgado continued his work to empower and improve the lives of South El Paso residents. In March 1968, he undertook a 30-day fast to protest and publicize poor living conditions in south El Paso.[4] He joined the Chamizal Program where he assisted families displaced by the 1964 Chamizal Settlement find new homes and worked for the El

*Figure 2. Abelardo "Lalo" Delgado in his office,* El Paso Herald-Post *records, MS348, UTEP Library Special Collections.*

Paso Juvenile Delinquency project. He also helped organize the BRAVO program and Chicano activist groups MACHOS (for adults) and MAYA (for youth) in El Paso, and was one of the founders of the Guadalupe Employment Center and the Tepeyac Federal Credit Union. Delgado served as director of Chicano activities for the Chicano Affairs Program at UTEP during the early 1970s and as director of UTEP's Special Services Project.[5] He later became an Ethnic Studies professor at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, and then the executive director of the Colorado Migrant Council. Subsequently he taught Chicano Studies at Metropolitan State University (MSU) in Denver for 17 years.[6]

Delgado promoted Chicano culture and leadership in El Paso. In September 1972, he protested the El Paso Public Library Board's decision to remove Chicano-themed insignia from the Biblioteca del Barrio – "a bookmobile aimed at providing library services to the Chicano community" – and pointed out the lack of diversity on the board. He argued that board president Jane Perrenot's assertion that the black thunderbird and other Chicano symbols on the bookmobile were political symbols was incorrect. According to *the El Paso Herald-Post*, Delgado explained, "the T-Bird is a cultural symbol and the Chicano movement is not political, but social in nature."[7] He also stated in an interview

*Figure 3. This photograph of Lalo Delgado shows him during a 30-day fast in 1968. He fasted in order to protest living conditions in South El Paso.* El Paso Herald-Post*, MS348, UTEP Library Special Collections.*

with Manny A. Escontrías that the El Paso Public Library Board "never bothered to consult with anyone who would know better."[8]

In addition to his social activism, "Lalo" is most remembered for his important contributions to Chicano literature. Beginning in the late 1960s, Delgado wrote many poems, works of fiction, and essays. His best-known works, such as *Chicano: 25 Pieces of a Chicano Mind*, *Letters to Louise*, *Mortal Sin Kit*, and "*stupid america,"* describe his experiences and frustrations with racial discrimination in the southwestern United States.[9] Delgado was also widely viewed as an expert on Caló vocabulary and expressions (i.e. Chicano dialect and slang).[10] He also founded Barrio Publications, which published his writings. He received the Tonatiuh-Quinto Sol Award for Literature in 1977 and remains a significant and influential figure in Chicano literature. The annual Lalo Delgado Poetry Festival at MSU-Denver celebrates his poetry and social justice activism.[11]

The C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department of the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) Library contains a collection of materials by and about Abelardo Delgado. These records were donated by Dr. Dennis Bixler-Marquez of the UTEP Chicano Studies Department, Erica Marín, and the Delgado family. Types of records in the Abelardo Delgado collection, MS478, include publications, correspondence, writings,

clippings, photographs, articles, programs, and other printed material. These records help document Delgado's activities and writings from 1967 to the 2000s as well as the Chicano movement of the late 1960s – 1970s. One rare item in the collection is Delgado's poem *Despedimosnos*, which was written in honor of Francisco Marín, who was killed during the Vietnam War. Francisco Marín's niece, Erica Marín (a UTEP student), donated the poem to the UTEP Library's Special Collections Department in 2018. The Benson Latin American Collection in Austin, Texas, holds another collection of Abelardo Delgado papers.

*"stupid america"*
*by Abelardo*

*stupid america, see that chicano*
*with a big knife*
*on his steady hand*
*he doesn't want to knife you*
*he wants to sit on a bench*
*and carve christfigures*
*but you won't let him.*
*stupid america, hear that chicano*
*shouting curses on the street*
*he is a poet*
*without paper and pencil*
*and since he cannot write*
*he will explode.*
*stupid america, remember that chicanito*
*flunking math and english*
*he is the picasso*
*of your western states*
*but he will die*
*with one thousand masterpieces*
*hanging only from his mind.*

*— Reproduced with permission from Ana Duran.*

## Endnotes

1. "Lalo Delgado, 73: Poet was Seminal Figure in Rise of Chicano Literature," *Los Angeles Times*, 1 August 2004; "Lalo Delgado, 73, Vivid Poet of Chicano Literary Revival," *New York Times*, 30 July 2004.
2. *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, Volume 82, Chicano Writers, First Series (Detroit, Michigan: Gale Research, 1989), 108-109.
3. "Leader Tells How MAYA, MACHOS Are Formed," *El Paso Herald-Post*, 30 December 1971.
4. Abelardo Delgado, Historical files, El Paso Herald-Post records, MS348, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, University of Texas at El Paso Library.
5. "Abelardo Delgado Guest Poet for Afternoon Talk," *The Prospector*, 25 February 1971; "Leader Tells How MAYA, MACHOS Are Formed," *El Paso Herald-Post*, 30 December 1971; "Special Program Killed," *El Paso Herald-Post*, 6 December 1972.
6. "Ex-El Pasoan's Chicano Story Wins $500 Prize," *El Paso Herald-Post*, 8 May 1975.
7. "Bookmobile Loses Chicano Insignia," *El Paso Herald-Post*, 15 September 1972.
8. Interview with Abelardo Delgado and Ricardo Sánchez by Manny A. Escontrías, 1972, "Interview no. 91.1," Institute of Oral History, University of Texas at El Paso.
9. *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, Volume 82, 114-115.
10. "Abelardo Delgado Guest Poet for Afternoon Talk," *The Prospector*, 25 February 1971.
11. Programs, Abelardo Delgado collection, MS478, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, University of Texas at El Paso Library.

# The Presidents of UTEP, Part 2: A Primer

*By P.J. Vierra*

With the election of Heather A. Wilson as the next president of the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) on April 2, 2019, students, faculty, and the public turned their attention to understanding her new office and title, and the administration of a top-tier doctoral research institution, in general. Tentatively scheduled to assume the office and title on August 15, 2019, Wilson will follow Diana Natalicio, whose tenure stretched across four decades—a longevity rarely seen in American academe. What is unclear is whether Wilson will be the twenty-second, fifteenth, or eleventh president of UTEP. This article attempts to answer a few common questions surrounding UTEP's chief administrative position, its history, and the tenure of some its presidents. Primarily, it addresses who and how presidents should be counted.

## Has UTEP Always Had a President?

UTEP has always had a president, dating back to when the university opened in 1914. This fact is often muddled by the circumstances surrounding the institution's founding in 1913. Since the turn of the twentieth century, residents of El Paso had been lobbying the state legislature to establish a school of mines in their city, given its proximity to several major southwest mining districts. The University of Texas played no role in their efforts, as they already had a school of mines in Austin. When Richard Burges, who represented the region in the Texas House of Representatives, shepherded a bill through the legislature (Senate Bill 183) to establish a new school of mines in El Paso, few at the University of Texas expressed interest in its passage—until it passed. This included Richard Burges's own older brother, William Burges, a member of the U.T. Board of Regents and an El Paso lawyer. When William Burges learned on March 26, 1913, that the bill supported by his brother placing a new school of mines under the auspices of the University of Texas Board of Regents had passed, he immediately urged Governor Oscar Colquitt to veto it.[1] Colquitt demurred, backed Richard, and signed the bill into law on April 16, 1913, founding the State School of Mines and Metallurgy, as UTEP was first known.[2]

The president of the University of Texas at the time of UTEP's founding was Sidney Mezes. His office directed the state university's two branches: The Main Branch in Austin and the Medical Branch in Galveston. The School of Mines made a third branch. On April 28, 1914, the Board of Regents appointed Steve H. Worrell the school's first dean.

During their deliberations, the regents instructed Mezes to inform Worrell of his selection and that the dean was to report to the president.[3] Mezes confirmed this line of authority in writing to Worrell in a letter dated May 3, 1914.[4] Worrell, who had a cordial relationship with Mezes from his time working at U.T.'s Bureau of Economic Geology, worked well with Mezes, frequently seeking his advice on academic matters and sending regular reports. Mezes, in turn, conveyed the school's progress to the regents. As dean, Worrell often stressed this close relationship in newspaper articles and interviews, himself writing, "[The School of Mines] has the same board of regents and the same president as the university, but its faculty is by law separate and distinct, just as is the faculty of the medical department at Galveston."[5] These well-documented, coordinated acts between Worrell, Mezes, and the regents clearly placed Mezes in charge of the institution.

## How are University Presidents Counted?

Designating Mezes as the first president of UTEP begs the question: Who was second? To begin, counting presidents of a university is not like counting the incumbents of federal offices. Heather Wilson served as the twenty-fourth secretary of the U.S. Air Force, a position that required confirmation by the United States Senate. While thirty-five individuals have served as secretary, eleven received interim (acting) appointments and were never confirmed. In official Washington, those not confirmed are not counted.

The confirmation process for college and university presidents differs slightly but has a common element in that a vote by a body invested with legal oversight must occur. A college or university president, whether permanent or interim, receives confirmation from his or her institution's governing board. This is true even in public systems where a chancellor sits as chief executive, for he or she rarely ever has the authority to appoint presidents on their own. (Presidents, however, do serve at the chancellor's pleasure).[6] This process of voting to appoint an individual president creates a presidential office or administration, which is numbered.

There are two methods for counting incumbents. The Harvard method is named for Harvard University, the nation's oldest university. Harvard counts only permanent appointments, eschewing interim presidents. While there have been thirty-eight presidential administrations, permanent and interim, since the selection of Henry Dunster as the first president of Harvard in 1640, Lawrence C. Bacow is referred to as its twenty-ninth president.[7] Other universities using the Harvard method include the nation's oldest public university, William and Mary, and the University of California, Berkeley.[8]

*Figure 1. The State School of Mines and Metallurgy, circa 1917. The campus relocated to the Paso del Norte following the fire that destroyed the original campus on the Lanoria Mesa. From left to right: Chemistry Building (today's Quinn Hall), Main Building (Old Main), and the Boy's Dormitory (Graham Hall). Courtesy of UTEP Library, Special Collections.*

The second method can be referred to as the Austin method. The University of Texas at Austin counts interim appointments. This may be due to the fact that U.T. Austin's first president, Leslie Waggener, held an interim appointment by the Board of Regents, as he was in ill health at the time. George T. Winston followed Waggener in 1896 as the institution's second president, a permanent appointment. In the case of an individual receiving an interim appointment followed by permanent election, the seriation counts as one appointment. In the 1970s, Lorene L. Rogers followed Stephen H. Spurr, the twentieth president, receiving an interim appointment from the regents, making her the twenty-first president. When her appointment was made permanent in 1975, she remained the twenty-first president. However, Peter T. Flawn served two non-consecutive tenures as president, one a permanent appointment in 1979, making him the twenty-second president, and an interim appointment in 1997, recognizing him as the twenty-sixth president. The current office holder, Gregory L. Fenves, is the twenty-ninth president of the University of Texas at Austin, though only twenty-seven individuals have held the position.[9]

**Table 1: Presidents of UTEP**

| Count, Austin method | Count, Harvard method | President | Note |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Sidney Mezes | President, University of Texas, 1908-1914. Sitting president of U.T. at founding and establishment of the School of Mines. |
| 2 | | William J. Battle | President ad interim, University of Texas, 1915-1916. The Board of Regents officially recognized sitting presidents of U.T. as the president of the School of Mines on April 30, 1915. |
| 3 | 2 | Robert E. Vinson | President, University of Texas, 1916-1923 |
| 4 | | William S. Sutton | President ad interim, University of Texas, 1923-1924 |
| 5 | 3 | Walter M. W. Splawn | President, University of Texas, 1924-1927 |
| 6 | 4 | Harry Y. Benedict | President, University of Texas, 1927-1937; College of Mines, 1927-1931 |
| 7 | 5 | John G. Barry | First autonomous president of the College of Mines, 1931-1934 |
| 8 | | Charles Puckett | President ad interim, 1934-1935 |
| 9 | 6 | Dossie M. Wiggins | President, 1935-1948 |
| 10 | | Eugene M Thomas | President ad interim, 1948 |
| 11 | 7 | Wilson H. Elkins | President, 1949-1958 |
| 12 | | Alvin A. Smith | President ad interim, 1954-1955 |
| 13 | 8 | Dysart E. Holcomb | President, 1955-1958 |
| 14 | 9 | Joseph R. Smiley | President, 1958-1960 |
| 15 | | Anton H. Berkman | President ad interim, 1960 |
| 16 | 10 | Joseph M. Ray | President, 1960-1968 |
| 17 | | Robert M. Leech | President ad interim, 1968-1969 |
| 18 | 11 | Joseph R. Smiley | President, 1969-1972 |
| 19 | 12 | Arleigh B. Templeton | President, 1972-1980 |
| 20 | 13 | Haskell M. Monroe Jr. | President, 1980-1987 |
| 21 | | Diana S. Natalicio | President ad interim, 1987-1988 |
| | 14 | Diana S. Natalicio | President, 1988-2019 |
| 22 | 15 | Heather A. Wilson | President, 2019- |

According to the Austin method, Heather Wilson is the twenty-second president of UTEP and the twenty-first individual to hold the office and title of president. Using the Harvard method, Wilson is the fifteenth president of the University of Texas at El Paso.

## Should the Presidents of U.T. Austin be Counted as Presidents of UTEP?

The presidents of U.T. Austin did practice oversight of the El Paso institution. Sidney Mezes tenure as president of the School of Mines was short-lived, as he resigned as president of the University of Texas in November 1914, after six years. In his place, the regents appointed William J. Battle acting president of the University of Texas. It was at this point that Dean Worrell began circumventing President Battle's authority, even going so far as to communicate directly with state legislators and the governor regarding appropriations, which were clearly the purview of President Battle. Months would pass with no communication between the two. When a copy of a private letter written by Worrell explaining his intention to govern the El Paso school as an independent branch of the University of Texas reached the Board of Regents, the members unanimously reaffirmed Battle's position as president of the School of Mines, declaring "the President was given the same authority over the State School of Mines at El Paso as he has over the Medical Department at Galveston."[10] This motion clarified their policy as the governing board of the School of Mines that all subsequent presidents of the Main Branch (U.T. Austin) would continue to serve as president of the El Paso institution. Consequently, they did, appearing on the masthead of UTEP's official publications, including its catalogs. An early catalog, issued in May 1915, lists William J. Battle as the president under the list of administrative officers, with Steve Worrell as dean. Issues after 1916 list as president of the School of Mines: Robert E. Vinson (elected 1916), William S. Sutton (elected interim president 1923), Walter M. W. Splawn (elected 1924), and Harry Y. Benedict (elected 1927). The U.T. presidents also signed the diplomas issued by the school from 1916 to 1931.[11]

UTEP's history should not dismiss the contributions made by its distant presidents. The institution's transformation from a mining school to a regional comprehensive university was due in large part to the vision of two Austin presidents: Walter Splawn and Harry Benedict. President Splawn, a nationally renowned proponent of what was then known as the Junior College Movement, was the first to ask Dean John Kidd to investigate the logistics of having the College of Mines duplicate the junior college curriculum of the El Paso Junior College in 1927.[12] President Benedict, widely recognized as having one of the best legal minds on Texas higher education, formulated the strategy that allowed the El Paso college to offer bachelor's degrees, as well as championing providing the school its own autonomous president.[13] Accordingly, key transformative moments in UTEP's history were due largely to the visions of Presidents Splawn and Benedict.

## Why is John Barry Referred to as the First President of UTEP?

John G. Barry was appointed the first *autonomous* president of the College of Mines and Metallurgy of The University of Texas when the Board of Regents elected him on July 11, 1931.[14] He is the first incumbent of the office who was not also the president of the University of Texas.

Autonomous presidents exercise executive authority over three critical functions: faculty selection and curriculum; vision and mission; and line authority over administrative officers, including the registrar and comptroller (today's vice presidents of academic affairs, student affairs, and business affairs). This triumvirate of responsibilities emerged as a defining feature of colleges and universities during the colonial period. Not wishing to replicate what many considered were the chaotic features of faculty governing boards found in Europe, the new colonial colleges opted for lay governing boards, which delegated executive authority to strong presidents.[15]

Prior to Barry's election, no single individual held control over these three areas. The U.T. presidents controlled the vision and mission of the Main Branch, Medical Branch, and the College of Mines. They also directed the administrative officers, all of whom were appointed by

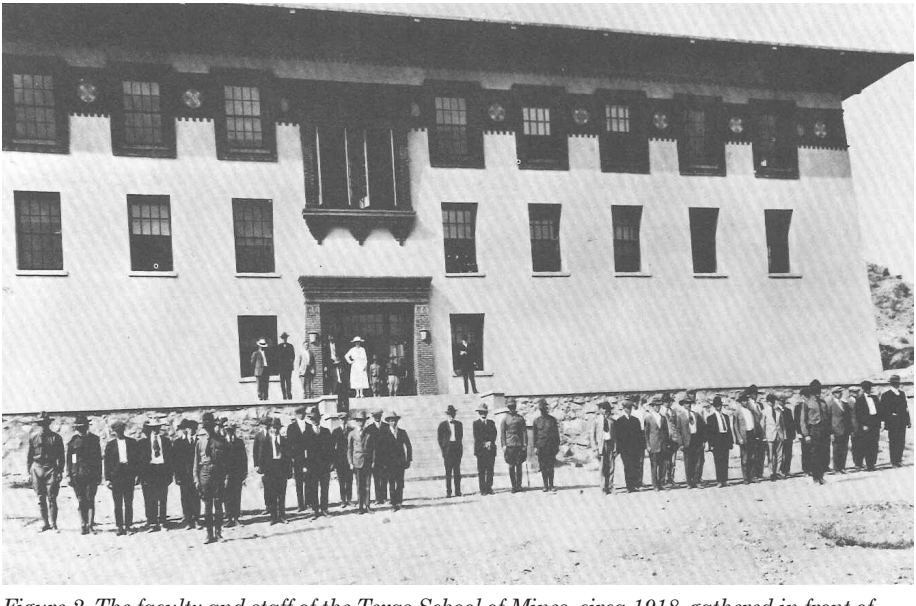

*Figure 2. The faculty and staff of the Texas School of Mines, circa 1918, gathered in front of Old Main. Courtesy C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections, The University of Texas at El Paso.*

them and were located in Austin. As for control of the faculty and the curriculum, this authority belonged to the respective deans of the colleges and branches. When UTEP transformed into a hybrid liberal arts college and engineering school in 1927, President Harry Benedict recognized that it needed its own executive. "One really cannot get into the heart of an institution without hanging around it a great deal," he said, and pledged in July 1929 that he would do all he could to persuade the board to elect "a separate president beginning September 1930."[16] It took a bit longer, with Barry accepting this separate presidency in July 1931.[17] As president, with line authority over his own officers in El Paso, jurisdiction over the faculty, and a bold vision to shape the College of Mines into the western branch of the University of Texas, Barry assumed full leadership of the college just as the Great Depression took hold.

**Table 2: Autonomous presidents of UTEP**

| Count, Austin method | Count, Harvard method | President | Note |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | John G. Barry | First autonomous president of the College of Mines, 1931-1934 |
| 2 | | Charles Puckett | President ad interim, 1934-1935 |
| 3 | 2 | Dossie M. Wiggins | President, 1935-1988 |
| 4 | | Eugene M Thomas | President ad interim, 1948 |
| 5 | 3 | Wilson H. Elkins | President, 1949-1958 |
| 6 | | Alvin A. Smith | President ad interim, 1954-1955 |
| 7 | 4 | Dysart E. Holcomb | President, 1955-1958 |
| 8 | 5 | Joseph R. Smiley | President, 1958-1960 |
| 9 | | Anton H. Berkman | President ad interim, 1960 |
| 10 | 6 | Joseph M. Ray | President, 1960-1968 |
| 11 | | Robert M. Leech | President ad interim, 1968-1969 |
| 12 | 7 | Joseph R. Smiley | President, 1969-1972 |
| 13 | 8 | Arleigh B. Templeton | President, 1972-1980 |
| 14 | 9 | Haskell M. Monroe Jr. | President, 1980-1987 |
| 15 | | Diana S. Natalicio | President ad interim, 1987-1988 |
| | 10 | Diana S. Natalicio | President, 1988-2019 |
| 16 | 11 | Heather A. Wilson | President, 2019- |

Under the Austin method, Heather Wilson is UTEP's sixteenth autonomous president; eleventh, using the Harvard method.

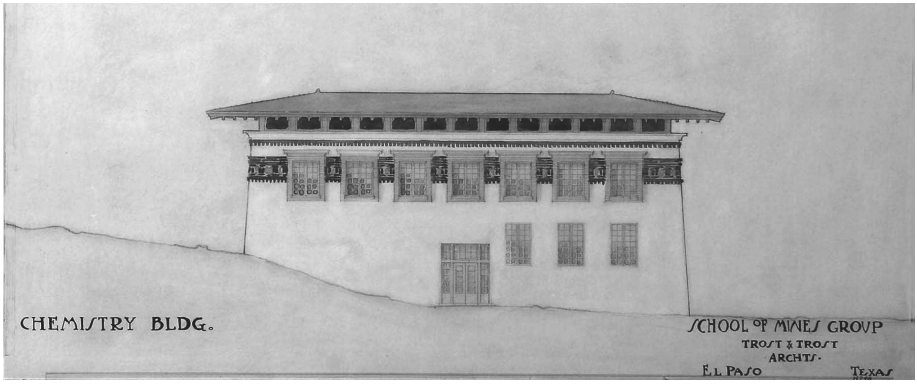


*Figure 3. Print rendering by architect Henry Trost of the Chemistry Building (today's Quinn Hall), 1917. President Robert Vinson selected Trost over architect Charles Gibson, who was Dean Steve Worrell's choice. Courtesy Heritage Commission, Office of Alumni Relations, University of Texas at El Paso.*

## What are "Institutional Leaders"?

The term "institutional leader" is often bandied about to discuss the deans who directed the faculty and staff early in UTEP's history. Unlike presidents, institutional leaders did not have line authority over officers or the mission of the institution, both of which were the province of the president of the University of Texas. The Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents, adopted in 1912, clearly defined the roles of presidents and deans. As mentioned earlier, the first dean of the School of Mines was Steve H. Worrell, who served under President Sidney Mezes, and who received his appointment in 1914. Worrell was followed by John W. Kidd in 1923, and Charles Puckett in 1927. With the election of Barry, the "dean of the college" was replaced by a president and two departmental deans, each overseeing their respective engineering and liberal arts and sciences programs. The revised Rules and Regulations after Barry became president reflected his equal standing with the president of the Austin branch:

> *"The administration of the College of Mines and Metallurgy shall be under the direction of the President of the College, who shall be appointed by and responsible directly to the Board of Regents. In so far as applicable, the Rules and Regulations governing the Main University, heretofore set forth, shall apply also to the College of Mines and Metallurgy."* [18]

This new rule, promulgated to reflect the transformation of UTEP, redefined academic branch deans as component presidents, establishing a precedent for the nascent University of Texas System of the 1940s.

**Table 3: Institutional leaders of UTEP**

| Count, Austin method | Count, Harvard method | Dean or President | Note |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Steve H. Worrell | Dean, 1914-1922. Worrell took a leave of absence in December 1922. During that time, he was fired as dean by President Robert Vinson. |
| 2 | | John W. Kidd | Dean ad interim, 1922-1923. Originally appointed acting dean during Worrell's sabbatical. |
| | 2 | John W. Kidd | Dean, 1923-1927 |
| 3 | 3 | Charles Puckett | Dean, 1927-1931 |
| 4 | 4 | John G. Barry | First autonomous president of the College of Mines, 1931-1934 |
| 5 | | Charles Puckett | President ad interim, 1934-1935 |
| 6 | 5 | Dossie M. Wiggins | President, 1935-1948 |
| 7 | | Eugene M Thomas | President ad interim, 1948 |
| 8 | 6 | Wilson H. Elkins | President, 1949-1958 |
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| 10 | 7 | Dysart E. Holcomb | President, 1955-1958 |
| 11 | 8 | Joseph R. Smiley | President, 1958-1960 |
| 12 | | Anton H. Berkman | President ad interim, 1960 |
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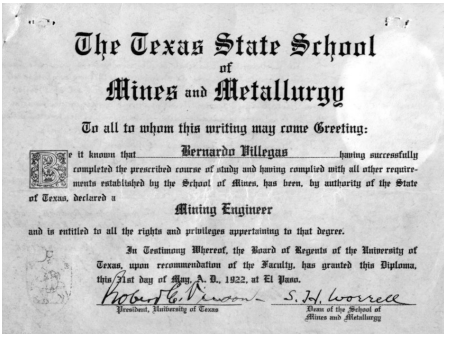
| 18 | | Diana S. Natalicio | President ad interim, 1987-1988 |
| | 13 | Diana S. Natalicio | President, 1988-2019 |
| 19 | 14 | Heather A. Wilson | President, 2019- |

Under the Austin method, Heather Wilson is the nineteenth institutional leader of UTEP, which had been held by sixteen individuals prior to her election. Under the Harvard method, she is the fourteenth institutional leader.

## Longest Tenure

Diana Natalicio's tenure of 31 years is remarkable on many levels. To begin, the average tenure of a research university president in the United States is 8.4 years. For Texas presidents, the figure is slightly lower, at 7.6 years. For the U.T. System presidents of academic components, the average is under five years.

During the fall of 1987, when UTEP last searched for a president, 71 candidates applied for or were nominated for the office. By January 1988, that number had been whittled down to five finalists. Among the candidates was Diana Natalicio, who was serving as president ad interim of the University. She was also a member of the search committee. In a process still well-known for its secrecy, Natalicio's election was not without controversy. When faculty learned that no Hispanics had been named among the finalists, they objected. Several Hispanic faulty members predicted an exodus from the university. Pickets and protests sprang up during the campus visits by candidates.[19] Issues surrounding the election of presidents were not isolated to just UTEP, even in the 1980s. The election of U.T. Austin president William H. Cunningham in 1985 also was roundly criticized for its secrecy and for the poor quality of the applicant pool. In addition, many felt that the well-connected Cunningham lacked the necessary academic qualifications.[20] After seven years as president, Cunningham would resign the presidency to become chancellor of the University of Texas System. While secrecy does not guarantee a transparent process, it also does not necessarily mean that it is a shield to slip through unqualified candidates.



The Texas State School
of
Mines and Metallurgy

To all to whom this writing may come Greeting:

Be it known that Bernardo Villegas having successfully completed the prescribed course of study and having complied with all other requirements established by the School of Mines, has been, by authority of the State of Texas, declared a

Mining Engineer

and is entitled to all the rights and privileges appertaining to that degree.

In Testimony Whereof, the Board of Regents of the University of Texas, upon recommendation of the Faculty, has granted this Diploma, this 31st day of May, A. D., 1922, at El Paso.

Robert L. Vinson
President, University of Texas

S. H. Worrell
Dean of the School of Mines and Metallurgy

*Figure 4. An early diploma of the School of Mines, 1922. President Vinson chastised Dean Worrell for not only using an unofficial name of the school but also for not placing the president's signature line to the right above the dean's, which was the practice of the University of Texas. Courtesy C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections, The University of Texas at El Paso.*

Natalicio's longevity at the helm is legendary. Her 31 years have made her the all-time, longest-serving female president of a public doctoral research university and four-year public university or college. She is currently the sixth all-time, longest-serving president of a public doctoral research university and the twentieth all-time, longest-serving doctoral research university president, public or private.

**Table 4: Presidential tenure, public doctoral research universities, all-time**

| | Name | Tenure | College | Location |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | James Blair | 50 years (1693–1743) | College of William and Mary | Williamsburg, VA |
| 2 | Russell Conwell | 38 years (1887-1925) | Temple University | Philadelphia, PA |
| 2 | James B. Angell | 38 years (1871–1909) | University of Michigan | Ann Arbor, MI |
| 4 | William Lowe Bryan | 35 years (1902–1937) | Indiana University | Bloomington, IN |
| 5 | Ray P. Authement Sr. | 34 years (1974-2008) | University of Louisiana at Lafayette | Lafayette, La |
| 6 | **Diana Natalicio** | **31 years (1988–2019)** | **University of Texas at El Paso** | **El Paso, TX** |
| 7 | Thomas D. Boyd | 30 years (1896-1926) | Louisiana State University | Baton Rouge, LA |
| 8 | Charles E. Young | 29 years (1968–1997) | University of California, Los Angeles | Los Angeles, CA |
| 9 | John A. Hannah | 28 years (1941–1969) | Michigan State College | East Lansing, MI |
| 9 | Ernest O. Holland | 28 years (1916-1944) | Washington State University | Pullman, WA |

After Natalicio, second place for longevity goes to Dossie Wiggins at thirteen years (1935-1948). Prior to his election as UTEP's ninth president (third autonomous president), Wiggins had been a perennial candidate for the office. Robert Holliday, a member of the Board of Regents from El Paso, wrote President Benedict in 1930: "Wiggins has returned from Yale with his Ph.D. and is teaching summer school at Simmons College. You might look him over."[21] Over the next five years, Holliday kept in contact with Wiggins, including linking him to a secret campaign to oust Barry in 1934 over his "stiff" academic policies, which affected the athletics program.[22] When Barry did resign, Wiggins initially refused the presidency. A year later, Wiggins left Hardin-Simmons

University (Abilene) to lead the College of Mines, replacing interim president Charles Puckett.

UTEP is also connected tangentially to another university longevity record. Harry Benedict, though he only served four years as president of the College of Mines, served as president of the University of Texas at Austin for ten years, making him the longest-serving president of that institution. The eponymous Benedict Halls on the UTEP and U.T. Austin campuses pay tribute to this former president.[23]

## Shortest Tenure

Joseph R. Smiley tenure as the fourteenth president of UTEP ended in 1960 after two years in office as he stepped down to serve as the seventeenth president of the University of Texas at Austin. In 1969, after returning to El Paso, Smiley became UTEP's eighteenth president.

When Smiley resigned as president in May 1960, Anton Helmer Berkman, dean of Arts and Sciences and chair of the Department of Biology, stepped in as president ad interim of UTEP. His caretaker presidency lasted two weeks, from August 1 to August 14, 1960, until the arrival of Joseph M. Ray.

## Conclusion

Counting the number of presidents or institutional leaders that have served UTEP is complicated, given the ambiguous legal circumstances under which the institution was founded in 1913.[24] Part of the issue was connected to the fact that the University of Texas had no plans to open a branch in El Paso and that the School of Mines was foisted on them by the Texas legislature. This "mistake" by the legislature, as the regent from El Paso William Burges called it, set into motion a series of legal maneuverings over the next two decades that set to define UTEP's place in Texas higher education. Two U.T. presidents, William Splawn and Harry Benedict, helped clarify this role by redefining the school's mission before handing over the reins to its first autonomous president, John Barry. Barry's commitment to excellence would inspire another president six decades later, as Diana Natalicio would later introduce a new model for research universities in the twenty-first century. Given UTEP's complicated legal history due to the nature of its founding in 1913, whether Heather Wilson is recognized publicly as the twenty-second, fifteenth, or eleventh president is something only UTEP itself can decide.

## Endnotes

1. William Burges to Mezes (telegram), March 27, 1913, University of Texas President's Office Records, 1884–1948, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, both University of Texas President's Office Records, 1907–1968 and 1884–1948 cited hereafter as "President's Office Records"; Mezes to William Burges, March 27, 1913, President's Office Records; William Burges to Mezes, May 7, 1914, President's Office Records.
2. An Act Creating a State School of Miners [Mines] and Metallurgy, Chap. 178 (The Laws of Texas, 1913-1914, vol. 16, 427-29) (passed March 26, 1913).
3. U.T. Board of Regents, Board Minutes, University of Texas System Board of Regents, https://www.utsystem.edu/board-of-regents/meetings/meetings-archive, 1914:347-48; cited hereafter as U.T. System Minutes.
4. Sidney Mezes to Steve Worrell, May 3, 1914, President's Office Records.
5. "Branch of Texas University to Teach Mining Engineering," *El Paso Herald,* August 29, 1914.
6. U.T. Board of Regents, "Rule 20201: Presidents," Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents, https://www.utsystem.edu/board-of-regents/rules/20201-presidents (accessed March 15, 2019).
7. Harvard Library, "Harvard Presidents and Inaugurations," Harvard University Archives, https://guides.library.harvard.edu/hua/harvardpresidentsandinaugurations (accessed March 15, 2019).
8. William and Mary, "History of the Office," President, https://www.wm.edu/about/administration/president/history/index.php; U.C. Berkeley, "Past Chancellors," Office of the Chancellor, https://chancellor.berkeley.edu/chancellors (accessed March 15, 2019). The counting of chancellors at U.C. Berkeley does not include those individuals who served as presidents before 1958, when the institution switched over to a president-chancellor system.
9. U.T. Austin, "Biographies, Past Presidents," The University of Texas at Austin, https://president.utexas.edu/past-presidents/biographies (accessed March 15, 2019).
10. U.T. System Minutes, 1915:434.
11. U.T. president Robert Vinson even chastised Worrell for printing diplomas that placed the dean's signature to the right of the president's, which was considered a breach of protocol. Vinson to Worrell, May 25, 1921, U.T. President's Office Records.
12. Splawn to Kidd, February 28, 1927, U.T. President's Office Records. Kidd promptly resigned as dean after completing the task.
13. Benedict to Robert Holliday, July 22, 1929, U.T. President's Office Records.
14. U.T. System Minutes, 1931:360.
15. John R. Thelin, *A History of American Higher Education,* 2nd ed. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011), 393.
16. Benedict to Robert Holliday, July 22, 1929, U.T. President's Office Records.
17. Barry to Benedict, July 21, 1931, U.T. President's Office Records.
18. U.T. Board of Regents, "Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents for the Government of the University of Texas," *The University of Texas Publication,* no. 4331 (August 15, 1943), 82. https://www.utsystem.edu/offices/board-regents/regents-rules-and-regulations/regents-rules-and-regulations-history.
19. "Faculty Protests Secrecy of Selection Process," January 19, 1988, *Prospector.*
20. Peter Elkind, "The Quest that Fizzled," *Texas Monthly,* May 1986.
21. Holliday to Benedict, August 2, 1930, U.T. President's Records.
22. "Campaign Begun to Place Wiggins at Head of Mines," *El Paso Herald Post,* May 17, 1934.
23. U.T. System Minutes, 1940:301-302; 1949:122.
24. See P. J. Vierra, "'Maybe it Will Turn Out Better than we had Expected': The School of Mines and the Legal Foundation of the University of Texas System," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 121, no. 4 (2018), 360-386. muse.jhu.edu/article/689214.

# Louise Seymour: El Paso's Farmer Lady

*By Joseph Longo*

Louise Seymour was a pioneer farmer, who was ahead of her time. She was one of a handful of female farmers in El Paso in the 1950s and she helped break ground for women in this long male-dominated field.

Seymour was born in 1900 in Evanson, Indiana, and moved to Canutillo, Texas, after WWII to join her brother, Bill. She was interested in the stories of her brother's journey and experiences in the American West that came in letters he sent to her. Bill had been stationed at Fort Bliss during WWII and stayed in the West after 1945, seeking to create a new life for himself. Seymour only planned to visit her brother for a vacation, but after driving through Texas and California, she decided not to return home.


*Figure 1. Louise Seymour in Front of Her Office in the Upper Valley.* El Paso Times *(May 18, 1975)*

Seymour and her brother established a 160-acre farm in Canutillo. The duo started in the poultry business, raising and selling chickens, but that business venture eventually folded and left them broke. Seymour worked for the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine for the U.S. Agriculture Department to help support the farm and to help her brother. She and her brother eventually started raising cotton on their farm, and she ended up working in the office of a cotton gin her brother had invested into.[1]

In 1951, the Seymours started breeding and raising Aberdeen Angus cattle. Seymour was one of the few, and one of the earliest, breeders of Aberdeen Angus in El Paso county. The Seymour's original cattle business started with 44 cows, 23 calves and one registered bull. After Bill's death in 1954 Louis took over sole operation of the farm. She became a co-owner of the Lone Star Gin and served on the board and as secretary of the Borderland Co-Op Association.[2]

Seymour served as chair of the El Paso County Programming Board in the 1970s and was one of eight people appointed by U.S. Senator John Towers to the National Cotton Advisory Committee of the U.S. in 1971. She was also one of the few women to serve on the elected El Paso County Water Improvement Board in 1965. She also served as chair of the El Paso County Building Committee.

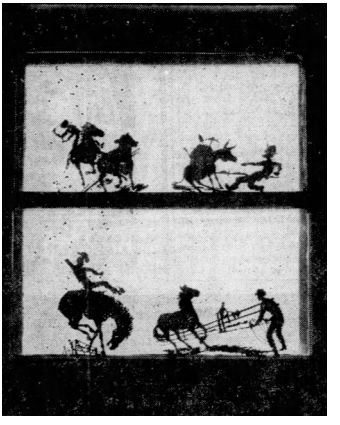


*Figure 2. Seymour's Office Window.* El Paso Times *(May 18, 1975)*

Seymour was elected as one of the first members of the Canutillo School Board in 1959, serving as vice-president. She served on the board until 1966. She was also active in the Aladdin Woman's Club, the Crescent Club, the Thursday Book Club and the El Paso Color Camera Club. She also helped organized the Canutillo Volunteer Fire Department. She never married or had children. She died in 1982.

After her death, the Louise and H.L Seymour Foundations was created to provide grants and financial support for organizations that help homeless children, physically and mentally disabled children, and the elderly. This was fitting because of Louise's lifelong involvement with organizations working with children with physical disabilities.

## Endnotes

1. Dick Alwan, "Woman Farmer Proves Angus Cattle Prejudice Unfounded. *El Paso Herald Post* (January 21, 1951).

2. Cynthia Neu, "Legal Secretary Cottons To Farming," *El Paso Times* (Mary 18, 1961).

# El Paso's First Mounted Patrol Officers and First Horse-Drawn Patrol Wagon

***By Lt. Ed Agan***

*"He works well in harness, so said everyone who witnesses policeman Stephens trundling a prisoner to the calaboose in a wheelbarrow today. The city wagon is quite convenient in cases where a prisoner is too drunk to walk. There is no expense of keeping a horse, as the policeman can act as both horse and driver."*

The El Paso Daily Times *(August 22, 1884)*

El Paso policemen were still on foot in 1884 but as this tongue-in-cheek newspaper article indicates there was a movement underway to modernize the department's transportation system by replacing the wheelbarrow with a patrol wagon. It was, however, not to happen for another 30 years. ... But wait: we're getting the proverbial cart (or in this case, wagon) before the horse.

The town was continuing to grow in those early years and in September of 1890, Chief T.C. Lyons placed Officer T. C. Lutterich on duty as a mounted policeman. He explained to the El Paso City Council, as he argued for more money for officer Lutterich, that the citizens in the outlying areas of the town were demanding and deserved better service and quicker response from the police. The only way to accomplish this was to put officers on horseback. The mayor and council approved a $40 per month pay increase for officer Lutterich to compensate him for using, feeding, and maintaining his horse.

Mounted officers increased the efficiency of the police, but horseback was not the best way to bring in a prisoner. For instance, George Herold, an ex-Texas Ranger, was hired in 1891 as one of the department's mounted officers. George could not read or write but he could shoot straight and ride like the wind—and he owned a fast and healthy horse. Unfortunately, Herold attracted some unwanted front-page newspaper coverage in 1894 when it was reported that he had a unique way of bringing his prisoners to the station house, namely by placing one end of a rope around the prisoner's neck and tying the other end to his saddle horn.

This negative publicity brought the issue of the city needing a patrol wagon to transport prisoners back to the forefront. As the city grew, so did the number of mounted officers and by 1901 there was a total of 11 mounted policemen patrolling the streets of El Paso, but no efficient way of transporting prisoners.

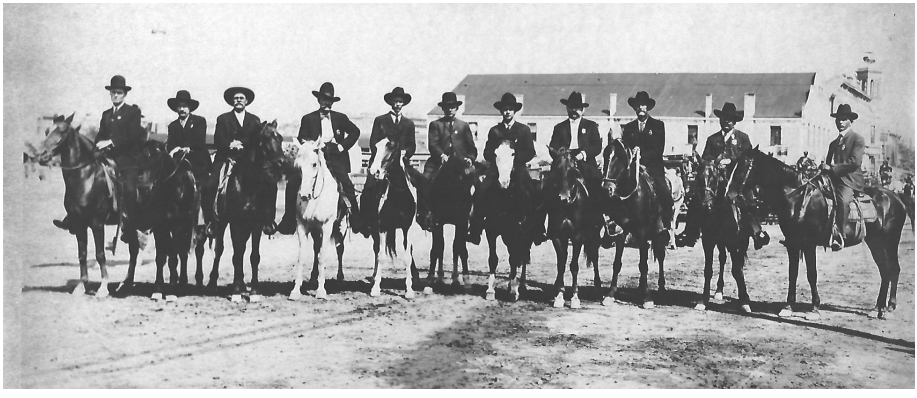


*Figure 1. El Paso Police Mounted Patrol. Early mounted El Paso officers posed for this photo in the 300 block of So. Santa Fe St. around 1901. The building with the bell tower in the background is the newly built City Hall that housed the Police & Volunteer Fire Departments on the ground level and city offices and the corporation court on the second floor. Officers in the photo who can be identified are, left to right: #3 George Herold, # 7 W. D. Greet, #8 Jim Dwyer, #9. Will TenEyck and #11 Joe Spivey. Photo courtesy of the author.*

The patrol wagon issue got additional publicity and backing in the *El Paso Herald*'s issue of March 3, 1905. The paper reported that a grocery wagon had been confiscated by police officers in order to haul a prisoner to jail and that the owner of the wagon was less than pleased. The paper suggested that it was time for city leaders to consider anew the possibility of obtaining a patrol wagon.

Nothing came of this initially. Instead, city council authorized police department to hire "hacks" (horse and buggy cabs) for 50 cents per ride whenever an officer needed to be somewhere in a hurry or to bring a drunk to the jail house. According to the city council minutes of September 1907, the total bill for August alone was $41.50, which not only suggested that there was sufficient demand for an official patrol wagon but also that it might be less expensive in the long run. The hack owners, who had to clean up the vomit after they hauled some of the drunks, were adamantly in favor of the police owning their own wagon.

Finally, in January 1908, city leaders approved the expenditure of $100 to acquire a used "Isolation Hospital" ambulance wagon to be converted for police use. An Isolation Hospital was a place where communities quarantined patients with communicable diseases such as smallpox, which was incidentally a serious community health problem in many towns at that time.

On February 13, 1908 city council abandoned its plans to purchase a used ambulance and accepted instead a bid from the El Paso Vehicle Works for a newly manufactured police patrol wagon (also known as

*Figure 2. The Police Patrol Wagon. The wagon pictured in this photo belonged to the Kansas City Police Department. It was delivered to Kansas City about two weeks before El Paso's wagon arrived in El Paso. Both wagons were manufactured by the same company and were reportedly identical. They were equipped with leather and roll-down side panels. They also had a rear step-type running board with handrails to allow additional officers to ride along and guard prisoners in transit. The author was unable to locate any extant photos of El Paso's first paddy wagon. Photo courtesy of the author.*

a paddy wagon). The bid price was $389, including the freight charges from the factory in Kansas City to El Paso.

When the new patrol wagon finally arrived, it was kept at police headquarters and orders were given that it was to be used only for picking up prisoners or abandoned or stolen property and not for patrolling or any personal business. The fire department retired two of its older fire horses and gave them to the police department to pull the new wagon. The Fire and Police Departments were headquartered in the same building at that time, located at the Southwest corner of Overland and Stanton streets. They kept the horses in a corral next to the building, so the newly assigned police horses remained in their old quarters.

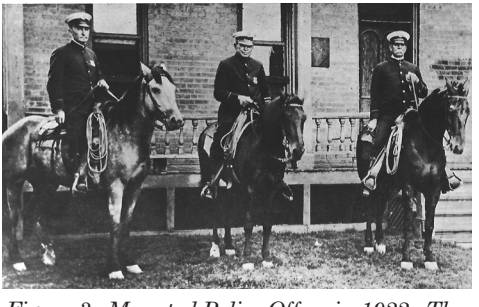


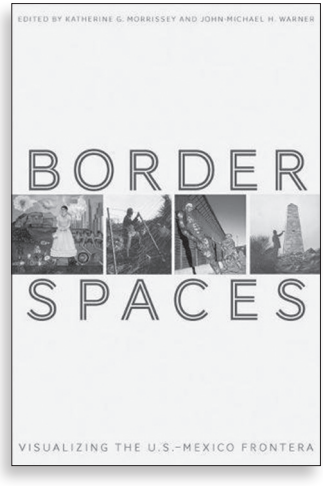
*Figure 3. Mounted Police Offers in 1922. The officers from left to right are Harry Cherry, R. E. Doltz, and Louis Oden. Photo courtesy of the author.*

## Book Review

# Border Spaces: Visualizing the U.S.-Mexico Frontera

*Edited by Katherine G. Morrissey and John-Michael H. Warner, University of Arizona Press, 2018.*

In *Border Spaces: Visualizing the U.S.-Mexico Frontera*, borderlands scholars, including Samuel Truett, Maribel Alvarez, and Mary E. Mendoza, examine historical and cultural representations of the U.S.-Mexico border during the mid-nineteenth, twentieth, and early twenty-first centuries in a series of well-written and well-researched essays. *Border Spaces* is comprised of two complementary sections: the first part focuses on the built environment and environmental history, while the second half explores and analyzes art histories of the borderlands. Edited by Katherine G. Morrissey, an associate professor of history at the University of Arizona, and John-Michael H. Warner, an assistant professor of contemporary art history at Kent State University, *Border Spaces* is significant for its interdisciplinary approach (border studies, environmental history, and art history) to studying the U.S.-Mexico border. It also offers important insights into how depictions of the border, namely through art, architecture, and the press, have changed over time and how border policies, as well as how biology and ecology have influenced racial discourse, space, sense of place, and concepts of modernity.




*—Reviewed by Abbie Weiser*
*Assistant Head of Special Collections, UTEP Library*

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