Counting Down to UTEP’s Centennial Year

On September 23, 2013 UTEP will kickoff of a 100-day countdown to our Centennial year. The countdown will begin with the grand opening of a new Welcome Center in the Centennial Museum and end with Miners around the world ringing in the New Year with orange New Year’s Eve parties.

We will kick off the countdown with a party on the lawn in front of the Centennial Museum. The party will include live music and free food and is styled after a traditional “Bean Feed.” Bean feeds have been part of UTEP’s Miner culture since the earliest years as a mining school. In the olden days, the menu of beans, hot dogs, potato chips, Coca-Cola, donuts, and coffee remained standard—much the way that “barbecues” have a standard menu today. By the 1940s, bean feeds had become part of most campus activities, from club meetings to dances to Homecoming and especially after whitewashing the M. This year we are bringing back the bean feed to help celebrate the Centennial. Guests will also witness a very BIG surprise.

El Paso Museum of History Raises Money to Celebrate UTEP

The Wall of Giants Exhibition at the El Paso Museum of History will feature UTEP’s history during our Centennial Celebration in 2014. It will be the fifth Wall of Giants exhibit. In preparation for the exhibit, “Pete’s Eats” was held on Aug. 10 in the museum to raise funds for the Wall of Giants. Despite threatening weather, dozens attended the tailgate party in which 11 local restaurants served up samples of their menus. UTEP faculty, alumni and community members all gathered to celebrate. In true Miner spirit, the UTEP cheerleaders and Golddiggers performed.

The Wall of Giants exhibits honor heroes from El Paso’s history. The first honorees were Coach Don Haskins and members of the 1966 NCAA National Championship basketball team. The next exhibit featured Farah Manufacturing, which was founded by first-generation immigrants and served as a bridge to opportunity for tens of thousands of men and women over the years. The third exhibit featured the 47 men and one woman who have served as Mayor of El Paso. The 2013 exhibit honors the Mission Valley. The Wall of Giants exhibit featuring UTEP’s history will open at the Museum of History at 510 N. Santa Fe Street on Feb. 22.
Campus Transformation

Much of the campus has been under construction this summer. A new roundabout on Schuster Avenue at the intersection of Hawthorne Street opened for the first day of classes on Aug. 26. The Texas Department of Transportation began work in April and the entire project will include a new “Spur 1966” that will connect Schuster to Paisano Drive via a bridge over Interstate 10. The new ramp is named in honor of UTEP’s historic men’s NCAA Basketball Championship.

Meanwhile in the heart of campus, construction crews are hard at work on Centennial Plaza. Since May, vehicles have not been able to drive through campus on University Avenue. Centennial Plaza will bring a pedestrian-friendly public space in the heart of campus. Groves of native mesquite trees will shade a paseo for strolling, socializing, or studying. The plaza will also showcase a beautiful, hand-carved and hand-painted lhakhang, a gift from the Kingdom of Bhutan to the people of the United States and entrusted to the University’s care. The plaza will be completed in the fall of 2014 in time to host a variety of Centennial events.

UTEP Publications Going Digital

Several historic publications are being reproduced online. Catalogs and bulletins from the Registrar’s Office have been available online for several years, but in preparation for the Centennial the University Library’s Special Collections Department is making available all back issues of The Prospector, the Flowsheets, Nova (precursor to UTEP Magazine), El Burro (a student magazine), and many other books and periodicals.

“Many issues of The Prospector have been available through a database for several years, but we arranged a title-specific arrangement with them for the Centennial with its own website,” said Claudia Rivers, director of Special Collections. In order to view these treasures of UTEP history for yourself, visit http://theprospector.newspaperarchive.com/ and http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/utep_hist/.

Contact the Centennial Office

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