

1-25-2011

# The Prospector, January 25, 2011

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## Campus

# UTEP's expansion projects mostly on schedule

BY ANOUSHKA VALODYA

The Prospector

As another semester begins at UTEP, major construction projects are still underway through the campus and surrounding areas.

One finished project students can take advantage of right away is the Glory Road multi-tiered parking structure, a shared facility between UTEP and the city of El Paso. Students, faculty and staff will be able to occupy about half of the 400-plus parking spaces from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

According to Gregory McNicol, associate vice president of business affairs, at least 120 student parking permits have already been issued, leaving less than 100 permits left.

Another major construction project near completion is the Swimming and Fitness Center expansion, due to open this spring semester. Previously, the completion date was slated for March, but McNicol said that due to is-

sues between the general contractor VCC and subcontractor A&J the opening will be delayed.

"Claims are going on between them, but the university is not directly involved. There's a lot of discussion to replace the subcontractor that's responsible for mechanical, electrical and plumbing," McNicol said. "We're still trying to get the new fitness center open this spring, but I don't have an exact date."

McNicol said that the only cost of the delay would be the lost of time – not money.

see **CONSTRUCTION** on page 4



JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector

**Development continues on** the Chemistry and Computer Science building. Gregory McNicol says furniture and equipment will be brought in after the scheduled completion date in November.

## Technology

# Research possibilities endless with SPECtacular facility



GREG CASTILLO / The Prospector

**Jorge Mireles, senior** mechanical engineering major works at the current W.M. Keck Center, where the future SPEC Center will be located.

BY ERIN COULEHAN

The Prospector

Imagine making a trip to your local automotive dealership, walking into the front office, consulting a sales representative and designing the car of your dreams. After a few short minutes, you press print and within hours, drive off the lot in the car you designed.

Sounds like an episode of the "Jetsons," but with technological innovations in the field of additive manufacturing, UTEP will soon be able to develop products capable of such advanced fabrication technologies.

The Structural and Printed Emerging Technologies (SPEC) Center in the College of Engineering is currently in development due to a \$9 million grant. Governor Rick Perry recently announced that the state will invest \$3 million through the Texas Emerging Technology Fund. In addition to the \$3 million that industry partner Lockheed Martin Aeronautics will contribute, the University of Texas System has pledged and additional \$3 million. The state-of-the-art facility, dedicated to advanced printed electronics research, will open in March 2011.

"Texas continues to be a leader in jobs, innovation and technological development, thanks in part to investments through the Texas Emerging Tech-

nology Fund that have helped attract top researchers to our universities and cutting-edge companies to the state," said Perry in a press release.

Additive manufacturing, the process of making a part, or product, by adding layers of material in efficient ways, resulting in reduced waste and cost, is already being utilized at the W.M. Keck Center for 3D Innovation, located at the College of Engineering. The addition of the SPEC Center will take the existing technologies into the future by focusing on printed electronics with the capacity to produce devices limited only to the researcher's imagination – and will also create a number of jobs for UTEP students.

"It will provide experience with software programs and machinery that will be necessary to compete in the workforce," said Jose Luis Gutierrez, senior industrial engineering major.

Co-director of the SPEC Center and current director of the Keck Center, Ryan Wicker, said the vision of the new research facility is to advance technology and fabricate virtually anything from the ground up by focusing on 3-D electronics.

This grant is the starting point for future grants that will complement the work that the Keck Center has been doing in recent years, by developing 3-D computer models to build products layer by layer, and then print off virtually any product including

see **SPEC** on page 3

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Column

# Warning: driving can cause immediate death and horrible injuries

BY MATTHEW MUNDEN

The Prospector



So I have this friend who is terrified of being in airplanes.

The tiniest amount of turbulence causes him to freak out, hyperventilate and pray frantically. I don't have that problem in airplanes, but I do in automobiles.

I have the fear that I will die in a car accident... actually it is not just a fear. It is basically the knowledge of foresight, knowing that because of some person rushing to a class or date, a drunk driver, or someone that refuses to check their blind spot, I'll be in a terrible accident.

Possibly, this irrational fear comes from the nightly news running stories of teenagers dying in collisions or possibly it comes from the whole thing that I do not feel like I'm in control of my future while I'm in my car. In a plane, I paid a couple hundred dollars to ride in it. The choice to be in it was my own. I had other choices when I was deciding to get to where I was going, but I chose to travel in an airplane. So if it crashes, well, I guess I can blame myself for my demise.

Sure, to get to school, I have mass transportation options to get to where I need to go. But, I don't know if you happen to ride buses in El Paso, but they suck. Always crowded, sort of smelly, being assaulted by a rude woman looking for an empty Wal-Mart bag, I rode on the bus for my first year here and it was not an experience I want to have again. More power to those brave students that do. Plus, the bus schedule is erratic and my schedule is one that variables cannot be part of.

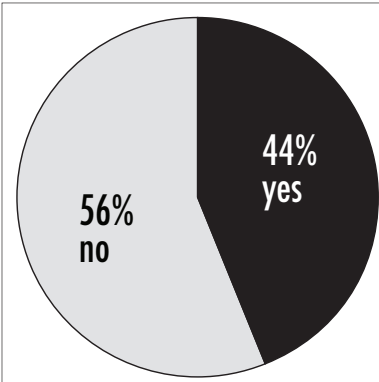
So I guess I might be trying to shirk the blame for my car-related downfall. I may have other choices to be safer, but possibly the worst part of driving is the fact that I could not be at all to blame for it. If someone crashes into me when I was following the rules, going the speed limit, buckled up, hands at two and ten, and I am terminated, that is, well, to avoid cursing, I'll just say it really sucks.

As I am saying this, I'm fully aware of the ironic nature of this editorial. I could be in a crash after I get the okay on this editorial. Possibly the day after... maybe next month or year or etc. Maybe someone reading this will be the other driver. I don't know. That lack of knowledge on what is going to happen terrifies me.

In a way, I feel like Obi-Wan Kenobi in "Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones." You know, part of the prequels that everyone loves to hate, even though they are not that bad (okay... I'll give you "Phantom Menace," but that had an awesome lightsaber battle). In that movie, after Anakin drove his speeder chasing an assassin through Coruscant, Obi-Wan turns to Anakin and says, "You're going to be the death of me."

Ironic, right? If only Obi-Wan knew how right he was.

Matthew Munden can be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).



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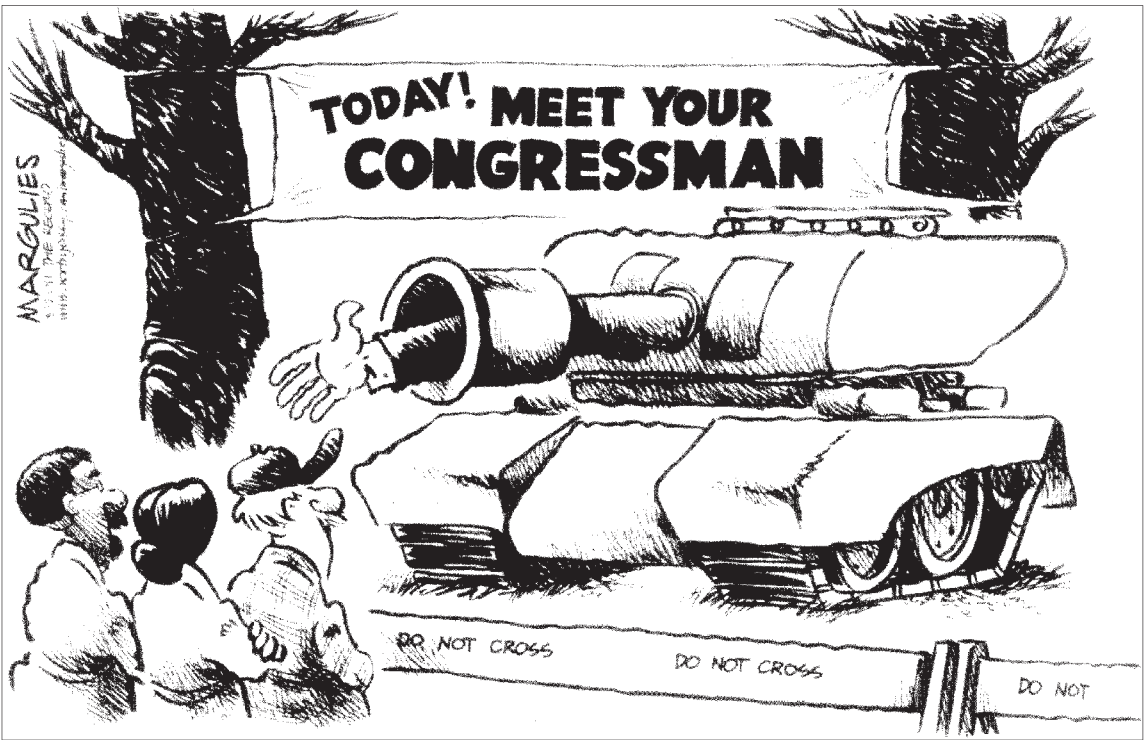
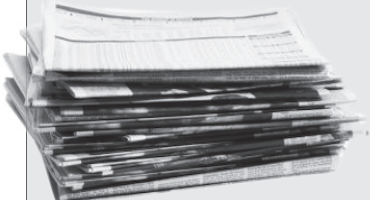
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National

# AMBER Alert teams with Facebook to help find missing children

BY DAVID ACOSTA

Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

WASHINGTON - The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is expanding its AMBER Alert program to Facebook. Beginning Wednesday, Facebook's 500 million users are able to sign up to receive AMBER Alert bulletins in the website's news feed feature.

The program's expansion was announced at a press conference held by the center, Facebook and the U.S. Department of Justice, a day before the 15th anniversary of the abduction and murder of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman in Arlington, Texas.

Chris Sonderby, Facebook's lead security and investigation counsel, said people in every state can receive AMBER Alerts the moment they are issued and can send them to others in their networks.

"I think that is a dramatic enhancement of the distribution system that will increase the scope and reach of these lifesaving alerts," Sonderby said.

The center and Facebook have created 53 new AMBER Alert pages, one for each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. A national AMBER Alert page will provide national news about the program and direct people to their state's AMBER Alert page.

Many state law enforcement agencies already share AMBER Alert information on their Facebook pages. Officials hope the new system will spread information more rapidly and lead to more children being returned safely.

"Average people doing average things but paying attention are saving lives and reuniting families," Ernie Allen, the center's president, said.

"With more than 500 million Facebook users, this bold initiative will help us mobilize many more people and bring more missing children home."

The first AMBER system was created in the Dallas-Fort Worth area as a response to Amber Hagerman's abduction. In 2003, Congress passed the PROTECT Act, which created the national AMBER system coordinated by the Department of Justice. AMBER Alerts are primarily issued using the Emergency Alert System that is also used for weather and other public emergencies.

To distribute the alerts faster and to a wider population, the Department of Justice has designated the missing children's center as the coordinator of secondary alerts, such as those to electronic billboards and cell phones. The center has also partnered with Internet service providers

see ALERT on page 6

SPEC from page 1

unique 3-D structures with complicated geometries, electronics and optics.

Research professor Kenneth H. Church will be directing the SPEC Center and lending his entrepreneurial expertise to creating job opportunities for students, based on the technological skills that are intuitive to today's generations. Church's involvement with the 3-D Monolithix company, will prove instrumental in ensuring that the knowledge students gain while studying and researching at the SPEC Center will prove marketable in the work force. The company will act as a spin-off company to develop products for the defense industry.

"The next generation of technological opportunity exists with students who are driven off of a Windows-based skill set," said Church, who is also a mechanical engineering professor.

Whereas most universities generate solely technology, UTEP and 3D Monolithix will be generating both technology and products of value for the U.S. Air Force, Navy and companies such as Lockheed Martin Aeronautics - the limits of which extend beyond the globe. By producing products of value, such as microsatellites for institutions such as NASA, the intrinsic electronic value of virtually any structure can be utilized through advanced structural and printed technologies.

"Anything can be electronically functional, and by mixing materials on a micron scale, it will be possible to transform structural products such as an iPhone into a pair of sunglasses, or a microsatellite, half the size of a standard refrigerator, reduced to the size of a grapefruit - and still be fully functional," Church said.

SPEC researchers hope that by manipulating how electronics are designed and built, they will be able to transform products from traditional 2-D circuit boards to complicated 3-D structures that maximize the intended function of the product.

"Anything can be electronically functional by mixing materials on a micron scale," Church said.

Erin Coulehan may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

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JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector

**Two crew members** work on the skeletal structure of the new pedestrian overpass that will connect parking lot S-3 on Sun Bowl Drive, to the College of Health Sciences and Nursing building and the University Library.

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CONSTRUCTION from page 1

“Wow” was the first thing our recreational sports specialists said when they did a walk-through (of the new fitness center),” said Hector Muñoz, director of Recreational Sports. “You get this big impact on how huge it is. It’s amazing.”

Muñoz said the walls and some room dividers are in place, but the floors and windows are pending completion.

There was a two-month construction delay due to rock excavation. Muñoz said the new facility was originally slated to open in December.

“There were unforeseen conditions in chipping away at the rock, which proved to be hard and difficult,” McNicol said.

McNicol added that this delay did not create extra cost.

Once the new facility, which will have a rock-climbing wall and indoor running track, is ready for use, its neighboring swimming facility will be closed for renovation as the pools will be re-plastered and the locker rooms will undergo major upgrades.

Muñoz said that the renovation of the old fitness center is scheduled to finish around the beginning of the fall semester. During this time, swimmers will not be able to use the facility’s pools.

Starting this semester, students will see a \$50 hike in their recreation fee to \$70 because of the swimming and fitness center expansion.

Deserae McCarthy, junior criminal justice major, said that she has been waiting for the new fitness center to open this semester.

“My friend and I are planning to work out together. That would kind of suck if the center doesn’t open this semester, because I might get deployed after spring,” McCarthy said. “Seventy dollars is a lot of money, but I know it will benefit students in the long run.”

Alejandro Prado, sophomore finance major, said that he doesn’t have a problem with the price increase.

“I don’t think \$70 is that much,” Prado said. “You can pay \$10 per month at Planet Fitness, but it’s crowded and it doesn’t have the same quality. But we’ll have cutting-edge equipment, so I think it’s worth it. Maybe those who don’t use the facility will not be happy with the price increase.”

On the west side of campus, it’s possible that the pedestrian bridge project will open before the new fitness center. University officials hope the bridge will help students save time as they walk across the campus since the bridge will connect parking lot S-3 on Sun Bowl Drive, to the College of Health Sciences and Nursing building and the University Library. McNicol said the construction is on schedule to be finished at the beginning of April.

The two major construction projects involving classroom settings are on schedule for completion – the Colleges of Health Sciences and Nursing and the Chemistry and Computer Science buildings.

McNicol said they will soon be loading furniture and equipment into the health sciences building and that faculty and staff can expect to move in between the spring and first summer sessions. Classes are planned to be held in the facility for the first summer session.

After the scheduled November 2011 completion date for the Chemistry and Computer Science building, furniture and equipment will be brought in, and classes may start next spring, McNicol said.

Regarding UTEP’s upcoming multi-tiered parking garage on Schuster Avenue, students can plan to park there a year from now. Since November, the area has been closed off. Paul Stresow, director of Parking and Transportation Services,

said there was a one-month delay in starting the project because of electrical issues.

“We had contractual issues with the El Paso Electric Company, which owns part of the parking lot,” Stresow said.

Another project that’s due to be finished in a year is the I-10 Schuster Project, otherwise known as the New Access Road. It’s designed to be parallel to the I-10 freeway, going west-bound and allowing access to UTEP and the freeway easier.

Deputy District Engineer of TX-DoT Raimundo Dovalina said this project, which started earlier this month, should be finished within 12 to 14 months.

The goal behind this project is to reduce traffic congestion, especially at the Schuster freeway exit, McNicol said.

“I’ve been here for 10 years and these last 10 years are the biggest growth spurts this campus has seen,” McNicol said. “These are exciting times at UTEP. We’re busily trying to move this campus toward a tier-one university, doing everything we can and lots of improvements have been made.”

McNicol said that depending on governmental assistance, a new research building may be the next major project.

Guillermo Vargas, mechanical engineering junior, said he approved of the construction in spite of the inconveniences.

“I could see that the university is putting money to good use and for the benefit of students. I applaud the expansion, and I’m especially looking forward to the indoor running track of the fitness center,” Vargas said.

Anoushka Valodya may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

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Academic

# UTEP, Texas Tech commit to collaboration



DIANA AMARO / The Prospector

**Texas Tech University** Health Sciences Center President Tedd L. Mitchell (left), UTEP President Diana Natalicio (middle), and University of Texas System Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa (right), sign the UTEP-Texas Tech Collaboration Agreement Jan. 11 at the Geological Sciences Building.

**BY CELIA AGUILAR**  
The Prospector

Texas Tech University Health Sciences and UTEP took a leap forward in providing a better quality of life for the border region by joining forces in health science education.

“Today’s affirmation of our shared commitment to biomedical and health sciences education, research, and community service establishes a set of principles and prophecies that will guide our efforts,” UTEP President Diana Natalicio said.

Natalicio, TTUHSC President Tedd L. Mitchell, UT System Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa, Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance and UT System Board

of Regents Vice Chairman Paul L. Foster were all present Jan. 11 at the signing of the agreement.

The contract included the promise to maximize resources and optimize efficiency in reaching shared goals by working together to serve the needs of the El Paso community. It incorporated the guarantee to meet regularly, share strategies, explore opportunities for collaborations and pursue resolutions to barriers.

“It’s going to open up many new opportunities for students to engage in research that goes from the bench to the bedside, so we can translate lab research into clinical studies,” Natalicio said. “There is a huge demand for health professionals and we ought to meet that by working together.”

While competition between institutions can easily become an issue, this agreement was a pledge to quell any disagreements and to work in unison to create opportunities for the El Paso area, Mitchell said.

“We’re not adversaries and in the areas where we can work together, we need to,” Mitchell said.

This is not the first agreement UTEP and Texas Tech have signed. In 1998, both institutions agreed to collaborate on building a joint medical-health research institute in El Paso known as the Border Health Institute.

Officials from Texas Tech felt that UTEP reneged on the agreement, which spurred the adoption of several resolutions in 2000 by the county of El Paso, the city of El Paso, EPCC, EPISD, LULAC and several other organizations. The resolutions demanded the signed commitment of the UT system Board of Regents and the respective chancellors to move forward with the venture.

Since then, progress has been made to solidify a working relationship between the two institutions and steps have been taken to realize the Border Health Institute. According to Natalicio, this latest agreement was unrelated to the Border Health Institute.

“The agreement signed last week recognizes the major changes that have occurred at UTEP and Texas Tech University Health Sciences over the past several years, which have enabled academic program and research collaborations that would not have been at all possible in 1998,” Natalicio said. “Our relationship has been very positive but not many peo-

ple in the community seem to know or understand it.”

Amber Coltrane, occupational therapy graduate student, feels that this agreement will be good for the university, but wishes UTEP would get the students more involved when it comes to agreements that will affect students. Coltrane also said that she wished UTEP would expand their view on health care to go beyond just border issues.

“I don’t know much about it. I would like to see UTEP getting students more involved because we knew nothing about it (the agreement),” Coltrane said. “UTEP public health deals a lot with border land issues, but not other issues. I would like to see an athletic training program. Since UTEP doesn’t have it, you have to go to NMSU.”

Celia Aguilar may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

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Question of the week

# How has the construction around UTEP affected your commute?

Photos by Daniel Rosas, Esteban Marquez, Justin Stene, Diego Bedolla and Greg Castillo



**ALEX GONZALEZ**  
senior mechanical engineering major  
“It has little effect on me, I know how to get around campus in different ways so if one place is blocked then I know another way around.”



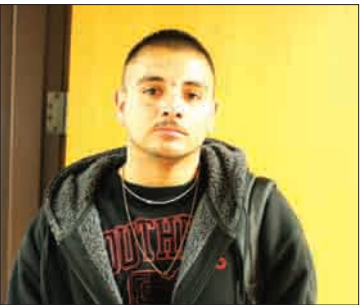
**JORGE VELAZQUEZ**  
senior mechanical engineering major  
“It has affected me by taking away my parking spot due to construction over S-2 parking lot.”



**MARIA CANDELARIO**  
sophomore business major  
“The construction is uncomfortable; I have to go around the Biology building.”



**GUY DERAGISCH**  
freshman pre-engineering major  
“Honestly I get here so early it doesn't affect me, but getting out of here is a pain.”



**BENJAMIN MORALES**  
sophomore criminal justice major  
“The construction on campus hasn't really affected me just the construction on Schuster exiting the freeway.”

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**YVETTE M. GARCIA**  
junior microbiology major  
“Some of the construction here at school has affected my routes and shortcuts, but overall I cannot wait till I graduate and in few years see the school finished.”



**ISABEL TOVAR**  
sophomore american literature major  
“It doesn't really bother me, commuting around campus isn't so bad.”



**EDGAR ORTIZ**  
sophomore psychology major  
“It really hasn't affected me; going to the gym is a hassle though.”

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Spring 2012 – Aug. 1

### ALERT from page 3

and wireless phone services to issue the bulletins.

“A major factor in this success has always been the use of secondary distribution networks,” said Laurie Robinson, assistant attorney general for the Office of Justice Programs and the National AMBER Alert coordinator.

“From wireless providers to trucking companies, AMBER Alert really depends on partnerships with public and private entities to get the word out when a child goes missing.”

David Acosta, UTEP print media major, is an intern at the Scripps Howard Foundation's Semester in Washington program. He may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

## Career Connections

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# entertainment

January 25, 2011

editor

Matthew Munden, 747-7442

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## Nightlife

# Participation not required, laugh inevitable

BY AUDREY RUSSELL

The Prospector

Comedians, class clowns and jokers can find an eager audience and open mic competitions hosted by The Sun City Comedy Club every third Wednesday of the month at Mavericks Bar & Grill.

Local comedians as well as audience members each get their golden opportunity for fame during these open mic contests. Monetary prizes ranging from \$50 to \$100 are awarded to the funniest jokes.

"It's open to whoever is interested and is great for building public speaking skills," said Jose Saad, business and main marketing manager of the Sun City Comedy Club. "It definitely lets people ease up in front of crowds."

Different comedians travel with the company to keep the line up fresh every month, making it difficult for audience members to hear the same joke twice.

The Sun City Comedy Club travels and performs in various venues around El Paso, as well as to other cities like Las Cruces, Deming and Brownwood. The Sun City Comedy Club has been in business for nearly two years and its managers are eager to get more and more people participating in events like open mic night.

see COMEDY on page 8



AUDREY RUSSELL / The Prospector

**Comedians take part** in Sun City Comedy Club's open mic improv every third Wednesday of the month at Mavericks Bar & Grill.

## New Releases

# To the bloody end, final "Saw" released

BY JAZMIN SALINAS

The Prospector

**"Saw: The Final Chapter"**  
DVD/Blu-Ray  
MSRP: \$34.99



Can it really be the final chapter? If it makes more money probably not, but for now all the "Saw" movie fans (if they exist) have to mourn the

six part series as it comes to a close with its last and final bloody ending with a twist that has the honor of being the most inconceivable event in this ridiculous series.

**"Red"**  
DVD/Blu-Ray  
MSRP: \$34.99

For a movie that was so loosely based on the comic it was named after (they



see RELEASES on page 8

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## SUN CITY COMEDY TRAVELING COMEDY CLUB

- 9:30-11:00 p.m. Jan. 26 Thirsty's Bar - 1709 Saul Klienfeld
- 8:30-11:00 p.m. Jan. 27 Percolator - 217 N Stanton
- 8:30-11:00 p.m. Jan 29 Maki Sushi Bar - 11680 Pebble Hills
- 9:00-11:00 p.m. Jan 30 House of Rock - 8838 Viscount

## SUN CITY OPEN MIC CONTEST

9:30-11:30 p.m. Feb. 16  
Maverick Bar and Grill - 6999 Montana

### COMEDY from page 7

"Open mic nights are always pretty interesting," Saad said. "I would definitely recommend that the college-goers check it out. There are tons of prizes."

Selected scouts pick their favorite sets of the night and award anything from tickets to see other comedians in El Paso to gift cards and door prizes.

According to Jesus Navarette, junior biology major, the comedy club is a good hangout for college students and it's a way to relieve a long week of homework and tests.

"Experiencing a comedian live is like seeing a band. You get to see them live and in action. Being an audience for a comedian is a very engaging experience, because some of the acts draw from the crowd," Navarette said. "Sitting in the front row is truly an awesome experience. It's like begging the comedian to point you out."

If you want the most out a comedian act the front row is the prime choice. It's always a good idea to come prepared to laugh at yourself as well as with others. Whether you come prepared for a few minutes of glory or not, the comedy club can lift some weight off your shoulders.

"Going to a comedy act is an interesting experience, one of my favorites for sure," Navarette said.

The comedy club doesn't only hold open mic nights, but hosts a variety of entertaining performances.

"Once I saw a hypnotist some years ago. A friend of mine ended up running around the club in a push up bra," said Maegan Ramirez, senior political science major. "Oh yeah, I'd go again, especially if they still let UTEP students in for free on Wednesdays."

More information on open mic nights and other events that the Sun City Comedy Club offers can be found at [www.suncitycomedy.com](http://www.suncitycomedy.com).

Audrey Russell can be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

### RELEASES from page 7

couldn't even keep the main characters' name the same), good acting by Bruce Willis, John Malkovich and Helen Mirren and some standard PG-13 action, compensate for the inaccuracies, making "Red" a surprisingly decent action movie.

**"Secretariat"**  
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**"The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest"**

DVD/Blu-Ray  
MSRP: \$34.95

Raking in \$5.1 million in the box office, it is the last installment in the successful "Millennium" trilogy. Lisbeth Salander (Noomi Rapace) continues to be an awesome character. Too bad the movie is not quite as awesome.

**"Dead Space 2"**  
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MSRP: \$59.99

Isaac Clarke is back again and ready to face the Necromorphs with a new cache of tools. This psychologically thrilling game will leave gamers on the edge of their seats, not knowing what is to come next in "The Sprawl."



Jazmin Salinas can be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

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Tom Joyce, September 11, 2001; Memorial Sculpture, iron, ash, sand, soil, 2002.

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January 25, 2011  
**sports** editor  
 Sal Guerrero, 747-7445

## Basketball

# Miners down Houston, on to the Green Wave

BY SAL GUERRERO

The Prospector

The UTEP men's basketball team made headway in Conference USA after defeating the Houston Cougars, 57-52, Jan. 22 in the Hofheinz Pavilion.

"We got a little better in some areas and regressed in other areas, that may have had something to do with Houston's defense. We weren't efficient on the offensive end," head coach Tim Floyd said. "I think it was a real important win given that Houston had won three in a row."

The Cougars did not go away quietly, but it was a late 3-pointer with 19 seconds left in the game by Miners' point guard Julian Stone that finally sealed the fate for Houston on their home court.

"It was my second shot of the game, Randy (Culpepper) passed the ball and I just let it go," Stone said. "(Culpepper) knew he was going to be double teamed and he knew he had a man open. I happened to be open and just shot it with confidence...I knew when I shot (the ball) it was going in."

Stone, a normally inefficient shooter from 3-point range, recorded only four points against the Cougars, but it was in the rebounding and assist department where the point guard shined. Stone recorded 14 rebounds and six assists and the Miners out-rebounded Houston 43-31.

UTEP now has a tough test at home at the Don Haskins Center against the Tulane Green Wave, a team they beat Jan. 12 on the road 69-58.

"Every road win is big for us... we showed some adversity in Houston. We lived up and showed a lot of character and won the game," Stone said. "(Tulane) is going to come here now and they want to punch us in our mouth. We went to their home and won the game and they're going to come here and play us hard."

Tulane is coming off a three-game losing skid—a streak the Miners started Jan. 12. Since then the Green Wave have dropped games at East Carolina and at home against the Tulsa Golden Hurricane.

"They're going to pay attention more to their game plan. We really hurt them in the end executing our plays," junior forward Jeremy Williams said. "If (Tulane) comes in here being lackluster on rebounds we'll come away with the win, but if they come here defensive minded they'll probably have a better game."

Last time around the Miners took an early 49-27 lead against the Green Wave with just 15:59 to play in the game. But Tulane, who then posted an 8-0 record at home, came roaring back to within seven points with three minutes left in the contest thanks

see HOUSTON on page 10



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

**Senior center Claude** Britten attempts a jump shot against Rice Jan. 15 at the Don Haskins Center. The Miners beat the Owls 66-43.

## Softball

## Pitching key for UTEP this season

BY WILLIAM VEGA

The Prospector

After a season highlighted by 31 wins and led by one of the greatest UTEP softball players ever in Stacie Townsend, the 2011 version has nothing but high expectations and immense pressure before a player has even taken the field.

Co-head coaches James and Kathleen Rodriguez are ready for the challenge but do not have to look far for help. Townsend, two-time all Conference USA pitcher, decided to stick with the team over the offseason taking on the role of graduate assistant.

"It just adds to the continuity of everything we're trying to do here," Kathleen Rodriguez said. "You have one of the best players that's ever worn a UTEP uniform on the coaching staff and that ends up being something really, really big as far as the girls with something to look forward to."

And despite all that rests on the Miners shoulder this year, 2011's goal remains simple.

"We want to keep getting better," James Rodriguez said. "Since we started the program we've gotten better every year and we want to make

sure that this program continues to grow in the right direction."

In addition to posting better winning percentages, both UTEP coaches take pride in the term student-athlete with an emphasis on student. On Oct. 7, 2010, the squad was named a National Fastpitch Coaches Association Girls Got Game All-Academic Team. Six UTEP players, including Townsend, received individual honors from the association, as well.

"Whether people want to say it or not, this is a means to an end to be a division 1 athlete," Kathleen Rodriguez said. "Part of the process is making sure that they understand that classroom and attendance (is important). Not missing and sitting in the first three rows of class and if they don't they're in trouble with us (coaches)."

Returning disciple of Townsend and possible number one pitcher, Joanna Krienitz, feels ready to take responsibility and is eager to take the mound.

"Replacing Stacie will be really hard but my way of thinking is just to go in there and give it my all," Krienitz said. "She's an awesome mentor, coming in last year as a freshman I was really nervous and really didn't know what to expect. The coaches always told me

to watch Stacie and to see what she's doing and to understand...so I can see what's coming up next year."

Krienitz went 3-3 in 21 appearances last season while recording a 4.43 ERA. The Miners also return senior pitcher Courtney Auger from last season's team. Auger pitched in 59 innings and gathered a 4.15 ERA.

"I'm looking forward to working with all the pitchers and working together," Krienitz said. "There are different teams we play with different stats and different things we look at so depending on the team we play depends on who starts the game."

Captain Camilla Carrera, will catch for the Miners and of all the success last season's team harbored, she is hoping for one specific change.

"We have a really good fan base and just to please our fan base is amazing," Carrera said. "I'd like to see more people come out so I'd like to have a better season than last year. We always end up putting up a better show when we have a few more fans out in the stands. It's a lot more excitement."

Carrera started in all 55 games last season posting team-highs in batting average (.376) and RBIs (42) while

see PITCHING on page 10



DIANA AMARO / The Prospector

**Utility Chelsea Troupe** catches a ball thrown to home plate Jan. 21 at the Helen of Troy Complex.



PITCHING from page 9

hitting six home runs. Carrera is assisted by junior utility player Chelsea Troupe, the 2009 Conference USA Player of the Year. She hit 27 RBIs and seven home runs in only 40 appearances last season stealing all seven bases she attempted. UTEP takes the field for the first time in a home doubleheader against Northern Colorado at 3

p.m. and 5 p.m Feb. 10. The 2011 version of the Battle of I-10 will commence Feb. 24 at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex in the UTEP Invitational and again on March 9 in Las Cruces. Conference play begins on March 12 when UTEP takes on Central Florida in Orlando for a three game series. William Vega may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

**Junior forward Gabe** McCulley dunks the ball over Rice defenders Jan. 15 at the Haskins Center.

HOUSTON from page 9

to a clutch 3-pointer from guard Jordan Callahan. “(Tulane) out played us in the second half, I don’t think they’ll change much,” Floyd said. “A real key player for them is (Kris) Richard...Christian Polk did a good job on him, but he’s

the guy that really scares us shooting the basketball.” Floyd said the Green Wave is a much-improved team since the last time the two teams met and the Miners would respect their shooting-game. The Miners are now tied for first with Memphis in conference play,

each team holds a 4-1 standing. But UTEP holds the edge in overall wins posting a 16-4 record on the year. Tulane comes to town to avenge their home loss at 7:05 p.m. Jan 26 at the Don Haskins Center. Sal Guerrero may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

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Basketball

# Freshman making her mark on the court



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector  
**Freshman forward Kayla** Thornton passes the ball to a teammate Jan. 16 at the Don Haskins Center.

**BY WILLIAM VEGA**  
The Prospector

Following another UTEP practice, freshman forward Kayla Thornton opted to remain on the court well after her team left the Don Haskins Center.

The young Miner utilized the extra-time to work on her jump shot and rebounding even after assistant coach Ewa Laskowska left her side.

Thornton, an Irvin High School graduate, has used that type of determination to lead her team in rebounds, averaging 6.3 a game. The 6-foot El Paso native has the city behind her and uses that pride to her advantage.

“It’s a great honor,” Thornton said. “Most freshmen don’t get to play at their hometown in front of their family and people that are important.”

Thornton has played in all 18 games this season while starting in four, but the transition from high school to college hasn’t been an easy one.

“With all the traveling, my body is not used to all the games,” Thornton said. “In high school you play 20 games and then you’re done. Here, we play 20 and we still have more. My body hasn’t gotten that turn over yet but it’s getting there.”

Despite the physical toll and exhausting schedule, Thornton’s drive has remained sturdy. Thornton’s pre-

see **FRESHMAN** on page 12

“One of our weaknesses last year was rebounding and she’s done that so that’s really been helping our team.”

- Keitha Adams, head coach

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**FRESHMAN** from page 11  
game ritual focuses around praying, but her motivation resides in a more personal sanctity.

“My parents (motivate me),” Thornton said. “Or, actually myself, I try to motivate myself to get better to reach my goals that I want.”

Thornton’s goals and ambitions may be self-imposed but it’s much more than an El Paso thing when it comes to Thornton’s detection. Junior guard Dietra Caldwell, appreciates all that the freshman has contributed this season.

“She’s our most athletic post player,” Caldwell said. “She’s a pretty tough post player to guard because she’s

athletic and most post player’s don’t want to run.”

Head coach Keitha Adams said that she anticipated this from her freshman.

“We had high expectations for both (Thornton) and (Kelli Willingham),” Adams said. “Both are hard workers and it’s been a positive.”

Beyond the recognition that is expected from her coaches and teammates, Thornton made her presence known early. UTEP didn’t have to wait long to face their archrival New Mexico State Aggies and in just the second game of the season, the future of UTEP basketball shined brighter.

Thornton gave her city a reason to cheer about, scoring 10 points in only 17 minutes of action while register-

ing seven rebounds. The Miners lost a close one to the Aggies, 80-75, in overtime.

As a talented high school athlete, Thornton had her choices when it came to college athletics. She ran track for the Rockets, winning district titles in the 100-meter hurdles, long jump, triple jump and finished second in the 100-meter dash.

In basketball, Thornton finished her Irvin career with 1,953 points and 884 rebounds.

“I had a bit more time playing basketball...ever since I was little,” Thornton said. “It was something that came naturally to me.”

Besides UTEP’s offer, no other school took notice of Thornton’s athleticism and her career as a Rocket.

But her play has not gone ignored as a Miner and she showcased that again Jan. 2 when the Miners avenged their loss to NMSU.

This time, in 26 minutes of playing time, Thornton pulled down a career-high 13 rebounds to go along with her six points. Her feisty energy was

exactly what the Miners needed in their 74-67 victory this time around.

“We recruited her for that reason,” Adams said. “One of our weaknesses last year was rebounding and she’s done that, so that’s really been helping our team.”

William Vega may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

**Freshman forward Kayla** Thornton attempts a layup against Houston Jan. 16 at the Don Haskins Center.

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- Etiquette Dinner

\$12.00 (by Feb. 6th) | \$16 (after Feb. 6th) | Registration Deadline: Feb. 13th (Limited space available)

- Kick-off Reception

**Conference Registration:**  
\$15 (by Feb. 1st) | \$20 (after Feb. 1st) | Registration Deadline: Feb. 11th  
(Includes conference materials, reception and lunch)

**Friday, February 18, 2011**  
Plan your day for leadership sessions of your choice.

**Lunch and Guest Speaker:** Jason Sabo, United Way of Texas  
**Keynote Speaker:** Former Lady Gaga Tour Manager David J. Ciemny – “Tour Manager to the Stars”

**Saturday, February 19, 2011: Project MOVE**  
Put your skills into action by participating in this campus-wide community service day.

**REGISTRATION OPENS SOON!**



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not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

**Traffic Tickets & D.W.I.**