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# The Prospector, January 26, 2012

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**DR. NATALICIO**  
**WHAT DOES UTEP  
STAND FOR?**  
PAGE 2

## the COST of higher education

### Tuition, immigration hot topics at State of the Union address

BY SALVADOR GUERRERO

Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

WASHINGTON – Somewhere in between the one-hour-and-four-minute State of the Union address, President Barack Obama spoke on the ongoing issue that surrounds students on campuses around the nation.

“When kids do graduate, the most daunting challenge can be the cost of college,” Obama said. “At a time when Americans owe more in tuition than credit card debt, this Congress needs to stop the interest rates on student loans from doubling in July.”

In the last 20 years, the average cost of tuition and fees at a four-year public university has increased by 136 percent, according to a statement released by the White House. In 2007, legislation enacted an interest rate reduction that will expire July 1, which would jump the rate from 3.4 percent to 6.8.

“Extend the tuition tax credit we started that saves middle-class families thousands of dollars,” he said. “And give more young people the chance to earn their way through college by doubling the number of work-study jobs in the next five years.”

Although the president urged Congress to reevaluate the growing

concern about the cost of college, he also pushed for states and universities to take matters into their own hands.

“We can’t just keep subsidizing skyrocketing tuition; we’ll run out of money,” Obama said. “States also need to do their part, by making higher education a higher priority in their budgets. And colleges and universities have to do their part by working to keep costs down.”

The president gave a warning to colleges and universities that if they cannot stop the increasing cost of tuition, then funding from taxpayers will diminish.

Obama called for the resurrection of the DREAM Act, a bill that would provide undocumented immigrants who are college students and military service members the opportunity to gain citizenship.

“Let’s also remember that hundreds of thousands of talented, hardworking students in this country face another challenge,” he said. “The fact that they aren’t yet American citizens.”

According to the Immigration Policy Center, approximately 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high school, but cannot enroll in college, join the military or work. However, the DREAM Act passed the Democrat-controlled House in

see SOTU on page 6



## Financial

### Political candidates plan on reforming federal aid

*This is part one of a three part series exploring the financial burdens students are facing.*

BY JASMINE AGUILERA

The Prospector

For many students, federal financial aid is the only resource available to cover the cost of a higher education. According to UTEP’s financial aid website, over 60 percent of the university’s students receive financial aid, either through grants, loans or work-study. And as the presidential election looms closer and closer, students can expect talk of changes to federal aid in the coming months.

In President Barack Obama’s State of the Union address Jan. 24, he stated plans to double the number of work-study jobs in five years and extend tuition tax credit. He also pushed states to make college more affordable. Last October, Obama announced a change to the Pay as You Earn plan in an effort to make loan repayments easier.

“His State of the Union address this year was really just a campaign speech,” said Louis Southard, chairman of UTEP College Republicans. “Obama was just trying to appeal to students. How is he going to pay for it? It’s a nice thought to give away free money to all students, but we are in a lot of debt already as a nation.”

According to the Project on Student Debt, the average Texas student graduates with \$20,919 of debt.

“I agree with what Obama is trying to do,” said Fernie Medina, senior biology major. “The government is there for the people and sometimes you have no choice but to rely on it.”

Republican candidates Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul have different views than Obama on how education should be handled at the federal level.

According to Gingrich’s website, his solution to the rise of student debt issue involves cutting back on the Department of Education. The site states “shrink the federal Department of Education and return power to states and communities. The department’s only role will be to collect research and data, and

see CANDIDATES on page 6

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# Dr. Natalicio, what does UTEP stand for?

Dear Dr. Diana Natalicio,

What does UTEP stand for? Academics or athletics? Students at large or student athletes? Morals or money? Student development or athletic success? In recent days, the answers to these questions have become unclear. It is critical these questions be addressed in an open forum, where all students' voices are heard.

Last week, two student athletes were caught in an alleged drug-related incident when the odor of marijuana was reported to the campus police and where narcotic paraphernalia was found. So far, the punishments for these violations have only been "indefinite suspensions" from their athletic team even though in an interview Jan. 25 after practice, head coach Keitha Adams admitted "the two players that were involved in the situation were suspended." UTEP Athletics and university officials have hidden the cause of their suspension under the general and vague excuse of "violation of team rules."

We published an article on the incident in the Jan. 24 issue of The Prospector. As expected, it caused quite a bit of controversy around the university and the city of El Paso. It

created a media buzz, but due to the university's obvious efforts to hide the story, we were the only media outlet to confirm the story and publish it.

The method we used to uncover the story were sources that live in Miner Village, key witnesses to the actions of the two athletes and the response of the university police. One of our sources was fired for his role in uncovering the events of that night. This upstanding and outstanding student, who felt it was his obligation to report the commonly known, yet publicly unspoken drug-related problems at the student residential areas, was terminated from his duties as a student employee.

Instead of being rewarded for his courage to speak the truth about this major issue that is affecting students living on campus, his reward was termination. Yet so far, the two athletes have yet to receive anything but a slap on the wrist.

If two students not affiliated with UTEP Athletics were caught in the same situation, would they receive the same slap-on-the-wrist punishment? Would university officials have punished the student who released the information?

The night we started contacting UTEP Athletics and other university officials for information on the allegations, we were met with a brick wall. We are by no means saying that the public information officers did not do their jobs by fulfilling our request to get interviews (well for the most part), most of them were very helpful throughout the long night and day we worked on breaking the story.

But surprisingly, university officials were the ones who tried to block us from publishing the story more than the university's public relations' personnel. A university employee even accused us of working on the story only because the subjects were student athletes. Whether the athletes or university officials like it or not, student athletes are public figures and their actions are chronicled every day in the media. That is the reason why most, if not all, universities have a separate PR department to handle just sports.

One of the best advantages of being the student newspaper is that we are on campus, so we develop sources in almost every department at the university. Our students work in various offices around campus, live in student housing and have many

different majors so we are spread out throughout the campus. And when it comes to a story like this, sources at Miner Village are not hard to come by, although many did not want to be identified for fear of retaliation. Most local media outlets do not truly have this advantage, which is why they were blocked by university officials from getting the story.

Throughout our reporting and the reaction the day following the publication of the story, university officials seemed more concerned about hiding the story than about the increase of drug-related incidents in student residential areas.

Did UTEP officials not learn from the Penn State situation? Hiding the truth will only come back to haunt you. Although, it seems that honesty is not always the best policy considering the outcome of one of our sources.

This is where the questions at the start of this letter come in. As a university, which is more important: academics or athletics? Should athletes be held to the same standard as the general population of students? While there is no doubt UTEP Athletics brings a large amount of money into the university, is that

more important than producing students with strong morals? Should athletic accomplishments outshine the development of students who will represent UTEP once they graduate and enter the work force?

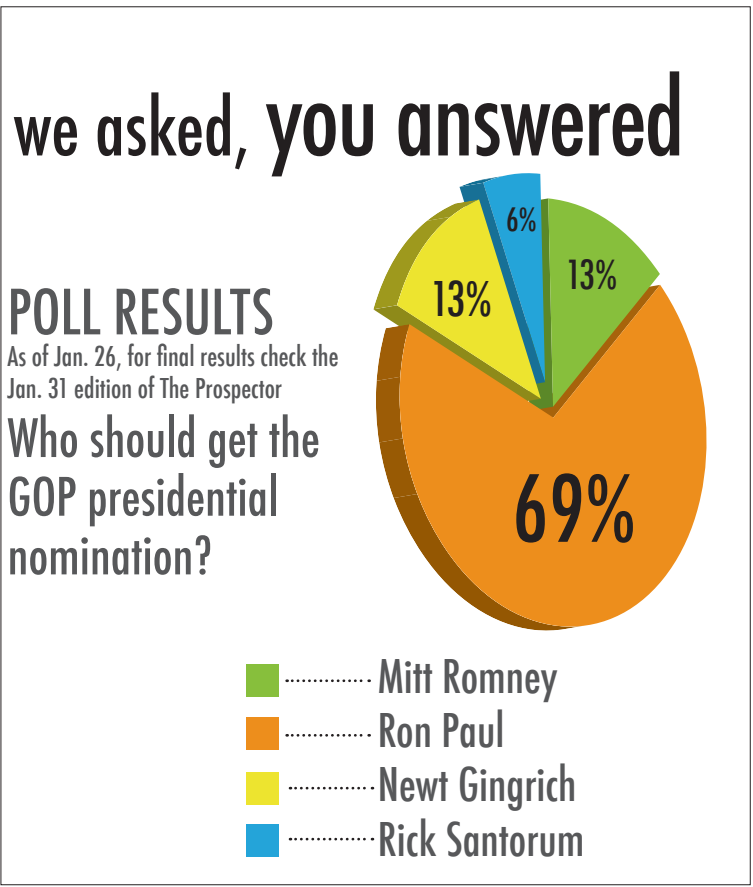
What kind of students is this university producing?

In your 2011 State of the University address, you stated "Today, we strive to be the university that our students have every right to expect: a university that creates a broad range of educational opportunities for all residents of this region; an institution that fully engages all its students in a collective quest for excellence in all that we do; a university whose graduates are extraordinarily well-prepared to compete successfully with their peers from institutions across the U.S....indeed across the globe."

We here at The Prospector, truly believe you mean that, but Dr. Natalicio, we write you this letter to ask if the people who work under you do as well?

Thank you,

The Prospector Editorial Staff





Tech

# Beyond Jeopardy: putting Watson to work is a hit with students

REBECCA GUERRERO

The Prospector

He is part of a team that contributed to the creation of Watson, a supercomputer that astonished the world when it competed on and won the popular game show Jeopardy and he was also the latest speaker in UTEP's Centennial Lecture Series, Beyond Jeopardy. Richard Talbot, director of Product Line Management of IBM Power Systems, spoke to UTEP faculty, staff and students about how Watson came to be and the impact its creation could have on the future of technology.

"Watson is not a fantasy prop in a science fiction movie. It is a real computer with artificial intelligence capable of responding to Jeopardy questions posed not in binary code, but in natural human language with all of its complications," UTEP President Diana Natalicio said. "Watson is not only capable of answering such questions, it's really good at it."

Watson, named for IBM's founder Thomas J. Watson, was pitted against two of the most successful contestants in Jeopardy history last February, including Jeopardy legend Ken Jennings. The result left many astounded. Watson not only won, it won by a large margin. Furthermore, Watson did not cheat by getting help through any sort of Internet access; it relied entirely on its own capacity.

"Watson represents an accomplishment that at one point in time we thought impossible to achieve," Talbot said. "The challenge was to retrieve, analyze and retain massive amounts of information, which here means about a million books, and then come back with accurate answers very quickly."

Talbot said Watson's capabilities are very different from the Google search engine, because when people use Google they typically receive many answers that need to be sort through to find the information required. Watson responds to questions quickly and with a high level of confidence that it is the correct answer.

According to Talbot, another characteristic that sets Watson apart is its ability to learn from its mistakes. While on the show Jeopardy, Watson got a few of the questions wrong because of the way Watson phrased the answers. After its feedback let it know that it was guessing incorrectly, it used a system of algorithms to change its strategy and went on to win the game without missing more questions, a feat that has even technical-minded people baffled.

"I'm very interested in this subject matter, I'm even taking a class on artificial intelligence this semester," said Jaime Daniel Peña, junior computer sciences major. "This is the future."

After Watson's success on Jeopardy, IBM has challenged itself to dedicate Watson's capabilities to solving real-world issues beginning with issues in health care.

"You can just imagine the possibilities for this type of technology," Talbot said. "You could give Watson two or three pieces of information regarding a patient's symptoms and it could respond with a possible diagnosis. At the same time it could tell you 'I'm not very confident with this answer. If

I had two more symptoms I could provide you with a more confident prognosis,' This would create a real life situation where there is more dialogue between the system and the specialist, and they are more likely to come up with a correct answer."

Talbot said Watson's technology is going to revolutionize the health care industry in a few ways. First, many cancer patients are referred to larger treatment centers only to realize they've been treated for the wrong form of cancer or disease processes in the past. Watson would help to eliminate such confusion with direct and accurate prognosis. Second, Watson would give the patients themselves more control over their own treatment.

"Watson can help patients to ask the right questions about their own symptoms. They will become smarter consumers about their practices and they can make sure to find the best sources of care," Talbot said.

During the Q&A session, some of the questions dealt with people's concern about Watson's artificial intelligence and many were worried that a supercomputer that is able to understand unstructured human language and learn from its mistakes. They said they might also be able to expand its knowledge base and eventually become more intelligent than human-kind, throwing us into an apocalyptic situation straight from the big screen.

Talbot, however, was quick to alleviate people's concerns by stressing that Watson was made for purely helpful purposes and as an informational resource.

"The type of technology it would take for a machine to be able to truly think for itself is something I'm not even familiar with," Talbot said.

Many of the students at the event came to see the super-computer that made headlines after its performance on Jeopardy and to learn what was behind the machine.

"I watched the jeopardy game, so I really wanted to find out what was behind it," said Hoong Yan See Tao, graduate electrical and computer engineering student. "I think the most exciting part is the things it can do in the future. I mean, they already sold the system to some industries, so the possibilities of how it can actually help human-kind are endless."

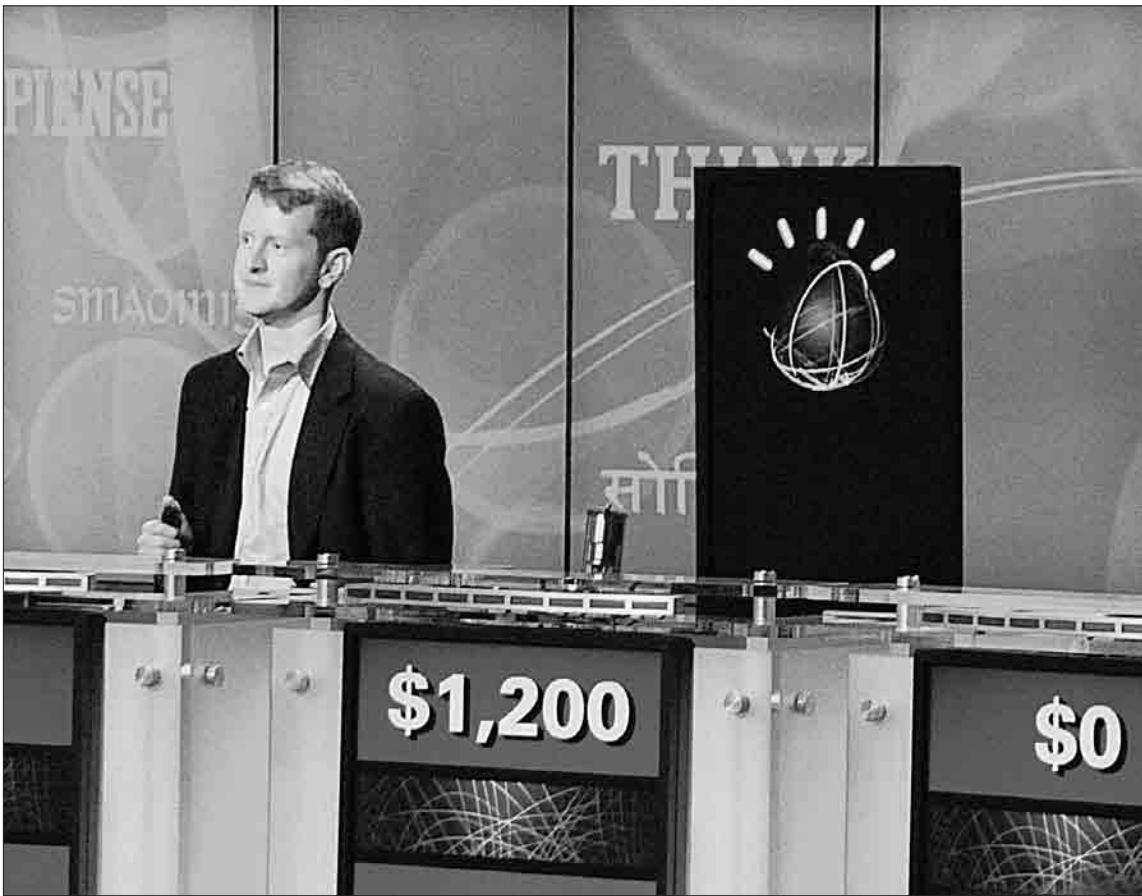
Every student, whether they attended for class credit or because of a personal interest, were able to take something away from the presentation.

"What I really found the most interesting was that this supercomputer can go back and use algorithms to correct itself. When you think about it, that is really something huge because in structured environments machines aren't able to do that," said Kathleen Zurlinden, graduate systems engineering student.

Talbot was confident that this kind of technology is going to solve meaningful and significant problems in today's society, and that in a matter of 10 to 20 years, many people will already have benefited from it.

"You'll be using this technology in the near future, and your children will benefit from it as well," Talbot said.

Rebecca Guerrero may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).



IBM.COM / Special to The Prospector

Jeopardy legend Ken Jennings competes against supercomputer Watson on the Jeopardy.

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National

# Mexico’s July presidential election may put PRI back in power

BY SALVADOR GUERRERO

Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

WASHINGTON – The United States isn’t the only country facing a contentious presidential election this year.

Mexico will elect a new president in July, and some experts think the National Action Party (PAN) will be ousted from office by the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which held power for 71 years before the PAN took over in 2000.

Roderic Ai Camp, professor of the Pacific Rim at Claremont McKenna College, said Jan. 20 that two issues are likely to be important to voters: increasing family income and reducing violence.

He spoke at a forum sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars Mexico Institute and the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress.

“It will be interesting to see what PRI is really proposing that will be different from PAN on two major issues,” Camp said. “One is how do you increase personal income, and how do you reduce violence, therefore increase personal security.”

Religion may be a third issue, Camp said. The Catholic Church has played a major role in politics, coming under fire at times when it has spoken out against officials and pushed democracy in the last 15 years.

“They were critical in urging ordinary Mexicans to vote, both in 1994 and in 2000,” Camp said.

He said there is little academic work done on the relationship between politics and religion in Mexico because scholars choose not to explore the subject.

“The church plays two roles. It has always been a critic of neoliberalism,” Camp said. “There is an agreement on human rights. They would stand up for human rights, and they actually practiced this in the 90s. ... What is interesting to me is they haven’t been outspoken as they have been. Only a few selective bishops have made very clear statements.”

The country has been plagued by a drug war that has taken thousands of lives. Camp said the problem does not arise just from Mexico but stems from the drug consumption of Americans.

“Members of Congress don’t have the courage to address it. That’s the fundamental issue. If you don’t have the demand, you don’t have the drug problem,” Camp said.

He said nine-percent of all Americans over the age of 12 use some type of illegal drug.

“Why don’t members of Congress talk about this? Because it is so much easier to say the problem is next door rather than to admit it is a social problem,” Camp said. “Why are people consuming the drugs? That is a much more common message.”



SALVADOR GUERRERO / SHFWire

Roderic Ai Camp, left, and Miguel E. Basáñez talk about Camp’s recent books about politics in Mexico.

The political atmosphere in Mexico has been a tumultuous one the last few decades, with the drug war and the shakeup in presidential elections.

Camp is one of the foremost experts on politics in Mexico and is frequently consulted in the areas of comparative elites, church-state relations and civil-military affairs. Last year, he released

three books, “Oxford Handbook of Mexican Politics,” “Mexican Political Biographies” and “Mexico, What Everyone Needs to Know,” that discuss the lives of politicians and topics relating to political institutions.

“He in a way is a synthesis of so much knowledge of Mexico,” said Miguel E. Basáñez, professor at the

Fletcher School of Tufts University. “When you look at the structure of the handbook, you can see what is Rod’s brilliance.”

Salvador Guerrero, senior print media major at UTEP, 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).

Campus

# Career fairs bring opportunities to students

BY REBECCA GUERRERO

The Prospector

With over 60 local, national and global companies set to attend, the Business & Liberal Arts Career Fair and the Engineering & Science Expo will bring UTEP students a chance to seeking jobs and internships.

“I’m definitely going to attend, because it’s a great opportunity to talk to the employers and see if there’s anything I can do to better myself and make myself more competitive in the market,” said Sofia Maragoudakis, senior biological sciences major.

The event will be split into two days, the first hosting companies relevant to business and liberal arts, and the second focusing on engineering and science. It will provide students with the chance to present their resumes to representatives from successful businesses, network with working professionals and begin to circulate their names within the workforce.

“I always hear that students don’t want to come to these events because they can simply apply for jobs online,” said Betsabe Castro, associate director of the University Career Center. “But it’s so important for them to understand that you don’t have an opportunity to make your case on a piece of paper. We know that employers nationwide use these career fairs as a tool to start identifying potential candidates, and that face to face time is extremely critical.”

A few of the companies booked to attend are local, such as GECU and the Union Pacific Railroad.

Other national companies such as Target and the Coast Guard, and even global organizations such as Alcatel-Lucent, a communications corporation founded in France will be part of the event.

According to Castro, a major reason why companies visit UTEP is that many students are bilingual.

“They know that many of our students are bilingual, an incredible asset to many organizations, and that many of our students are used to working and going to school while maintaining strong academic backgrounds,” Castro said.

Many students may assume that career fairs such as this one are meant only for upperclassmen and graduate students actively seeking jobs and internships. Though that is their main focus, underclassmen are more than welcome to attend if for no other reason than to learn how these types of events work and prepare themselves for the future when they will be ready for the job market.

“Even if you’re a freshman and not ready to apply for a job, you can still go to learn how people network,” said Adriana Valdez, junior pre-education major. “You can see what people wear, what they put on their resumes, what they say to and ask to the employers, and what kind of companies come.”

If a student is attending the career fair for the first time, walking into a room of employers can be quite intimidating, but the University Career Center advises students to look for the people wearing white ribbons. These are



FILE PHOTO

The Business & Liberal Arts Career Fair and the Engineering & Science Expo will be bring more than 60 companies to offer students job and internships from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Feb. 2 and Feb. 3 on the 3rd floor of Union Building East at the Thomas Rivera Conference Center.

the UTEP alumni that have risen through the ranks within their companies and have returned as representatives.

“It’s very encouraging for students to realize that these people were just like they were a few years back, and it makes them more confident,” Castro said.

The career center offers students a service to help students organize their resume and practice their

interviewing skills. Appointments aren’t necessary and students are encouraged to simply walk-in and request help.

“Students should be looking for a job up to six months before they graduate,” Castro said. “Because the hiring process at every company takes a while, if you miss the boat, you just have to wait for the next one to come in.”

The Career Fair and Expo will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Feb. 2-3 on the 3rd floor of Union Building East at the Thomas Rivera Conference Center. For more information, contact the University Career Center at 747-5640.

Rebecca Guerrero can be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)



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SOTU from page 1

December of 2010, but was blocked by the Senate, killing the bill.

“Many were brought here as small children, are American through and through, yet they live every day with the threat of deportation,” Obama said. “Others came more recently, to study ... but as soon as they get their degree, we send them home to invent new products and create new jobs somewhere else.”

That doesn't make sense the president said. Although Obama called for resurgence in the DREAM Act, he noted that his administration has increased the size of the agents along the border, which could

be attributed to the decline of undocumented immigrants crossing.

In a statement released after the State of the Union, he called for a continuation of border security at the federal level and to hold businesses accountable for hiring undocumented workers.

The president ended the segment of the speech with a push for immigration reform that would stop the expulsion of young people who want jobs in the country.

Salvador Guerrero, senior print media major at UTEP, 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).

TOP 5 ISSUES OF THE STATE OF THE UNION

Tax code

Changing the tax code was one of the first issues Obama mentioned. He said he wants to honor American companies stating they “should get a bigger tax cut,” instead of companies wanting to outsource and move overseas. He said he wants a basic minimum tax for multinational companies, which would go back to lowering taxes for American-based companies.

“It is time to stop rewarding businesses that ship jobs overseas, and start rewarding companies that create jobs right here in America. Send me these tax reforms, and I will sign them right away.”

Mortgage

Obama said the plan would save homeowners about \$3,000 a year on their mortgage. In order to do this, he said he would place “a small fee on the largest institutions” to give the banks a chance to pay back their bail-out money.

“Let's never forget: Millions of Americans who work hard and play by the rules every day deserve a government and a financial system that do the same. It's time to apply

the same rules from top to bottom. No bailouts, no handouts, and no copouts.”

Immigration

Obama said he wants to continue tackling illegal information, stating that his administration “has fewer illegal crossings than when (he) took office.” He still felt that reform should be on the table to allow better opportunities for hopeful U.S. citizens.

“If election-year politics keeps Congress from acting on a comprehensive plan, let's at least agree to stop expelling responsible young people who want to staff our labs, start new businesses, defend this country. Send me a law that gives them the chance to earn their citizenship. I will sign it right away.”

Partisan Congress

Continuing his verbal attack on Congress and its bi-partisan split, he tried numerous times to put the word unity back in union. To do this, he used an analogy of one of his “proudest” moments while in office: the assassination of Osama bin Laden, when he was in the Situation Room with Hilary Clinton—his presidential challenger during

the Democratic primaries in 2008—and Bob Gates—former President George W. Bush's secretary of defense.

“One of my proudest possessions is the flag that the SEAL Team took with them on the mission to get bin Laden. On it are each of their names. Some may be Democrats. Some may be Republicans. But that doesn't matter.”

Public transportation

Using history to bridge the gap between today's current economic status, Obama brought up the idea of public transportation “that benefited everyone.” He said that during the Great Depression, the Hoover Dam and Golden Gate Bridge helped stimulate the economy and offer jobs. The same went for highways following World War II. He hopes to make new construction projects accessible and able to stand the test of time as those mentioned public projects have withstood.

“You need to fund these projects. Take the money we're no longer spending at war, use half of it to pay down our debt and use the rest to do some nation-building right here at home.”

\* Compiled by William Vega

CANDIDATES from page 1

help find new and innovative approaches to then be adopted voluntarily at the local level.”

“Gingrich seems to be the most vocal about federal aid and wants to reform the loan system,” Southard said. “He wants to make it easier to go to college. Having the government pay for everything hasn't been working obviously.”

Ron Paul seems to share a similar view as Gingrich. Though his website's only word on education is that the government should do more to support home schooling, he has stated on the campaign trail that he would do away with federal aid completely. In an interview with CNN, Paul said “anybody who is ambitious enough will get to go to college.”

“That's just another way to keep the best interest in favor of higher class people,” said Juan Muñoz, senior psychology major. “If that were to happen then obviously only rich families would be able to afford school and everyone else, particularly minorities, would be left out.”

The ideology behind reducing federal aid is that in turn colleges will reduce their prices allowing more students to afford school.

“I agree that college should be more affordable,” Southard said. “But giving away money is not going to help, that only allows for schools to raise up tuition prices.”

Both Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum don't seem to have federal financial aid on their list of issues to overcome. Like Paul, Santorum's only words on education involve home schooling and allowing parents to contribute more to their child's education. Romney doesn't mention anything about education in general on his website, nor has he been vocal about it on the campaign trail.

“I think the federal government should cut back,” Southard said. “Our country used to be so smart but now the quality of education has gone down significantly.”

Fernie Medina, sophomore pre-science major, said the plans to cut federal aid would have a dramatic impact on El Paso forcing many students to not be able to attend a college.

“I really don't know what republicans are thinking,” Medina said. “We struggle with funds as it is, particularly here in El Paso. If they cut back on financial aid a lot of us at UTEP wouldn't be able to go to school.”

Medina's mother is unable to work because she became sick and so her family depends on whatever income Medina can bring in.

“I have a work-study job, but that is only minimum wage. I depend on financial aid to go to school,” Medina said.

Emmanuel Barraza, sophomore music major, is concerned about what cutting back on financial aid could do to UTEP.

“If government aid was taken out of school then UTEP would become like a dessert wasteland,” he said. “I know plenty of students who wouldn't be able to afford school even though UTEP is considerably cheaper than other universities.”

Jasmine Aguilera may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).



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February previews

# ‘Dralion’ puts a unique spin on the elements

## Cirque Du Soleil returns to the Don Haskins Center



Special to the Prospector

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA  
The Prospector

Cirque du Soleil has found a way to make a person fly without wings on multiple occasions and from Feb. 15-19, they will be performing “Dralion” at the Don Haskin Center. The group is known world-wide for its theatrical performances that have showcased in front of audiences all over the globe in cities such as Paris and Sydney. Cirque Du Soleil presented “Alegria” during the 2011 season. This year’s show is titled “Dralion,” a merger of the two main symbols in the show: the dragon representing the east, and the lion of the west. “Everywhere we’ve been so far the crowds are welcoming ‘Dralion,’ the critics and reviews are very positive, and they enjoy the show,” said Julie Desmarais, Cirque du Soleil publicist. “It’s a show that appeals to everybody with a lot of energy and the acrobatics are amazing.” Featured in the concept of the act are the four elements: Air, Earth, Water and Fire. They are told through the point of view of Eastern philosophy, and the enduring challenge of achieving balance between humans and nature.

“It’s all about human beings performing unreal things,” Desmarais said. “So it’s a unique experience and so far everything has been going well so we just hope that in El Paso it’s the same thing.” The story of the show is captivated in a very creative and vibrant process that uses a 3,000 year old tradition of Chinese acrobatic arts. It also features 50 international acrobats, gymnasts, musicians and singers. “We travel with 18 semi-trucks and the show itself weighs about 400,000 pounds,” Desmarais said. “We have an impressive stage and show, which will feature its own choreography, 10 different outstanding acrobatic numbers and a live band that will perform the music for the performers.” The acrobats will perform in a variety of stunts including aerial ballet, languorous aerial dance, hand balancing, hoop diving and many more. Jorge Vazquez, executive director of special events, is excited about giving UTEP students a chance to see a show that normally is rooted on Broadway or in Las Vegas. “(Cirque du Soleil) truly wants to give students the opportunity to see their show. It goes beyond the business aspect,” Vazquez said. “They truly want to expose our students to the art of what they do and they really want to involve students and make them part of Cirque du Soleil.” UTEP students will be able to buy admission into the show for a price of \$25 as compared to the normal public rate, which ranges from \$35-\$145 before taxes. “I think \$25 is an amazing price,” said Perla Hernandez, junior history major. “I’ve personally never experienced a show like the one they offer so I’m super excited about being able to go. I would not miss it for a thing in the world because I know this opportunity doesn’t come around often.”



UTEP special events have created a solid relationship with Cirque du Soleil and aside from special events, the city of El Paso has provided a strong market to support a show of this caliber. “This has got to be one of the most professional crews that we’ve ever worked with, extremely organized, extremely detail oriented, they work way ahead of schedule,” Vazquez said. “It’s very precise and, precision is their middle name.”

Kristopher Rivera may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).



Special to the Prospector

**Cirque Du Soleil’s ‘Dralion’** story focuses on the elements Earth, Wind, Air and Fire, and incorporates many types of professional acrobatic acts.





**WITCHES FLY INTO EL PASO**

A “Wicked” story of the witches of Oz is coming to El Paso’s Plaza Theatre. The Tony Award winning Broadway Musical will have 16 performances from Feb. 1 – 12 and still has tickets on sale.

Audiences will get a glimpse of what happened before Dorothy dropped in into Munchkin Land in “The Wizard of Oz.” The story exposes the true story of how the notorious Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch of the North met.

Tickets range from \$57.50 - \$125, and are available online through Ticketmaster.

Written by Alejandro Alba



**UTEP GETS FLUFFY**

Gabriel Iglesias is back in the Sun City with all his fluffiness. The well-known comedian will deliver his comedic story telling at 8:00 p.m. Feb. 10 at The Don Haskins Center.

Recognized for his sound effects, Iglesias will be stopping in El Paso as part of his Stand Up Revolution Tour. Iglesias has previously presented himself in El Paso at the Plaza Theatre back in 2009, where he filmed his DVD and Comedy Central special.

This year Mr. “I’m not fat...I’m fluffy,” will present his most recent stand up that premiered last October. Tickets will be \$40, plus services fee, and are on sale at UTEP Ticketmaster.

Written by Alejandro Alba

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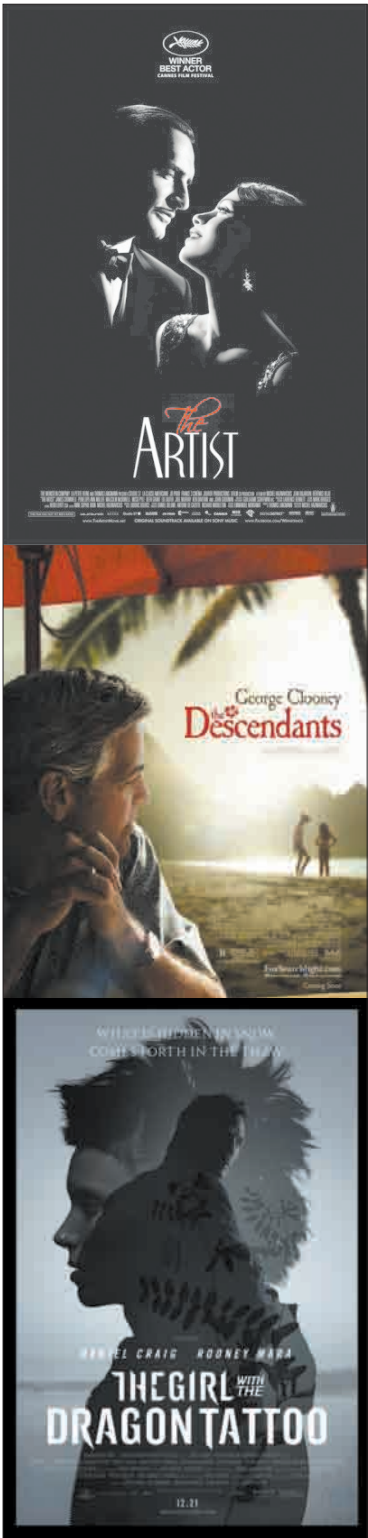




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Special to the Prospector

Movie Column

# Oscar nominees announced

## ‘Hugo’ leads the way with 11 nominations

BY ANDRES RODRIGUEZ  
The Prospector

The Oscar nominations announced Jan. 24 marked the beginning of the end of awards season, a glamorous time in Hollywood that celebrates beautiful people in mostly beautiful films. So, here is a break down of the nominees for best picture and acting, while predicting the likeliest to win.

No real surprises in the best picture category, except for one extremely loud and incredibly annoying inclusion. The Stephen Daldry 9/11 film, “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close” was largely ignored at award ceremonies up until now after being criticized for being heavy-handed and difficult.

Arguably the top three contenders for best picture are Martin Scorsese’s 3D homage to cinema, “Hugo” leading with 11 nominations, Alexander Payne’s Hawaii family-drama, “The Descendants” and award’s darling, silent film “The Artist.” Taking just about every Best Picture award this season, the black and white silent film is most likely to take home the big prizes. “War Horse,” “Moneyball,” “The Tree of Life,” “The Help” and “Midnight in Paris” were also nominated for best picture.

Not nominated was David Fincher’s slick, and spine-tingling who-done-it, “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, nor was “Martha, Marcy, May, Marlene;” though it never was a real contender outside of the best actress category for Elizabeth Olsen. I very much hoped it could pull a “Winter’s Bone” and sneak in as one of the year’s haunting indie favorites (both did have John Hawkes after all).

Best supporting actress is likely to go to Jessica Chastain or Octavia Spencer from the audience favorite, “The Help.” Chastain, who appeared in seven films last year, was bound to get some sort of recognition. However, Melissa McCarthy’s turn as the show-stealing unapologetic guy’s girl in “Bridesmaids” is also a strong contender. Bérénice Bejo (“The Artist”) and Janet McTeer (“Albert Nobbs”) were also nominated for best supporting actress.

Christopher Plummer, basically has it in the bag for best supporting actor, as an elderly father coming out to his son in “Beginners,” one of my favorite 2011 films. The Academy has a thing for gay characters, as Sean Penn bluntly pointed out when accepting his best actor award for “Milk” and Plummer’s delightful performance just might get him gold. Also nominated, Kenneth

Branagh for his theatrical portrayal of Sir Laurence Olivier (“My Week with Marilyn”), Jonah Hill (“Moneyball”), Nick Nolte (“Warrior”) and Max von Sydow (“Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close”).

Since word got around that Meryl Streep was playing British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, her Academy award was pretty much safe when it came to Best Actress award then, Viola Davis (“The Help”) delivered a moving performance as an African American maid in 1960s Mississippi. Only to be followed by Michelle William’s take on the troubled icon in “My Week with Marilyn,” Rooney Mara’s chilling portrayal of Lisbeth Salander and Glenn Close’s gender-bending “Albert Nobbs,” tightening the race ever more.

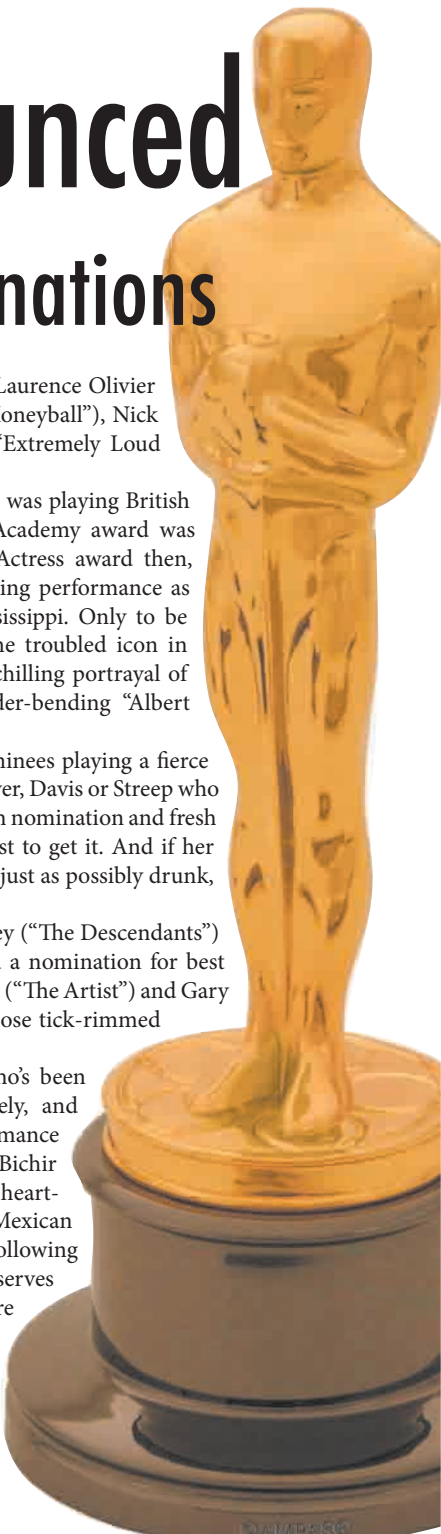
Mara is the most outstanding of the nominees playing a fierce girl with dragon tattoo. It is probably, however, Davis or Streep who have a real chance. Catching her seventeenth nomination and fresh off her Golden Globe win, Streep is likeliest to get it. And if her acceptance speech is just as messy and she, just as possibly drunk, well, why not?

Hollywood heavyweights, George Clooney (“The Descendants”) and Brad Pitt (“Moneyball”) each grabbed a nomination for best actor. As well as French actor, Jean Dujardin (“The Artist”) and Gary Oldman for his captivating stare behind those tick-rimmed glasses in “Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy.”

Not nominated, Leonardo DiCaprio, who’s been notoriously ignored by the academy lately, and Michael Fassbender for his exposing performance in “Shame.” Out of nowhere, Demián Bichir rightfully snagged a nomination for his heart-wrenching and low-key performance as a Mexican father who’d do anything for his son by following relentlessly the American dream. Bichir deserves the statue in my book, but Clooney will more than likely win.

Hosted by Billy Crystal, the 84th Academy Awards ceremony will be aired on ABC Feb. 26.

Andres Rodriguez may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).



Special to the Prospector

Tech Talk

# As in film, Kodak fades away

## Legendary photo company files bankruptcy after fighting changing world



BY JERRY ALDAZ  
The Prospector

More than 120 years after its inception, George Eastman’s contribution to the world is on the brink of corporate extinction. Eastman Kodak, simply known as Kodak, filed for bankruptcy the beginning of January.

Remaining operational, financial woes currently suppressed by Citigroup’s \$950 million-dollar financing, Kodak’s corporate restructuring intends to “bolster liquidity in the U.S. and abroad, monetize non-strategic intellectual property, fairly resolve legacy liabilities, and enable the company to focus on its most valuable business lines,” according to an official statement.

Regarded as the pioneer of modern photography and once considered an innovator — being the Apple or Google of its times — Kodak’s untimely decisions, relentless

preservation of physical film and its inadaptability to arising social trends hammered the final nails in its coffin.

Building their first cassette-based digital camera in 1975, which required 23 seconds to develop a single image and utilizing a customized reader to display photographs in a black and white television, Kodak was at the forefront of the digital revolution. Nevertheless, Kodak viewed digitalized photography as a direct threat to its business line. Thriving in the creation and distribution of film, Kodak’s inherent opposition favored short-term profits over long-term sustainability.

Standardizing Hollywood’s 35mm film in the 20th century, Kodak’s pompousness undermined the competitive drive within the consumer market. In the latter part of the century, with unsuspected challenges from prescient competitors Fujifilm, Canon and Sony, Kodak began altering their primary medium of revenue.

Releasing a slew of digital cameras, the 90s witnessing the DC40 Point-and-Shoot (1995) and various pocket cameras, Kodak remained stubborn on integrating modern forms of film alongside their hardware. Developing

products such as professional Portra color negative films and Supra III color paper, digital printing was expected to be Kodak’s saving grace.

Resistance, once again, proved futile. Kodak never foresaw consumers veering from printing (or developing) film. With the rising popularity of social networks, from Friendster to MySpace, people began perceiving photography as a form of expression and communication rather than a time capsule for unforgettable memories. Worse, modern image-hosting services, whether it be Imgur or Facebook (to a certain extent), have further diminished Kodak’s presence within public consciousness.

Although Kodak began profiting from licensing royalties at the turn of the century, financial troubles became further publicized when it filed lawsuits against Apple, HTC and RIM for infringements on its digital imaging technologies. Now nearing the end of the road, Kodak hopes to sell its portfolio of nearly 1,100 patents and shift entirely into the printer industry.

Ultimately, Kodak failed to maximize commercial possibilities brought upon the information age. Its

narrow-minded ideals undermined their digital innovations in favor of sustaining a cycle of tangible media and lack of initiative allowed for rising companies to capitalize on cultural shifts. Like the thousands

of the photographs printed upon its film, Kodak too, must eventually fade away.

Jerry Aldaz may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).



Special to the Prospector

**Kodak has announced** the end of the company 120 years after George Eastman first introduced the world to roll film, which helped motion picture film evolve.



**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:** THE MINERS RECEIVED ONE VOTE IN THE AP TOP-25 POLL RELEASED JAN. 23 AND ONE VOTE IN THE ESPN/USA TODAY TOP-25 POLL JAN. 24.

January 26, 2012

sports

editor

William Vega, 747-7445

Softball

# All in the family



PHOTOS BY BOB CORRAL - ILLUSTRATION BY DIEGO BURCIAGA / The Prospector

## 'Mama/papa' technique helps recruit players to UTEP

BY DANIEL ORNELAS

The Prospector

Whether it's appealing to the city, the tradition or style of play, every collegiate program has a different style of recruiting high school athletes for every sport. For the Miners' softball program, family comes first, because being a part of the roster is like being part of a family of 20 siblings, parented by co-head coaches and spouses James and Kathleen Rodriguez.

Since the program's inception in 2003, the Rodriguez' have been at the helm as co-head coaches and the approach to their team is that of a family environment, such that players refer to them as Papa (James) and Mama (Kathleen) coach.

In the spring of 2004, they announced the Miners' first-ever recruiting class, which was made up of seven freshmen and four junior college transfers. Since then, the message has remained the same: the softball team is a family.

"It's kind of what it is, we're a husband and wife coaching team," James Rodriguez said. "When these girls out of high school are getting ready to go to college and their parents are having to drop them off, sometimes states and thousands of miles away, they want to feel like their kids are going to be taken care of. It's family oriented."

The atmosphere created by both coaches has helped them in recruiting players to come to El Paso whether or not they have ever heard of UTEP. Their approach has also helped them keep parents at ease about their child's time as a student-athlete with the Miners.

"We're going to look after them, but they have to be mature and responsible enough to take care of their business as well. They're here to get an education and play softball at the same time," James said. "We try and look after them as much as we can, we make sure they're going to class and we have curfew time in the fall and in the spring."

For players, the family environment has left an impression and even some of their veteran players still remember how it felt to be recruited by the Rodriguez'.

"I took two official trips. When I looked back at the trips that I was taking and the schools that I was looking at online, this was the school that stood out the most," senior outfielder Courtney Ware said. "Every good memory I had was of El Paso. I really liked the family atmosphere that they have here."

Senior catcher Chelsea Troupe was one player who wasn't aware where UTEP or El Paso was located, but after visiting several schools, she simply felt like she belonged as a Miner.

"Papa coach was the first to call me when we started the recruiting process and I just came out for a visit and fell in love with the family environment," Troupe said. "I think I was just meant to be here, I just knew that this was the place for me."

With 18 of the 20 players on the roster being from outside of the El Paso region, stressing a family environment is an important aspect that both coaches and players seem to respond well to.

"In reality, they spend more time with each other than they do with their families back at home. That's where the family aspect all comes into play," James Rodriguez said. "We stress family that they need to be there for one another and take care of each other. We're just kind of leading them in that way."

With a program that is less than a decade old, getting players to come to El Paso could be a tough task.

"In the beginning, starting the program nine years ago, (it was hard) having people know that there is a softball program here in El Paso. If they had heard of UTEP, they hadn't heard of UTEP softball," James Rodriguez said. "So that took a few years to convince people. Since then, it's just a matter of getting them to El Paso. Once we get them here and see how wonderful it is here it makes it a little bit easier."

Daniel Ornelas may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).



Women’s Basketball

Miners not taking last-place Southern Miss lightly

BY WILLIAM VEGA  
The Prospector

Following a perfect start to Conference-USA play at 6-0, the only negative the Miners have possibly encountered was a suspension for two players that may still stand. UTEP played well without them during their last outing and the same could result when the Miners take on Southern Miss Jan. 26 in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

“It’s just another team that we have in conference that we’re ready to go but, of course, it’s hard because it’s on the road and we have to play every team hard,” sophomore forward Kayla Thornton said.

Freshman forward Chrishauna Parker and sophomore guard Ryah Lacy were both suspended by head coach Keitha Adams for breaking team rules for the Jan. 22 home game against Houston. After their first

practice following the game Jan. 24, Adams did not comment on whether the two will be at the Southern Miss contest.

Both Adams and Thornton said they were not distracted by the suspension. When asked about The Prospector article that said the two players may have been in a drug-related incident Jan. 20 at Miner Village, Adams had no comment and said they “have dealt with it and that’s pretty much it.” Senior forward Gloria Brown was also mentioned in the article but Adams said “the two players that were involved in the situation were suspended.”

Even shorthanded, the Miners had no trouble snapping a six-game losing streak to Houston in a 87-43 victory. Following the win, the team gained some national recognition when they received a vote in both the AP and ESPN/USA Today top-25 poll. It was the first time this season that

UTEP received a vote in the AP poll and the second time they received a vote in the ESPN/USA Today. They received two votes back on Dec. 20 after starting the season 10-0.

“It’s good to be seen nationally but we have to keep our head straight and keep doing what we’re doing and keep playing until we reach conference (tournament) and what we’re aiming for,” Thornton said.

The Miners will now turn their attention to a reeling last-place Southern Miss team that has yet to pick up a conference victory at 0-6. During that span, the Golden Eagles have lost to three teams UTEP has already beat in Tulsa (Jan. 5), Houston (Jan. 8) and Memphis (Jan. 18).

The Miners still feel they cannot take Southern Miss for granted as it is still another conference and road game.

“We know that we have to be ready and ready to play. We know Southern

Miss is going to play hard, they’re good at rebounding the ball and we’re going to have to play 40 minutes,” Adams said.

While Adams may note that rebounding is the Golden Eagles’ strongest suit, the statistics do not show it. Southern Miss has the second worst rebounding margin and defensive-rebounding total in C-USA, and is the worst offensive-rebounding team in the league.

Just two active players are averaging better than five rebounds a game, led by junior guard Tanecka Carey. On top of her team-high 6.4 rebounds a game, Carey also leads the team in scoring with 16 points per outing. Adams said playing the game at their tempo will be key, especially in the way she’s conducted practice this week. She said she emphasized the team’s press, press breaker and even challenged her offense in five-on-eight, full-court drills.

“We know we have to be ready for Southern Miss. We’ve already gotten in a routine,” Adams said. “We went over their offenses (Jan. 24) and what their gameplan is and (Jan. 25) we’ll do it again so we’re just trying to get prepared before we take off.”

The Miners are in their final stretch, with just 10 games remaining, including the Golden Eagle matchup. The locations for each are split down the middle with five home and five away games left. The Southern Miss game marks the third road game in their last four contests but coming off a home game, both Adams and Thornton feel they are rested and ready to go.

“I think we’re a little rested. You know, the last road games we had were back-to-back so it’s kind of a good transfer...and we have a little bit more energy so I think we’re going to do great,” Thornton said.

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

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BOB CORRAL / The Prospector  
Senior forward Gloria Brown fights for the rebound against a Houston defender Jan. 22 at the Don Haskins Center.

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by Linda Thistle

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Men’s Basketball

# Floyd set for rematch with Houston



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector  
**Freshman guard D’Von** Campbell flies in for a layup against East Carolina Jan. 18 at the Don Haskins Center.

BY FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ  
The Prospector

Following a dismal start on the road, head coach Tim Floyd lectured another page from his coaching book to his players.

“Like coach says: boys play at home, men play on the road,” senior forward Gabriel McCulley said.

The Miners will continue the hunt for their first road win of the season, Jan. 28 when they head to Houston to face the Cougars for the second and last time of the regular season.

“Houston is a good team. We beat them last time we played them and I am sure they are looking for a little payback at home,” McCulley said.

“This is not going to be easy at all. We have to really work this week to try and get that win in Houston.”

The first meeting against conference-foe Houston was Jan. 7 at the Don Haskins Center, which UTEP won 70-50. The Miners had three players score in double-figures led by McCulley’s 22 points, sophomore center John Bohannon’s 14 and 11 boards and freshman guard Julian Washburn’s 19.

UTEP was able to contain the Cougars’ top two leading scorers holding to eight total points. Sophomore forward Alandise Harris had two points and junior forward Jonathon Simmons finished with

six. Not one player from Houston’s starting five scored double-figures.

“I know it is not going to be like the last game we played here. They are at home and we beat them last time so they are going to want to beat us at their place,” Bohannon said. “We just got to get it together and need to get that one stop for the first road win. The one stop that championship teams have. We just need to get over the hump and get one of those.”

The Miners are sitting at 0-6 on the road. They lost their last game to Tulane 66-58 Jan. 21 in New Orleans.

“I tell them to keep at it, stay in there and keep working to get better,” McCulley said. “We have five more opportunities and we are going to get one on the road. It will come. All we have to do is play on the road like we do at home.”

With McCulley being the lone senior, the team has looked for him to rally them to a road victory. However, McCulley seems to have troubles on the road himself, scoring just 17 points combined in the last three road games. Against Tulane, he shot 40 percent and he finished with only four points.

“I have not been aggressive on the road as I have been at home. It is just something about the UTEP fans that play a role with me,” McCulley said. That is something I am going to have to change. If I want to lead this team, it is going to have to start with me.”

Houston is coming off an 82-76 win over East Carolina and both Simmons and Harris scored 19 apiece. UTEP also beat East Carolina 70-56 Jan. 18 at the Don Haskins Center.

“They got their head up with a recent win,” Floyd said. “They had looked like a team that could compete for a league title looking at how they could rebound and they were scoring about 80 points a game. They are a lot like us with a lot of youngsters and a lot of turnovers.”

Despite UTEP’s 8-3 record at home, Floyd feels that his team is giving up too much defensively at the Don Haskins Center.

“It has been the worst defensive team that I have coached,” Floyd said. “You can see that on the defensive boards, second chance opportunities, defensive field goal percentage, 3-point field goal percentage for opponents and we are last in the league. Is it quickness, foot speed, inexperience or strength? These are things we are asking ourselves.”

Frankie Rodriguez may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector  
**Junior guard Jacques** Streeter drives to the basket. Streeter is the team-leader in assists, averaging 4.55 a game.

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our view

January 26, 2012  
editor  
Justin Stene, 747-7446

# Diaper dandies



PHOTOS BY BOB CORRAL AND JUSTIN STENE

**This basketball season**, a few freshmen have stood out to lead both the men and women to winning records. While the women have the more experienced team, they still have four freshmen. The men have 11 new players, eight of them freshmen. Three of the more notable are (from left to right) forward Julian Washburn, guard Jenzel Nash and forward Cedrick Lang.



Surf & Turf  
Valentine's Day Dinner  
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Templeton Suite, Union East

Four Course Meal:

Homemade Caesar Salad  
Roasted Tomato Bisque  
Wild Mushroom Demi Glaze  
Garlic Dutch Potatoes  
Grilled Asparagus

Main Entree Choices:

6 oz Filet Mignon with Fried Shrimp  
6 oz Chicken Breast with Shrimp Scampi

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Complementary glass of wine (Red or White)  
or a pitcher of Non-Alcoholic Sangria

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or email mcaraveo@utep.edu  
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