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The Prospector, February 21, 2013

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25-YEAR STRIDE

Dr. Natalicio behind
UTEP's vision

BY ANDRÉS RODRÍGUEZ
The Prospector

Twenty-five years ago, UTEP President Diana Natalicio wasn't sure that she wanted to take on the presidency of a struggling university, but she took on the job hoping to change the mainly ceremonial role of the president. Now, with an institution of nearly 100 years headed towards tier one-status under her care, she said those changes have certainly been made.

"I think what was going through my head at the time was, 'Wow I can't believe I'm really going to do this,'" she said, "I wasn't sure that it was the kind of job...that I would enjoy because I like meaty things, things that have to do with research and I saw it as a bit ceremonial."

Feb. 11 marked the 25th anniversary of Natalicio's inauguration as UTEP president in 1988. Before that, she served as vice president for academic affairs, dean of liberal arts and chair of the languages department. She first came to the university as a linguistics professor in 1971.

Natalicio, 73, was born and raised in St. Louis, Mo., where she received a degree in Spanish and graduated summa cum laude at St. Louis University. She then went on to receive her master's in Portuguese and a doctorate in linguistics from the University of Texas at Austin.

Under her leadership as the first female president of UTEP, the university's enrollment has grown from 14,971 to more than 22,700 students, who, she said, reflect the demographics of the region. The university's research expenditures have also grown from about \$5 million in 1988 to nearly \$80 million in 2012.

"That's what our research and doctoral program activity has done, it's changed the climate entirely on the campus. Undergraduate students have much higher aspirations now to go on to graduate schools, to do a lot of other things, because we're a different kind of UTEP," she said. "We're not just a continuation of K-12, or sort of a regional comprehensive university, we're a research university that offers a broad range of highly enriched experiences."

"...you can't
just dream
about it, you've
got to do it..."

— Diana Natalicio,
UTEP President

Part of the university's plan towards a tier-one status includes increasing annual research expenditure to \$100 million and granting 100 doctoral degrees per year. Last year 75 doctoral degrees were granted and research expenditure was at \$79 million.

"On both fronts we've made huge strides," she said. "We're getting closer and closer...we're \$20 million away and we're growing at \$3, \$4, \$5 million a year so it could be four or five years."

Natalicio assures that the preparations towards tier one won't sacrifice accessibility for quality and prestige.

see STRIDE on page 3

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Column

Parking, prices and alternatives

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA

The Prospector



It's obvious students refuse to purchase parking permits by looking at the numerous vehicles that park about a mile radius from perimeter parking lots on campus. I haven't purchased a parking permit in about three years.

I've enjoyed the walk through the neighborhood around campus, but when I am running late to class it's the opposite. I park around West Yandell Drive and Los Angeles Drive. It's about a mile walk from my vehicle to my classroom.

Besides having to deal with the costs of permits, faculty and staff have to pay a bigger amount for parking, ranging from \$157 for remote parking to \$437 for the parking garage at lots 1-3. Parking for students range from \$100 for remote parking to \$305 for the parking garage at lots 1 and 2. Sometimes parking spots at some of the lots can fill up and you have no choice but to find an alternative spot outside of campus. This can happen often and it is aggravating seeing the permit become useless.

I understand some of these fees are expensive so the school can pay off the debt collected from the state bonds used for projects like the parking garages.

From a health aspect, there's definitely a benefit to averaging a total of eight miles of walking a week. Also, in big cities with metro systems, like subways, it's normal to walk a good distance to get to work or home. It's a natural thing.

Another thing to consider, along with parking issues, is the amount of time it takes to commute to school. An accident on the freeway can cause a big delay in the usual amount of time it takes for a student to get to school. This along with the time it takes to park and walk to class can lead to a late arrival in class for both students and teachers. I've had professors arrive late to class because they couldn't find any parking space for the lot they paid for.

Then I begin to think if there should be more leniency when it comes to professors who keep a really close eye

on attendance. It would be very disappointing for a student to be dropped or their final grade dropped a full letter based on circumstances that are out of their control. Traffic has always been an issue in El Paso. Just now, the city has worked to minimize traffic by creating the new Spaghetti bowl on the East Side. Yet, there's still a slight build up of traffic for students coming from the East Side. Everyone is heading to the West Side of town in the morning and vice versa in the evening.

Also, for international students coming from Ciudad Juárez, the wait time at the bridges can take up to three hours.

Because of all these situations there should immediately be some initiative or priority to give students some cushion from all these issues. I'd definitely be excited to see a shuttle service for students who park off campus, not just close to the remote parking lot, but the area around the southeast and east portion of campus for students who park in the public parking spaces around the residential area.

Also, for students, especially female students, a walk off campus late at night can be dangerous. Look at the case of the student who was sexually assaulted near Taco Bell. She was walking to her vehicle parked off campus.

Security should expand to areas off campus. Even if it's not mandatory being that it's off school grounds. Though, it should still be something taken into consideration rather than ignored. It's students who attend school at UTEP and invest their time and money in the school. There's money being spent in other areas of campus that we can live without. I'd rather have a comfortable experience in school taking advantage of everyday services offered rather than a campus transformation, although I am looking forward to it now that it's being worked on. If having improved parking and services will help me get to class on time or sooner than ever, then I'm all for it. It's going to show on my final grade. I won't be crediting any of my success to campus transformation.

Kristopher Rivera may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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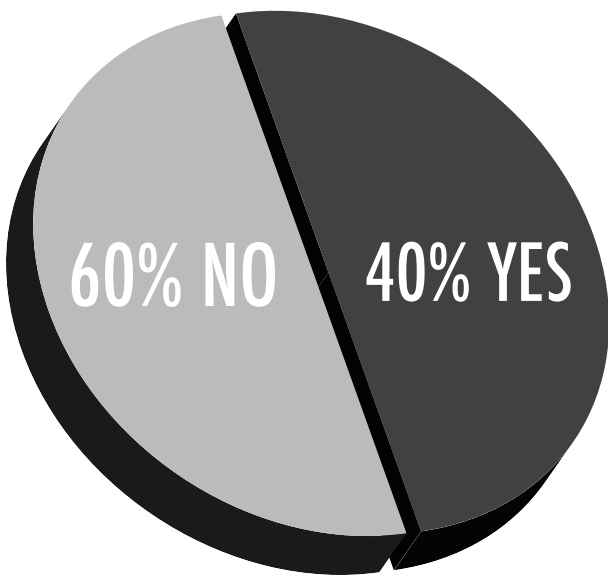
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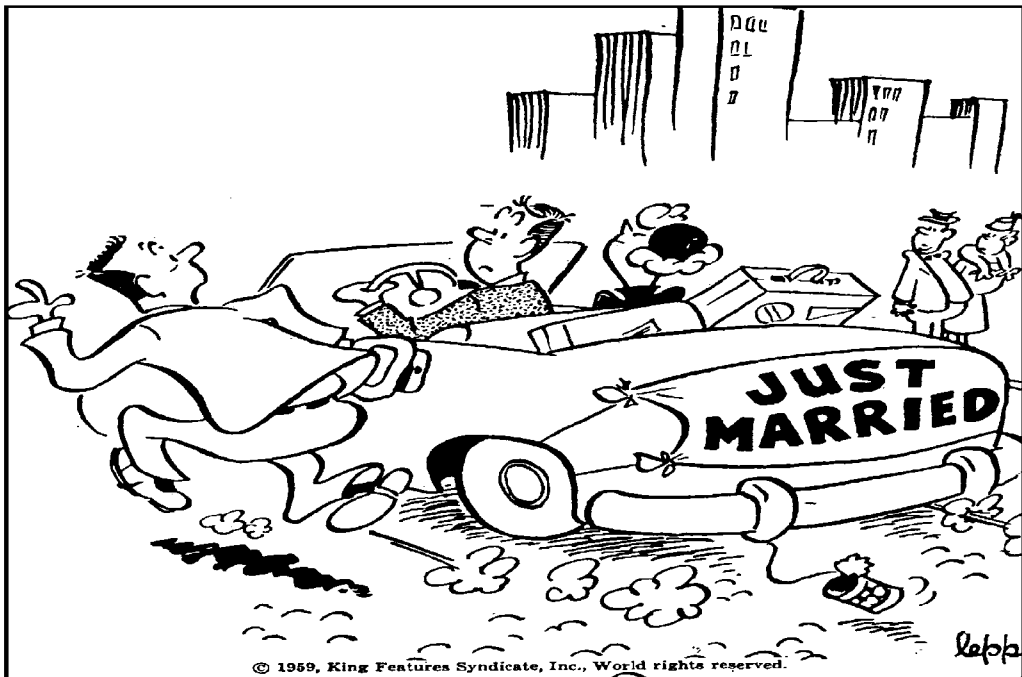
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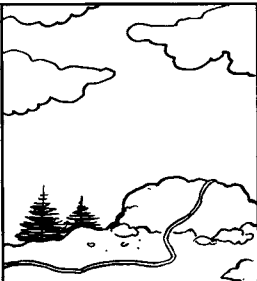
LAFF - A - DAY



“NOW may I have my ring back, Angela?”

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



the prospector

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Education

TEACH Grant offers alternative to pay college

BY SABRINA NUÑEZ

The Prospector

For students looking to become full-time teachers, financial aid in the form of the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant may be available to those who are looking to teach a high-need field in a high-need school.

“The TEACH Grant provides opportunities for students to get some financial assistance with their studies, which is always a good thing,” said Judith Munter, associate dean of the College of Education.

The TEACH Grant was set up by the federal government and awards students with \$4,000 a year to put towards their education.

“Students have to be in a program of study that will lead to becoming a teacher in a high-field need and must work in a high-need school. What that means is, anything having to do with math, science, bilingual education and special education, those (areas) are what the federal government considers high-need currently,” said Hector Hernandez, manager for the advising recruitment and career center for the College of Education. “They must (also) work in a school that receives

Title I funds, which means that it’s a high-needs training school.”

Texas has 7,291 schools and educational service agencies deemed high-need by the U.S. Department of Education and State statute for the 2012-2013 academic year. The El Paso region has 246.

“We tell (students) it is an opportunity for you and we do tell them to take a look at it and to make a decision,” Munter said. “We don’t make the decision for them. We do provide them with the information.”

In order to receive the TEACH Grant, students must maintain at least a 3.25 GPA and major in education or a field, such as math, that can lead to a career in teaching a high-need field. UTEP had 333 students on the TEACH Grant program during the 2011-2012 aid year with an average award of \$3,000.

“Undergraduate students can get up to \$16,000 total and then graduate students can get up to \$8,000 total,” said Craig Westman, associate vice provost for Enrollment Management. “What they require is that after you graduate, you have about eight years to do four years of service.”

If the student does not complete four years of service within the eight years at a designated school, the

TEACH Grant turns into an unsubsidized loan.

“Let’s say you’re in your eighth year and you’ve done three years of teaching, but you’ve decided to go work for a company that is outside of the teaching profession, you have to pay back the loan, with the interest, and it goes all the way back to the first year (you received it),” Westman said. “What they’re saying is, you’ve got to commit to those four years.”

Throughout the years of service, students must provide the Department of Education with documentation, proving they are working towards completing their service in a timely manner. If a student leaves the service, he or she must remain in contact with the Department of Education.

“There’s entrance counseling (students) go through that tells them to make sure they understand what they’re committing to. There’s exit counseling as well letting them know here’s what you need to do in order to have the grant money basically waived so (it doesn’t) become a loan,” Westman said.

see GRANT on page 4



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

see STRIDE on page 1

“Access is a fundamental value at UTEP. We’re going to build excellence on that because we believe our students, for who we provide access (to), have every right to expect that the education we are providing is competitive with that offered in more affluent settings,” she said.

Raising consciousness of UTEP as a growing research university is one of the things Natalicio hopes will result from the exposure she and the university will be receive as she is sworn in as chair of the American Council on Education in March.

“Whenever my name and UTEP’s name is projected out there...that will plant UTEP in people’s head in a way that maybe it hasn’t been before and certainly more people will get to know who we are and what we do and why we’re such a special university,” she said.

Out of the 25 years of changes to the university Natalicio has seen as president, she considers UTEP’s increased confidence the most important one.

“We relish competing with other universities for grant funds and other kinds of awards,” she said. “I think we’ve realized that in order to get somebody to pay attention to you, you have to do something, you can’t just sit back and wait to be discovered...We were told we would never have more doctoral programs than one, back in the late 1980s, and we didn’t accept that. We just said well we’ll see about that and now we have 19.”

Gary Edens, vice president for Student Affairs, first met Natalicio as a freshman at UTEP at a 1985 dinner. He’s been a part of the university throughout Natalicio’s 25-year presidential term, he said. “Ever since that dinner, I’ve watched and admired Dr. Natalicio’s leadership and most importantly her vision for this institution, and to be very honest it’s a major reason why I decided to stay here and make that a career.”

Edens said that he’s seen the academic quality of the university increase since his time as a student, and to him what’s equally important is the increase in the quality of student life.

“Her leadership has had a huge impact on this campus,” he said. “We’re becoming a campus where students are engaged in research labs, they work on campus, they have leadership opportunities, they participate in events and that’s something that I’m really excited about, where we balance the academic life of the campus and the social and student life of the campus.”

Natalicio concludes that the university’s future lies in believing that more can be done to improve, along with working on achieving that vision. She said that campus transformation and UTEP’s growing research opportunities are all part of that vision.

“I think we begin to put meat on the bones of that vision, you begin to see little pieces and parts of it,” she said. “I think, yes, you’ve got to take (it) on a day-to-day basis, you can’t just dream about it, you’ve got to do it, and I think we’re pretty good at both—dreaming about it, creating a vision and then making it happen.”

Andrés Rodríguez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



VERONICA ENRIQUEZ/ The Prospector

Students who pursue a career in education can enroll in the Teach Grant program, which pays for their college education in exchange for four years of teaching a high-need field.

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Transportation

Outer campus parking grows as campus closes for construction

BY MARILYN ALEMAN
The Prospector

Whether struggling to find a parking spot or trying to avoid city parking violation tickets, students still manage to make it on time to class, even while parking in the neighborhoods near campus.

UTEP currently has over 9,800 parking spaces and 54 parking lots, including the three parking garages, Sun Bowl, Schuster and Glory Road. Costs can range from \$100 to \$437 and generally, the closer students and faculty are to campus the more expensive the costs are.

However, with more than 26,000 students attending campus, not everyone can make amends to buy a parking permit, often resorting to parking in the nearby neighborhoods such as Kern Place and Sunset Heights.

Arthur Morales, junior English and American literature major, has been parking off campus for several semesters.

“I know finding parking sometimes is like finding gold, but the school needs to offer more options to make it easier to use other forms of transportation like the school bus system,” Morales said. “Parking in the garage might be a two minute walk whereas parking on El Paso (Street) is a 15 minute (walk) when you’re rushing to class.”

Morales said saving money is the primary reason he parks off campus.

“The best part about not parking on campus, or taking the bus, or riding your bike is not having to pay such a ridiculous amount for a parking pass,” he said.

Vanessa Mendoza, sophomore mathematics major, said she does not mind parking off campus since she enjoys the walk or the ride on her bike.

“You just have to remember that the earlier you get there the better, but then a lot of other people realize that too,” Mendoza said. “You also have to be careful with the signs; it looks like you’re going to park somewhere until 20 feet down there’s a sign (that says ‘no parking’).”

With a constant amount of students parking in the neighborhoods, some of the residents in the area could be burdened.

Historic district homes, such as Kern Place and Sunset Heights are built differently as opposed to homes in the Upper West Side and East side of El Paso. There is a lack of driveways and alley ways for residents to park their own cars as well as small narrow roads.

Victor Pacheco, assistant vice president of Business Affairs, said UTEP works with residents in the area with a city residential parking permitting program.

“Over the past five or six years we have been working with the neighborhoods to assist them in the parking situation regarding our students,” Pacheco said. “The program tries to restrict residential parking to the residents. (But) not the entire neighborhood is zoned that way so that’s where students park.”

If students violate any signs or restrictions within the neighborhoods, they are ticketed by the city police. Depending on the violation, most tickets start at \$55.

Even with the restrictions, students have always managed ways to park off campus, but with construction on the way and parking spaces presumably coming at a loss, there is a misconception that there are less spaces.

It is the complete opposite, officials said. Even with construction happening and with the upcoming inner campus centennial transformation, there is

a net gain of 1,896 spaces due to the parking garages.

Paul Stresow, director of Parking and Transportation Services, said that with the eventual building of a new parking garage, UTEP will offer more parking spaces to the community.

“In the immediate future there is a garage plan for the east end of campus and this is within the next 24 to 36 months,” he said. “As for parking spaces there has been a net gain overall but with campus transformation we project to probably lose about 319 spaces so that will give us a net of 1,577.”

The intention of the upcoming parking garage is to help both faculty and students have more leeway to get to their classrooms and to benefit residents of the El Paso community nearby, Stresow said.

According to Pacheco, there will also be other ways to get rid off outer campus by implementing a bus route from the East Side.

“We’re currently working with Sun Metro to increase the number of bus routes they have coming to campus,” Pacheco said. “We’re currently working on one that will be coming in from the far East Side near Tinseltown so we’re doing as much as we can to try to help the neighborhoods relieve the tension in parking.”

According to Stresow, Sun Metro has seen an increase of students taking the Route 70 bus (the direct route to UTEP from the East Side Terminal). It started as a trial but with the increasing numbers it then became a permanent route.

Marilyn Aleman may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



MICHELE TORRES / The Prospector

Students find off campus parking at the closed Chevron gas station and El Paso Street.

GRANT from page 3

According to Westman, the only risk to the program might be students failing to commit to the four years of service.

“It’s a good program for students who are truly going to go into teaching then work at schools that have been designated by the federal government as low-income schools. It’s nice (and) it helps pay for your education and UTEP’s cheap,” Westman

said. “That can pick up most of your expenses as an undergraduate to get you through after Pell and Texas Grant has been applied because our students to have a very high need.”

Students wishing to obtain more information can attend information workshops held through financial aid or visit the website teach-ats.ed.gov/ats/faq.action.

Sabrina Nuñez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



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February 21, 2013
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Spanish dance lures students for classes



VERONICA ENRIQUEZ / The Prospector

Rita Triana demonstrates Flamenco, a Spanish dance to students taking her class at UTEP.

BY OSCAR GARZA
The Prospector

Rita Triana, instructor of Spanish dance, brings the art of Flamenco, and its cultural background to UTEP students and faculty with a passionate and authentic flavor.

The course teaches the origins, the traditions and the styles concerning dances in Spain and Latin America, as well as theories and the cultural background behind them. The class is offered as part of the Chicano Studies and the Kinesiology programs.

“I love to teach, for me, it’s a privilege to dance and I really feel that,” Triana said. “What we call Flamenco were really the people who had to run and hide, they were oppressed during the Inquisition. And these people were lamenting what they had lost in Spain, and then gradually it became part of the culture.”

This semester Triana is teaching her students the Tango of Andalucia and said that the historical context of all these dances are part of what allows individuals to connect with their own identity.

“I’m happy (to hear) the last day of the class, when they say ‘oh watch this’ and they’ll show me something and that’s my reward,” Triana said. “These are all the roots that really sustain us and make us individuals and make us proud of our identity.”

Dennis Bixler-Marquez, director of Chicano Studies, said that the class can appeal to anyone because of its contributions to the understanding of culture and traditions.

“There is that sort of heritage that came over here, from the cultural perspective, for example in her course she may bring someone from the music department and others who look at how Flamenco dancing in terms of

“You can really put yourself into the dance when you realize that you’re dancing history, you’re dancing steps from the past.”

- Rita Triana,
Spanish dance instructor

certain instruments, in terms of how certain musical genres comes to be,” Bixler-Marquez said. “It’s not strictly about performance; there is a theory and history attached to the course where people learn about the origins and so on.”

Bixler-Marquez said that people come from a variety of backgrounds to enjoy the class.

“To have lived in Spain, Mexico and the U.S. and that’s a resume that’s very difficult to match,” Bixler-Marquez said. “She is kind of like a heart and soul approach and Flamenco requires that and that’s a big dimension.”

Ernie Chacon, senior multimedia journalism major, said that he enjoys the passion that Triana brings to the class as a way to motivate and get students involved.

“She has a lot of passion for teaching dance to us, you can tell by the way she

speaks to us and her posture,” Chacon said. “It’s pretty good being with a teacher who’s passionate about teaching us and who wants us to learn, but it’s good that she wants us to apply it anywhere else where we want to.”

Dawn Vigil, physical education instructor, said that it was almost like a childhood dream getting to learn Flamenco through Triana’s teachings.

“I was always drawn to Flamenco and Spanish dance ever since I was a little girl,” Vigil said. “She has so much experience and was exposed to so many people through her husband and her family and all throughout her career, I just love to sit and just listen to her and it gives me a flavor of my ancestry; it gives me a connection to the people who’ve gone past.”

Vigil said that one needs a heart and soul in order to dance Flamenco, to have that connection of the history and background.

“You can really put yourself into the dance when you realize that you’re dancing history, you’re dancing steps have gone past,” Vigil said. “You learn not only how to move your body but you get to really connect with the old history of El Paso and Spain. This is a class that really goes outside of the boundaries of dance.”

Triana’s experience with the art of Spanish dance can be felt throughout the class that she teaches and her passion for the art form is on full display when performing to her students as well.

“I don’t care what you wear, what you wear is surface outside in. What you feel inside out, that’s art,” Triana said. “Very often we have moments in this class where you’ll see a spark and I live for that spark.”

Oscar Garza may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Buddy’s offer knick-knacks, imported and craft beers

STEVEN MANSFIELD
The Prospector

Buddy’s Beer Barn, located at 10150 Montana on the East Side, is a hidden gem in El Paso that is slowly uncovering itself as more than just a beer stop.

Aside from having more than 300 beers in the barn, Buddy’s offers a room full of whiskey and snacks. Whether driving through or walking in to purchase drinks, it is also hard to miss the racks of thrift clothing and knick-knacks for sale.

Doug and Pat Barker have converted this old barn into what it is today.

“We opened 11 years ago on May 23,” said Pat Barker, co-owner of Buddy’s Beer Barn. “We evolved to the Whiskey Shed two years later and the Corn Shack about three years later. Everybody goes there, here and there. It’s kind of like a one-stop shop.”

Serving as both a drive-thru and a walk-in store, Buddy’s has an overwhelming amount of beer on their shelves, including foreign beers and a wide selection of liquor, wine and kegs. Most of these beers cannot be found at local convenience stores.

“We have over 300 different beers from China and all over the world. I cannot even name the craft beers from the United States anymore,” Pat Barker said. “There are over 100 different kegs. We always have a couple on special so you just ask for the beer and I can see if it comes in a keg. Sometimes they’re in three different sizes and we even have personal kegs.”

Buddy’s offers specials to alleviate spending on different kinds of beers.

“We always have specials and try to always have a \$1 beer. We try to accommodate that pocket that only has \$1 and, of course, goes on to \$20 a bottle. It just depends on what you are looking for,” Doug Barker said.

Inside the barn, the racks are full of t-shirts, the shelves full of knick-knacks and toys, furniture, signs, lights, surrounding the beer and offering something for the eye to see.

The service is the first thing you notice upon entering Buddy’s.

“Western Beverages is wonderful but the customer is on his own. Here,

when we find out that you want an IPA (India Pale Ale), I will show you all my IPAs and actually give it to you in your hand,” Doug Barker said. “That’s what makes us a little more different, the fact that we hand you the bottle and can tell you about the bottle.”

This personal service and overall friendly atmosphere keeps customers coming back for more. Buddy’s is not only popular with locals. Some visitors to El Paso go out of their way to check out the barn.

“We have had tour busses come in. When the bowling people came for six months and turned the Coliseum into a bowling alley, they came over to see everything,” Barker said.

Buddy’s also has a beer specialist on their staff. Victor tells customers anything they want to know about beer and if they are not sure what to drink, he can lead them in the right direction.

“I have a kid that works here on weekends and he can tell you exactly where the beer came from, the ounces, what’s in it and the season. We have an extremely good expert,” Doug Barker said. “People will come and wait just for him and he knows exactly what he is talking about.”

Students agree that Buddy’s is a nice alternative to Wal-Mart and convenience stores.

“Its main focus is a bigger selection and people are always nice there too,” said Dorian Payan, junior sociology major. “I think it has developed this sort of cultural cache imbedded into it too because among groups, Buddy’s has a cult following. You make more of a conversation when you say you got your beer at Buddy’s in contrast to Wal-Mart.”

Buddy’s isolated location, however, makes it difficult for people to visit unless they are on that part of town or plan to head that way. Many students also seem oblivious to the fact that it even exists.

Thomas Demoss, junior graphic design major, had never heard about Buddy’s but said, “I love beer and that place sounds really cool. I will definitely have to check it out.”

Steven Mansfield may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



AARON MONTES / The Prospector

Buddy’s Beer Barn provides unique beers and various items for affordable prices.

Gaming

One More Level offers retro games and memories



AARON MONTES / The Prospector

Vintage games, gaming systems and repairs are available at One More Level Retro Gaming Store.

BY OSCAR GARZA
The Prospector

Retro video games provide young adults with memories from their childhood and that is one of the many experiences provided by One More Level Retro Gaming Store, located on 10968 Montwood.

One More Level offers retro video games like Super Nintendo, Sega Genesis, among others, collectibles, electronic repairs, modern games and tournaments.

Bernie Garcia, owner of the store, has not only a passion for retro video games but also hopes that customers revisit their old memories of playing this style of games.

“It’s something that I grew up with and that’s why I decided to bring up a store that still holds the values of memories of what one went through in their childhood,” Garcia said. “And still maintain it and continue, besides having classic gaming but collectible items as well that were designed from the games back in the day.”

Garcia said that anybody can enjoy retro gaming. One doesn’t need to be from a particular generation to enjoy it, even younger players can enjoy it.

“I think they’ll see the difference of the strategies and the challenges of the games that there were back then,” Garcia said. “These other games give you a hard time, you can’t pause in the game and you have to finish the game in order to beat it. For me it’s still wonders, it’s a nice image and it’s all about the retro.”

For Garcia, the most gratifying aspect about bringing retro video gaming to the community is the feedback he receives from customers.

“I hear their emotions, how they grew up with it and you know, saying thank God there is a store selling the old school stuff and I feel very appreciated that I’m helping others bring back their memories cause they’re hard as it is to come around,” Garcia said.

One of the customers from One More Level said that the store allows him to experience and revisit games that he grew up with.

“Besides the actual games, the selection of merchandise is quite large and it offers things that most other retail game stores won’t have,” said Luis Muñiz, junior creative writing major. “Aside from the sales, I love the fact that they host tournaments every once in a while, all of which turn out to be a great experience where a lot of people can come out and enjoy themselves.”

Muñiz said that the appeal of retro gaming comes from a place of nostalgia and the originality played into the creation of a game.

“It’s a combination of a few things, nostalgia for those that want to relive the fun moments of their childhood,” Muñiz said. “It’s a time period where quality and originality had priority when creating a game.”

Cesar Hernandez, junior education major, said that he likes how original retro games are and how they were the first of their kind and served as a

basis to later allow video games to be taken to a whole new level.

“They appeal to me because it’s what I grew up with. I remember playing these games as a kid and it’s interesting to see how far they have come,” Hernandez said. “I think they can be enjoyed by anyone but only a small few.”

Hernandez said that these games have always been there and it’s almost like the latest trend but now there is an element of nostalgia that adds something more to the players.

“I think retro video games are more enjoyed and appreciated by the people who originally played them,” Hernandez said.

Garcia said he hopes that customers have unique and special reactions when entering the store.

“Their reactions, their first impressions that they get when they come in are ‘oh my God, old school, memories,’” Garcia said. “Their first reaction is what I like when they step into the store because they see the different things, not just one thing, but everything that we have in the store just brings their attention to themselves.”

Garcia hopes that in the future they can open a store on the West Side that would include animation merchandise as well.

“Trying to hold everything as old school because I mean old school never dies, that’s what started it all,” Garcia said.

Oscar Garza may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Culture

Spanish theater festival to educate locals

BY ANDRÉS RODRÍGUEZ
The Prospector

The 38th annual Siglo de Oro Drama Festival is set to begin March 6-10 with a little more than the usual performances at the Chamizal National Memorial Theater.

This year, festival planners were granted permission to screen the Spanish film, “Lope,” which had not been screened in the United States before. The festival is also implementing an outreach program and teacher workshop to help educators prepare curricula in connection to the festival.

Matthew Desing, associate professor of language and linguistics and academic liaison for the festival, said that planning began immediately after the festival ended last year with the help of Los Paisanos del Chamizal. They open the call for proposals early and received about 20 to 25 proposals to select from.

The festival will begin with “El caballero de Olmedo,” one of two Lope de Vega plays to be performed.

“They are actually placing the action in the period of the war of the Cristeros in Mexico. So the costuming is ‘20s and ‘30s rural Mexico and the music is from that period too,” Desing said.

Producciones Shake & Falstaff from Puebla, Mexico is the production company behind opening night’s performance. Cambalache Teatro from Murcia, Spain will perform Lope de Vega’s “La Vengadora de las Mujeres” the following night. On March 8, Nao d’amores from Segovia, Spain, will perform the compilation work “Misterio del Cristo de los Gascones.”

“That’s a completely different kind of play,” Desing said. “It’s not by any one playwright, it’s a reconstruction of what we think these liturgical dramas were, based on a lot of research that went into the creation of the play.”

Other performances include Miguel de Cervantes’ “El Coloquio de los Perros” and “De burladores y burlados” by the Morfeo Teatro Clásico, a production company from Burgos, Spain.

Anne Dougherty-Stephan, chief of interpretation, education and the arts at Chamizal National Memorial and festival coordinator, said that the festival ties very strongly to the national park’s mission to educate through the arts.

“Our mission is to celebrate the cross-cultural nature of the borderland community through visual and performing arts,” she said. “(Next week) Eden Enterprises will be performing scenes at schools from several of the plays that are going to be performed the following week.”

A teacher workshop is also scheduled at 9 a.m. Feb. 23 in Los Paisanos Gallery at the Chamizal National Memorial, where teachers will be presented with lesson plans that relate to the Spanish Golden Age of literature.

Desing said the Spanish-language festival plays an important role in connecting the local Hispanic audience to their cultural heritage. He said that much like an English-speaking audience feels connected to Shakespeare, so should a Spanish-speaking audience connect with Spanish theater.

“In the same way, Lope de Vega, Miguel de Cervantes, Calderon de la Barca, Tirso de Molina are an important part of the history of the Spanish language and literature in Spanish and so that’s an important aspect—connecting people to part of their heritage,” Desing said.

Jessica Castañeda, freshman pre-business major is looking forward to the performances.

“I’ll probably be attending one of the Lope plays, either here or in Juárez, because I feel it’s necessary to support our drama scene,” Castañeda said. “Especially this festival that has come to represent our community in such an important way.”

Tickets can be purchased for \$5 at the door or from members of Los Paisanos del Chamizal. Four of the plays will also be performed free of charge at 7 p.m. March 6-9 at the Auditorio Benito Juárez in Ciudad Juárez.

For more information, visit los-paisanos-chamizal.com.

Andrés Rodríguez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



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by Linda Thistle

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★★★ HOO BOY!

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Miners open first home games with pair of double-headers

BY PAUL REYNOSO
The Prospector

The UTEP softball team is gearing up for its first home stand of the season by hosting the UTEP Invitational this weekend. The tournament will feature double-headers with rivals New Mexico State and South Dakota.

After competing in back-to-back softball tournaments to open the season, the Miners are eager to open the home slate at the Helen of Troy Field. For the athletes, playing at home again is rewarding.

"We learned a lot from our first two weekends," said junior pitcher/infielder Colleen Hohman. "It's our first home stand. So, especially for all the new girls, it's really exciting to finally get to play on this field we've been practicing on."

The Miners are coming off a trip that saw them take three-out-of-five games last weekend in the Jimmy John's Classic in Hammond, La. Junior transfer Alana Leasau continued her early season success as a Miner by hitting two home runs and driving in eight runs during the tournament.

One of the early bright spots in the season for the Miners has been Leasau, who leads the team in slugging percentage (.526) and runs batted in (14). Head coach Kathleen Rodriguez, attributed Leasau's success on the diamond to her hard work.

"First and foremost, Alana is a worker. For any coach, that's what they want," Rodriguez said. "The fact that she came from a high-tier junior

college—they took third in the nation—so she knows what it's like to win."

The Miners come into this weekend's play with an overall record of 5-6 and are looking to improve on it, but the task will not be an easy one. Coach Rodriguez said the Miners will have to make some adjustments in preparing for opponents, including a rematch against New Mexico State.

"New Mexico State is good. They are defensively sound, they are coached extremely well and they can swing the bat," Rodriguez said. "As a staff, I think we have to come in and make sure that our girls are prepared for that and make sure we're taking advantage of every single pitch that's thrown at us."

The first part of the Battle of I-10 saw the Aggies defeat the Miners by a score of 7-1 on Feb. 12. Aggie pitcher Alex Newman limited the Miner offense to just five hits and one run. For senior catcher, Kayleigh Walts, the key to reversing the outcome will be offense.

"We have power hitters, but maybe not as much that hit home runs," Walts said. "We have to manufacture runs and I think we need to make adjustments on our offense for this weekend."

Walts also said that the rivalry with New Mexico State is what is going to make this weekend's games intriguing.

"I think after the first meeting, it just wasn't us. It's not who we are," Walts said. "The great part of it is they think that's who we are. We're going to come out this weekend ready, guns



The Miners will have two double-headers this weekend, Feb. 23-24. The team will play against New Mexico State and South Dakota.

blazing, going to kick some butt, so we're really excited about it."

South Dakota comes into the UTEP Invitational at 6-4. Allie Daly leads the Coyotes with a .343 batting average and 13 runs batted in. The Coyotes won the previous match up with the Miners, 6-1, last weekend at the Jimmy John's Classic, behind pitcher Erica Denney, who allowed just five hits.

UTEP will be looking to use this learning experience to motivate and better prepare them for this second and third time coming up.

"We have our scouting reports on them, so we know what they've done in our previous games—on what some of their strengths are and some of their weaknesses are," Hohman said.

The Miners will face off against New Mexico State on Saturday at 1:30 p.m., followed by a 4 p.m. match up against South Dakota. Sunday will feature another doubleheader for the Miners with the same two teams.

Paul Reynoso may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Track and Field

Hoping for success at conference Indoor Championships



AARON MONTES / The Prospector

The UTEP track and field team practiced in the rain Feb.19 at Kidd Field. The team will head to Birmingham, Ala. for the Conference USA Indoor Championships.

BY EDWIN DELGADO
The Prospector

After having a week off since their last competition, the UTEP track and field team is ready for the Conference USA Indoor championships Feb. 23 in Birmingham, Ala.

The Miners got their last rehearsal before the conference championships at the Texas A&M Invitational in College Station, Texas.

"I think the meet went well for us," said sophomore sprinter Abiola Onakoya. "It helps us find out what we need to work on for the conference, it reveals the strengths of the team."

Sophomore distance runner Anthony Rotich was the only Miner that participated in the Husky Classic, hosted at Washington University in Seattle, where he had the opportunity to compete with some of the top runners in the country and gain experi-

ence that will come in handy during the conference championships.

"(Anthony Rotich) had an unbelievable week," said track and field head coach Mika Laaksonen. "He finished 8th in the 5,000 meters, and he ran under eight minutes in the 3,000 meters the very next day, that was a very impressive performance."

Among the best performers for the Miners was junior jumper Mark Jackson, who registered the 8th best mark

in the country and the best for Conference USA, reaching 15.86 meters. Jackson finished in first place in the triple and long jump at the Texas A&M and is one of the favorites in conference.

Other notable athletes and events include junior distance runner Elkana Rotich, who won in the mile with a personal best of 4 minutes, 6.37 seconds, and the 4 x 400 relay led by Nigeria native Onakoya and El Pasoan Daniel Tarango. The team made some strides finishing fourth at College Station, despite Tarango not performing at his prime.

"I had a bad time in the 800-meters, but I made up for it in the 400-meters, which is not that great either, I wasn't feeling well the day before the race I was kind of sick, but it's all part of the learning process," Tarango said. "During the 800-meters I hurt my calf and it was bothering me for several days, fortunately I felt much better throughout the week and I've been able to finish my workouts very strong."

For the women, the strongest performances were by sprinters. Junior hurdler/sprinter Janice Jackson took first place in College Station in the 60-meter hurdles, followed by Brianna McGhee who crossed the finish line in fourth place. In the 60-meter dash, Yolanda Suggs finished fifth with a time of 7.55 seconds.

"I know I have one more year of eligibility, but I want to win a confer-

ence title. I really want this," Jackson said. "All I have to do is come off hard from start to finish and I'll be good, because that's been my problem so far, I'll wait until like the third hurdle to really switch gears, but we've been working on that a lot lately"

Coach Laaksonen, for the most part was pleased with the performance by most of the athletes, but acknowledged that there are a few that need to improve for the conference championships. The main goal for the track team is to compete hard and with a lot of pride.

Laaksonen said that regarding the women's team he hopes it will be a great learning experience for the younger athletes who haven't participated in many competitions. But when it comes to men, he is hopeful that the Miners can win their first conference indoor championships title in seven years.

"I think we're hoping to see a lot of people who are capable of competing really well to actually compete well because they haven't been competing to their full potential," said senior jumper Donovan Grant. "What's on paper in a lot of events aren't what they're capable of doing."

Edwin Delgado may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



AARON MONTES / The Prospector
The women's basketball team practiced Feb. 19 to prepare for their game against Houston on Feb. 21 at the Don Haskins Center.



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Women's Basketball Miners look to break two-game losing streak

BY ALBERT GAMBOA
The Prospector

The women's basketball team is back at the Don Haskins Center, Feb. 21, to face the Houston Cougars after a tough, winless road trip that concluded with an overtime loss to UCF. "We just got to gather back and be mentally ready," said junior forward Kayla Thornton. "Plus, coming back home always gives us a boost because we got great fans."

The Miners head into this contest with their second two-game losing streak of the season while having lost four of the past five games; something that hasn't happened since 2011. Currently in fourth place in Conference USA, the Miners look to get back on track with three of their upcoming games against teams in the bottom six in conference standings. The last time the women's basketball team played the Houston Cougars, they were soaring with only two losses on their record while riding

"Finding this cure isn't about finding fame, it's about saving lives."

- Jeff Blu, biology major

a three-game winning streak. Since that late January game, UTEP has hit a slump, most noticeably on offense. The Miners are only shooting 34 percent from the floor while turn-

ing the ball over 81 times in the past five games.

"We need to stay as a team and continue to play hard. We've turned the ball over too many times so that's hurt us," said senior center, Anete Steinberga. "So we need to take care of the ball better and execute our offense."

Steinberga and Thornton are the only Miners hitting their shots. Steinberga has been averaging 19 points the past three games on 47 percent shooting, whereas Thornton has been averaging 15 points and 8 rebounds a game. The past game against UCF, the Miners had three players score in double figures and the rest of the team didn't have more than four points.

Both junior guard Kelli Willingham and freshman guard Irene Gari have been on a funk, combining to shoot 16-of-71 field-goals on 23 percent shooting in their last three games.

The Miners defense is a reason why they are in close games as they lead the conference in field-goal percentage defense, rebounding and rebound margin and rank third in limiting opponents to 57 points per game.

Houston comes in with momentum after a comeback double-overtime win against Tulane. The Cougars have won two out of their last three games by a combined total of three points. Though the Miners beat the Cougars by 11 points in their past meeting, UTEP isn't going to take them lightly.

"(Houston) rebound's it well, they're athletic, (senior guard) Porsche Landry is really good. We're going to have to hustle and shoot the ball better," said head coach Keitha Adams.

Landry, the fourth leading scorer in Conference USA, is the only player on the team averaging double-digit scoring with 16 points per game. Junior forward Te'onna Campbell is coming off a career high with 17 points and five assists in her last game against Tulane, including making the game-winning lay-up in the second overtime.

Freshman guard March Amerson won her second C-USA Freshman of the Week award this past week after putting up 15 points on 70 percent shooting in her last game.

Playing at home should be an advantage for the Miners. The women's basketball team is 12-2 at home while the Cougars are struggling on the road at 3-7. The Cougars have won only three games at the Don Haskins Center since 1987.

Albert Gamboa may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



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