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# The Prospector, March 26, 2013

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## UTEP REQUESTS A \$99-MILLION TUITION BOND FOR CONSTRUCTION



FILE PHOTO / The Prospector

The tuition bond would be used for the construction of an interdisciplinary research building that would integrate all research centers already existing at utep, such as the Computer Science and Chemistry buildings.

BY ANDREA ACOSTA

The Prospector

The Texas Legislature is considering a \$99 million tuition revenue bond that was requested by UTEP with the purpose of building a \$110 million Interdisciplinary Research Building.

The legislature is also analyzing 74 other similar proposals from other educational institutions since fall 2012.

According to Richard Adatao, executive vice president of legal affairs and oversight, the UTEP proposal was ranked No. 12, placing it on the "highly recommended" category by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

"Right now we are in the process of going through the request," Adatao said. "We probably won't know the Texas Legislature's decision till May."

The location of the 250,000-square-foot research building has already been designated. It would be on the corner of Sun Bowl

and University Avenue, where the Burges and Barry Hall buildings stand now. Both facilities would be destroyed.

According to Bob Currey, assistant vice president of Research and Sponsored Projects, the new building will enable to place all research centers already existing at UTEP under one strictly designed and more suitable laboratory building.

"UTEP currently has about 30 organized research units and formal research centers all over campus," Currey said. "However, the problem with this is that some of them are taking up academic space that should be used strictly for classrooms, not mentioning the lack of high tech support that labs require."

Students who will be taking advantage of the new building will include engineers and health science majors that are currently working on STEM projects. Education majors will also have the opportunity to conduct research at the facilities.

"This research space will not only provide students with a better academic experience and the ongoing opportunity to learn, but also to practice and develop skills that will make them better scientists, engineers and professionals long after they graduate," Currey said.

Junior mechanical engineer major, Roya Edalatpour, who is currently doing research along with a team on the evaluation of the discriminative capacity of impulse oscillometry—a child-friendly lunch function test that tracks pulmonary conditions, especially asthma in children—said that the implementation of a research building would be a promising investment for the future of the university and its students.

"This facility would not only bring in more research funding to the university," Edalatpour said. "But it would also give students an opportunity to work beyond the classroom and apply their knowledge to real world problems, and hopefully solve them."

"It would also give students an opportunity to work beyond the classroom."

- Roya Edalatpour,  
freshman mechanical engineer  
major

see BOND on page 4

## Department of Communication seeks new chair

BY SABRINA NUÑEZ

The Prospector

With other academic interests in mind—such as publishing books—Frank Perez, chair of the Department of Communication has given notice of his resignation from his post. Perez' last day as chair will be Aug. 31.

"I just figured it was good time for me to go back. I've got a couple of books in the pipeline that I'm hoping I can work on and after having been chair for the last few years, I'd like to go back to that and contribute to the university's success on a scholarly front as opposed to an administrative front," Perez said.

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Patricia Witherspoon said department chairs step down frequently, usually one or two a year, and sometimes return to their post.

"Some departments rotate people through the chair and so you have to do it for three years and then you move on. Communications doesn't work like that (however)," Witherspoon said. "In this case, (Perez) has been chair about five years and decided he wanted to pursue other academic goals that he has."

Witherspoon said Perez' greatest contribution as chair was his strong advocacy for students, particularly when involving student organizations.

"He's a very student-focused professor, which is one reason that he was put in that position at the time, so he has never forgotten the student, which most chairs don't. Most good chairs are student-focused," Witherspoon said.

Kenneth Chung-Chan Yang, associate professor for the Department of Communication, said Perez has also done well within the department.

"As a chair, Dr. Perez has provided a smooth transition from previous chairs, Dr. Witherspoon. Dr. Perez' major impacts include creating a supportive environment within the department, and continuing program developments," Yang said. "(The) communication department is a big department with various degree plans and subsequently diverse needs, Dr. Perez has done an excellent job in coordinating these need variations to create a good synergy within the department."

Perez said he has enjoyed knowing that his colleagues were just as committed in identifying ways to make the department grow to help and benefit students.

see COMMUNICATIONS on page 4



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Column

Riding the Metro

BY LORAIN WATTERS  
The Prospector



Turning the key in the ignition, hoping to hear the sound of an already weakened engine, only to be met with a cough and a spurt of gears rubbing against each other. With 45 minutes before class starts, morning rush hour and living in the far East Side, all hope is lost to make it to school on time.

Until now, commuting to UTEP from the far East was always a hassle. Planning routes, alternative ways, filling up on gas with a limited amount of money and the overall rush of traffic in the mornings and evenings made driving a nuisance. Carpooling was beneficial if all of the above cooperated.

There were too many times where I missed my first class at 8:30 a.m. or even at 9:30 a.m. due to traffic and unexpected accidents on I-10. This was especially aggravating when attendance counted for points.

I park in the P-4 parking lot and it is quite a distance from campus, and when work doesn't let out until after midnight, the walk back to the car is unsettling.

Last fall semester, there were rumors of a Miner Metro floating around and surveys were being sent out regarding best pick up points should one ride the bus. This was to provide a general idea of better bus routes for students to commute with

ease to UTEP, whether they lived on the West Side, far East Side or Central.

However, due to the increase in expansion of homes and schools on the East Side, the aim for bus routes has been geared towards that side of town.

Recently, I started taking the metro bus to school and back from the far East and have not only saved money but have saved myself the stress of worrying over transportation. Granted, I have to be at the bus stop by 6:30 a.m. to make it on time for my 8:30 a.m. class, but I am saving money and getting those attendance points.

Now with the Student Busing System Project in place for Fall 2013, I expect to save more money by not buying a permit (which goes around \$200) and riding this new transportation in collaboration with Sun Metro.

The commute is long, adding in the extra 30 stops before arriving to the East Side terminal, only to board another bus that will then arrive at the Oregon stop. However, this allows for ample time to study or catch up on leisure reading that I wouldn't be able to do had I driven myself to school.

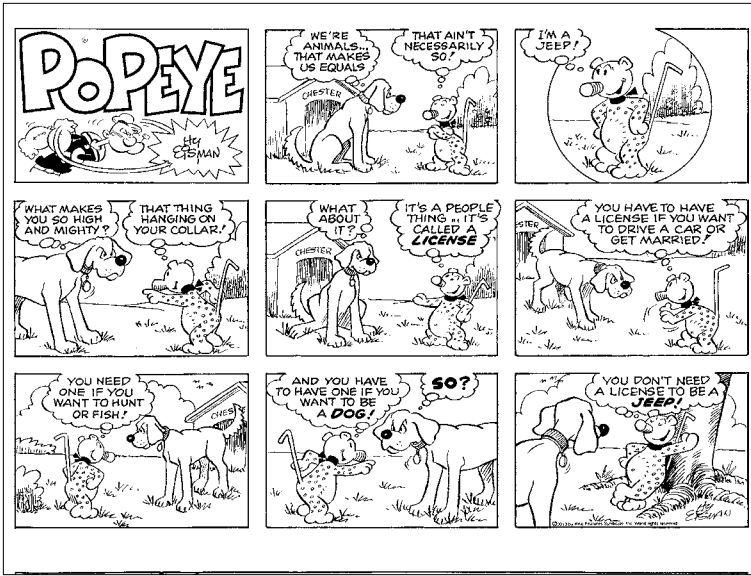
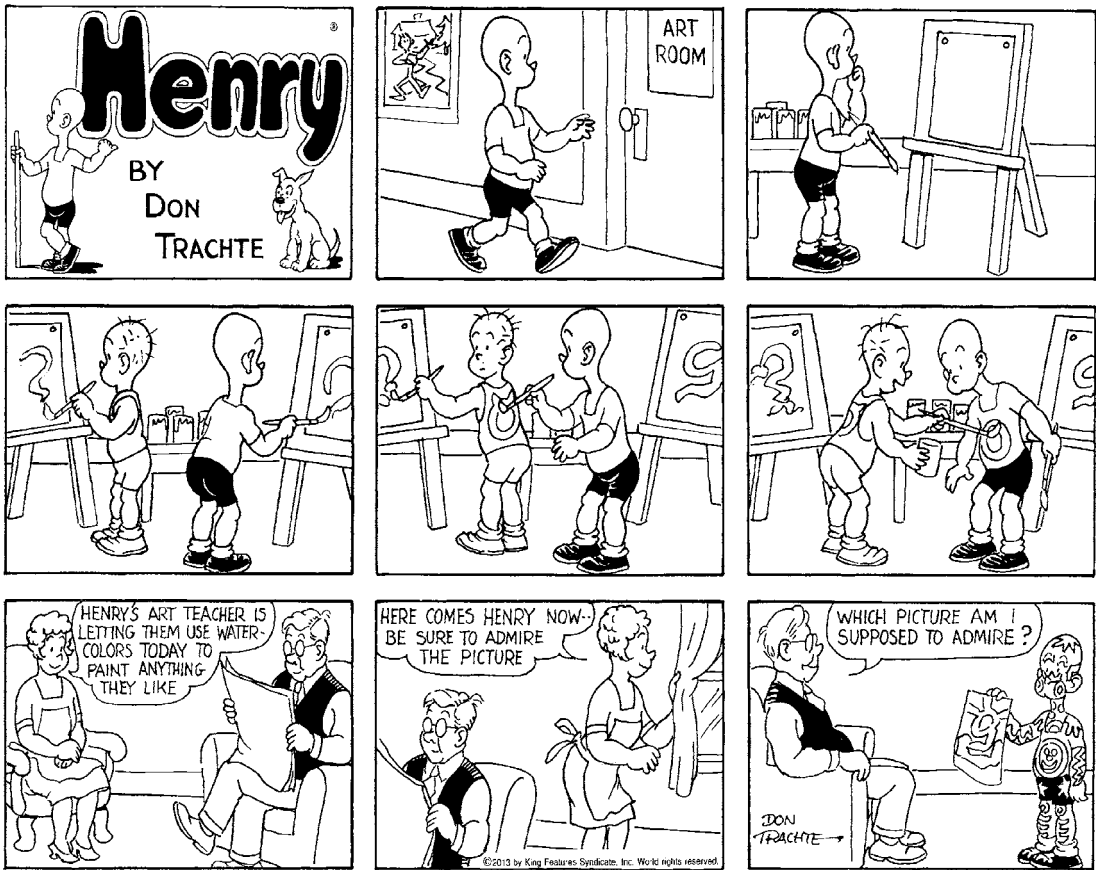
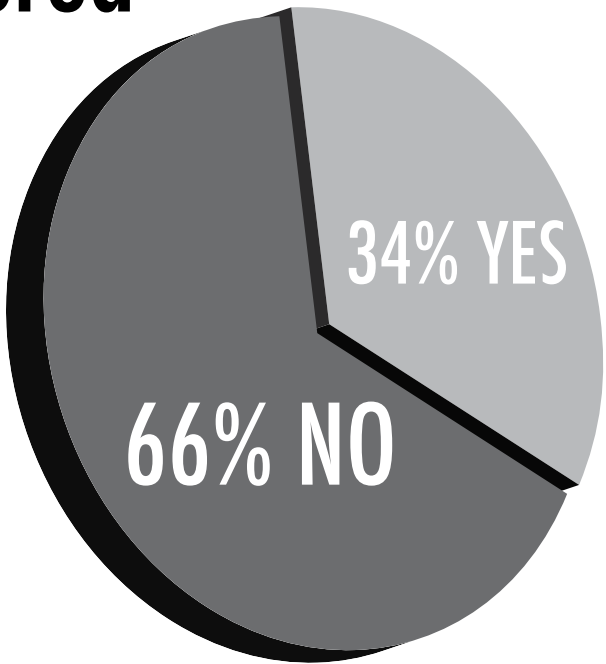
The new busing system should prove to be extremely beneficial for students, especially those commuting from the far East and farther, such as Clint or Fabens. One can only hope that improvements continue to be made in order to ensure an easy travel to UTEP for all students.

Lorain Watters may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

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Transportation

# Commuting alternative by the Student Busing System Project

BY ANDREA ACOSTA  
The Prospector

The new Student Busing System Project aims to provide students with the expansion of a tailored and more feasible commuting alternative, ultimately increasing the availability of public transportation. The project, created by a team of industrial and manufacturing systems engineering UTEP graduates and research assistants at The Research Institute of Manufacturing and Engineering Systems, could be completed by fall 2013.

“The objective of this project is to provide students with the necessary routes that they need in order to get to campus,” said Mario Salomon IMSE graduate and SBSP research assistant. “Ultimately reducing the rate at which students use their cars to drive to school, which will create a healthier campus, that will have a reduction of carbon emissions radiated by UTEP.”

According to a survey that was led by the SBSP team in fall 2012, 97 percent of UTEP students said that they would ride a service if a pick up point of their choice was provided to them.

The idea for the Student Busing System Project was born from the input of IMSE graduate student, Stefan Hempel, who completed an Energy Dashboard project sponsored by the Student Government Association Green Fund on May 2011.

“The Energy Dashboard project dealt with the provision of a visual graphing of electrical energy use in the library, helping initiate the smart sensing, monitoring and conservation of energy within our campus,” said Eric Smith, industrial and manufacturing systems engineering assistant professor and principal investigator of the SBSP. “After some research, Hempel commented on the

differences in transportation services, as tailored for students later taking the idea to the Green Fund, and was approved by SGA.”

According to Salomon, SGA has been extremely helpful since the initiation of the SBS project, having it completely sponsored by the Green Fund.

“They have certainly helped us in contacting the right people for the right matters,” Salomon said. “As soon as SGA heard of what the project focused on, they approached us and offered us their help, and we couldn’t be more thankful.”

UTEP students can expect to save money and have desirable pick up points, along with operating hours matching all students courses from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., Salomon said.

“We are currently collaborating with Sun Metro and other officials to incorporate student-centered busing system improvements in the regional transportation plan,” Salomon said. “It has been such a wonderful experience to work with them, especially because of their openness and receptiveness towards new, innovative and student-driven projects, such as ours.”

According to Smith, it’s satisfying to see that they are participating in an era of accelerating and environmentally positive improvements, after 30 years of relatively little change in the fossil fuel paradigm.

“Working with students, who are actually graduated engineers, on this student-funded project has illustrated the effectiveness of direct engagement and empowerment of the student stakeholder to transform a living environment,” Smith said. “As a team we have discovered the multi-dimensional nature of engineering and self-sustaining transportation improvements.”

SBSP has set the goal of creating a more commuter friendly campus, the implementation of different routes offered to students and the increase in attendance. Now students who were forced to drop out of school, due to the lack of transportation and parking spaces, will find a way to go back to school thanks to this busing system, Smith said.

According to Adytia Akundi, IMSE graduate student and SBSP research assistant, taking part in the project has been a very real work experience for her academic career.

“Without the help of Dr. Smith and the Green Fund, none of this ongoing investigation would of been possible,” Akundi said. “Taking a project from a lab to real life is something that most students don’t have the chance to do, and we were all lucky enough to experience and help the university with.”

Andrea Acosta may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).



AARON MONTES / The Prospector

**Student Busing System** Project, in collaboration with Sun Metro, aims to create an alternative for students who commute to school.



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BOND from page 1

According to Edalatpour, with a 21st century demographic and a bright student and faculty population, UTEP has the opportunity to be at the forefront of leading research in the world, and this can only be made possible through the investment in state-of-the-art research facilities and equipment.

With the university on its way to tier one status, Adauto said the economic impact on campus will be great. It will certainly allow UTEP to enhance research efforts and opportunities for graduate and under-

graduate students to continue doing research, he said.

“The interdisciplinary research building will also enhance UTEP’s tier one efforts, and will have a great impact on our research and infrastructure,” Adauto said.

UTEP will be receiving the decision from the Texas Legislature in late May. If the proposal is approved and accepted, the construction for the new Interdisciplinary Research Building will begin late 2014.

Andrea Acosta may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

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“The thing that’s most impressive about our department is as the university moves to tier one, we’ve just had a really, really phenomenal amount of success. Over the last five years, the faculty, various people or themselves, have published six books, five book chapters, something like 64 journal articles, 10 case studies and we’ve brought in over \$8 million in grants,” Perez said. “Whenever faculty get grants, part of that is a research project. For example, Dr. Sowards recently received a million dollar grant from the United States Agency for International Development and so she’s

doing this big project in conjunction with a partner school in Indonesia. Zita Arocha has done a remarkable job with Borderzine, over the last two years we’ve received \$20,000 in donations for new video equipment.”

Yang said a good organizational structure has been in place under Perez’ leadership but there is more that the future chair can do for the department.

“Transforming the current department to a school of communication will properly address the diverse degree plans the department currently has,” Yang said. “In the process of transformation, the department can also redesign its curricula to train students to better prepare current and incoming technological changes that will impact communication professionals.”

Witherspoon said she will be sending a note out to all the faculty, asking for their nominations, comments and recommendations for the next chair, who will be announced before the end of the spring 2013 semester, and will take into consideration what the department currently needs out of a chair.

“What we’re wanting to do in communication as we continue is (find) someone who is organized, who has goals, who has a vision for the department, someone who is a hard worker, someone who gets along well with students and someone who is going

to continue that trend of Dr. Perez and someone who’s going to help take communication through the next few years, just like UTEP is going to become a national research university,” Witherspoon said. “It’s the goal of the liberal arts to become the best possible College of Liberal Arts in a national research university and I’m sure that’s what the goal of the next chair is going to be, to become the best communication department in this institution that wants to be a national research university.”

Perez said the department is united and supportive, which has helped him during his time as chair.

“I’ve been really humbled that the faculty was always there for me these last five years, as well as my dean and the university administration because it’s challenging at times to be chair, but it’s also a lot of fun,” Perez said. “I’ve been really lucky to work with a great group of folks and most of all to have an excellent group of students to work with. Our students really appreciate the opportunity to study at UTEP and it shows in the number of accomplishments they’ve made as well.”

Sabrina Nuñez may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).



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**Frank Perez, chair** of the Department of Communication, will resign from his post in August.

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UTEP grad offers local tastes for community



Tristan Chavez-Poeschel, is one of the co-owners of Gallo Grill, which serve renowned burgers, brisket nachos, buffalo wings and other items at affordable prices.

BY MARILYN ALEMAN  
The Prospector

In Central El Paso lies the 1977 establishment of the Joe, John and Mark Club, a bar located on 601 N. Piedras St. This relatively spacious white brick building encloses a hidden kitchen inside, the Gallo Grill.

Tristan Chavez-Poeschel, a 2011 UTEP graduate opened the kitchen in September of 2012 with his business-partner, Steve Beltran, to experience and fulfill their dreams of owning a local business.

Although Chavez-Poeschel currently utilizes his criminal justice degree with an insurance company, JP & Associates, he decided to put his dream of being his own boss into effect.

"I've always been kind of interested in opening a local business," Chavez-Poeschel said. "So I kind of got this real good opportunity at the place where I'm at to do it, start small and seeing where it goes, that's pretty much when I opened it up."

According to Chavez-Poeschel, opening up the business takes lots of effort. Four months of preparation included licenses and registration. Some licenses, such as an alcohol permit, can cost up to \$8,000.

All business aspects are held under Chavez-Poeschel, whereas the food is usually cooked by Beltran.

Xavier Morales, senior multidisciplinary studies major, said that he has traveled around the nation trying different restaurants in metropolitan cities, including Memphis, Tenn., St. Louis, Miss. and Los Angeles, Calif., among others, tasting burgers even mentioned in Travel Channel's "Man vs. Food." Compared to big-name restaurants, Morales said that Gallo Grill most definitely has a tasteful burger.

"You know a good burger when it's juicy and greasy, not that greasy is bad, I mean that makes a good burger," said Morales, a regular at Gallo Grill. "It just melts in your mouth, it's so awesome, definitely not your typical backyard burger."

And burgers are plentiful on the menu. They offer four options, including the "create your own burger". Burgers start from \$5 to \$6.39, all of which include a side order of fries.

"I got my own onion burger and I put egg, bacon, guacamole, it was all custom made," Morales said. "If they have the ingredients they could just put it on for you."

Also on the menu is their heaping big portion of brisket nachos. A myriad of flavors derived from crispy tor-

tilla chips, muenster cheese, refried beans, sour cream, tomatoes, onion, jalapeños and cilantro at \$7.29.

Virmarys Colon, a returning student at UTEP, has tried the brisket nachos and she often invites her co-workers to try them as well.

"They're basically a good mix of meat and cheese, it's rich in flavor," Colon said. "There's a little spice to it, since they put some pico de gallo, this is a really good price for such good quality in food."

Other items on the menu are the large buffalo wings, traditionally styled with hot sauce and butter, which go on specials for 50 cents each on Thursdays.

"When you order about a dozen wings for 50 cents you can't go wrong with that," Chavez-Poeschel said. "\$6.50 for a dozen wings is a pretty good price, plus these are wings that aren't small."

Having the Gallo Grill located inside the Joe, John and Mark Club can be seen in two different ways, said Chavez-Poeschel.

The Gallo Grill utilizes the bar and kitchen space for a lower cost than if they had their own venue. The benefit to being inside the bar is having an already established clientele.

**"You know a good burger when it's juicy and greasy, not that greasy is bad, I mean that makes a good burger."**

- Xavier Morales, senior multidisciplinary studies major

With the Gallo Grill's lease ending in September of 2013, they hope to eventually build their own restaurant.

Since the Joe, John and Mark Club is a traditional style bar, it may be a step back for recruiting younger people, a reason why the Gallo Grill leans toward opening their own location.

Chavez-Poeschel said he would like to have a more family-oriented setting for the restaurant.

Gallo Grill is open Wednesday thru Saturday nights from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. For more information visit gallogrillep.com.

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

Review  
'Walking Dead' game: rich storytelling

BY OSCAR GARZA  
The Prospector

Telltale's, "The Walking Dead" game series has proved to be as successful as the Robert Kirkman's creation.

The game provides players with a unique gaming experience that forces them to do more than just shoot the enemy. The game is about consequences and how the actions taken by the main protagonist affect the story-line later on.

Though the game is set in the universe created by Kirkman and its post apocalyptic atmosphere, you don't play as Rick Grimes (the TV show's main protagonist). Instead the lead is Lee Everett, who must fight the hordes of the undead alongside a girl named Clementine in his quest towards salvation a second chance.

Telltale's game strives for an emotional arc that affects the characters, the whole story, as well as yourself. The actions that one makes during one of the episodes will affect the rest of the upcoming episodes (at this point Episode 5 is the latest one to be released).

Even though the game play is quite different from what one might expect, this horror saga involves puzzle solving, exploration across a rundown environment and, perhaps more importantly, the fact that you have to make all these decisions that affect the future of the game. The game beautifully recreates that decayed, gritty atmosphere that the show is able to capture. The graphics are all rendered beautifully and Telltale is able to capture both setting and characters that one could believe live in the same world as Rick and his group.

The game is all about character interactions and decision-making, pondering the dilemma of whether the zombies are the only true villains or if humans are as well. The game is able to make one feel that these two characters are really in that world – living, breathing and trying to survive against the attacks of the undead.

The first encounter with a zombie and the actions that Lee has to make already create a tense atmosphere, but also reveal that even something as big as what happens will have consequences later on and affect the characters that you know. The game is more about the interactions between these characters and what they go through. It creates not only an emotionally resonant game in that respect but also a great expansion that presents Kirkman's world in quite an innovative way.

The game won several Game of the Year awards last year and one can see DEAD on page 6



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AARON MONTES / The Prospector  
**Lawrence Acosta and** Josh Oaray, chefs at Tom's Folk Cafe, offer a new feel for local businesses, providing unique and fresh foods for the community.

Feature

# Thriving café serves fresh foods

BY OSCAR GARZA  
The Prospector

Ian Atkins, owner of Tom's Folk Café, is looking to give customers a unique experience with an authentic Southern style and Americana feel, both in food and mood.

Atkins said that the idea for the restaurant was originally conceived as a French-Southern fusion, but the most popular one proved to be the Southern style and that became the main attraction.

"The whole project for Tom's is that we wanted to start a restaurant that was kind of like the small house that we're in," Atkins said. "That's something that happens a lot in the cities that we've visited in the past and we wanted to bring that to El Paso."

Besides having its own distinct environment, Atkins' approach to the restaurant is one of support for locally made products, as it helps both the consumer and producer and enhances the authenticity of the meal.

"We want to cook the food we want to cook, we want to use local ingredients so that it takes on all the flavors of our area and the ingredients that are common in El Paso," Atkins said. "It helps out the local community, it's an approach that has several different positives, and it puts more money back into our community and at the same time we know where our food is coming from."

Lawrence Acosta, chef at Tom's Folk Café, uses a cooking approach that encompasses the unique flavors of the South, with everything from Tennessee and also showcasing the Hispanic influences as well.

"It's a pretty good representation of what El Paso is across as the cuisine," Acosta said. "Throughout Texas there is technically Southern food but it is its own unique aspect to it, we're taking those aspects of Southern food and shooting it with our own attitude towards it."

Acosta said one of the most rewarding aspects of cooking at Tom's is to hear the customer feedback.

"It is very rewarding to hear their personal feedback, good, bad or otherwise is always good to hear what people have to say," Acosta said. "If it's good, it makes you feel good that you gave people a very good experience, if you pick the bad then try to create a

better experience so when they come back they'll have a better experience."

One of the customers who enjoys the ambience and meals that Tom's offers is Alejandra Ponce de Leon, senior communications major.

"I like that they have a very cozy environment and that it's a small restaurant. The whole concept is very different from what we're used to in El Paso but what really makes it unique are its dishes and ingredients," Ponce de Leon said. "I think students should check out places like Tom's because they offer delicious food and also an excellent service."

Atkins said that with the use of local ingredients and support of local economy, more restaurants like it will open for the public to enjoy.

"It's never going to get better until we start spending our money here in the community," Atkins said. "It's pricey for El Paso (meaning Tom's) but all the money is going to El Paso. It's only more expensive because we're giving you better products, everything is fresh."

Oscar Garza may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

DEAD from page 5

see why. Instead of focusing on just defeating the bad guys, or shooting something, the game offers a very rich story centered around the storyline and characters.

Throughout its five episode run, the player faces incredibly tough de-

cisions, almost like the game play is the writing or dialogue that one must face, creating a very emotional arc that should appeal to not only fans of the series but those interested in playing a great game as well.

Oscar Garza may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

## Parlez-vous français ?

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#### King Crossword —

Answers  
Solution time: 27 mins.

B	I	G		C	O	L	D		F	L	E	W
A	D	O		U	V	E	A		A	U	R	A
G	O	L	D	R	U	S	H		S	T	I	R
			D	O	R	M			S	T	E	E
O	H	B	O	Y				M	A	K	E	
P	E	E	R		M	A	L	I	N	G	E	R
E	R			C	O	L	O	N		O	W	E
D	E	G	A	U	L	L	E		S	L	E	D
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S	T	A	T	E				B	E	E	F	
L	I	E	U		G	O	L	D	M	I	N	E
A	T	O	M		A	R	E	A		S	O	N
B	O	N	N		Y	A	W	L		H	R	S

Answers to 03-12-12

### BRAIN ZONE

#### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		1			3			9
2				9		7	5	
	4				8			6
		3				6		5
	1	2			4		9	
6				5				7
3				8				4
	8				2		1	7
		9				4	3	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

#### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate   ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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**CONCACAF HEXAGONAL standings:**  
No. 1, Honduras; No. 2, USA; No. 3, Panama; No. 4, Mexico; No. 5, Jamaica; No. 6, Costa Rica.

March 26, 2013  
**sports** editor  
Kristopher Rivera, 747-7445

# Miner defense adjusts to new changes

**BY EDWIN DELGADO**  
The Prospector

After losing most of the starters on defense, the 2013 season looms with challenges for the Miners new coaching staff. They will try to fill the voids, mainly with young players already part of the team.

The defense took a harsh hit with the losses of starting defensive backs Drew Thomas, Darren Woodard and DeShawn Grayson. Also gone are all three starting linebackers, Josh Fely, Jamie Irving and Aubrey Alexius. They all reached the end of their collegiate careers at the end of the 2012 season.

“We lost a good part of our personnel, but guys like Wesley Miller and Demarcus Kizzie played a lot last year after safety Richard Spencer’s injury and stepped up,” said defensive backs coach Gabe Franklin. “Adrian James and Nick Gathrite have been very good so far and could be the two starting cornerbacks in the fall.”

Among the personnel that left the program with Mike Price is defensive coordinator Andre Patterson and safeties coach Tom Williams, both of them departed to Florida International and will come back to El Paso on Nov. 16 when the Golden Panthers play the Miners at the Sun Bowl.

Head coach Sean Kugler selected Jeff Choate, with whom he worked

with at Boise State, as the new defensive coordinator and extended Gabe Franklin’s duties. Franklin will now take care of all the secondary and the cornerbacks.

One of the main differences on how Kugler’s staff is handling the practices is with speed and intensity, which will play a crucial part in determining who is more capable.

“We’re looking to see who the best competitors are, we are trying to establish our offensive and defensive systems, and we’re trying to see who has the work ethic, and give us a starting point going into the fall,” Kugler said. “We’re going to move guys around in different positions...and give us a better idea of who we are going to put in certain spots and we’ll go from there.”

Arguably the biggest loss for the defense is linebacker Fely. Linebackers coach Robert Rodriguez will have a tough task ahead as he needs to fill not three but four voids as the defense moves to using four linebackers. Junior A.J. Ropati finished the season as a starter and is by far the most experienced linebacker Rodriguez will have. Sophomores DeAndre Little, Anthony Puente and David Logston could be the other starters.

In his first interview with the media, Choate said that he wanted to implement a 3-4 defense similar to what



The UTEP football team ran plays on the first day of spring drills, March 4, at Glory Field.

FILE PHOTO / The Prospector

Boise State used and similar to what Texas Christian University currently uses. The transition into the new system has not been easy for the offense, but the defense seems to have grasped the new system better.

“The transition for them has been pretty smooth so far, they are smart kids and we are getting better every day,” Franklin said. “For now our focus is the fundamentals, we need to make sure we do the basic little things right every time.”

The most experienced area for the defense will be the defensive line with juniors Horace Miller, Germard Reed, Adam Ayala and Marcus Bagley. They will return to fight for the three starting spots on the line.

One of the biggest problems the Miners had last season was the amount of points they allowed in the second and fourth quarters, a total of 234 points. That is 65.5 percent of points allowed by the Miners.

“We hope to get better than what we were last year, last season we lost too many games in the fourth quarter and we are trying to eliminate that and win games in the fourth quarter,” Reed said.

The first glance Miner fans will have of the new defense will be April 12 at the Sun Bowl, during the Miners’ spring game.

Edwin Delgado may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).

## Track and Field

# UTEP begins to move into outdoor season



AARON MONTES / The Prospector

**Sophomore jumper, Xavier** Baker competes in the high jump during the UTEP Springtime Meet held March 23 at Kidd Field.

**BY AUDREY WESTCOTT**  
The Prospector

To kick off the outdoor season, the UTEP track and field team played both host and competitor at the UTEP Springtime Meet at Kidd Field March 23.

Finishing in first place in 12 out of 36 events, the Miners showcased their strong foundation which will

help lead them for the remainder of the outdoor season.

“As a team we always look better outdoors, so that always brings some excitement for the outdoor season,” said head coach Mika Laaksonen. “This season I really believe that both our men’s and women’s teams are strong. We are going to get done with what we need to get done, and we are aiming to take more of them to

nationals and hopefully come home with multiple All-American honors.”

Keeping up with the season’s demanding schedule, UTEP will compete in two more meets this coming weekend.

Four of UTEP’s distance runners will compete in the Stanford Invitational in Stanford, Calif., while the rest of the team will head to Austin, Texas to compete in the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays.

Representing the Miners distance team at the Stanford Invitational will be sophomore Anthony Rotich who will be competing in the 500-meter.

Rotich was one of two Miners who competed in the 2013 NCAA Division I men’s and women’s Indoor Track and Field Championships, where he ran the 5,000-meter and finished sixth overall.

In the UTEP Springtime Meet, Rotich ran the 1,500-meter for the first time and crossed the finish line with a time of 3-minutes 56.03-seconds, earning him a first place finish.

Despite Rotich’s impressive finish times on the track, he never underestimates the competition and also sees his times as a work in progress.

“I think the race will be somewhat difficult because I am still adjusting from the indoor to the outdoor track,” Rotich said. “When running indoor, the track is 200-meters with very sharp corners, so the tracks are different and it affects your speed. Therefore, for the next coming races I am concentrating solely on improving on my speed rather than worrying about the speed of my competitors.”

Continually driven to improve his time, Rotich firmly believes that hard work in practice is what brings about results on the track.

“I am more accustomed to running outdoors, so mentally I know I can do it,” Rotich said. “To prepare for the Stanford Invitational and for the outdoor season, I run at least nine miles a day, and every other days do

weightlifting. The key to success is taking practice seriously. The way you practice is the way you compete, so if you are doing well in practice you will do well in the race.”

While Rotich represents UTEP at the Stanford Invitational, junior hurdler/sprinter Janice Jackson will be one of the Miners to keep a close eye on at the Texas Relays.

A strong competitor in the hurdles, Jackson also competed in the 2013 NCAA Indoor Championships, running the 60-meter hurdles where she finished in tenth place overall with a time of 8.17.

In the UTEP Springtime Meet, Jackson took first place in the women’s 100-meter hurdles with a time of 13.11, 15 seconds faster than the second place finish.

AT the Texas Relay, Jackson will be competing in the 100m hurdles and the 4x100-meter.

“Texas Relay is like pre-nationals,” Jackson said. “There will be a lot of competitive schools there and at this point in the season we have to go all out each time we are on the track. We cannot treat it like a warm up. We have to focus on running like it is a final, and we are ready.”

Audrey Westcott may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu).



Softball





## Alpha Lambda Delta



Members of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society attended the National Collegiate Leadership Conference in Tucson, Arizona on Feb 15-17. Being UTEP's first appearance in this conference, ALD made several connections that made UTEP visible across the nation. Good Job ALD!

**BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA**  
The Prospector

The Miners will head into two home stands this week against non-conference team, Siena College, in two double headers March 26 and 27. Then they will face conference opponent, East Carolina, in a three-game series March 29 and 30.

"We have Siena College coming in. They're making their Western, Southern tour because they're playing quite a few games on their trip," said head coach James Rodriguez. "We're glad that they're going to be here and we'll get some home games there and also some home games on the weekend with East Carolina."

Siena College is part of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference. They are 2-4 in away games and 5-11 overall.

Key players are Jessika Sandrini leads the team with a batting average of .386, 11 runs and 10 RBI. She also has a 8.76 ERA with a record of 2-3. On the mound is Alyssa Lancaster with a 6.80 ERA with a record of 2-6.

UTEP has a record of 10-15 overall, 1-4 C-USA, but is looking to turn the tide with more wins just as the season begins to head into conference matchups.

"I feel like we've had a roller coaster going, like up and down, still trying to figure out who we are, but I feel like more and more, everyday, we're finding a little more of who we are and it's another step in the right track," said junior infielder Alanna Leasau. "Even with our losses, we're learning how to take that next step



AARON MONTES / The Prospector  
**Junior infielder, Miraya** Montiel catches a ground ball during practice March 21.

to become better and figure out what we need to do. So I feel like it's working out for us."

This season the Miners are 1-5 at home.

"Memphis was a tough series but I feel like it was just pregame jitters, all the first conference game jitters," Leasau said. "But I feel like now will be a better track for us."

Following the matchup against Siena College, East Carolina will be in town for a three-game series. The Pirates are 7th in conference with an overall record of 9-20 overall, 1-5 C-USA.

"We're really looking forward to having our next conference series here to show our fans how we're going to play and bring home some wins and start getting higher up in our conference rank, but I feel like we're going to do really well," said senior catcher/utility Kayleigh Watts. "We're finally starting to become a well-rounded team and have everything put together."

Leading the Pirates is Kristi Oshiro with a batting average of .395 and 23 runs, and Alex Fieldhouse with a batting average of .293 and 20 RBI.

Sarah Christian is leading the stats on the mound. She has a 3.19 ERA and a record of 7-9.

"All our new people, including our freshmen, have all contributed for us this year," Rodriguez said. "I think they've gone through little growing pains here and there. We've played a lot of close games and we're getting over the hump on some of these games where we can pull out some victories."

The Miners are scheduled to play their first game against Siena College at 3 p.m. March 26 and play the second game at 5 p.m. The next day, March 27, the game starts at 1 p.m. and the second game at 3 p.m.

UTEP and East Carolina will start their first game at 2 p.m. March 29 and their second game at 4 p.m. Then they play their final match at noon March 30.

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

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