

ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

..... THE
PROSPECTOR

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

NOVEMBER 26, 2013



WE MADE IT!

With debt, but we made it...

The number of UTEP students taking out loans has increased 25 percent from 2009. With an estimated \$1 trillion in student loan debt, young Americans are finding it harder to purchase houses, cars and other big-ticket items. Many are also stalling major life decisions such as getting married or starting a family. But hey, they have a degree.

Full story on page 6

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DECEMBER 3, 2013

COLUMN

Student loans might be helpful, but also daunting

BY JOSE SOTO

The Prospector



Allow me to begin by commending the upcoming graduating class for their unyielding effort in balancing a myriad of

homework with their personal lives, executing the commute every day to campus and staying awake for an inhumane amount of hours. Most notably, for not drowning in the horrid whirlpool that is student debt.

Now it's time to get jobs and pay them off and that in itself is yet another daunting task.

Getting through college is financially exhausting and we as students are offered an array of loan options to help us pay off those finances. Or so we think.

Sure, it is extremely helpful when paying off your tuition and necessities like books, but does anyone really understand the entire concept

of accepting student loans? To just vaguely understand student loans is overwhelming and many of us fall victim to it.

My own experience with student loans has been a turbulent one. When I first started off as a UTEP freshman, loans seemed nothing more than free money.

It was free money to do with it as I pleased.

Once I signed off on the amounts and agreed to the fine print—which, of course, I didn't bother reading—my understanding was that my classes were paid for and that was that. I didn't understand that my grades were integral to keeping my loans. I didn't know that by not passing a certain amount of classes, I would jeopardize keeping my financial aid. No one at the financial aid office took the responsibility to make sure I fully understood what I was doing.

So what I did was ditch my classes, forget to turn in homework, do extremely poorly on exams and ultimately fail the semester. Oh, what a freshman I was!

I soon received a letter in the mail stating I was placed on academic suspension, and one of the conditions was to pay a full semester of school on my own. That didn't sound too bad, I guess I deserved that.

Soon after, however, I was advised from loan companies that since I had not fulfilled the requirements of safe-keeping my loan, I now had a three month grace period to pay the loan in full without an interest rate. The loan was a total of \$4,000.

If I couldn't pay it off in three months, then I would have to submit to a monthly payment of \$300, with an interest rate of 12 percent. It was like having my own car payment, without the shiny, new car on my driveway. On top of that, when I returned to school I would have to pay for it out of my own pocket.

The daunting task of working to pay off my loan and pay for my school began to become impossible shortly after. I began to take only one or two classes a semester at EPCC, being that I couldn't afford to pay a full-time semester on my own at UTEP.

The payments for my loan started to reach formidable heights, and inevitably I began to fall behind on them.

The loan company began to garnish my wages, meaning they automatically took it out of my check every time I got paid. This consequently set me behind even more as the loan payment took out a huge chunk of what I made as a Starbucks barista.

Eventually, I paid off the full amount of my loan. It took about two-and-a-half years, but finally I was able to enroll for a full semester that was paid with financial assistance. Or so I thought.

Since it had taken me more than the three-month grace period and because the loan company had garnished my wages, I now had to wait a full year for my financial aid to become available again. And so I once more had to pay for school on my own.

It wasn't until two years later that I was able to return to UTEP once I was eligible for financial aid again. It had taken me a total of three years to repay for my mistake regarding student loans. Had I been responsible about

what I was accepting by signing on the dotted line and actually understanding the rules and conditions of my student loan, my graduation date would have been much earlier than it currently is.

So, once again, congratulations to our graduating class this semester. Good job on knowing how to handle your financial aid, even those who preposterously erred like I did.

My advice to others who are in their early years of college is to know what they're doing. Know what you're accepting and know the rules and conditions.

All loans are different. Read the fine print and ask as many questions necessary in order for you to comprehend it completely. Know the protocol of these loans and their expected interest rates, grace periods and payment options. Not doing so might set you behind and time isn't something that can be loaned.

Jose Soto may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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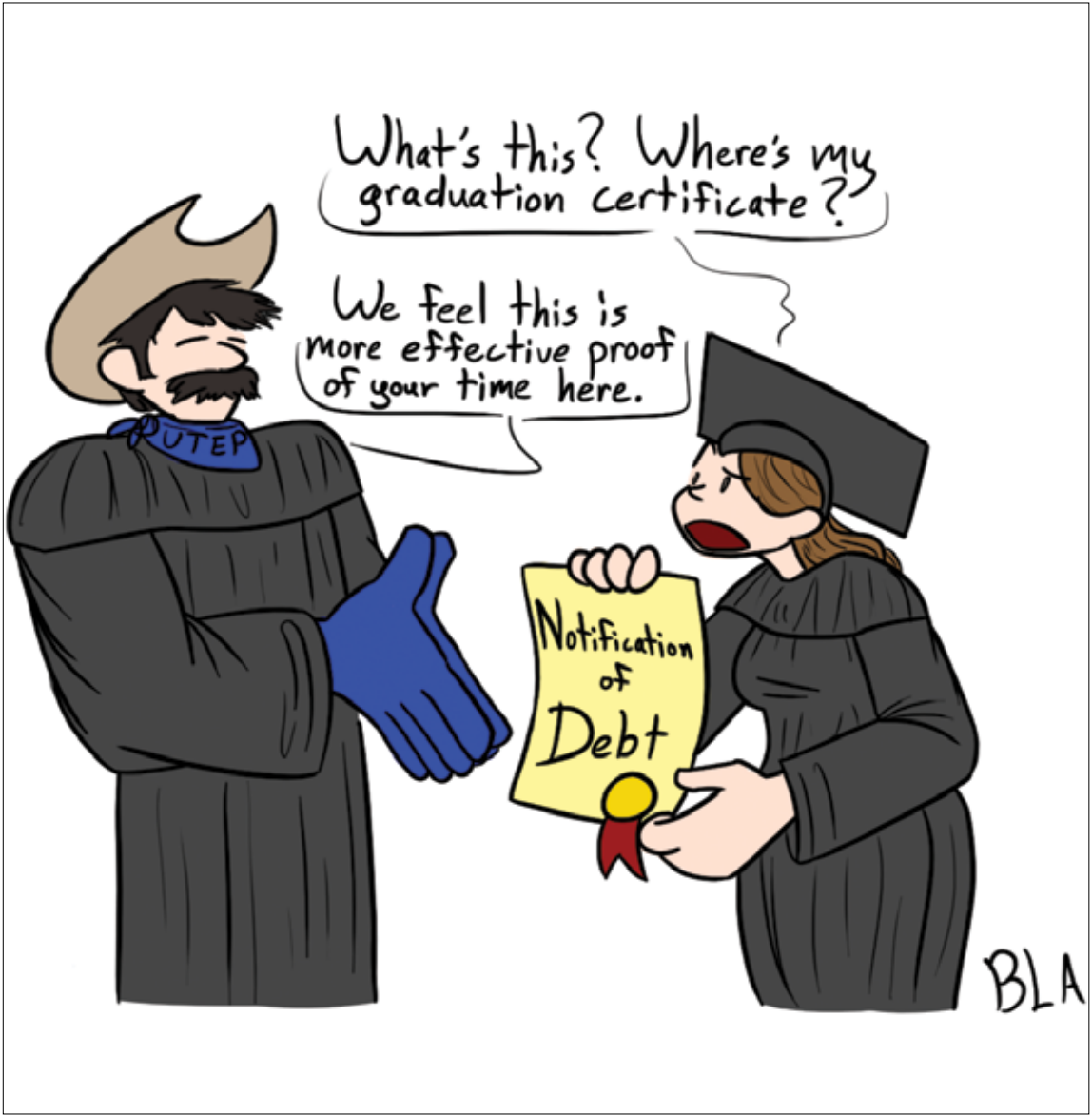
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abc 7

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Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy, Windy	Partly Cloudy, Rain	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
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Season's greetings from The Prospector Fall 2013 staff



STEPHEN TOBIAS DURAN / THE PROSPECTOR

(Top; left to right) Leonardo Montañez, Lorain Watters, Diego Burciaga, Edwin Delgado, Marcela Luna, Fernando Enriquez, Isabel Castillo, Edgar Hernandez, S. David Ramirez, Blake Lanham. (Bottom; left to right) Michaela Roman, Kathy Flores, Jasmine Aguilera, Amanda Guillen, Andrea Acosta, Mariel Mora, Anna Almeida, Veronica Gonzalez, Veronica Enriquez, Jaime Quesada. (Not shown) Kristopher Rivera, Aaron Montes, Marcus Seegers, Javier Cortez, Luis Barrio, Ashley Muñoz, Damian Balderrama, Steven Mansfield, Jose Soto, Amber Gomez.

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Thanks to all my family & friends. It's been an incredible ride! I couldn't have done it without you. Blessings, *[Signature]*

Thank you to my friends & family who have seen me stress, cry and celebrate all through my education. Dad & Mom, thank you for being my rock. Love Always, *Judith Barragán*

I want to thank God and family for being with me all this long journey. Thanks for all your love and support. It was a great experience being here at UTEP. Love you all. *[Signature]*

I want to thank my family and friends for supporting me through my journey at UTEP. I'm finally doing my dream job. xoxo *[Signature]*

I'd like to thank all my Alpha Xi Delta sisters. It is because of all of you that I am the person I am today. You are all my heart. Love Always, *[Signature]*

I'd like to thank my family, friends, and professors who have gotten me to where I am today. I could not have done it without your loving support and encouragement. Love, *Jessica Lawrence*

Long journey finally over. Thanks to all COBA staff & faculty. Am. Delgado M.

You're gonna miss this... you're gonna want this back... You're gonna wish these days hadn't gone by so fast... These are some good times so take a good look around... You may not know it now... But you're gonna miss this...

Thank you to all my family and friends who have supported my education and future goals. I am truly blessed. *Nicole M. Garcia*

It's like I like school was my hobby but it's finally here! Thanks to all the support my family & friends. A special thank you to my mom, dad and wonderful husband! "We did it!" We Romans 2013!

Gracias a mi familia que siempre me a dado todo el apoyo que necesitaba. Gracias a mi mamá y Diana estoy donde estoy. Daniela Alejandra Rodriguez

Nothing worthwhile ever comes easy. It's how I grew up. I finally made it. Thank you mom and dad for supporting me through everything in my crazy world. Mom you are my peace. Dad you are my hero. I love you both. Thank you for teaching me the way and most of all thank you Joseph for always keeping me on my toes. I love you all so much. I hope speak with some amazing people through this support. Love, *[Signature]*

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Thank you to my parents for all of their love and support! Love, *Luis J. O.*

Thanks to God and my Family. *[Signature]*

I could not imagine attending college without the love & support of my parents, sister, and teammates. Thank you for putting up with me and supporting me every inch of the way. Love, *[Signature]*

Thank you to all my family and friends for support! - Sarah

Finally did it! Thank you, to all my friend and family for the support to accomplish all my goals in life. *[Signature]*

Thank you to all my family and friends for support! - Sarah

Nothing worthwhile ever comes easy. It's how I grew up. I finally made it. Thank you mom and dad for supporting me through everything in my crazy world. Mom you are my peace. Dad you are my hero. I love you both. Thank you for teaching me the way and most of all thank you Joseph for always keeping me on my toes. I love you all so much. I hope speak with some amazing people through this support. Love, *[Signature]*

Lori

These 4 years have been the best of my life!! Thank you UTEP!! Godbless!!

To Anthony, Chris, Brenda, Nancy & Michael - Thank you for your love and support. Could not have done it without you!

I would like to thank my family for all of their support, as well as my wonderful Professor's at UTEP! Finally did it!! *[Signature]*

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL MY PROFESSORS & TEACHERS! GRADUATION FEELS AWESOME! GO UTEP! IT WAS... "FUN" *[Signature]*

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. Phil 4:13.

Thank you to my family and boyfriend for all of your guidance and support. I am forever grateful. I love you. *[Signature]*

These past 7 years have been a blessing at UTEP. Shy, thank you so very much for ending the rough ride with me! Love you! *[Signature]*

SENIOR MESSAGES FALL 2013 • CONGRATULATIONS!

CAMPUS LIFE



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP STUDENT LOANS INCREASED 25% SINCE 2009

President Barack Obama signed the Student Loan Interest Rate Deal Aug. 9, which put a cap on loan interest rates at 8.25 percent, but these changes will not take affect until 2014.

Students delay big life decisions as debt increases

BY LORAIN WATTERS AND AMANDA GUILLEN

The Prospector

UTEP students are putting a halt to big life decisions as they work their way through an increase of debt and the economic downturn, but many remain optimistic about their ability to repay their loans.

The amount of student loans taken out by UTEP students have increased by 25 percent from 2009 to 2013, according to Craig Westman, associate vice president at Enrollment Services Management.

"This is good," Westman said. "We encourage students to take out loans so they can graduate early and have income potential."

President Barack Obama signed the Student Loan Interest Rate Deal Aug. 9, which put a cap on loan interest rates at 8.25 percent. But these changes will not take affect until 2014.

During the same time period, the amount of grants given to UTEP students increased to 30 percent, tuition exemptions went up by 70 percent, on-campus student employment went up 26 percent and the amount of scholarships given increased by 35 percent.

With an estimated \$1 trillion in student loan debt, young Americans are finding it harder to move on from student loans and purchase houses, cars and other big-ticket items. Many are also stalling major life decisions such as getting married or starting a family.

Sophomore psychology major Carlos Padilla said he will not be living the same lifestyle as his parents because of his growing debt and his future debt, as he plans to attend medical school.

"I don't think I could afford any big purchases due to my plan on attending a medical school—that is really expensive, especially since the college I want to attend will be out of state. I predict a lot of debt after graduation," Padilla said.

UTEP offers a number of resources when paying for school. For example, the EasyPay Plan, which allows a student to pay their tuition throughout the semester, and the Guaranteed Tuition Plan, which guarantees that tuition and fees will remain low as long as the student graduates within four years.

"The big thing is to help students do other things instead of taking out loans, such as the Stafford Loans—which are run by the government—first and the interest rates are lower for those too," Westman said. "Taking out private loans with the bank should be last."

Through these payment plans, a student who has \$10,000 worth of loans could pay \$100 a month or less instead of \$400 they would pay from a private loan.

Getting a private loan results in a fixed amount that the student has to pay back. By setting up a repayment plan, students can avoid this and not

stress about making a certain income the day after graduation.

Jacqueline Aranas, graduate special education major, has accumulated loans throughout her undergraduate studies and plans on taking out additional loans for graduate school.

"I got accepted for a grant that will pay 100 percent of my tuition, but I still need money for books, gas, parking and anything else I need," Aranas said. "I applied for financial aid and got offered loans from Wells Fargo, but just went with UTEP."

As a single mother who receives a low income, Aranas was able to defer her loan repayments until she finishes with graduate school, but she said she remains nervous about how she will manage to pay for everything upon completion.

"I believe that (UTEP) should be able to help us with anything so as to avoid students pulling out so many loans," Aranas said. "It would be a lot of help, especially to graduate students."

Roque Orozco, senior music major, knows he is in debt, but continues to use loans to help him pay for school. Contrary to Aranas, he welcomes them and is confident about paying them back.

"After (graduating), I'm going to work for a year, save up and pay in a combination of savings and loans," Orozco said.

He plans on working in the public school system and hopes that teach-

ing will provide the experience needed for graduate school and will begin to help pay for some of the loans.

"Yes, I am in debt, but (loans) helped me finish school. I should be able to pay it all within two years," Orozco said. "I saw it as an investment in my future."

Associate director of the University Career Center, Betsy Castro-Duarte, said she often speaks to students who may not be certain what the future may hold for them. She said the economy might be one of the main reasons students remain so hesitant to move on and grow.

"I think once they find their comfort level and develop a skill set, things come at a certain point," Castro-Duarte said. "They want to be secure in their job and sometimes it takes them longer to find a job, which delays them getting married and delays them buying items like cars and houses."

Padilla said he looks up to his brother for settling down after he landed his dream job and became a math teacher.

"I think it is important to achieve the goals one has for themselves," he said. "It is okay to delay some of those grown-up experiences. I really look up to my oldest brother, he waited until he graduated college to get married, he became a math teacher and then got married, so I really look up to that and I think it is the best way to do things."

I think it is important to achieve the goals one has for themselves. It is okay to delay some of those grown-up experiences.

- Carlos Padilla, sophomore psychology major

Castro-Duarte said her best advice to students would be to never sell themselves short when it comes to competing for jobs after college.

"Whatever happens, your college degree is going to open up doors for you," she said. "There is good debt and bad debt, tuition is a good investment because in the end your education still pays off."

For more information about resources in paying back tuition and fees, visit sbs.utep.edu.

Lorain Watters and Amanda Guillen may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

AMPHETAMINE

Adderall production and managing abuse becomes a balancing act

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA

The Prospector

Editor's note: This is part three of a three-part series examining student abuse of prescription drugs Adderall and Ritalin.

The battle to keep Adderall abuse at bay is a tug and pull between meeting consumer demands and regulating the active pharmaceutical ingredient production under the supervision of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

“There are two forces, one of them is the DEA that has put the restrictions on the production of the active ingredient of Adderall (amphetamine salts),” said José Rivera, director of the cooperative pharmacy program at UTEP. “The other force is there is an increase in prescriptions, so when both of them meet, then on occasion you have problems of not finding the medication readily available.”

There's a trend of increased use and also misuse of Adderall. People are using them without prescriptions either to get high, or as a college student to be more alert, more awake and to be able to concentrate. Rivera said those things could be attractive in terms of getting ready for an exam.

There are some estimates that nationally between 20 to 30 percent of college students have used Adderall within the last 12 months without a prescription, Rivera said.

The marketability of the drug may also have some consumers convinced that using the drug is normal. Drug

companies specifically advertise in a way that makes the audience believe they need medication when they actually don't, Rivera said.

"I'm completely opposed to direct consumer marketing by drug companies. The main reason is the way they present information. Anybody could relate to many of these ads," Rivera said. "The way they advertise for Adderall and other controlled substances is a lot more regulated... the way they market some of those medications it's almost like, 'okay, we can all take it.'"

Data from drugs.com found that Adderall XR ranked 100th in current sales out of all U.S. pharmaceuticals. In the third quarter of 2013, sales were at \$171.8 million, which is down 5.66 percent from the second quarter. The generic brand of amphetamine/dextroamphetamine was ranked 67 with \$233.9 million in the third quarter, down 9.43 percent from the second quarter.

Adderall is a schedule II controlled substance, meaning it has the highest potential for addiction.

Adderall is a mix of amphetamine salts. They are stimulants that basically work with the dopamine receptors in the brain and produce a number of different effects, including the person's ability to stay awake longer, to be more alert and produce energy. For those with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Adderall helps with concentration.

The Internet can contribute to the misuse because of its availability and convenience.

“There will be websites that are going to promote selling (Adderall) and those are not regulated the way they should be,” Rivera said. “There are some websites that work around the law to try to get people to purchase medications through the Internet.”

With the Affordable Care Act beginning to take full effect, there may be a rise in prescriptions, since previously uninsured people will now be insured and able to get prescriptions.

“People now, who don’t have health care insurance, they probably avoid any type of healthcare, unless there is an emergency,” Rivera said. “Probably with the increase of people with insurance, there may be more diagnosis of ADHD and people receiving prescriptions for them.”

Adderall has a number of problems besides addiction. The drug may affect the cardiovascular system and cause strokes. Adderall may also stimulate the brain to a high level and raise a person's blood pressure, heart rate and body temperature. After prolonged use, the person's tolerance grows, therefore requiring a higher dose. It can lead to seizures, hallucinations and depression because the amphetamines deplete the dopamine after releasing so much of it.

People looking to get a bigger high may crush and snort or inject the amphetamines.

"That's the most dangerous because there are other substances there," Ri-



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

vera said. "You're increasing the effect because it's going directly to the blood, but there are other stuff in the tablet or capsule that is not for the

purpose of injection. So you can be causing additional problems.”

Kristopher Rivera may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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HEALTH

Affordable care: The good, the bad and the ugly

BY S. DAVID RAMIREZ
The Prospector

This article is part of a continuing series on the Affordable Care Act.
2013 has been a perilous year for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The ACA has faced Supreme Court challenges, numerous Senate votes and a disjointed roll-out. With more legislation and additional discussion to take place when Congress reconvenes after the holiday break, now is an opportune moment to catch-up with the turmoil and progress of the healthcare law.

The Good

The Healthcare.gov exchange site saw numerous improvements over the Thanksgiving Holiday. “As we’ve said, with any web project there is not a magic moment but a process of continual improvement over time and we will continue to work to make enhancements in the days, weeks and months ahead,” said Julie Bataille, director of communications for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in a statement. Bataille said, via her blog, that more than 400 glitches and issues have been addressed in the past month, resulting in a website “uptime”—time it is functionally available—of approximately 90 percent, almost double the 42 percent uptime the site reported in early November. Probably the least contentious article of the ACA is the clause which allows individuals under the age of 26 to remain on their guardian’s healthcare. This has allowed thou-

sands of youth to keep health insurance. After 2014, the law allows for several months’ grace period before those who have aged-out of the program must obtain individual health insurance. Seniors have also greatly benefited from the ACA. This year the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)—the governmental division which administers the ACA—reported that 6.6 million Medicare participants saved more than \$7 billion on prescription drug costs, averaging around \$1,061 per beneficiary. Insurance plans offered to those who are not on Medicaid or Medicare must subscribe to the “Essential Health Benefits.” These benefits include requirements for emergency care, psychological health, prescription drug assistance, as well as preventative services such as substance abuse services and smoking cessation. Women’s health could improve in 2014 when the law requires insurers to fully cover yearly mammograms for women 40 and over.

The Bad

Though the Healthcare.gov site has dramatically improved, the Spanish-language site, CuidadoDeSalud.gov, continues to suffer from the bugs that previously ailed the English equivalent. The site was little more than a placeholder until recently and users are still only able to browse health plans in English. Attempts to register in Spanish lead to pages that encourage users to request a paper application,

call the Healthcare Hotline or find a local “navigator” to help register. After the Supreme Court decision—June 28, 2012—which upheld the constitutionality of the bill but created a system where states could opt-out of Medicaid Expansion, Texas Governor Rick Perry joined dozens of others in declining to expand the costly social service. Anne Dunkle of the Center for Public Policy Priorities, a Texas non-partisan advocacy group, said the situation “creates a terribly unfair coverage gap.” According to the Texas Medicaid website only those living below the \$11,500 Federal Poverty Line are eligible for premium assistance. Pursuant to their rules, “working-age” adults without children cannot qualify. Those who do qualify must complete their enrollment by the federal deadline of Dec. 7. On a larger scale, the Kaiser Family Foundation—a California-based non-profit Healthcare think-tank—has analyzed healthcare spending trends and has made projections that the ACA may have negative impact on long-term healthcare spending. The organization was quick to add the note that much of the reduction in growth was due to the national recession and an overall slowing of the Gross Domestic Product.

The Ugly

Proponents of the ACA have been campaigning to encourage “young people” to buy into the system. In what the Christian Science Monitor called a “moral imperative,” college-



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

aged students are a core part of supporting the system that will no longer allow insurance companies to decline coverage for individuals with preexisting conditions. A series of advertising campaigns have begun to circulate. The target audience is obvious with taglines mentioning that most people under 30 years of age can purchase a plan for less than \$50 a month. A new radio spot featuring Pete Wentz, of pop-punk band Fall Out Boy, pushes listeners to visit the Healthcare.gov site.

Research into the claim of a \$50 premium has shown that in order to receive rebates and discounts, individuals under 30 must make at least \$20,000 a year. The average work-study allocation, as reported by UTEP, Sam Houston State University and Texas A&M, lingers in the \$2,000 to \$6,000 mark depending on placement and past job experience.

S. David Ramirez may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

★

BEST
STORIES
OF
2013

★



OUT OF THE SMOKE

Demolition raises dust and environmental concerns

Concerns about the environment were raised after this weekend’s demolitions, but environmental experts say that there is nothing to worry about. Both ASARCO smokestacks and City Hall released clouds of dust and debris that alarmed residents and environmental advocates.

Emilio Rodriguez, director of Environmental Health and Safety, said that UTEP took samples of the ASARCO site after the demolition. “We will hear about the results on Wednesday (April 17), and expect them to be positive, with no hazardous materials present,” Rodriguez said.



PASS THE BUDGET

Shut down may defund GI bill

Rep. Beto O’Rourke, D-Texas, said students should not be impacted by the partial government shut-down as long as it reopens before Oct. 17, which marks Congress’s deadline to raise the debt ceiling that could prevent a default. In an Oct. 5 interview, O’Rourke said those who receive assistance

through the GI Bill might see a delay in funding should the shut-down extend past October. “This adds urgency to our efforts to resolve this,” O’Rourke said. He also said he is certain Congress can reach a compromise before Oct. 17.



50 SHADES OF ORANGE

More than 400 costumed and curious citizens gathered at Tricky Falls on June 5 for a night featuring glass eating, burlesque, bondage and industrial music. The DV8 Fetish Ball brought local and regional talent to downtown El Paso for an unconventional convention.

“We don’t have the big community here,” said Erika, a graduate student and member of the Lotus Blossoms burlesque troupe. “It is very hard in the city to come out and say ‘this is what I like to do,’ but everybody needs an outlet. We’re trying to show people that there are different things out there in El Paso.”



WE HAVEN’T FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU

Three wars, one story

A steak dinner and a carton of Lucky Strikes cigarettes were a treat on June 5, 1944, a day before the D-Day invasion of Normandy, France. Other than the special meal and cigarettes, it seemed like a regular practice jump for the men, who were part of the 508th Parachute Infantry

Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division during World War II. “You realized that this was the real thing when we started passing over the coast and we started taking anti-aircraft fire,” said retired Lt. Col. Robert Chisolm, 88, of Anthony, N.M.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

CLASS *of* 2013

SUMMER 2013

DOCTORAL

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION Educational Leadership and Administration

Sarah Jo Chavez-Gibson
Laura Guzman-DuVernois

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY Biological Sciences-Pathobiology

Tavis Lyle Mendez

Civil Engineering

Alicia Romo
Yubian Wang

Computational Science

Luis Basurto
Marco Olguin

Computer Science

Aida Gandara

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Sandra Villarreal

English Rhetoric and Composition

Myshie MCGavock Pagel
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Guadalupe Gonzalez Moran
Omar Morin
Casandra Noriega
Ana Paola Nunez
Jessica Nunez
Josue Nunez
Manuel Nunez
Maria Gisel Nunez
Arlene Paloma Ochoa
Velia H. Ocon
Daniel Ortega
Debbie Ortega
Angela Ortiz
Teresa Ovalles
Liliel Papadakis
Brenda Parra
Ivonne Parra
Paulette Pena
Lucila April Pineira
Julietta Prieto
Deyanira Azurina Quinonez
Nicole Quintana
Jazmin Michelle Quintanilla
Andrea Margarita Ramirez
Luz Maria Ramirez
Susana Ramirez
Monica Ramos
Mary Ann Rangel
Raul Rangel Jr.
Laura Lee Renteria-Moya
Denise Reyes
Eduardo Luis Reyes
Erica Reynolds
Rosa Isela Rincon
Isela Sifuentes Rios

Lorena Mercedes Rivera
Yazmin Rivera
Abigail Rodriguez
Athena Nyrrisa Rodriguez
Desirae Ivana Rodriguez
Emma Elizabeth Rodriguez
Luis Carlos Rodriguez
Ana Berenice Rosales
Devin Kacie Roush
Marisol Ruiz
Karissa Nicole Runkles
Diana Jessica Sandoval
Ricardo Sierra
Alejandra Silva
Lorena Sims
Leticia Soltero
Stacy Lynne Tarango
Lorenza M. Tuda De Esparza
Adriana Angelica Turner
Erica Ruby Valadez
Adriana Valdez
Rocio Valdivia
Araceli Vargas
Rocio I. Vargas
Ana Alejandra Vazquez Jurado
Brenda L. Vidana
Jesus Jacob Villa
Patrick Samuel Villarreal
Priscilla Elizabeth Villegas
Loreal Alicia Wood
Rachael L. Yeatman
Lizzette Zambrano
Krystal Zavala

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Bachelor of Business Administration
Inaam Alaa Abdel-Jaber
Mohammad Bassam Abdo
Dariya Abdrakhmanova
Pierre Rene Adame
Veronica Teresita Aguilar
Guillermo Aguilera
Angelica Aguirre
Gilbert Alarcon
Mario Alarcon
Jose Ramon Almanza
Jeanette Almaraz
Elizabeth Alvarado
Mercedes Alvarado
Rafael Alvarado
Andres Arturo Alvarez
Gloria Yvette Alvarez
Fabiola Alvarez-Primo
Krista Marie Apodaca
CharleneDaniela Faustina Aranda
Saul Aranda
Armando Armendariz
Adrian J. Armstrong
Laura M. Avila
Carlos Ramon Avina Jr.
Adam Ayala
Mario Osvaldo Ayala
Angeles Geraldine Bangert
Jorge Banos Gomar
Judith Barragan
Priscilla Barrios-Hernandez
Linda J. Brown
Jazmin Dagmar Brunken
Zahira Buhaya
Matthew Adan Bustamante
Jose Guadalupe Cadena
Luckens Cadet
Anamaria Camargo Salazar
Matthew Taylor Cannon
Daisy Isela Cano
Claudia Y. Carrillo
Patricia D. Carrillo
Nydia Vanessa Castaneda
Raul Fabian Castro-Gomez
Jorge Alberto Cepeda
Jacob James Chavez
Miguel A. Chavez
Oswaldo Chavez
Ricardo Chavez Garcia
Mael Alejandro Chong
Karina Clarke
Pedro Contreras
Rosario Contreras
Christian J. Corral
Miguel A. Cortez
Claudia Cruz
Luis Adrian Cruz
Andrew Scott Cutler
Stephanie Anne Daw
Jaime Fernando De La Cruz Jr.
Jose Gabriel De La Cruz
Andres De la Riva
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David Aaron Diaz
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Aaron Anthony Enriquez
Alejandro Escobar
Jared Escobar
Alicia Esqueda
Robert Joseph Estala
Joanna Annette Faudoa
Denisse Alejandra Fernandez
Kathryn Kraft Ferree
Nidia Alejandra Flores
Oscar Flores Jr.
Carlos Ruben Flores Miramontes
Jordan Kevin Gallacher
Elizabeth Vianney Gameros
Diana Angelica Garcia
Luis Carlos Garcia
Misael Garcia
Samantha Yael Garcia
Alejandra Gomez
Corina Gonzalez
Diego Gonzalez
Erika Guadalajara
Claudia Guereca
Alejandro Javier Guerra
Mayra Guerra
David Guerrero
Myrella E. Gutierrez
William Andrew Gutierrez
Joaquin Gutierrez-Murguia
Michael Lee Guy
Charles L. Haley
Anibal Hernandez
Julia Elena Hernandez
Miguel Hernandez
Raul Hernandez
Marisol Hernandez Dominguez
Dahena Guadalupe Hernandez Ramos
Elisa Herrera De Rey
Latonya Minnette Houston
Maria E. Hudson

Erika Jeannette Ibarra
Michael George Jacobs
Julio Cesar Jimenez
Esmeralda King
Michael Lamas
Monica Cecilia Leos
Myrna Cecilia Lespron
Jesus E. Leyva
Ruifeng Li
Beatriz Azucena Lopez
Belinda Lopez
Guillermo Lopez Jr.
Gustavo Lopez
Kimberly Lopez
Nicholas Pavia Lopez
Rosalba Lopez
Oscar Loy Jr.
Nora Estefania Lozano
Felipe Alejandro Lozano Prado
Flor I. Lujan
Karla E. Lujan
Michael D. Lujan
David Edward Lusky
Richard Majalca
Daniel Marquez
Abraham Eli Martinez
Ilse Gabriela Martinez
Mario Ernest Martinez
Morayma Y. Meraz
Elizabeth Cynthia Miramontes
Diana Isabel Montes
Ivan Arnulfo Montes
Gabriela Alejandra Montes Ojeda
Juan L. Mora
Nathan L. Morales
Sean Michael Motts
Sean Michael Myerly
Tako Khady Niare
Claudia Elena Nungaray
Luis Jesus Olivas
Rodrigo Javier Olmedo
Isaac Ontiveros
Robert Anthony Ordonez
Juan Carlos Orduna
Flor Alicia Ornelas Perez
Frank Ortega Jr.
Ivette Margarita Ortega Ibarra
David Alonso Ortiz
Iliana Ortiz
Carlos Enrique Panzardi
Paulina Raquel Parra-Barraza
Andres Payan
Hilda Pena
Andrea Elizabeth Perez Ledezma
Daniel E. Ponce Flores
Carina Isolda Popoca Fehr
Andres Portillo
Maria Antonia Portillo
Jose Puga
Martin Quijas
Fernando Ivan Quinones
April Quintana
Enrique Antonio Quintana
Augustine R. Ramos
Anna Karen Rey Loya
Idalhi Reyes
Jose Alvaro Reyes III
Lorena J. Rincon
Barbara Rios
Mariel Rocha
Abril M. Rodriguez
Ana Teresa Rodriguez
David Rodriguez
Roberto Rodriguez
Ruben Rodriguez
Steven Rodriguez
Anibal Miguel Roman Guerra
Sarai Romero
Lucero Romero Morales
Jose A. Romo
Ross Aaron Rotwein
Jesus Alfredo Ruiz
Angelica Sanchez
Santiago Sanchez
Andres Sandoval
Sergio Hiram Sandoval Jr.
Sandra Yadhira Sandoval Alcantar
Juan Carlos Santiago
Farid Sapien
Christopher Joseph Serrano
Muhammad Adnan Shahid
Javier Siliceo
Sarah Ann Simpson
Ethan Slape
Zhara Liberty Smith
Jorge Esteban Solis
Yadira Sotelo
Richard M. Spencer
Edith Stybalis Suarez
Sarah Janette Sullivan
Jennifer Vanessa Taylor
Sean Phillip Thompson
Alfredo A. Torres
Jennie Ericka Torres
Julieta N. Torres
Irene C. Trevizo
Oliver Urdiales
Patricia Krysel Valdez
Jennie Valentin
Arturo U. Valenzuela
Santiago Vasquez III
Rodolfo Alberto Vazquez Jurado
Arnoldo David Verazas Rojas
Christian Villa Lujan
Jessica Alejandra Villagran
Grecia Villalobos
Ana Georgina Villanueva
Aldo Raul Villegas Jr.
Martin Villegas
Summer R. Webb
Edward P. Weigel
Matthew James Youngs
Javier Daniel Zepeda

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
Bachelor of Science
Francisco Javier Arellano
Valeria Anali Baeza
Kailah Krystal Bailey
Ernesto Alejandro Baylon
Kayla Rae Black
Cristina Yvonne Calderon
David Anthony Camacho
Cynthia Chavez
Michelle Maria Chavez Benitez
Alejandra Cruz
Stephanie Brooke De La Cruz
Marissa Ivette Diaz
Brandon Michael Dougherty
Arabella Duarte
Michelle Irene Enriquez
Antonio Espinoza
Sandra Elia Espinoza
Edward Favela

Anthony Rene Flores
Steven Ray Galaviz
Joseph Shane Garcia
Tiffany Garcia
Rocio Garcia-Silva
Emmanuel Gardea
Karen Elizabeth Gardea
Monica Lynn Gongaware
Matthew Ryan Gutierrez
Tess A. Hall
Stephanie Christine Han
Abraham Haro
Angela Rose Hernandez
Lidia Hernandez
Anh Nhat Huynh
Aaron Anthony Lopez
Vanessa Marie Maurizio
Christopher Michael McMillen
Fabiola Nevarez
Estefania Nunez Gonzalez
Yvette Ontiveros
Anabel Orquiz
Naomi Owens
Jeremy Joseph Perales
Carl Logan Petry
Eddie T. Ramirez
Victor Ramirez Jr.
Naomi Rodriguez
Adriana Rosales
Ebernoel Ruvalcaba
Stephanie Salgado
Erica Alyssa Solis
Richard Park Tachibana
Rodolfo Valenzuela Jr.
Julio Cesar Vega
Sofia Vega
Rocio Villalobos
Haydee Lymari Vizcarra
Marquis Antwan Washington

SCHOOL OF NURSING
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Andrea Margarita Alvarado
Abiodun Monsurat Ambali
Elsie C. Andrade
Daniel E. Arioga
Guadalupe Ivonne Armenta Carrasco
Guadalupe Arrambide
Maria Gloria Arroyo
Diana Garibay Artalejo
Alexa Avila
Maddalyn Nichol Baca
Paola Baeza Valenzuela
Sandra Kay Caldwell
Heidi G. Cantu
Norma Carrillo
Devin Leeann Castellanos
Virginia Chavira
Yahaira L. Cisneros
Maribell S. Cordova
Michelle Avila Cortinas
Roger Allen Diaz
Alba Esther Dominguez-Arriaga
Abel Duque Jr.
Elizabeth Estrada
Marisol Janette Fematt
Sandra Flores
Riahmohiko Grace Fonseca
Sean Christopher Forquer
Allissa N. Foster
Maria Isabel Gallegos
Clara Lee Garza
Jacqueline S. Garza
Eugene Gentry
Alejandra Ismene Gines
Leslie Guadalajara
Manuel Gutierrez
Elise Linne Harboldt
Stephanie K. Harris
Janain Hernandez
Roxana Higareda
Cristina Camille Hinojosa
Paulette Spearman Holt
Sherrill Lynn Howell
Graciela B. Isa
Gibran Asdhrubal Juarez
Risper Jepkemoi Kimaiyo
Marty Sue Kirkes
Thomas Mallare Kondik Jr.
Elide Nohemi Lozoya
Melissa Luera-Sanchez
Juanita Flores Marrero
Susan Melissa Martin
Edith Y. Martinez
Leslie Dell Mendoza
Maria C. Minjares
Melissa R. Molina
Juan Carlos Montes
Brenda Berenice Morales
Juliana Morales
Melissa Morales
Amanda Rebeca Moreno
Maria Rowena-McGee Munoz
Philip Gatw Mwangi
Graciela Navarrete
Jacqueline C. Nevarez
Rosa B. Ogaz
Olufunke M. Olushola
Horacio Ornelas
Belinda Orozco
Jeanette Aileen Ortiz
Veronica C. Ortiz
Kizzy Myisha Parker
Adan Humberto Perez
Joann Piliado
Jessica Powell
Diana L. Pulido
Mia Elizabeth Pursel
Jessica M. Quinones
Evelyn Quiroga
Diana Reyes
Hector Manuel Rivera Jr.
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Stephanie L. Torres
Nancy Varela-Medina
Laura Veronica Vega
Alejandra Velarde
Daniella Simona Ytuarte

CAMPUS LIFE

The push to get minorities into STEM fields

BY ANDRÉS RODRÍGUEZ

SHFWire

WASHINGTON – After graduating from high school, Crystal Brockington plans to pursue a degree in biology or chemistry. She knows that, as a black woman, she’s part of the minority of students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and technology, or STEM fields. But she’s not daunted by the numbers, she said, instead she’s encouraged by the support she’s received.

Since 2000, the number of blacks, Hispanics and American Indians who earn degrees in engineering and the physical sciences has been flat, and participation in mathematics has dropped, according to a 2013 study by the National Science Foundation. Of the 62,211 degrees awarded in the sciences and engineering in 2010, 3,692 were awarded to black women,

“I think for the U.S. economy to move forward, it’s going to be built on the STEM disciplines...if we don’t have underrepresented minorities in those plans, we’re destined to fail...”
- Robert Kirken, dean of the College of Science at UTEP

the study found, but prominent tech companies are hoping to get those numbers up.

“It’s definitely an area where you don’t find a lot of minorities, especially me being a female,” Brockington said. “So it’s definitely a good opportunity to go to the magnet school that I do go to, to have all these amazing opportunities and today it’s just amazing to see how a lot of people are actually pushing it.” Brockington, 18, with classmate Aaron Barron, won this year’s Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge! for their work on nanocrystals. The two seniors at Rockdale Magnet School for Science and Technology in Conyers, Ga., presented their research at a symposium at the Capitol.

Brockington is applying to Auburn University, University of Georgia and Emory University, where she plans to pursue a pre-medicine track in biology or chemistry.

The symposium was sponsored by Discovery Communications, a company committed to diversity in STEM fields, according to its Executive Vice President Debbie Myers. “It’s a driving force in keeping that spark alight,” she said in a statement.

The White House announced in November that \$100 million will be made available to Youth CareerConnect grants partly to increase employer engagement with students interested in STEM fields. This is part of the collaboration between the Departments of Labor and Education to “provide high school students with the industry-relevant education and skills they need for a successful future.”

While the White House announcement seeks to serve all students regardless of race or ethnicity, prominent tech companies have come out

in support of diversifying STEM education. A study released last year by Excelencia in Education states that in the 2009-2010 academic year, 8 percent of all certificates and degrees in STEM fields were awarded to Latinos. Google recently formed a partnership with Manos Accelerator, a mentorship program that recruits Latino startups and teaches them about the tech business.

Mark Lopez, head of U.S. Hispanic audience for Google, said that while they are committed to tapping into the growing consumer power of Latinos, they are also committed in helping Latinos create new technologies.

“We also need to make sure that Latinos in this country have the ability to take risks and be able to have ideas and make those ideas become the next Google, the next Facebook,” Lopez said at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute public policy conference in October. Tony Jimenez, president and CEO of MicroTech, said that growing up Hispanic he never thought about being CEO of an IT company.

“Nobody knew how to explain to me ‘si se puede.’ Nobody talked to me about the possibility of someday being the CEO of an IT company or even, for that matter, what the importance of STEM was,” Jimenez said at the conference. “I ended up as an IT CEO because eventually I understood that there is nothing I can’t do as a Hispanic in America.”

Getting students interested in STEM fields has to start early, Robert Kirken, the dean of the College of Science at the University of Texas at El Paso, said.

UTEP is the top producer of undergraduate engineering, mathematics and statistics degrees among Hispanic

ics in the U.S., according to a report by Diversity Education.

“We know that to get the kids to come into STEM disciplines and stay in STEM disciplines we can’t just begin working on them once they get here,” Kirken said.

Kirken said reaching out the El Paso youth in Spanish and English is critical to getting enrollment numbers up. The College of Science does this through science demonstrations, by judging science fairs and providing lab tours. During the 2011-2012 academic year, UTEP awarded 895 STEM degrees, a 39 percent increase over seven years.

Providing paying research opportunities is also important, Kirken said. Students tend to have multiple jobs outside the university and that can be a distraction.

UTEP was recently awarded \$2.1 million in STEM research grants to help strengthen minority interest, education and participation in STEM related fields.

“It prepares them for life after UTEP,” Kirken said. “They’ll be more confident because they’ll have good mentors, they’ll have worked on or cutting-edge equipment and technology.”

Kirken said that, although there’s no one strategy to get students excited about STEM, creating better teachers, funded research opportunities and community outreach are helping get Hispanics in the classrooms.

“I think for the U.S. economy to move forward, it’s going to be built on the STEM disciplines,” Kirken said. “And if we don’t have underrepresented minorities in those plans, we’re destined to fail – there’s no question about that.”

Andrés Rodríguez is a UTEP senior double major in Spanish and English and American literature. He is currently participating in the Scripps Howard Foundation Semester in Washington program. He may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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FINANCES

Misuse of financial aid may cause burden for students

BY LEONARDO MONTAÑEZ

The Prospector

As the end of the semester arrives and the spring semester is upon us, it is time for students to renew their financial aid and it is time when students may misuse that money again.

According to the blog Generation Opportunity, students on average owe around \$27,000 in student loans.

Noe Cardenas, sophomore music major, has taken out around \$7,000 in loans, but said he has used some of it for purposes outside of school.

“It is easy to use the money that they give you since we think of it as free money,” Cardenas said. “I used it to buy things for myself and pay other things—I do use it for books and all, but still.”

According to Generation Opportunity, student loan debt is more than \$1 trillion nationwide and there are approximately 37 million Americans with student loan debts—almost 12 percent of the population of the United States.

“I just hope that I don’t end up owing like a hundred grand. I plan to start paying them as soon as possible,” Cardenas said. “It is a constant pressure, it really looms in your conscious whenever you think of money.”

Loan debt has grown around a 511 percent since 1999, according to Generation Opportunity, since 1982, college tuition has grown more than 439

percent—meaning it is almost five times more expensive now in 2013.

“I don’t particularly like using or borrowing loans, but that is the only way I can pay for college,” Cardenas said. “I don’t deny that I enjoy using them, but at the same time I wish didn’t have to give that money back.”

Layla Stull was formerly a studio art major, but dropped out of school in 2011. She needed to leave college because she had accumulated a debt of \$25,000 within her first three years of school.

“I actually don’t quite remember how I used all of that money,” Stull said. “What I do know is that I didn’t understand how to use loans, apparently, because when after a long period of time I checked, my debt was there.”

Stull said that she is now working to pay her debt off and will come back to college once she has enough money.

“I can only tell students to be careful, it is a very easy to mess up and end up owing the government a lot,” Stull said. “Learn how to use government money, use it wisely because it is not as they say, it is not free money.”

Leonardo Montañez may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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DECEMBER 3, 2013

OUR VIEW

PHOTO EDITOR
VERONICA ENRIQUEZ, 747-7477

Top photos of 2013



2



1



3



4



5



6



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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Overall, how was your semester?

AARON MONTES & MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR



MARIO GUERRA
Freshman electrical engineering major
“My semester was good, I got to learn how to manage my time and new study habits that helped me retain more.”



CODY VILLALOBOS
Sophomore mechanical engineer major
“It was a tough semester because of the higher engineering classes, but I was able to make it through.”



ELIZABETH RAMIREZ
Freshman psychology major
“I expected this semester to be stressful but it actually went better than expected.”



JOHN VILLALOBOS
Sophomore education major
“My intensive reading classes made this semester rough, but it was not too bad.”



HALEY O'BRIEN
Senior sociology major
“This semester was long and really dragged, so I am glad it's finally coming to an end.”



LUIS MARQUEZ
Junior music major
“My GPA did not go down so I would say it was a good semester.”



JUAN TORRES
Sophomore criminal justice major
“It was a good semester and I learned that in fraternities, brotherhood is a lot more than people expect.”



MARIO FERNANDEZ
Freshman electrical computer engineering major
“Although it was challenging at times, this semester has been fun and I have made a lot of new friends.”



MAYRA BARREDA
Senior psychology major
“I had to drop a class this semester because it was getting hard to manage five. Overall I did well though.”



ERNESTO ORTIZ
Senior criminology major
“I learned that I have to get to school around 7 a.m. because these damn freshman must sleep in the parking lot.”



MIRIAM VEGA
Junior drawing major
“I had a good semester, but I found you should register early so you don't have a problem.”



JOSH MEDINA
Freshman biological sciences major
“I enjoyed having afternoon classes and waking up at 3 p.m., being here for an hour and then going home.”



TIAHNA ONTIVEROS
Sophomore psychology major
“This was an interesting semester because my classes were for my major, so it was a different kind of workload.”



SCOTT DAVIS
Freshman mechanical engineering major
“I learned how the university works, what to do and how to prepare for college.”



VELIA QUIROZ
Senior multimedia journalism major
“It was a long semester and in my classes I got to learn a lot of different things. In Borderline I got to learn about the interview process and meeting people.”

GRADUATION

Commencement ceremony to be streamed live on KFOX-TV

BY LORAIN WATTERS
The Prospector

The live stream of commencement will continue for its third semester, allowing families and friends who are unable to attend to see their students walk across the stage to receive their diploma.

University Communications and University Relations who partnered with KFOX-TV in 2012 after KFOX approached them with the idea of streaming the commencement ceremonies on their network for free.

“The (audience) numbers after each one have shown a high interest and we have viewers all over the world,”

said Frank Montes de Oca, assistant director of University Relations.

In a statement released by University Communications, during the December 2012 commencement there were about 793 views. During the May 2013 commencement, there were about 2,912 views. Of those views, families were tuning in from Mexico, the Czech Republic, Latvia,

Germany, India, Libya, Ireland, Japan, Samoa, Australia, Spain and Bahrain, to name a few.

“We have met with them (KFOX) prior and after the commencements to discuss each one,” Montes de Oca said. “Since we use their system, they leave the commencement running and don’t show the evening news so it’s a really nice thing that they’re doing.”

University Communications will also upload the commencement videos after the ceremonies in case anyone was unable to watch it live or if they wish to download the video.

For more information about commencement, visit ia.utep.edu.

Lorain Watters may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

CEREMONIES

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

(Graduate Students Only)
Friday, Dec. 13, 2013
6:30 p.m.
Magoffin Auditorium
No RSVP required
For more information, Noni Silva at 747-5783

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Hooding and Certificate Ceremony
Friday, Dec. 13, 2013
Time TBA
Plaza Theater, Downtown El Paso
For more information, Elsa Quezada at 747-7726

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

College and Graduate Hooding Ceremony
Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013
3:30 p.m.
Magoffin Auditorium
For more information: chsgraduation@utep.edu

Department of Kinesiology Graduation Reception
Friday, Dec. 13, 2013
Time: TBA
Location: TBD
For more information, Sylvia Rodriguez 747-7245

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Awards & Hooding Ceremony Honoring Department/Program Award Recipients; Senior Honor Cord Recipients; Master’s and Doctoral Candidates
Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013
7 p.m. (Students must arrive by 6:30 p.m.)
Magoffin Auditorium
For more information: Cecy DeSantiago at 747-8621 or cdesantiago1@utep.edu

Military Science - Commissioning Ceremony
Friday, Dec. 13, 2013
3 p.m.
Union Cinema, Union Building East
RSVP with Araceli Sanchez by Dec. 6:
asanchez21@utep.edu

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Featuring the Hooding Ceremony & Order of the Engineer, Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013
11 a.m. Ceremony
Magoffin Auditorium
For more information: Engineering College Ceremony website

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Graduate Hooding Ceremony
Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013
Time TBA
El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center
For more information: 747-7204

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Friday, Dec. 6, 2013
5 p.m. Reception; Ceremony to follow
Magoffin Auditorium
For more information: Margie Gutierrez 747-8026

UTEP GRADUATE RING CEREMONY

(Ceremony is open to those who have purchased UTEP rings)
Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013
6-8 p.m. Tomas Rivera Conference Center. For more information: Jackie Reed jreed2@utep.edu

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Morning 9:00 a.m.*
College of Liberal Arts
Afternoon 2:00 p.m.*
College of Business Administration
College of Education
School of Nursing
Evening 7:00 p.m.*
College of Engineering
College of Science
College of Health Sciences



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INBRIEF

GECU FOUNDATION PRESENTS \$75K FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The GECU Foundation presented \$75,000 to the UTEP Office of Institutional Advancement for the R.C. Morgan Scholarship Fund. The gift will be used for student scholarships in UTEP’s College of Business Administration.

Through the R.C. Scholarship Fund, GECU awards deserving students with financial assistance to pursue a higher education at UTEP. The R.C. Morgan Scholarship Fund was established in 1988 and is named in honor of former GECU President and CEO R.C. Morgan, an avid supporter of education and the credit union movement.

FACULTY MEMBER TO HOST RECITAL

UTEP piano faculty member Oscar Macchioni, to present a solo recital featuring J.S. Bach-Marcello’s Adagio BWV 974, Robert Schumann’s Carnival from Vienna op. 26, Carlos Guastavino’s cyclical Sonata in C-sharp minor and a set of colorful preludes from Book I by Claude Debussy.

FIVE STUDENTS RECEIVE GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY ABROAD

Four students received Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarships to help them study abroad in the spring semester of 2014. One alternate candidate was also selected. The total amount of these awards is \$17,000.

The four scholars are Maria Ruiz-Pineda, Lynette Escobar, Carlos Nevarez and Ricardo Myers, and the alternate is Carina Samano. Ruiz-Pineda, Escobar and Samano will study in South Korea, Nevarez will study in Spain and Myers will study in Australia.

CORNEL WEST TO SPEAK FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Cornel West, activist, professor and author of 20 books on race and political issues, will deliver a guest lecture at 7 p.m. Feb. 7 at the Magoffin Auditorium in honor of Black History Month.

Tickets are now on sale for \$40 and may be purchased at the Ticket Center.

STUDENTS WIN FIRST PRIZE FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Two UTEP students have won first prizes for their presentations at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS). It’s the largest professional conference for minority students to pursue advanced training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Tim Brown, a senior chemistry major, won first prize for his oral presentation titled Insect Cell Expression and Purification of PTEN — A Tumor Suppressing Lipid Phosphatase. Jorge Martinez, also a senior chemistry major, won first place for his poster presentation titled Metal-Catalyzed Reduction of Amides, Key Intermediates Observed and Isolated.

During the four-day conference, more than 1,500 students participate in poster and oral presentations in 12 disciplines in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, including mathematics.

2013 WINTER COMMENCEMENT

Commencement Ceremony Times:

9 a.m.
Morning Commencement
-College of Liberal Arts

2 p.m.
Afternoon Commencement
-College of Business Administration
-College of Education
-School of Nursing



Commencement Ceremony Times:

7 p.m.
Evening Commencement
-College of Engineering
-College of Science
-College of Health Sciences

* All Ceremonies include graduate degrees corresponding to these Colleges.

Saturday, December 14 2013
Don Haskins Center - The University of Texas at El Paso

The Day of Commencement

1. In order to experience an enjoyable Commencement ceremony, please arrive at Memorial Gym at least an hour prior to the ceremony. Check-in will begin inside of Auxiliary Gym (room 120) at the following times:

- For 9 a.m. Ceremony: 8 a.m. (doors open at 7:30 a.m.)
- For 2 p.m. Ceremony: 1 p.m. (doors open at 12:30 p.m.)
- For 7 p.m. Ceremony: 6 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

*Please ensure that you have checked-in and picked up your reader card during these times.

2. Arrive early and have a photo taken in Memorial Gym prior to the ceremony.

3. Please leave all personal items (backpacks, cell phones, purses, coats, etc.) at home/automobile. These items (beach balls, balloons, confetti, noise makers, silly string, etc.) will not be allowed in the Don Haskins Center.

4. Though your family and friends are an important part of commencement, childcare services will not be provided, and children may not accompany graduates during the commencement ceremony. Please make appropriate plans for the care of your children.

5. Wear regalia and comfortable shoes, and out of courtesy for your fellow graduates, please remain for the duration of the ceremony.

For parking recommendations, tips for families and friends and other information: utep.edu/commencement



Congratulations to all the graduates!

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Office of University Relations

DECEMBER 3, 2013

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR

ANDREA ACOSTA, 747-7477

“A Christmas Carol” embraces its supernatural elements this year



BY JOSE SOTO

The Prospector

The UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance brings their annual production of ‘A Christmas Carol’ to the stage. Faculty and students have rehearsed countless of hours to ensure it will be an unforgettable performance. The opening night will be on Dec. 15.

This year’s presentation of the stage adaptation of the inspiring 19th-century story marks its eighth year of production. Based on Charles Dickens’ classic novel, “A Christmas Carol” is a timeless classic that revolves around the angry and bitter Scrooge, who has a change of heart after receiving some ghostly visits from Jacob Marley, the Ghosts of Christmas past, the present and the future yet to come.

The story is a Christmas staple and conveys the message that everyone can feel the spirit of the holidays, even those with the coldest of hearts.

Austin Savage, a UTEP alum and founder of Border Theatre, has been the director for ‘A Christmas Carol’ for the past three productions. He said that this year’s production differs from the previous years of performance, as they are attempting to show some interesting aspects regarding the presentation of the supernatural elements within the show.

“The ghosts and even Jacob Marley are all part of a very unique spectacle that should impress the adults while captivating the children,” Savage said. “UTEP’s ‘A Christmas Carol’ is an annual production, so over the years it has been refined and improved upon by a variety of directors which leads to a very impressive show.”

Adriana Dominguez, director of audience development, said the production has become a UTEP tradition.

“We find it is a great way to reach out to the community and participate in the holiday spirit,” Dominguez said. “As it is a well-established and very large show, it provides our students a wonderful opportunity to be onstage and do design work.”

Regarding the audience this year, Dominguez said that the department is very lucky that the attendance has been maintained throughout the many years of their presentation of “A Christmas Carol.”

“We have found that several families now make ‘A Christmas Carol’ a part of their holiday tradition—they join us every year to kick off Christmas,” Dominguez said. “Along with the public performances, we have five school performances, where more than 1,500 local school children come to the theater during the week for the show as a part of a field trip. It is an amazing experience for all involved to see the awe and wonder in a child’s eye when experiencing live theater through this magical tale.”

Being cast in ‘A Christmas Carol’ for the third year in a row, Richard Nielsen, senior theatre arts major takes center stage as he plays the lead role of Scrooge this year. He previously portrayed Fezziwig his first year and the Ghost of Christmas present in his second year.

“I am the face of the show on my third consecutive year participating in this beloved play,” Nielsen said. “With Scrooge, I’ve been studying a lot of different things to help find my place in the character. My personal favorite is to people watch, especially people with different physicality and try to incorporate it into my performance.”

Another strategy that Nielsen uses to better understand his character was

“I feel the show relates to UTEP and the community by touching on the theme of hope.”

- Austin Savage, UTEP alum

to watch other versions of Scrooge. However, he realized this wouldn’t work and strived to work on finding his own self in the character.

“That way, the person the audience sees on stage isn’t just a character, it’s me,” Nielsen said.

Allowing for the production to be open for student input, Savage said that this annual production provides an opportunity for student designers and actors to work on their craft and he couldn’t be happier with this year’s group of hard workers.

“The imagination and creativity of the designers has been stunning to me. (Theatre art students) Luis Torres (costume designer), Gil Arias (sound), Trent Ware (lights), Diana Davila and Marissa Diaz (projections) have just blown me away in these early stages,” Savage said. “As for the actors, some of the more experienced students are challenging themselves by expanding their acting range. The younger students are showing tremendous enthusiasm and

see CAROL on page B5

THEATER

Students brush off art degree stigma

BY LEONARDO MONTAÑEZ

The Prospector

Art as a major is quickly becoming a taboo among students due to the idea that artists are doomed thanks to the competitive aspect of the major itself. But students and professors alike continue to pursue their goals because they find an opportunity and it’s their passion.

Manuel Guerra, full-time lecturer of art, believes that a degree in art is useless is because of the culture we are surrounded by.

“Most parents are afraid of their children making a living on any kind of art,” Guerra said. “Most of them want them to be doctors, lawyers or the chief of a tribe.”

According to Guerra, success comes with determination and appreciation

for what one does and said that it is important to do what we want.

“Follow your heart, it’s all you can do. If you really like what you do and you enjoy it you are going to succeed,” Guerra said. “But if you’re always questioning back and forth you won’t.”

Guerra obtained a bachelor’s degree at UTEP in drawing and minor in printmaking. His masters on printmaking at the State University of New York grants knowledge, he said.

“Art is not based on money, its about how culture and how (it) has evolved,” Guerra said. “People say that art has evolved, others say that it has regressed with the computer age. People should study art because it allows you (to) know how life was in the past and how we changed.”

Guerra said that nobody can tell the outcome of an artist but that as long

that the student stays true to their passion, they will succeed.

“Don’t let anyone tell you that you won’t achieve it, because that is just bringing negative vibes,” Guerra said. “Always remain positive, you’ll see the bright side of life.”

Diego Portillo, junior graphic design major, said that being afraid is a common fear for artist but it shouldn’t stop anyone.

“Culturally, people are afraid of being an art major, because it is a very restricted major, very competitive,” Portillo said. “But it is not as hard as it seems, as long as you look you’ll find.”

Portillo has been working for the department of music at UTEP, exercising his profession as a designer.

“Even after I graduate, I will keep on with my career outside UTEP

see ART on page B6



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► 5



► 4

1. "9 to 5" 2. Chalk the Block 3. Nine Inch Nails, Trent Reznor on the keyboard 4. The Color Run 5. The Cure

FILE PHOTOS

Attention Creative Writing Students

The UT Board of Regents wants to recognize you!

Eligibility:

Full-time undergraduate students of any major studying at a UT institution

General Criteria:

Evidence of academic excellence.

Must demonstrate commitment to the arts through participation in University and community activities.

Creativity, originality, imagery, artistic quality, and mastery of expression are apparent in the work submitted.

Guidelines:

- Submit up to five poems (no more than 10 pages total).
 - Short fiction submissions must be between 7 and 20 pages.
 - All submissions must use a 12-point font and be written in English.
 - Each writing sample must include a title and page numbers.
 - Do not include applicant name or identify information in the writing samples.
- This information should only appear on the application form that accompanies the work.
- Only original, unpublished work can be submitted. Writers may submit work in both categories, but applicant can win only one category.
 - If submitting work in both categories, a separate application form is required for each submission.

Categories:
Poetry Writing & Short Fiction

For questions or to submit your materials, contact:
Laura Ortega at (915) 747-5648 or lmortega@utep.edu

Nomination Materials:

- An application form indicating the creative writing category (poetry writing or short essay).
- An unofficial college transcript as evidence of excellence in academic performance and good academic standing, signed by the department chair or college dean in your major of study.
- Release form to allow UT System to publicly share the student's work.
- Creative writing sample. All work must be embedded in a single file (pdf).



A \$1,500 monetary award in the winner's name to the department listed on the application. The designated program or department which receives the monetary prize may award the money to the student winner of other student projects, or used the proceeds at the department's discretion.

FASHION

Must-have wardrobe items for the winter season

BY JOSE SOTO AND ASHLEY MUÑOZ
The Prospector

As UTEP students begin to put away their summer attire and start swapping it for their winter one, it is important to always have the essentials to fashionably survive the winter season.

Winter is swamped with festivities, must-appearances at dinners and gatherings and the annual Christmas and New Years' Eve parties.

Here are some tips to help you stay warm yet fashionable.

1. Beanies, not just one, but a plethora! Beanies—especially knitted ones—are always a great way to keep your head warm while looking spiffy. Different patterns and colors allow them to be versatile, allowing you to apply them from the most casual outfits to the ones for a night out on the town. Droopy beanies—the ones that hang a bit from the top—are particularly in style this winter, and perhaps it'll look better than your traditional graduation cap.

2. Leather boots—although they may be expensive—are a necessary investment for your winter attire. Leather boots provide great coverage from the cold for your feet and help you get around when the ground is muddy and slippery. Leather boots also look great with any pair of jeans, which will also help you stray away from your summer sneakers into something more suitable for winter. Find some that are durable, and be sure to check the sole of the boot to make sure they'll be slip resistant and provide friction while walking through a winter wonderland.

3. Pea coat, and be sure it's a nice one too! Go for a sturdy, thick and warm one. A three-button style looks best on most guys, but keep in mind the positions of pockets so it doesn't flare too much when you put your hands inside to keep warm. Also, make sure the color choice is adequate for all attire. Black is always safe, but some greys and tans will work as well. Choose wisely and make it versatile for when you're summoned for a

business meeting and for when you're attending graduation parties.

4. Scarves and gloves, and again, a plethora of them. Having different pairs of gloves and scarfs is important to your look and your health. Many people get sick during the winter, but keeping your hands and mouth covered can help prevent this. Slip them on and fluff them up and in no time, you'll jazz up your outfit just enough to be fashionably notable on these frigid days. These are also the hottest accesories, for women to add to their dress with tights, a blazer or simply a long-sleeved blouse with jeans and boots. From animal prints to two-toned, or even a monotone scarf, can really make a statement.

5. Thermals and long johns, and I'm not talking about the ones your mom used to make you wear back in the day. You're either a college man or a graduate about to enter the workforce now. This winter alternative to underwear is perfect for keeping toasty without much effort. Time has done well and now there are thinner, sleeker long johns that won't add bulk to your outfit. Slip these on for some extra warmth this winter. For woman, wearing some knitted tights is the perfect solution to not saying goodbye to your dresses during the cold winter season. Keep your legs warm by wearing various shades of colors and patterns, pairing them with neutral dresses, long sweaters and cardigans, have fun with it and experiment. Grey and black tights are always handy, so be sure to get a few.

As the graduating class walks on stage for their well-earned diploma and the rest of us flock to the Don Haskins Center and parties for the celebrations, it is important to keep warm, but that does not mean you should neglect your look either. There will be many invites during this coldest of seasons for you to partake in ,and having these five items will help you look hot during these freezing months.

Jose Soto can be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.



AARON MONTES/THE PROSPECTOR



MICHAELA ROMAN/THE PROSPECTOR

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What would you like to receive as a graduation present?

MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR



AIMME LOPEZ
Freshman multimedia journalism major
“My ideal gift would be to have the latest iPad so I can use it for both work and play.”



ANAISS PARRA
Freshman nursing major
“I would not mind getting a 2014 Ford Focus with a black leather interior.”



CANDACE ALVARADO
Junior kinesiology major
“For graduation I would want an Audi.”



CHRIS FLORES
Graduate homeland security major
“For graduation I want a trip to the beach.”



ALBERTO AVENDANO
Freshman biological science major
“For a graduation gift I would want an all expenses paid trip to Barcelona because it's the most attractive city and I like the soccer team.”



HECTOR DOMINGUEZ
Senior mechanical engineering major
“It would be cool to get a Dodge Dart as a graduation present.”



ROBERTO CARBAJAL
Senior finance major
“If I could have any graduation present I would get an Aston Martin 177.”



TIMOTHY STEFFLER
Sophomore sociology major
“I would want a '69 Mustang Boss 429.”



VALERIA MADRID
Junior chemistry major
“I would love to graduate knowing I have been accepted to a graduate school. That would be the best gift.”



VIRIDIANA FELIX
Junior mathematics major
“I would want to take a trip to Spain with my family after graduation.”

GRADUATION PREP

‘A gift is a gift no matter how small’

BY OSCAR GARZA
The Prospector

Every semester, thousands of graduating seniors embark on a new and exciting journey—graduation, a career and life after college. Here are some interesting gifts that upcoming graduates may like to receive for their special day.

Because graduation is not only about their accomplishments in college, but also the aftermath, why not give that special grad an elegant suit they can wear to their first job interview? One needs to make an impression and let their future employers know that not only do they have the smarts for the job, but also the image for it. Suits will show employers that graduates are professional and serious about the potential that they will bring to the job.

One of the most common graduation gifts, and one that is always useful and a powerful reminder of the education the graduate has received, are pens. Elegantly designed pens are a simple, yet effective gift for a college graduate.

It seems that every year technological innovations advance the ways we can communicate with each other. Why not share these with graduates and give them gadgets such as digital cameras, in which they'll be able to share their favorite moments with everybody—they're sort of ideal for graduation. Gadgets such as smart phones that are either iPhones or Android always create a big buzz when released and can be perfect multipur-

pose devices that are capable of not only communication, and provide entertainment for the users. The ever-increasing world of apps such as Job Search or USA Jobs can help graduates find the right jobs they want. Since graduation signals the beginning of their professional world, why not offer them new tech products that they can use for presentations or other career highlights.

Gift cards from stores such as Amazon and any other graduates' favorite stores can be great gift ideas since they will have the option of buying something that they really want to get.

Books are a major part of college and they're certainly useful after graduation, whether it's a book for inspiration such as, “The Giving Tree,” by Shel Silverstein and “All the Places You'll Go,” by Dr. Seuss, to something just for entertainment like the “Harry Potter” series or books for future studies. There is no denying that books are also great gifts and help ease the transition. There are numerous books that will make useful gifts as well, since you might want to give the graduate a useful book dealing with tips about finding a job. Other options could be “Life After College,” by Jenny Blake, or “Getting from College to Career,” by Lindsey Pollack. These essential guides might comfort your graduate as they wait for their airplane to land at the city where they will begin the next chapter of their lives.

Now if the graduate enjoys films, why not give them something related with graduation? One of cinema's most iconic portrayals of post college

life is Mike Nichols' “The Graduate,” (1967). The landmark film, starring Dustin Hoffman, Anne Bancroft and Katherine Ross is both funny and dramatic. This movie tells the story of Benjamin Braddock's life after college and the many things he discovers about himself.

Other films that may help graduates feeling overwhelmed after graduating from college might be, “Adventureland” (2009) and “Into The Wild” (2007), as these two films give a new perspective on the many adventurous and unexpected journeys the graduate may take after graduating.

There are many more gifts that may be useful for upcoming graduates like apartment appliances for those moving out of their family home, office supplies and décor. Anything from a desk to professional chairs can make graduates feel that something new and exciting is happening.

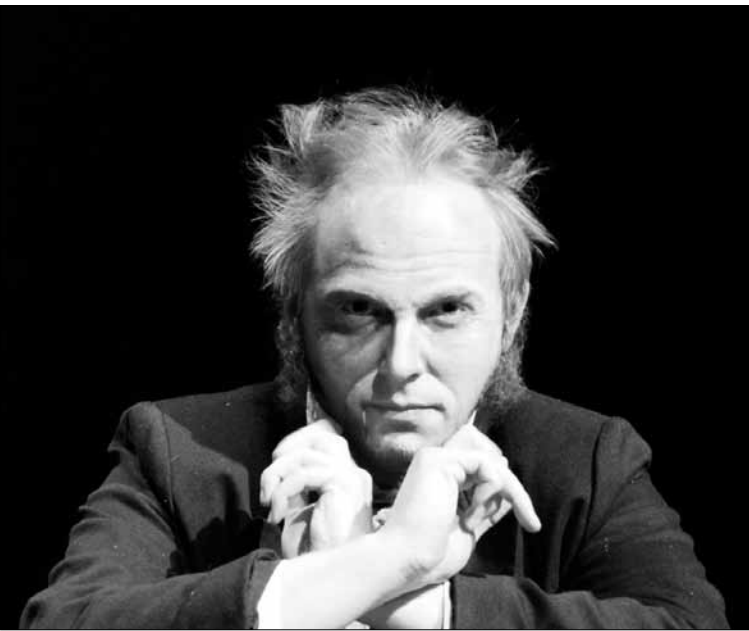
Another good gift would be a diploma frame—what better way to represent the graduate's accomplishment than by displaying it in their office? This will certainly make the graduates confident on their first day at work and proud of the journey they've taken to get to where they are.

Whatever the case may be, graduation is a chance for celebration, the opportunity to recognize the graduates' merits of finishing their college education and prepare them for the future that lies ahead.

Oscar Garza may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR



CAMPUS LIFE
Take a break—see a movie



BY MARCUS SEEGER
The Prospector

Apart from eating your favorite holiday food, spending time with your family and getting some much-desired down time like going to the movies will probably become part of the seasonal routine. The question arises as to what will be the most popular and awaited films for December? Here are some films to watch for this winter.

“Out of the Furnace”-Dec. 6

This movie is produced by Ridley Scott, the same person who brought us “Black Hawk Down” (2001) and “The Gladiator” (2000). It stars Christian Bale and Casey Affleck as two brothers who have always wanted to escape their life of struggle and make their way to a better place. One brother (Bale) goes to prison and the other (Affleck) gets caught up in a violent criminal life. The film ends up with Bale getting out of prison and trying to help his brother escape from a dangerous life.

“Last Days on Mars”-Dec. 6



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

The movie stars Liev Schreiber, who has also acted in “Salt” (2010) and “X-Men Origins: Wolverine” (2009). The movie follows the story of a group of astronauts living on Mars, who are about to leave and go home when one of them finds evidence that may point to life on Mars.

“The Hobbit: The Desolation of the Smaug”-Dec. 13

The second of two movies that follow the story of Bilbo Baggins and his journey. These movies are based on the book “The Hobbit,” a prequel to “The Lord of the Rings” by J.R.R.Tolkien. Everyone will be looking forward to this because of its popularity, but be sure to drink a caffeinated beverage since the movie will be 182 minutes long.

see MOVIES on page 8

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CAROL from page B1

passion. I couldn't be happier with their contributions.”

In his second year of working on the play, Torres said that “A Christmas Carol” has become a UTEP tradition, and is also becoming part of the Christmas holiday tradition for the community.

“It's quite unique. It's like a play-in-a-box—the skeleton of the play is already there, so that different actors, designers and technicians can bring their own take each year,” Torres said. “It's a Christmas classic that the whole family can enjoy to go see. It's a wonderful opportunity for everyone.”

This year's cast also includes Elizabeth Gomez, freshman pre-speech and language pathology major as Tiny Tim and Miriam Mendoza, sophomore theater arts major as Belle.

“I feel the show relates to UTEP and the community by touching on the theme of hope. All is possible when people work together and even the worst of us are part of the community,” Savage said. “And that is entirely what the holiday season is all

about—hope—and hopefully you'll be one of many to enjoy 'A Christmas Carol' this year.”

Nielsen shares the same enthusiasm and hopes the El Paso community enjoys this year's production.

“I feel the El Paso community will thoroughly enjoy this year's production because as old as the story itself is, there are still so many things we are still discovering about it today” he said. “This season especially, we are really flushing out the pain and suffering Scrooge goes through so that

SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

his redemption to the audience seems that much more deserved.”

The show will debut at the Wise Family Theatre, located on the second floor of the Fox Fine Arts Center on Dec. 15 with shows at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. and on Dec. 19-20 at 7 p.m.

Jose Soto may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

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COMMENCEMENT

Centennial tassle not worth the hassle

BY AMBER GOMEZ
The Prospector

With it being only 29 days away from UTEP beginning its 100-year celebration, the university is getting ready to send out yet another graduating class in less than 10 days. As they walk down the stage on Dec. 14 to receive their diploma, however, they may feel they will be missing out on next year's celebrations filled with centennial lectures, projects and the exciting UTEP campus transformation.

"I feel that graduating before the centennial happens is an unfortunate thing," said sophomore business major Oscar Casanova. "The university only gets to turn 100 years old one time, and therefore it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for students to be part of this celebration."

A misconception some students may have is that graduating during the centennial will be different from other commencement ceremonies prior to theirs, but according to Gary Edens Vice President of Student Affairs, the centennial graduations will be unique, but nothing out of the ordinary.

"Our priority is to make every graduation special," Edens said. "However, for the centennial graduations, we may have a special medallion for the

year, but other than the design and the president saying a few more remarks, there is nothing special planned for the graduates of 2014."

With the centennial graduations still months away, nothing is exactly set in stone. Frank Montes de Oca, assistant director of University Relations, said that organizations are still discussing plans so nothing is quite official.

"When we celebrated a 100,000 degrees a few years back, all the candidates received their medallion as a gift through university funding. It is possible that something along those lines might be offered this year as well," Montes said. "Some of the things are still in the planning stage. We are trying to make it interesting, possibly even base it on a budget, but nothing too major."

While graduating during the 100th anniversary will be special—in that it is the centennial—students should not wait to graduate until a particular time and it's recommended that all students should graduate as soon as possible, Edens said.

"Graduation is a great thing, centennial or not," Edens said. "If they graduate in December, it means that they're out in the job force and they can get their lives started. I think students should graduate as fast as they can. Why would they wait? I tell every

student that walks in, 'we want you to graduate, don't postpone it.' Graduating from UTEP is the best thing that anyone can do."

Casanova believes that being part of the centennial will help students create unity with the university, therefore bringing a sense of Miner pride.

"I guess I would like to graduate in spring 2014 to get started with my professional career," Casanova said. "But on the bright side, I love that I'll still be present while the university turns 100 years old."

Despite there being nothing significant about graduating in spring or fall 2014, as of now, if students stay at the university for graduate school, they will still be able to participate in the future festivities being planned by the many committees of the university, along with witnessing and being part of the completion of construction.

"Working hard for it, so it will be a delight to graduate centennial or not," said senior chemistry major Guillermo Jimenez. "I see it as a door for me to say goodbye to my past and hello to my future. I want to walk and honor all those who supported me to finish my education, whether it's at a specific time or not."

Amber Gomez may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com



FILE PHOTO/THE PROSPECTOR

ART from page B1

looking for internships and someday work for an advertising agency," Portillo said. "I will also pursue a masters on Fine Arts."

Portillo also believes that it's a cultural thing, which El Paso is not used to.

"El Paso is an area of manufactures and the border," Portillo said.

Aside from his work, Portillo dedicates his free time to improve his art as a hobby and to gain money.

"I do most of my work as a hobby and for drawing class," Portillo said. "Also, I make money as free-lance artist selling all kind of drawings and art."

Portillo said that people should not be afraid of studying art because it all depends on how people act towards their passion.

"Being afraid is pretty normal, but that people should study whatever they want because people say that it is hard to find a job, but in reality no major can guarantee 100 percent that you'll get a job," Portillo said. "And if money worries you, still study art because if that is your real passion you'll get the money because you are doing a good job."

Layla Stull, dropout art student, continued her life as an artist even after dropping out of school because she think, that is the beauty of arts.

"I dropped to start making money to pay my loans, but I kept my career close to me and applied as much as I could from what I learned at college," Stull said. "And that's the beauty of arts because you can practice them even if you are not at school, unlike many other majors, and that you can learn from teachers, but one's voice come from ourselves and it is on us to be good artists."

According to Stull, she has sold many of portraits even though she hasn't graduated and it helped her pay some of her bills.

"Even though I didn't finish college, people are willing to buy art they consider good and as long as you have your style, people are going to like it," Stull said. "But I would definitely recommend to finish college, a degree gives reputation, that's why I'm still willing to finish college."

Leonardo Montañez may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

MOVIES from page B5

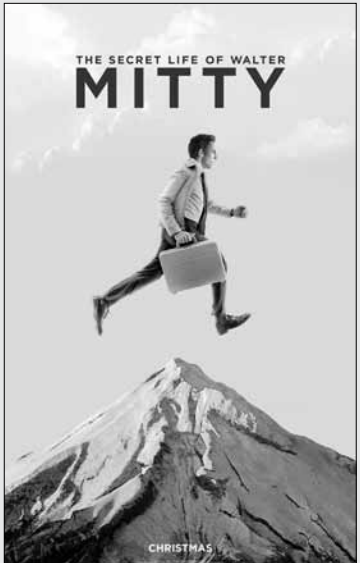
"Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues"-Dec. 20

This movie is the sequel to "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy" (2004). It is a comedy starring Will Ferrell, Steve Carell, Paul Rudd and David Koechner. The plot follows four friends returning to the news industry as they join Channel 24 News. They had previously gained their success in the '70s at Channel 4 News and now they have come out of retirement and expect the news industry to have remained the same.

"The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"-Dec. 25

This movie is directed by Ben Stiller, who has acted in everything from "Night at the Museum" (2006) to "The Watch" (2012). The plot involves Walter Mitty (Stiller), a timid magazine photo manager who is about to embark on a global journey, where he takes action on several scenarios. It is a classic story of a day-dreamer who dares to have a more adventurous and fearless life, and disappears into a world of fantasy that is filled with heroism, romance and action. "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," is based on James Thurber's short story, which was first published in The New Yorker on March 1939.

Marcus Seegers may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.



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Thank you to my wonderful family and friends who were there to support me, inspire me and motivate me throughout this journey. I'm incredibly blessed to have had the love of the people around me and the grace of God. Thank you - much love Ashley

Finally made it! Thanks mom and dad! Love you guys Ho Miners! Briana Baeza

To my family, whose strength helped me get where I'm at. To my mother-who is always in my heart-and my grandmother, who taught me with the strength of God we can do anything. Jh

"Software Engineering is the easiest... Said no one ever..." Rogelio Portillo

"Con paciencia y cariño, le hizo el amor un elefante a una hormiguita."

Gracias Mami, Papi, Karen y Daniel por todo su apoyo a todos estos años. Los Amo! Karla

Gracias a toda mi familia por apoyarme a lo largo de mi carrera. Otro día lego más gracias a ustedes. Alejandra Guzmán

MINER NURSES, WHAT A WILD JOURNEY!

LOOK AT US NOW, AFTER LONG DAYS AND LONGER NIGHTS, WE MADE IT!!! CONGRATS, TOM #TEAMSHENANIGANS

Not sure how I got to this point, but it's finally here! Thank you to my family, engineering buddies, and to my Fraternity ZETA! College would not have been the same without my Zetas! Mercedes

Finally made it! Thanks to Family for the support ZTA Cordones

Gracias a mi mama y papa por todo su apoyo! Los quiero mucho Jose Cadogan

Spent your time on things that you really need and like, but more important is to use the time to improve your knowledge and boost your limits. Julio Corral

Thank you Mom, Dad, Family and Friends for all the support you have given me. It has been fun so thank you again for coming along on this adventure with me. John Paul Juarez

Estoy muy feliz de haber llegado a esta nueva etapa. Le doy gracias a mi familia que sin su apoyo no estar donde estoy. Es lo muy orgullosa. Gracias Class of 2013 Yuritzy Ramos

Mary, You are my angel, best friend and sister. Thank you (Anonymous)

After many sacrifices my dream has finally come true. Thank you GOD for guiding me and walking by my side through this journey. Nursing Class Edith Martinez, 2013

First I'd like to thank my parents for pushing me and helping me to achieve my dreams. My husband and son for encouraging me to keep going. And to my professors for being there for me every step of the way and challenging me! Thank you! Monica Gangaware

I would have not made it without my family, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Gracias a toda mi familia que siempre me apoyo en este camino los quiero

Gracias a todos los que me apoyaron durante este segundo camino escolar recorrido. Gracias Familia Amigos y "Mi Dios" Alejandra

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Gracias a todos los que me apoyaron durante este segundo camino escolar recorrido. Gracias Familia Amigos y "Mi Dios" Alejandra

Thanks First and foremost to God and my family. I've reached one of the most important milestones of my life. Big thanks to the Psychology Faculty and staff including Dr. Schwartz and -Chantal Diaz

Thank you family, love and support I am now here I love you all Grad 2013! Fabian Nunez

Ahora si A relajarse el mundo se va a acabar! Dorena

Thank you Family and Friends that has supported me. Los quiero!!! Monayma Alvarez

THANKS TO ALL MY PROFESSORS & TO MY PARENTS FOR GIVING ME ALL THE KNOWLEDGE & PARENCE IN ORDER TO FULFILL MY DREAM Luis Rabio

Raul, Evan, Juan thank you for your support and all the sacrifices you have made on my behalf. To my family, all of my gratitude and thanks. V.

Thank you to my mom who was with me all the way this is for her. Idalhi Reyes

Thank you Mom and Dad for all the love and support. Joseph Ortega

Thank you to all my family & friends for their support and love through my college career!! I wouldn't have made it without you!! I love you all very much!! Gaciela Navarrete

Quiero agradecer a Dios por darme esta oportunidad de terminar esta etapa de mi vida. A mis padres y amigos que fueron de gran ayuda. Go Miners!!! David Rojas.

Thank you to all my Family & Friends Love, Mary Delgado

Garro, Garito y Emilio 3 GRACIAS! Por su paciencia y por el apoyo que me dieron para por fin acabar mi carrera. Los Amo! Garro

Finally! Thank you to all the friends & family who have supported me through this long journey! Gracias a mi querida madre por siempre creer en mí. Thank you to my baby girl Estrella for always being good, letting me study, and understanding I have to do homework. I Love You ALL!! Alejandra

Thank you, UTEP for the memories and education.

Gracias a todos los que me apoyaron durante este segundo camino escolar recorrido. Gracias Familia Amigos y "Mi Dios" Alejandra

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Gracias a Dios y a mi familia por apoyarme en esta etapa tan importante de mi vida. Felicidades a todos los graduantes y muchas bendiciones! Monica Ramos

Thank you to my mom for getting me this far and always supporting me in life. You are my hero and this degree is for you! I love you more than words could ever say. Also I love my 2 months! Loves of my life! Karen Orquez

Thank you to all my friends and family for all their support. Thank you to my loving husband, David, and my baby boy Nathan. I love you guys more than you can know. I did this all for you! Love, Stefania

I am graduating, Finally!! And the only person I want to thank is my sister Leira Marquez, I love you sister -Leslie

Thank you to everyone who helped me along the way on this interesting exciting journey I love you! Patricia

Thank you to my family, friends and teacher that support me with love Delia

Those long sleepless nights creating many lesson plans have finally paid off! Thank you so much to my family at the College of Education, were ready to make sacrifices in the lives of children. Thank you to my beloved parents and siblings. Jessy loves you and I miss you so much. Bless to you all! Jessy

Gracias a mi familia por todo su apoyo. Sin ustedes no hubiera logrado esta gran meta. Los quiero mucho gracias por todo. Gabie Holz

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I LOVE UTEP! Thank you for the experience! -Margate

These 4 years have been the best of my life!! Thank you UTEP!! Go Miners!!

I want to thank all of my friends and family for all the support throughout the tough years. Once a miner, always a miner! This is for you! Wana! -Claudia E. Nungaray

Yay! Por bin! I love you! -Claudia E. Nungaray

Thank you to all my family and friends who have supported my education and future goals. I am truly blessed. -Katherine Ramos

Le quiero dar gracias primero a DIOS, a mi Familia por todo su apoyo. A mis amigochas del alma que estuvieron conmigo en las buenas y en las malas. Ustedes saben quien son. Gracias Cynthia Cortes

Thanks To all COBA professors who exceeded their course teaching requirements to better prepare us. Jose H. Aguila

Thank you to my family, friends and teacher that support me with love Delia

Gracias a Dios por darme a oportunidad de cumplir mi sueño. Gracias a mis papas, a mis hermanas, a mis amigos y a mi amado Israel por apoyarme en todo. Los amo! Mayra

Thank you mom and dad for being so supportive in all that I do. I know I've made you proud and thanks to my best friends Katrina, Jeremy, and Monica for always being there! Love, JenM.

Thank you for bringing me this far. I have been blessed with accomplishing my goal - R/1800. I want to thank my children, husband for their support! Selina Cadenas

Thank you for believing in me when I wouldn't and sometimes couldn't. Carlos Luevanos

The meaning of life is to have fun and love your friends! I finally made it! Bill O'Connell (Anonymous)

Thank you to my loving wife Delia! Angel! Adrian! To my friends from LAYERS of Rome 2013 Mario G. Martinez

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Thank you to UTEP, the computer science department, Dr. Pat Teller, & my family & friends for your support! -Ally

Thank you so much to all my Professors & Family! Friends Love Always MARY M. Delgado

Gracias por ayudarme a ser una profesional hoy en día sin su apoyo ni presencia no estaría hoy aquí recibiendo mi título, los amo!!! Al fin! Dios las bendiga P.S. Melissa V.

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Thank you to my friends from LAYERS of Rome 2013 Mario G. Martinez

Thank you to all of my family and friends!! I did it!! Mari

We did it! Congrats College of Education Class of 2013 Thanks to all of my family for your support love, Alida

Gracias por ayudarme a ser una profesional hoy en día sin su apoyo ni presencia no estaría hoy aquí recibiendo mi título, los amo!!! Al fin! Dios las bendiga P.S. Melissa V.

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Thank you to my friends from LAYERS of Rome 2013 Mario G. Martinez

a long journey
I finally did it.
You to all who have
helped me realize my
dreams.
Thank you!
-Mark W.

Dr. Risch
Thank you for
everything I
couldn't have
done it without
you!
Thank you!
-Miguel J.

Big Thanks to
myself Family Friends
Jack D.
I would like to thank my professors
and friends for helping me get through
college and believing in me. I finally
made it! I love you Mom & Dad
-Miguel J.

Thank you loved ones,
classmates and
professors for all the
support.
Gracias por todo papas
Eira Chico

Con mucho afecto y
amor para mi madre
que me mealeo el arte
de estudiar.
For Mike, Alejandro
and family for being
there for me
-Papa Bustillos

I made it!
Thank you to the Accounting
Department for everything.
Suggest thanks to my wonderful
family for all the love and
support.
Don't stop!
-Summa Well

I dedicate my
education to
those who resist
persecution and
those who help
them resist.
Transform • David McKenny

to thank my
for all the
they have given
the long journey
this point. Thank
-Mark W.

I made it! Thank UTEP
Staff for making my journey
memorable! I would love
to stay but I would rather
move on if
Love,
Shelley Lara

Gracias a toda mi
Familia. sin ellos
esto no hubiera podido
ser realidad!
un sueño cumplido
Teresa Ouelles

Mama, papa, familia y
amigos gracias por
todo el apoyo y cariño
que me dieron por los
últimos 4 años, prometó
dar mi todo siempre!!!
Aldo Villegas

Mama y Papa, gracias por
ser ejemplos a seguir, por
haberme demostrado el
poder del trabajo y la
dedicación. Gracias a mi
familia y a mis amigos por
el apoyo incondicional que
me han dado
LOS QUIERO
-Papa Bustillos

Thank you to
all my friends &
family! This one's
for you, Dad!
-Miguel J.

I finally did it!
After 18 long years!
Thanks to all my friends
& family for the wonderful
support!
Time to conquer the
world! Jaha Ramos

Thank you
love!
I learned to survive
I thrive!
-Rene

Wow! Now what?
Class of 2013
-David Woods

Con mucho cariño, doy gracias
a mi esposa Reta y mis
hijos Armando y Lety
por su apoyo y paciencia
Amor
I finally did it!!!
Sarah Simpson

Thank you UTEP!!!
Wouldn't have received
my degree anywhere
else! picks up!
Christine Aranda

So long UTEP!!
After years of late
night study sessions,
bad eating habits,
and gallons of
Starbucks coffee, I
finally did it!!
-Kim Rogers

Gracias a mi
familia, amigos y a
UTEP!!
Sofia

I want to thank my family
and my husband for all of
their support during my
master's degree. I wouldn't
have done it if it hadn't
been for all of you.
Love always, Vasilev

It doesn't matter how
long it takes to accomplish
your dream, as long as you
are always moving forward
and will never stop having faith
in me. Thank you to my aunt and
brother, thank you for inspiring me.
To my new husband, thank you for
your support and encouragement. I
can't wait to start a family with you.
So que mis abuelos están
muy orgullosos de mí. Les amo! Thank you to all
my friends and family. I hope
to make you all proud.
With lots of gratitude,
Kimberly Lopez
Class of 2013
(Marketing) COBA

Thankful for the day I call
myself a UTEP College of
Engineering Graduate! I could
not have accomplished this
without my faith in God, my family
my ZTA sisters, my friends and
the incredible UTEP faculty and
staff who make this a top
institution. Thank you!
Forever a Proud
UTEP Miner!
Melissa M. Sanchez

Gracias Virgensita, mama,
hermano, y familia por
toda su ayuda y apoyo
incondicional. Esta no es
la meta, sino un escalon
mas en mi vida
-Tomas Espinosa

Para mi familia, les agradezco
el apoyo especial a mi mamá
y a mis amigos que aquí en
la universidad hice, muchas
gracias por estar conmigo en
este largo camino. LOS AMO!
Gracias
Jessy Hernandez

My journey has been long
but without you (my family).
I would never have gotten
here. Thank you for your
support and unconditional
love.
Love you all.
-Manny

Thank you UTEP!
For all that I have
learned, in class and
out of class!
Time to have fun!
Class of 2013
-Esther

Gracias a mi familia
que siempre me a dado
todo el apoyo que
necesitaba. Gracias
a mi mamá y Diana
estoy donde estoy.
Daniela Alejandra
Rodriguez

5 años después, lo logré.
Tantas químicas horribles, si
se pudo. Gracias UTEP,
gracias a todos.
Berenice Rocha

Thank you UTEP,
for helping me choose
a career and helping me
start my journey
-R. Dis

First, thank God
for all of His
blessings!
I made it!
Graduate
Math Majors
MOM & DAD
JONAS & EDWARD
-Edwards

Thank you to my
family for all
the support and love
throughout this journey.
Thank you for always
pushing me to achieve
higher expectations.
Shawn Galaviz

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I want to thank
my family for all
the support and love
throughout this journey.
Thank you for always
pushing me to achieve
higher expectations.
Shawn Galaviz

It has been one
long journey, but
we're finally
here. Congrats
everyone! To the
future!
Brigitte

Thank you to all my
family for the Love and
Support, and a Special
Thanks to my parents
For everything
I couldn't have Done
this without you
-Luis Esten

Thank you Grad for
opening the doors for
my education. For
my family who is
always there for
me. Thanks to
my sweet babies
Andrew and Olivia
for encouraging me
and all your hugs
and kisses
-Amelia Marie
Simas

THANK YOU
TO MY FAMILY, TEX
& FRIENDS FOR
ALL YOUR SUPPORT
IN MY COLLEGE CAREER
FINALLY!
Go Miners! Naomi

I thank my parents and my brother
for everything they've done for me.
Love you! I thank my professor
Carolin Mitchell for believing in me &
giving me confidence. I thank all
my graphic design professors, you
are the best! I thank all the people
I have work with at ESC & Centeno!
I thank my friends. I thank UTEP!
I will never forget these years.
You have all helped me become
who I am and find my way.
Cynthia Jimenez

Thank you to all my family
friends, for their support.
I love you.
Paulina P.

I want to thank
my family for all
the support and love
throughout this journey.
Thank you for always
pushing me to achieve
higher expectations.
Shawn Galaviz

Gracias más, pa, Andy
y a todos los que me
han acompañado y
apoyado en mi caminito
al éxito!!! Soy muy
afortunada por tenerlos
Esperando sean mas
logros. I did it!!
con amor:
Anna Karen Rey Lo

Thank you to all my
family for the Love and
Support, and a Special
Thanks to my parents
For everything
I couldn't have Done
this without you
-Luis Esten

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for encouraging me
and all your hugs
and kisses
-Amelia Marie
Simas

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Go Miners! Naomi

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Love you! I thank my professor
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I thank my friends. I thank UTEP!
I will never forget these years.
You have all helped me become
who I am and find my way.
Cynthia Jimenez

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I love you.
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throughout this journey.
Thank you for always
pushing me to achieve
higher expectations.
Shawn Galaviz

Gracias más, pa, Andy
y a todos los que me
han acompañado y
apoyado en mi caminito
al éxito!!! Soy muy
afortunada por tenerlos
Esperando sean mas
logros. I did it!!
con amor:
Anna Karen Rey Lo

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-Luis Esten

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It is about time that this crazy experience is finally over! The only way this was actually possible was with the love and support of my family, my friends, classmates, coworkers, my parents, my sister, and David. So thanks to you all! Now it's time for a totally different experience! Love you all, Steven

We did it December Grads, Class of 2013! It's graduation time but the learning never stops, there are so many amazing people who have helped me reach this point in life and will be forever grateful. Thank you! Health Promotion w/minor in Biology - Estefania Nuñez Gonzalez

Thank you, UTEP for the memories and education.

Congratulations to the class of 2013! I'd like to thank my husband and family for the support in graduating with my MBA. Now, on to the next chapter! Kaitlyn Menla

Thanks to all my Family and Friends for their Support! We did it! Class of 2013!!!

I did it... again!

Thank you to all my friends and family that have supported me through it all! Future BOSS! - ROSA

Through Him I have finished the good race of college! Thank you God because without you I wouldn't have made it! - Fabian

I want to thank my family, classmates, professors, and friends from the BSM for the support over the years! I have been greatly blessed - Sergio

Gracias a wechis, Benito, Pda y chuly por su amor y apoyo incondicional. Thanks, Ry, for believing in me (sometimes more than what I do) I love you, kabe! Gracias, Padre, por este triunfo!!

For my Dad, Christy

I want to thank you for being there for me throughout this 5 1/2 yrs. I have certainly learned a lot. You have been there for guidance, support and always pushing me to do better in school. Love you! Robert Anthony Ordóñez

West Coast here I come Stay COOL UTEP. WU TANG LIFE



Wow!!! I finally did it. Thank you to all my awesome professors, family and friends. Amuah, you're my inspiration. Natuce Gibson Peace out!!

Thank you family, because of your love and support I am now here I love you all Grad 2013!

Gracias a toda mi familia por apoyarme a lo largo de mi carrera. Otro día voy más gracias a ustedes.

Alejandra Gómez

It only took me 32 years to Graduate. Thank You God!

Loretta H. Arredondo

Gracias a mis padres por apoyarme todos estos años de mi estudio para poder lograr mis sueños. Los quiero mucho. También a mi esposo quiero agradecer por apoyarme en este camino. Love, Arlene

Thank you to my fraternities and everything you've helped me achieve. And thanks to friend and family for all the support. - Stephen

AXA ZE 90

It's been a great adventure. Thanks to my family & Fraternity bros for the support. Ramon Salazar

I would like to thank my parents, family, & friends for the help & support they have provided me with through all these years. Thank you for believing in me & pushing me to always go further & follow my dreams. Your time & love will always be immensely appreciated. Sincerely, Denisse Fernandez.

I want to thank my family for all the support and patience during Undergrad School. I finally did it you can call me Engineer Carlos Avalos. Thank You to Miners

Thank you to my Family especially my parents for helping me get here and being my support system, financially and emotionally. It was a long run, but we finally made it!! Thank You and Love You Mami

Gracias a Dios por todas las bendiciones y un logro más que me ha dado. A mi familia, especial a mi mamá por su fealdad y apoyo. A todos las personas que Dios puso en mi camino todo este tiempo, a mis maestros y compañeros, por las experiencias. A Adelfo y Mitchell. Enfo a todos en su vida! Ceci Rey

Good Luck Future CS! UTEP was crazy! Go Miners Adam

Gracias a toda mi familia que siempre me apoyo en este camino

Los quiero Alanyez

Thank you so much to all my family for supporting me on achieving my goal. I couldn't have done it without your help. I would also like to thank my future wife for pushing me to finish. Thank you Michael Abdallah

I want to thank my family and loved ones for all your support. Lane

Thank you UTEP for the memories, friends & my education! Adria Escobar

Lo logre! Gracias por apoyarme y estar conmigo en este largo camino. Gracias a mi familia y amigos que me apoyaron! Los Amo Adria Escobar

gracias a mi papa y a mi mama por apoyarme y darme esta oportunidad. Los quiero! -moni

I did it! But not alone, I thank all of my family and friends for their support and love. I'm glad I chose UTEP. Picks up! Andrés Portillo

Thank you mom and dad! You were there for me and helped me with my accomplishments up to now. Thank you Jackie, Janette, Yvette for putting up with me too through this. Love you all, Christine

For all that you've done for me, for all the support, and for all the love I just want to say thank you. I love you with all my heart. Adria Marin. You are the best. Patricia Valdez

Thank you so much for the support and motivation, professors. I had such a great experience here! Chelsea Hill

Proud to be a Alminer and a Zektau Alpha! Thank you to my family, friends, and sisters for all your love and support! ZLAM Christina Umona

All of my successes + owe to my family. Thank you for your constant support and love. Love you Jaz G. Thank You UTEP! Vanessa Maurice

To All my Kix sisters thank you for all the laughs and memories to my parents thank you for the support Love you! -Alexander Hernandez

Thank you to everyone who believed in me and motivated me to continue to pursue my dreams. This is mainly for my daughter, mya I love you so much. To my family, Holly, I greatly appreciate you. Tiffany

To my wonderful parents Thank you and I LOVE you Very much. J.M. Romo

I would like to thank my Mom and Dad for pushing me to never stop going to school. To my wife, Marsha for being my biggest supporter and my son Marcos for being my inspiration! Adria Escobar

Thanks to everyone who was supportive during my career. fagna fag

All glory goes to the Lord! Psalm 115:1 - TESS Hall

I want to thank my family for all their support and encouragement to help me complete the family nurse practitioner program. I also want to thank God. I love you Carlos, Yarebeth, JC, and mom + dad. Annette

To my family and friends... thank you for all of your support BFA'10 MA'13 Elzabeth Escobar

Lo logre familia. Gracias por su apoyo los amo. I LOVE UTEP - Karina B. Beltran

Thank you mom & dad for all your love and support. Thank you for always believing in me and pushing me to do my best. I couldn't have done it without you guys. Love you! -Jennifer L. Serna

Peace out UTEP!!! - Adam Bander

Thank you God & family for helping me with this great accomplishment. Ruth Cordova

Proud UTEP Miner Grad. Thanks for the support! - Claudia A.

Finally! Thank you family for all the support! Nursing school has been an amazing experience! Go Miners! - Jethel SS

Completing one dream, thanks to God and my family's support. Nidia

UTEP Picks up! Andrés Portillo

UTEP have been the best of my life. Thanks to everyone that has supported me in this journey! Ana Camargo

Gracias a mi familia por apoyarme en esta gran etapa de mi vida. No lo hubiera podido lograr sin ellos. También quisiera decir gracias a mi novio y su gran apoyo en todo lo que hago. Los quiero Nasreen M Aziz

A huge thank you to my parents, brother, sister + brother-in-law. Couldn't have done it without you guys! Love you! Marisol Saez

Quiero dar las gracias a mis Papas por apoyarme en este camino hacia el éxito y a mi hermano por siempre acompañarme. Gracias!! Love You so Much. Luisa Vargas

I want to thank God, family & friends for helping me through my education. I love you! Samantha J. Jara

I want to Thank my family for never letting me give up and supporting me. I love you all very much!! Rachel Yeatman

DECEMBER 3, 2013

SPORTS

EDITOR

EDWIN DELGADO, 747-7477

Aiming for 7-0 start against Aggies



UTEP will face the New Mexico State Aggies in Las Cruces on Dec. 3. The Miners defeated the Aggies 94-69 in their first game on Nov. 12.

BY LUIS BARRIO

The Prospector

After a 6-0 start, the women's basketball team will now travel to Las Cruces, N.M. on Dec. 3 for the rematch against their rivals, the New Mexico State Aggies.

In the first outing between the Miners and the Aggies, the Miners had four players score in double figures (Thorton, Telles, Willingham, Nash). They led at halftime by only six points. The defensive intensity picked up dramatically in the second half and they ran away with the lead to crush NMSU, 94-69 on Nov. 12.

The points from turnovers differential was in favor of the Miners by a 29-7 margin.

The Aggies have a 3-4 record thus far and they are coming from a win over Northern Illinois and a loss to Milwaukee.

"It will be a good test for us," said head coach Keitha Adams. "They are an athletic team that can shoot. We have to play our basketball to win the game."

The Miners are 5-7 under coach Adams when making the trip to Las Cruces to play the Aggies.

It has also been five times under coach Adams that the Miners have swept the season series against NMSU. UTEP is 15-10 overall against the Aggies under coach Adams.

"We'll need to be ready," Adams said. "We need to play for 40 minutes. We're going to have to play from start to finish."

Anytime a team goes on the road, especially when it's against NMSU, the defensive stops need to be there to give the visiting team a chance to win.

Junior guard Chrishauna Parker knows that her team needs to be relentless when getting back after shots.

"We need a team effort to beat them at their place. They have a good crowd."

- Chrishauna Parker, junior guard

"Our intensity needs to be there and we need to make it a team effort. We need everybody into it," Parker said. "We need a team effort to beat them at their place. They have a good crowd. We need to get a feel for the road."

The Miners will be back home on Dec. 7, when they host former Conference USA foes, the Southern Methodist Mustangs. SMU was the Conference USA regular season champion last season and have a 7-1 record.

The game against the Mustangs will mark the beginning of a much stiffer schedule for the Miners. Both teams have played and defeated Kansas State this season, SMU with an 11-point margin compared to UTEP's 45-point win over the Wildcats.

Luis Barrio may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

COLUMN

The good, the bad and the ugly of the 2013 football season

BY JAVIER CORTEZ

The Prospector



As the UTEP football team season came to an end with another loss on Nov. 30 in Murfreesboro, Tenn. against Middle Tennessee State, it would be an understatement to say that this season has been more than disappointing.

Optimism probably gets the best of us, but if you were to have said in August that UTEP would end the season with a 2-10 record, having one of the worst defenses in the nation and have a multitude of injuries to key players throughout the whole season, that would have been a stretch.

What this season has shown is stark realism. UTEP does not have a good team and it might be that way for a while. There is a good, a bad and definitely an ugly to the UTEP football team.

The Good.

Freshman running back Aaron Jones, a Burges High School grad, turned in a very productive season before bowing out with a rib injury against North Texas. Jones definitely exceeded the expectations of his coaches, fans and quite frankly, himself. At the beginning of the season, junior running back Nathan Jeffery was due for a breakout season after his 2012 campaign, in which he rushed for 897 yards. At the start of the 2014 season, UTEP should have two healthy and quality backs in Jones and Jeffery.

Juniors Jameill Showers and Jordan Leslie will also get another crack at it. The quarterback-wide receiver duo of Showers and Leslie showed promise at times this season, but they still lack timing and overall cohesiveness. Once Showers fully recovers from a shoulder separation, these two will have the chance to create an explosive attack within the UTEP offense.

The Bad.

UTEP has no depth. Besides the backfield (where the Miners were riddled with injuries all season), the Miners lack depth at basically every position. Besides wide receiver Jordan Leslie, the Miners don't have that many reliable targets. The Miners only have two other receivers besides Leslie that have 20 or more receptions. On the other side of the ball, the Miners secondary is by far the most inexperienced and youngest group. The Miners started two freshmen and one sophomore in secondary and their depth chart is full of underclassmen.

In a team sport, every position is important, but having a good quarterback at the helm trumps everything. It's still to be seen how good of a recruiter head coach Sean Kugler will be, but he struck a gem with Jameill Showers. In any other year, Showers would have been finishing his second year as the starting quarterback at Texas A&M. Unfortunately

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Creating a new level of expectations

BY JAVIER CORTEZ

The Prospector

Under the tutelage of head coach Keitha Adams, the fans of El Paso have been subjected to many fast starts from the UTEP women's basketball team. Although the season is still early, the Miners have already gone into the record books for women's basketball.

Through six games, the Miners have been perfect, and with that 6-0 start, it's the Miners third-best start in school history.

The average margin of victory for UTEP so far has been 29 points and they have had a four-game win streak where



AARON MONTES / THE PROSPECTOR

The Miners have begun their 2013-14 season with six straight victories and have won those games with a 29-point margin average.

they defeated their opponents by 20 or more points. In their wins against Kansas State and Northern Arizona, the Miners set their third and largest margins of victory in school history, respectively.

Senior forward Kayla Thornton, who set the record for career double-doubles at the beginning of the season, has led the Miners by averaging 16 points per game and 8.5 rebounds per game.

"The key is that we work as a team," Thornton said. "Our starting five gets the momentum going, then the bench comes in and does a good job of keeping that momentum going. Staying strong, staying humble, just doing these little things and working as a team playing UTEP ball."

Her fellow teammates, junior guard Stacie Telles and sophomore guard Irene Gari, agreed with Thornton.

"Playing as a team, playing team defense, talking to each other, that's what really has gotten us through these games, communication and playing as a team," Telles said.

Gari said the key is that they want to win as much as they can.

"So every time we're on the court, we want to score, get the rebounds, run—we just keep going," she said.

The Miners might have made their early opponents look elementary, but the schedule only gets harder as the season goes on. After the Dec. 3 game against New Mexico State in Las Cruces, the Miners will play in the Puerto Rico Classic, where they will be

see LEVEL on page B15

I think we just got to stay focused and do the little things. If we keep doing those things, we'll be successful later on in the season

- Kayla Thornton, senior forward

see FOOTBALL on page B15

BEST OF 2013

THE MOST IMPORTANT MOMENTS OF 2013

11 Football UTEP AGAINST NEW MEXICO AND NEW MEXICO STATE

Sept. 7 marked the first game of the Miners under new head coach Sean Kugler. The game turned into an exciting shootout to the delight of the 45,000-plus crowd at the Sun Bowl, but the Lobos running back Kasey Carrier ran for 291 yards against a young and inexperienced Miner defense to achieve a 42-35 overtime win for New Mexico. The bright light for the Miners was the offense and the performance of freshman running back Aaron Jones, who ran 127 yards and two touchdowns. One week later, the Miners traveled to Las Cruces to defeat the New Mexico State Aggies 42-21, where freshman full back Darrin Laufasa sealed the win with two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, which made it five straight wins for UTEP over NMSU.

8 Men's Basketball MEMPHIS VS. UTEP

Senior night for the Miners began with an unexpected twist. On March 5, the LA Times reported that USC Athletic Director Pat Haden had approached Tim Floyd to ask him to take the job as the Trojans' head coach, the rumor spread quickly in El Paso and created a lot of uncertainty. The Miners, however, were ready to host No. 25 Memphis and put up a brave fight against the Tigers. With less than three seconds remaining, Jacques Streeter stole the ball in mid-court, but his shot, as time expired, didn't drop in and the Tigers defeated the Miners, 56-54. In the post-game press conference, Floyd acknowledged that he had met with Haden, but said that he was not offered a job nor was he looking for a job.



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

Sophomore distance runner Anthony Rotich led the Miners to a conference championship and claimed the 3,000-meter steeplechase national title.

5 Men's Basketball BATTLE 4 ATLANTIS

Despite a 36-point loss to No. 23 Iowa in the semifinals on Nov. 29, the Miners proved to be a competitive team in the Battle 4 Atlantis. UTEP, in the first round, defeated the Tennessee Volunteers, 78-70—a team that was considered a top 25 team in the pre-season. Two nights later in the third-place game, UTEP faced national powerhouse No. 2 Kansas. Despite Kansas pulling an early 15-2 lead, the Miners were close to pulling off a major upset, but lost 67-63 and finished the tournament with a 1-2 record against three of the best teams in the country.

10 Men's Basketball LOST PLAYERS

While head coach Tim Floyd was putting together one great class of recruits, in July his plans started to fall apart. After losing forwards Twymond Howard and Malcolm Moore, who transferred for lack of play, the Miners would suffer another three blows in a matter of three days. On July 17, Andre Spight was ruled ineligible by the NCAA, forcing him to enroll at a junior college before coming back to UTEP. On July 20, forward Chris Washburn Jr. (younger brother of junior guard/forward Julian Washburn) announced through social media that he was leaving UTEP to transfer to Texas Christian University, and later that night the El Paso Times reported that five-star recruit and McDonald's All-American Isaac Hamilton asked UTEP to be released from his letter of intent. UTEP declined his request and later Hamilton lost his appeal to the NCAA National Letter of Intent Committee and decided to enroll at UCLA, where he has to sit out for one year.

7 Football JAMEILL SHOWERS

On Feb. 26, Texas A&M's backup quarterback announced that he was transferring to UTEP. Showers, who had been a backup to Ryan Tannehill and Johnny Manziel, was the first big addition for the Miners under Kugler. Showers was first introduced to the local media on July 12. During the fall, Showers completed 107 passes of 188 attempts for 1,263 yards and 11 touchdowns, in addition to 195 yards rushing and four touchdowns on the ground before a separated shoulder injury against Rice on Oct. 26 ended his season.

4 Women's Basketball BIGGEST WINS IN SCHOOL HISTORY

In one week, the women's basketball team was able to get two of their biggest wins in school history. On Nov. 16, the Miners faced Big 12 opponent Kansas State. UTEP began on a 13-0 run and never looked back as they cruised past the Wildcats, 84-39, just one point shy of the 46-point win margin of UTEP over UT Pan America in 2006. However, on Nov. 22, the Miners were able to break the record and routed Northern Arizona, 92-43, making it the largest margin of victory against a Division I school, while their win over Kansas State is now the third-largest margin now.

3 Track and Field MINERS CONQUER CONFERENCE CROWN

Led by sophomore distance runner Anthony Rotich, who took gold in the 1,500 and 5,000-meters in addition to the 3,000 meter steeplechase, the Miners conquered their first men's track and field outdoor conference championship since 2008. With a slim five-point lead before the final event, the Miners' 4 x 400 relay team, composed of freshman Cornell Horn, sophomore A-Shawni Mitchell, freshman Daniel Tarango and junior Abiola Onakoya, finished in first place to secure the title after the Houston team dropped the baton in the final exchange, taking them out of the competition.

2 Track and Field ANTHONY ROTICH WINS NATIONAL TITLE

On June 8 in Eugene, Ore., Rotich claimed gold in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the 2013 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships. In the final lap of the race, it came down to Rotich and senior Henry Lelei from Texas A&M. It all came down to the final water barrier, where Lelei fell while jumping over the barrier, which gave Rotich just enough time to take the lead, running through the finish line with a personal-best time of 8 minutes, 21.19 seconds.

9 Recreational Sports SOCCER

Despite the lack of an official men's soccer team at UTEP, the men's soccer club conquered the regional championship to earn a spot at the 2013 NIRSA (National Intercollegiate Recreational Sports Association) National Championships. The regional tournament took place in Socorro, N.M., and was hosted by New Mexico Tech. UTEP defeated the Arizona Wildcats on penalties after a 1-1 draw. In the final match, UTEP played Arizona State, and after being down 2-1 at the half, the Miners completed the comeback with goals by Nasser Abraham and Julio Rodarte in the 70th and 85th minutes to win the regional title for the first time since 2005. At the tournament, the Miners fell to Florida, 3-1, and tied Illinois, 0-0. However, the tournament was cancelled due to bad weather before UTEP could play Northeastern in the consolation round.

6 Women's Soccer UTEP UPSETS COLORADO COLLEGE

Colorado College came to El Paso with an 11-game undefeated streak, had already secured the Conference USA regular season title and was considered as the 27th-best team in the nation. The Miners hosted the Tigers on Oct. 27 after a 2-0 win over Texas San Antonio two days before. They were trying to close their home schedule with a win and to clinch a spot in the Conference USA Championship. After going down in the 17th minute with a penalty kick, the Miners, with another penalty, were able to pull even in the 37th minute. The Tigers tried to hold the 1-1 draw, but in the 64th minute sophomore midfielder Lauren Katada served a ball to the heart of the penalty box, where sophomore forward Angela Cutaia headed the ball into the net to give the Miners the 2-1 victory.



AARON MONTES / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP defeated the Kansas State Wildcats 84-39 on Nov. 16, six days later Miners defeated Northern Arizona 92-43 for biggest win in school's history..

1 Baseball TRIPLE A BASEBALL COMES TO EL PASO

El Paso will be able to enjoy Triple-A baseball starting next year. On April 14, City Hall was demolished to make way for the new \$60-million ballpark in downtown. The demolition marked the most important step for bringing the franchise to El Paso, and later on May 30, the groundbreaking for the ballpark took place. Finally on Oct. 22, MountainStar Sports revealed the name of the team, the El Paso Chihuahuas, who will begin their history in April 2014.

FOOTBALL

Seniors ready to continue life after football

BY JAVIER CORTEZ
The Prospector

When you walk around campus and see the towering athletes in sweats you might forget that they're also students.

The football team has more student-athletes than any other sport at UTEP and most of the seniors on this year's football team will be suiting up in something other than football once they graduate.

For the seniors, finishing at the bottom of their division wasn't the plan, but they're leaving having made a long-lasting impression on the rest of the team.

"When you play football, you create a bond with somebody," said junior wide receiver Jordan Leslie. "It hurts to see them leave. Everyone on the offense, and even players on defense like Horace (Miller), (Marcus) Bagley, (Germard) Reed, you create a great bond with them—become great friends."

The now starting quarterback for the Miners, freshman Mack Leftwich, said that he has learned a lot from them.

"I have respect for most of the seniors," Leftwich said. "I'm friends with a lot of them and I hang out with a lot of them."

Whereas the majority of the seniors will go on to other ventures in life, linebacker Horace Miller sees a future in football for himself, as he is set to graduate in December with a bachelor's degree in multidisciplinary studies.

"At the end of the day, though my plan is to talk to (head) coach (Sean) Kugler, coach (Andre) Patterson and pursue football," Miller said. "They've been upfront and honest with me and those are the coaches that I take the most of what they say. They believe I have a bright future and I believe I have a bright future."

When asked where he could see himself in five years, Miller wasn't hesitant in stating football.

"In five years, I'll still be playing football (in the NFL)," Miller said. "Definitely, I plan on having a great career. At the end of the day, I just want to be successful no matter what it is."

According to Kugler, Miller is one of the players who may find success in the NFL, but knows he will have to work for it.

"The future is never guaranteed to you," Kugler said. "Horace will get an opportunity and I hope he does the best."

Already graduated with a degree in multidisciplinary studies, Craig Wenrick will also graduate in the summer with a second degree in criminal justice.

Prior to that, Wenrick has had multiple selections to the Conference USA Commissioners Honor Roll. He said that he doesn't know what the future holds for him.

Linebacker A.J. Ropati is set to graduate in May with a degree in multidisciplinary studies, is looking to head back home as he finishes his career at UTEP.

"I'll probably be living in my hometown in Carson, California," Ropati said. "Or in Las Vegas going through the fire department academy or police academy. We'll see what happens."

As the Miners look back to their final game of the season against Middle Tennessee State last on Nov. 30, a few of the seniors reflected on their favorite memories wearing the orange and blue.

"I think it was the last home game (against FIU)—Senior Night a couple weeks ago—it was a great feeling to win our last home game," Ropati said. "It's one of the most memorable moments in my UTEP career."

However, Miller feels that the best game he was part of for the Miners was the game against the then fourth-ranked Oklahoma Sooners in the 2012 opener, in which the Miners fell 24-7.

"I would say the energy that we brought defensively against Oklahoma—the energy and intensity was outstanding," Miller said. "In meetings before that game, we heard they (Oklahoma) were talking about how they would beat us 66-3 or 60-10 and we just took that and ran with it. That game was just phenomenal, I have never seen anything like that."

Win or lose, the senior class has made a long-lasting impression on their fans, coaches, teammates, family and the university as a whole. While only a handful may get an opportunity to play at the next level, they feel fortunate to have experienced what it is like to have played college football.

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Javier Cortez may be reached at theprospector@daily.sports@gmail.com.



Senior linebacker Horace Miller (right) celebrates after getting a safety against Florida International on Nov. 16.

“It hurts to see them leave...you create a great bond with them—become great friends.”

— Jordan Leslie, junior wide receiver

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Go UTEP! Thank you for the Best years here! ☺

Michelle Carreon

To my family, friends, and brothers thank you for an unforgettable college experience. You will be missed.

Mom & Dad,

It's been a long road getting here, but guess what? I made it! Thank you for always being there for me. This is for you!!!

Cindy

Thank you to my family and friends for all their support. And most importantly thank you to my baby boy for being my inspiration to keep going. I love you

-Magaly

TO MY FAMILY, EXTENDED FAMILY AT UTEP, AND INFLUENTIAL PROFESSORS, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR LOVE, SUPPORT, GUIDANCE, AND THE SPONSORED CUPS OF COFFEE YOU'VE BLESSED ME WITH TO GET ME TO WHERE I AM TODAY!

-YVETTE HOLOQUIN '13

Thank You Mom, Tom, Jennifer, Dreen and everyone else for supporting me. I won't let you down!

Nicholas

Gracias a mi familia y Carlos Lucia Por su apoyo y amor siempre

Not enough words in the world can describe how thankful I am to my mom, sister and grandparents while helping me on this journey. I love you all very much and hope to make you proud!!

Love,

Lidia Hernandez

UTEP Football 2013!

Thanks For the Memories & the hits!

James Davidson #18

I would like to thank my parents for encouraging me to pursue my MBA. I would also like to pat myself on the back for the level of commitment and perseverance I displayed while working and attending school full time.

-Leonardo Castro Jr MBA Class of 2013

Besides reinforcing my ideas, the university gave me the ability to learn how to learn, so now I can indulge in anything I find interest in. Thank you

-Rudy Wox

Gracias a toda mi familia en especial a mi mama por apoyarme en cada paso dado para lograr esta meta

Sofia Vega

Gracias por el apoyo incondicional de mi familia y amistades.

Olivia A. Clary BBA

I'd like to thank my sister, Olga, Thanks for everything!!!

Also thank you Mom & Dad!!!

-Erisno

Thank you to all those professors who made my life miserable at times but its all worth it. Thank you for all those times!

Diane

Thank you to my parents, husband and my sons & daughter for their support.

It's been a long road but a good one with all the help along the way. Big thanks to my husband who supported me through this. I love you so much and I don't get tired of thinking about you because I wouldn't be here if it weren't for your support. Thanks to my sister Erisno for all the help my mother in law for the help. Gracias a mi papa y a mi mama por toda su ayuda y apoyo los quiero. and this is for my girl Angelica and Nathan. Love ya. to my husband

SENIOR MESSAGES FALL 2013 • CONGRATULATIONS!

Q&A

Xitlali Herrera concludes her run as a Miner

BY LUIS BARRIO
The Prospector

Senior middle blocker Xitlali Herrera has concluded her collegiate career in the U.S., after three years of playing for the Miners. While at UTEP, Herrera was a member of the Mexico’s national team and she also earned All-Conference USA in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Q: At what age did you start playing volleyball and how did you get started?

A: I started playing when I was 7 years old. I started because my mom, my older brother, my uncle and aunt played, so it’s like the family sport. I just started going to my brother’s practices and I used to play with my mom by the sideline. That’s all I do and I love it.

Q: What have you learned from volleyball that you can apply to your everyday life?

A: Teamwork—it’s one of the most important things I’ve learned from volleyball and also being disciplined.

Q: How did it feel to hear the cheers from fans, who not only came from El Paso but also those who crossed the border to see you play?

A: It was really nice and it felt great seeing all the people that came to watch me play and support me and the team.

Q: Who do you owe your success to, being both a student-athlete and a college graduate?

A: To my family, definitely—they’ve been there since day one and they’ve never stopped supporting me in every decision I’ve made.

Q: What are your overall thoughts on this season and what are you most thankful for?

A: We got a new coach (Holly Watts) and it was the first season for some of my teammates, so it was interesting playing with new people and being coached by a new coach. I’m very thankful for my teammates and the relationship I have with every single one of them.

Q: What was the reason that convinced you to come to UTEP?

A: Definitely the closeness to home. I wanted friends and family to come see me play.

Q: How much have you changed as a person after these three years as a Miner?

A: I think I’m a more mature person. I’m more responsible for the decisions I make.

Q: What is your single greatest memory as a student and as a player at UTEP?

A: As a student, I think being able to pass all of my classes while I was still learning a new language, and as a player, helping my team to grow and being named to the All-Conference team.

Q: How do you feel about graduating from college?

A: It’s great, I’m very proud of myself and I know my family is proud of me as well.

Q: What will you miss most about playing volleyball for UTEP?

A: All the support that our fans show to us, and the way our team is always together for everything.

Q: What do you want to do with your degree once you graduate from UTEP?

A: My major is international business and I would like to work in a hotel or a tourist-related business.

Q: Who has been that one person who has guided you and stood by your side these past three years at



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

Xitlali Herrera was part of the UTEP team for three years. She has also played for the Mexican national team.

UTEP and What is that person(s) significance to you?

A: My mom and my boyfriend—I love them both. They’ve been always there and they have helped me in so many different ways that I don’t know what I could do without them.

Q: What is it like to represent Mexico playing the sport you love?

A: It’s amazing because you are representing an entire country. It’s nice to change someone’s beliefs about your country by doing good things.

Q: What are your plans regarding volleyball after UTEP?

A: I’ll go back to Mexico to do my master’s and since I can still play

over there while doing my master’s, I’ll just keep playing at another college. Also, I want to go back to play beach volleyball.

Luis Barrio may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

SEASON RECAP

A learning experience in the first year under Watts



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP finished its first season under new head coach Holly Watts 14-14, 7-7 in Conference USA.

BY LUIS BARRIO
The Prospector

The first season of volleyball under new head coach Holly Watts ended with a 14-14 record for the Miners. The new era of UTEP volleyball finished in the first round of the Con-

ference USA Championships after a ninth-place finish in conference.

Watts came into a program that consisted of players she had not met or even seen play until arriving at UTEP. The personnel changed while the players, for the most part, remained the same.

“It was different. She made us stay more focused throughout the entire season and even though it didn’t end the way we wanted, I think the changes are for the good,” said senior middle blocker Xitlali Herrera.

The Miners rubbed elbows with some of the best teams in the country as they faced San Diego, Hawaii

and the defending national champions the Texas Longhorns to start their season.

Watts said that the support has helped the team this season from beginning to end.

“The crowd was always on our side and very supportive,” Watts said. “I felt like we improved as the season went along, as a whole. Our chemistry continued to improve even through our last weekend in Northern California.”

The Miners were 9-4 at home and posted a 3-2 record in neutral sites.

The Miners showed grit when performing against some of the best teams Conference-USA has to offer, they were close to upsetting the No. 3 team in the conference, the Tulsa Golden Hurricane, losing in five sets.

“What a rewarding experience and a great team to fight through the challenges. What an incredible home atmosphere we have in Memorial Gym,” Watts said about her first season at UTEP. “We didn’t accomplish all we wanted to as a program yet, but the fight and determination of this team was a pleasure to work with.”

With the offseason comes the departure of the seniors on the squad. The Miners will lose five players before next season begins. Watts said she is always recruiting and has players already on their way to UTEP.

“We have three athletic young ladies on their way into our program

so far,” Watts said. “We are planning to increase our athleticism, as well as our overall ball control and termination ability. We are always recruiting.”

One of the players coach Watts will have to replace is Herrera. She jumped and spiked for 415 kills this season—a team high. She spoke about her experience under coach Watts.

“I’ve learned to stay focused for three months on the same goal. I think she’s going to make this program grow. She knows what it takes to go from good to great,” Herrera said.

Now coach Watts gets to have an entire offseason to get her team in the correct mindset, along with getting her squad to the highest athletic standard as possible.

“We are going to work on quickness, speed and strength. These things will help us to prepare for the fall season, athletically,” Watts said. “On the court, we are going to work to improve our overall ball control and power.”

Watts also said that with the effort the team puts in every day, the program will grow without a doubt.

“If the team will continue to put forth the effort to get better, together, every day, this team and this program will get better. We have the resources needed to accomplish greatness,” Watts said.

Luis Barrio may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

LEVEL from page B11

put to the test against Belmont and Georgia Tech. They then will travel to College Station to face the 2011 national champions, Texas A&M, on Jan.2 and then they start their Conference USA schedule.

There is no denying that the Miners’ early accomplishments are great as they are off to their third-best start in school history, but associate head coach Ewa Laskowska is adamant about the team taking it one game at a time.

“We’re just trying to focus on one game at a time and one play at a time,” Laskowska said. “We’re just trying to focus as a team and improve on everything we do. We don’t talk about long-term goals, like I said, one practice at a time, one game at a time.”

Even though the Miners have played great team basketball, Thornton has been on the forefront of the team’s success, leading them in almost every major statistical category.

“There is no question that she is important to the team,” Laskowska said. “She’s a senior. She’s played a lot for us and she’s big on our team. She gets us going when she gets rebounds and puts on defensive pressure. All of our three seniors have a lot of experience playing and they’re a very important part of the team—jumpstarting us and everyone else follows.”

The margin of victory might be getting bigger and bigger for the Miners, but understanding that the season is still young and staying humble is what the Miners are about.

“It’s still early. I think we just got to stay focused and do the little things. If we keep doing those things, we’ll be successful later on in the season. The game against Northern Colorado was a wakeup call for us,” Thornton said.

Javier Cortez may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

FOOTBALL from page B11

ly, he lost out on the job to a guy who starts for the Miami Dolphins and a Heisman trophy winner. It might be a while before Kugler finds another quarterback as well-equipped as Showers, Kugler has one more year with Showers that hopefully won’t go to waste like this year.

The Ugly.

On defense, the Miners are losing five starters. Now you might think losing some players who play on a defense that ranks at the bottom of almost every major defensive category in college football might not be a bad thing. Well it might not be bad, but it’s definitely not good. The chance that the Miners’ defense will make a vast improvement next year is very unlikely.

Conferences changes are irrelevant. With the revamping of Conference USA this season, or more honestly put, the destruction of Conference USA, it’s well known that they took a step back in terms of talent that was supposed to be a good thing for the Miners. What this season has shown is that the Miners have adapted to their situation very easily—their level of play dropped just as their conference did.

At the end of the day, the result of the game against Middle Tennessee State is irrelevant, as the Miners’ season has been over for quite some time now and the worst thing would be that it might carry over into next year. There hasn’t been a lot of good, but plenty of bad and ugly.

Javier Cortez may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

INBRIEF

Softball signs new players for 2015 season

COURTNEY CLAYTON / MIDDLE INFIELDER / GLENCOE HS / CORNELIOUS, ORE.

Played three seasons of varsity softball and garnered multiple accolades highlighted by the 2013 Oregon 6A Player of the Year and named 2013 first-team All-State infielder. She led a 29-2 Crimson Tide team in hits (56), RBI (40) and batting average (.523), also added three homeruns, 34 runs scored and 17 doubles

Head coach Echo-Hawk on Clayton:

“Courtney is one of the most consistent players I have seen both offensively and defensively. She brings a complete energy that will be an asset to our team.”

BREANNA MEDINA / OUTFIELD / FAITH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY / EL PASO, TX.

Played club softball with the Texas Sluggers and the New Mexico Sol. All -around athlete who excelled in volleyball and basketball as FCA does not field a softball team. Won 2009 Western National Championship with the Sluggers and 2011 OKC Triple Crown Championship with the Sol.

Echo-Hawk on Medina:

“Breanna is a very talented dynamic player and will be extremely exciting to watch as she develops.”

LINDA GARCIA / CATCGER / KAISER HS / FONTANA, CALIF.

Played three seasons of varsity softball and established career highs during junior season in batting average (.346), RBI (29), homeruns (5) and on-base percentage (.454) Garcia was named to 2013 first-team All-League ... went 2-for-5, with two RBIs and a run scored during an 11-4 win over Mira Costa in the second-round of the 2013 CIF Southern Section Softball Championships –Division III.

Echo-Hawk on Garcia:

“Linda is solid behind the plate and one of the hardest workers. Her knowledge of the game will benefit us behind the plate.”

HOPE MORENO / INFIELDER / LA HABRA HS/ LA HABRA, CALIF.

Played club softball with the Texas Sluggers and the New Mexico Sol. All -around athlete who excelled in volleyball and basketball as FCA does not field a softball team. Won 2009 Western National Championship with the Sluggers and 2011 OKC Triple Crown Championship with the Sol.

Echo-Hawk on Medina:

“Breanna is a very talented dynamic player and will be extremely exciting to watch as she develops.”

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FEATURE

Vitola coming back for more

BY EDWIN DELGADO
The Prospector

Senior center Kristine Vitola decided to return for another season with UTEP after suffering a season-ending ACL injury last season against Arizona State. Vitola graduated in May with a business management degree and could have simply just moved on and gone back home to continue her career, but she wanted to finish her collegiate career on the court and give it her all. “She could have gone to play pro, she has had a serious boyfriend for some-time too—there were a lot of reasons for her to go back home,” said head coach Keitha Adams. “She didn’t want her career to end on that note here. It says a lot about her to decide to come back to be part of our program for another year, so I’m pleased and honored to be her coach for another year.” Vitola said that coming back for another year was primarily for all the support and appreciation for what UTEP and El Paso have given to her and that’s what made her come back. “When I came here, I didn’t know anybody and they welcomed me with open arms,” Vitola said. “El Paso is like my second family, I love everything about it and it has really been great. The fans that have come to the games to support us have just been phenomenal.” Unlike many athletes, it took her a long time to get into basketball. It wasn’t until Vitola was 13 years old that she began playing basketball with one

of her cousins, where her height helped her to develop her skills more rapidly. At 6 feet 4 inches, Vitola made basketball her passion and she quickly became one of the best prospects in Riga, Latvia. She played for several youth national teams for Latvia, including the under-20 2008 European Championship. In her career as a Miner, Vitola said that the 2011 Conference USA championship and had the opportunity to play in the NCAA Tournament, which has been her best experiences as part of the UTEP squad. So far this season through six games, Vitola has averaged eight points per game, 5.5 rebounds and has a total of 18 blocks. “She is a very smart player, she’s got a great basketball IQ. She sees the game very well and she has played a lot for us,” Adams said. “She understands what we are trying to do—we are in sync with one another most of the time. She can shoot the ball, she can rebound and a pretty good decision maker.” Once it is all said and done, Vitola is hoping to go back home and sign with a professional team to fulfill her dream of playing overseas. She said she is also prepared for what she plans to do after basketball. “Later on, I’m hoping to open up my own business. I want to open a child care center. That is my plan for the future,” Vitola said. “At least I want to be doing something related to business or accounting.”

“She understands what we are trying to do—we are in-sync with one another most of the time.”

— Keitha Adams,
women’s basketball
head coach

Adams said that Vitola is gaining confidence as the games have gone by and they both feel that she and the team can still get a lot better. “So far it’s been great. I’m still far from where I think I can be, but I come in and do my best every day. That’s the goal for me, to get more comfortable and get back and get better,” Vitola said. “I’m taking it one game at a time. Of course we want to go as far as we can, but we have to take it day by day and don’t take anything for granted.”

Edwin Delgado may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.



AARON MONTES / THE PROSPECTOR

Kristene Vitola suffered an ACL injury last year and came back to play one more season.

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