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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

WWW.THEPROSPECTORDAILY.COM

VOL. 100, NO. 27

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

MAY 5, 2015

GRADUATION ISSUE

*The future
belongs
to those who
BELIEVE
in the
beauty
of their
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MAY 5, 2015

PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
LORAIN AMBROCIO, 747-7477

Graduation is more than just a tassel

BY LORAIN AMBROCIO
The Prospector



When I was 15, I took a driver's education class to get my driver's permit—nothing out of the ordinary there.

Yet, my driving instructor was anything but ordinary.

In between rants on shoes and what snacks were best to eat, this El-Paso-loving-Brussels-sprout-eating-veteran said something in one of the classes that I have kept going back to during my four-and-a-half years at UTEP.

“Graduating high school is something you're supposed to do, but graduating from a university or college, that's an accomplishment,” he said.

At first, I thought he was wrong. Going to college should also be something that you're supposed to do, especially with today's competitive mentality among all graduates.

This mentality I'm talking about is the one instilled implicitly from day one of classes—if you don't have at least a bachelor's degree when you apply for a job, you won't get it or be as successful as your degree-bearing colleagues.

But then I progressed in my undergraduate career and my own mentality began to shift.

Getting a full-time job at The Prospector, double majoring in psychology and journalism, joining honors organizations, taking reading and writing-intensive courses, getting married and becoming pregnant in the middle of all of it...

I'm graduating, and it feels like a breath of fresh air.

I can see what that crazy driving instructor of mine was talking about. Maybe he wasn't so crazy after all.

It truly is an accomplishment to be graduating this semester from UTEP—working those long nights with my award-winning staff to produce award-winning newspapers and magazines, those one-too-many happy hour trips to Hope & Anchor with Jasmine to blow off steam, staying in on weekends to catch up on my readings for class because I was too busy during the week fundraising for Alpha Lambda Delta, late-night phone calls with my then-fiancée as I cried 1,725 miles away from El Paso, interning in D.C., and trying to listen to him as he told me to push forward and everything would be okay if I just believed in myself.

And now I do. All of those experiences had to come first before I could learn the art of confidence and truly believe in myself. UTEP allowed me

to engage with so many people, and the newspaper provided me with so many opportunities to truly evolve into a better person.

I'm grateful for each experience I've come across, and I'm especially grateful to have consistently been surrounded by people who believed in the same vision as I did.

To my staff this semester: the quirky hipster, the bohemian smoker, the broadcasting princess, the singing sports fanatic, the fitness guru, the photo magician, the rapping videographer, all of the reporters, photographers, the controversial cartoonist, the advertising staff, Vero, Isabel and Marcie – thank you.

You've made my last few days at UTEP and El Paso memorable ones.

Thank you to Kathy and David for being my second set of parents. In my times of doubt and fright, you provided me clarity and reassurance. It always felt good to share my accomplishments and worries with you both because I knew that your insight would make me invincible. Thank you for always having an open ear and tissue ready.

And a special thank you to my husband for being my scholarly trainer, pushing me to do my best and giving me doses of brutal honesty when I needed them, and thank you to my family for being my cheerleaders in all that I have done.

After graduation, I'll be going overseas with my husband and baby-to-be, but I still have no idea what I'll be doing.

I'm nervous and scared, but I imagine that's how the rest of the graduating class feels—at least partially.

The process will start over for me as I furiously apply for foreign jobs and rush to learn a language I barely understand now.

But one thing will never leave me—the memories from The Prospector and all of the experiences that came from working there.

They will fuel my motivation to continue being the best I can be and accomplish the goals I set for myself every day.

The clock has struck, the chimes are half a year overdue and a new horizon awaits me beyond the blue vastness.

Good luck to the next batch of editors and future staff members of the paper. Be humble and don't forget where you come from. We all have to start somewhere.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On a graduation day, the day is beautiful, and the sun is shining all around the Miners' campus. Young students are all around the campus. Youth, pride and happiness share the scene with the old dusty mountains that surround the Sun Bowl.

Young students that have made it to graduation are seen as models to follow by their younger siblings. The young students' parents have a face that denotes pride. All this is happening on a graduation day.

Pictures of young faces are all around the campus: youth of the future of a nation, the future of the world. There are no images of elder, aged or old students on campus, publicity or campus images. All this happens in the nation that is known as the champion of democracy.

The message seems to be that education is for the young only, and he who dares to challenge it would be treated accordingly. His or her life as a student will be the life of a 'stinky' – ignored and pissed. Therefore, only few dare to challenge, but who misses an old face on a graduation day when happiness is all around?"

The above could be seen as fiction, a part of a novel or a short story, but actually, this is part of reality. At UTEP, there are no images of old students or non-traditional students – as some use to name those students.

Since 2012, the year that I started taking classes at UTEP, I noticed the lack of old students' images at UTEP. This creates an impression that old students do not exist at UTEP.

One of the issues the old students have to face, is a of acceptance, when

the old student applies for scholarships, there may be an age requirement. If the student is older than 30 years, he or she could be disqualified.

One of the arguments of the Office of Scholarships is that the persons or corporations that offer the scholarships apply their own requirements and nothing can be done about it.

However, the fact that the UTEP's official images ignore the old or aged students creates a false image. It creates the image that the old students do not exist at UTEP. UTEP does not recognize old students as students and old students are not part of UTEP diversity.

Therefore, the people who offer the scholarships don't include old people as their recipients. They do not see them. UTEP should promote diversity.

All students regardless of their race, gender, religion, sexual orientation and/or disability should have the same opportunity to succeed in their academic careers even old or aged students, or non-traditional students.

UTEP is celebrating 100 years, 1914-2014, a centennial celebration and 100 years of ignoring the old or aged student.

Raul Rodriguez, a 58-year-old proud UTEP student

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New report ranks best and worst jobs of the year

BY AMANDA GUILLEN
The Prospector

For some students, deciding on which career path to go down can be a rough decision.

CareerCast.com has been ranking the best and worst jobs of the year for 27 years. The report ranks 200 jobs from best to worst based on three percentage components, work environment, stress and hiring outlook.

For the 2015 report, an actuary came in at number one, and the worst job was a newspaper reporter, which ranked at 200.

Some UTEP alumni and students realized that the degree that they chose to pursue was ranked fairly high on the list or at the bottom.

Anuar Jauregui graduated from UTEP Cum Laude in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in computer science. Jauregui works for ExxonMobil in Houston and said that his job is a hybrid of both software engineering, which ranked eighth, and a computer systems analyst, which ranked 10th.

Jauregui said that when looking over the rankings, he agreed that they were, for the most part, accurate.



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CareerCast.com has ranked 200 jobs from best to worst based on three percentage components: work environments, stress and hiring outlook.

"I can definitely agree with the levels indicated in the ranking. The work environment in the computer systems field varies greatly depending on the company. Most computer systems work environments are your typical nine to five office cubicle work spaces," Jauregui said. "But in bigger companies, employees in computer systems are also part of the bigger corporate environment of the 'business' and it can be very comfortable."

The report was initially intended to guide students down the right path when it came to turning their ca-

reer dreams into realities, along with helping others who are looking for a change in their career to make a smart transition for their future.

Jauregui's childhood dream is what led him to ultimately choose computer science as his degree of choice.

"I chose this career path originally because I wanted to design video games when I was little, and when I began my research into what degrees I needed, I found that an actual game design degree was too far and too expensive for a fresh high school graduate," he said. "But after digging a bit more, I found out that a computer science degree would also give me all the necessary skills for my childhood dream."

After going through college and an internship with NASA, Jauregui's interests widened and he was able to see many different opportunities available in many different fields.

"Which led to many job interviews, which led to several offers, and in the end, I just chose the one that best matched my interests," Jauregui said.

Some students chose to attend graduate school instead of going straight into the job force.

UTEP alumna Esmirna Corona graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work in 2014. She attends UT Austin, where she is working toward obtaining her master's degree in clinical social work.

A social worker ranked 70th on the report. Unlike Jauregui, Corona didn't think the ranking was accurate.

"I'm happy social work has a good rank, but a tad disappointed that it wasn't higher on the list," Corona said. "Although social work is a demanding career, it also gives a lot of satisfaction and happiness."

Corona said that social workers work with people, which creates a different dynamic to the working environment.

"As social workers, we cannot follow a specific 'guideline' to use in our work because every person is unique and different," she said. "Therefore, social workers need to modify every intervention in a manner that will be culturally sensitive and appropriate to the individual."

Damaris Reyes, senior multimedia journalism major, plans on pursuing a career in journalism.

Journalism professions ranked fairly low on the report, with a pho-

tojournalist ranking 195th, a broadcaster at 196th and a newspaper reporter at 200th. When looking at the rankings, Reyes said that she uses it as motivation.

"Honestly, I think it's a bummer to hear such things, especially when one is pursuing such a career," Reyes said. "As far as if it scares me, it depends."

Reyes said that she can either see it as a threat to her career or she can use it as encouragement to push her to be better.

"I believe that it's not the things that make the people, but the people who make the things," Reyes said.

UTEP alumni Jauregui and Corona left this year's graduating seniors with some advice.

"Stay strong in your studying. Your grades matter a lot if you want to get a shot at the really big, well-paying, competitive positions," Jauregui said. "Be involved, join several extra-curricular organizations like Greek life, community service clubs, or any particular organization that spikes your interest, and become a leader in them."

For Corona it is about enjoying college life and taking a step back to reflect.

"Enjoy every moment of your undergraduate and graduate education. Learn everything, read everything, but most importantly be happy and passionate in whatever you are doing," Corona said. "Graduate school can be challenging. Sometimes you ask yourself, with the largest coffee mug in hand, 'why did I do this to myself?'"

Corona said that if you are doing something that you are passionate about, the sacrifices will be worth it.

"At the end of the day, that will be your motivation to keep going," Corona said.

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Advertising and marketing panelists inspire students at conference



On Thursday, April 30, the El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center hosted “Diving Deep.”

BY JOSE SOTO
The Prospector

Advertising and marketing majors at UTEP had the opportunity to gain insight and knowledge from some experts in the field on Thursday.

Professionals from both fields gave presentations as part of a panel discussion that aimed to help UTEP students understand what to expect from working for an agency and better prepare them for future endeavors.

The El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center hosted “Diving Deep: An In-Depth Look at Agency Life,” an event sponsored by the Advertising Agency of El Paso. It offered the attendees three different panels: cre-

ative, account services and non-profit clients.

The panelists talked about new trends in the creative process of the field, how to track down clients, what it is like to work with a non-profit agency and other topics.

“Diving Deep” started off with a luncheon. Shortly after, a speech was given by guest speaker Humbo Garza, content producer for CultureSpan Marketing. Garza has developed regional, national and international campaigns both in English and Spanish for companies such as Miller Coors, Hershey’s, Frito-Lay, Pepsi and many more.

He began his career in 2003 as a junior copywriter with an advertising agency in Monterrey, Mexico.

Garza said he mainly wants for students to know that finding your niche within the field is important for your career.

“It’s okay to switch between career paths in the advertising and marketing field as you find what works best for you,” Garza said. “I dabbled with different companies and creative processes until I found what I liked.”

Garza said it is also important for the Hispanic students to realize that the Latino audience is a “driving force” in the field.

“There is a great importance that Latinos have in America,” Garza said. “Before, campaigning for companies meant to develop an Americanized one and then develop a different one for Latino countries branching out of the same campaign, but customized.”

Garza said that companies now prefer to campaign for a globalized, integrated market.

“We call it ‘total market approach,’” Garza said. “That means a well-developed marketing campaign for all ethnicities, largely for Latinos.”

UTEP is composed of a largely Hispanic community, which Garza said is an asset for advertising and marketing students because they get a feel of what it is to appeal to both populations.

Garza said internships are essential to not only further develop your skills, but also to land a job in the field.

Other panelist included Armando Alvarez, creative director and co-founder of Viva+Impulse Creative Company, Juan Carlos Hernandez, senior director at Culturalspan Marketing and Tony Casas, creative director at AD on page A6

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Students awarded scholarships to study abroad

SERGIO ZAMORA / THE PROSPECTOR

Senior political science major, April Rumgay was awarded \$5,000 to study in Turkey with an additional \$3,000 supplement to study the Turkish language during her study abroad trip this summer.

BY JULIA HETTIGER
The Prospector

This semester, a few UTEP students were awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad. The scholarship is awarded to more than 2,700 students every semester nationwide. The scholarship's purpose is to aid students to study abroad by providing them with the funds they need.

The Gilman Scholarship helps undergraduate students who intend to complete courses or an internship in their field of study in a foreign country and is awarded three times during the year.

It was founded by Benjamin A. Gilman, former U.S. Republican representative and is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The scholarship is awarded to students who are studying in a foreign country for at least four weeks and demonstrate a positive scholarly identity.

April Rumgay, senior political science major, was awarded \$5,000 to study in Turkey with an additional \$3,000 supplement to study the Turkish language during her study abroad trip this summer. Rumgay said studying abroad will impact her in many ways.

"I've heard that students gain independence, international experience,

new perspectives and friendships," Rumgay said. "I'll consider myself lucky to acquire even one of these things."

Studying abroad can help students gain independence and improve their work ethic.

"It's no secret that studying abroad will enhance my educational and professional opportunities," Rumgay said. "I don't underestimate the value of sharing my experience in Turkey."

Rumgay hopes her experience in Turkey inspires her friends and family.

"I'm more interested in considering the legacy that I can leave with my family, local community, and country," Rumgay said. "It could inspire my family, empower my community and encourage more Americans to become global citizens."

While in Turkey, Rumgay said she wants to leave a positive impression on the Turkish community.

"I hope to present an image of the U.S. outside of foreign policy and outreach," Rumgay said.

Students at UTEP said they would study abroad if given the chance. Josh De Luca, sophomore microbiology major, said if he could study abroad, he would study somewhere in the United Kingdom.

"I'd be away from home, but I would still feel a connection," De Luca said.

"I would want to study and complete research in microbiology."

Although he most likely will not study abroad while at UTEP, he said it is still a great thing for students to do.

“It’s no secret that studying abroad will enhance my educational and professional opportunities. I don’t underestimate the value of sharing my experience in Turkey.”

— April Rumgay, senior political science major

"Studying abroad is an amazing opportunity--to be exposed to a new culture and way of life," De Luca said.

Natalie Delgado, senior education major, said studying abroad anywhere would be a great opportunity, but specifically she would like to study in China, Norway or Finland.

"I love to travel because of the thrill of entering a whole new journey that I have never been to before," Delgado said. "Being able to experience the culture, the lifestyle, the food and interacting with people along the way is an honor."

To apply for the scholarship students must complete an online application, which includes submitting official transcripts and online certifications from their study abroad and financial aid advisors.

"I took advantage of the fantastic resources available to me at the Study Abroad Office on campus," Rumgay said.

The students applying for the Gilman Scholarship began the application process by going to an information session conducted by Corinne Peschka, the resident Gilman Scholarship advisor at UTEP and an English professor.

"She (Peschka) begins by giving an informational session that introduces students to the application process," Rumgay said. "Students sign up for independent sessions with Ms. Peschka to have their questions answered and, more importantly, receive feed-

back on the two essays required as part of the application."

Applicants must write two essays and were encouraged to seek editorial help from their study abroad advisor.

"Ms. Peschka was previously an official application reviewer for the Gilman Scholarship Program and is well aware of what they look for in the essay," Rumgay said. "Her expertise in editing enhances the level of writing in each student's essay."

Rumgay said the Gilman Scholarship and being able to study abroad will help her in a number of ways.

"Studying in Turkey will ease my fear so that I can pursue graduate school and a career in humanitarian development without any hesitation," Rumgay said. "Students who are willing to put in the time and effort, certainly have the support and resources on campus to make studying abroad with the Gilman Scholarship a reality."

Julia Hettiger may be reached at theprospectordaily.vent@gmail.com.

AD from page A5

rector for Stanton Street Technology Group.

The three panelists discussed creative trends, new evolving technologies and ways to ensure employment.

Alvarez said trends are important to keep up with in the field, but not as important as keeping up with your clients needs.

"Obviously, trends come and go," Alvarez said. "In our agency, we keep ourselves updated with trends but, most importantly we aim to understand what our client needs and what they are trying to expose to their own audience."

Casas said one of the most important things is to be able to change your surroundings in order to keep the creative flow going.

"It's when you are in awkward situations where you are forced to think differently than you normally do that gets those creative juices flowing," Casas said. "If you are stuck at your desk or computer, go outside. If you can go somewhere remote like Las Cruces, do it. It'll make you think differently."

Hernandez encourages students to find ways for students to stand out to possible employers, from your web-

designing and personal portfolio to the samples of work that you submit.

Alvarez said researching the places that you are submitting applications to is essential, too.

"It's important to know the nature of the company you are applying with," Alvarez said. "Be sure that your portfolio and samples go along with the work of the company. Know if it's going to appeal to it or not."

Diego Portillo, senior graphic design and advertising major, said the event gave a lot of useful tips for students. Portillo is also the president of the Student Advertising Federation.

"It's definitely a good way to expand your experience," Portillo said. "In this field, it's all about having experience and networking. This event helped give students the access to both."

Portillo said students form the field should try and attend as many events like "Diving Deep" in order to get a feel of what to expect upon graduating and trying to land a job.

Stephanie Nevarez, senior media advertising major, said the event helped her get a better understanding of what it is that she is striving to do.

"Through networking and sharing ideas among colleagues, us as ad-

vertising and marketing majors can grasp a better idea of what we do and how to do it," Nevarez said.

Both Portillo and Nevarez are both graduating this semester.

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

Robert Vega escapes ‘the pits of hell’ to graduate this spring



MARIA ESQUINCA / THE PROSPECTOR

Senior commercial music major, Robert Vega will be graduating at this year’s spring commencement despite previous setbacks such as spending time in prison.

BY ALONSO MORENO
The Prospector

Robert Vega stands out in a crowd. It might be his tattoos, which offer a slight glimpse into his past or perhaps it’s the battle scars he has earned from years of martial arts fighting, or maybe it’s the humble, yet intense look in his eyes, which have not only seen years worth of struggle, they have seen the pits of hell.

Vega, 38, originally from Brooklyn, N.Y., is a commercial music major at UTEP. While he is focused on his upcoming graduation, he has also composed 12 songs and sung in operas, but he is also a former prison inmate.

At the young age of 22, already tired from a life of struggle with gangs, Vega was on his way to prison for what would become his hardest challenge yet and this was the moment he said that finally transformed him.

“I shouldn’t be here man,” Vega said, as he sat in a small Mexican restaurant near Downtown El Paso, a place where time seemed to have stopped, much like Vega’s mind as he recalled those troubled years.

“I spent nine years in prison, six of those in solitary, which was only one part of the pits of hell I experienced,” he said.

To better understand how Vega ended up in such a precarious situation, he offered a look into his past. One that, according to him, lacked purpose and discipline, which are the pillars that hold him together today, he said

“My father was in the Navy, so he wasn’t around most of the time,” Vega said. “I was also blessed with the gift of being an extremely proficient learner. I was reading novels by the time most kids were reading children’s books. All that made me into a very bored child that didn’t care much for school.”

His school experience almost sounds like something straight out of a novel—the typical kid with an untapped potential who gets straight As, only to be hampered by a lack of motivation, causing him to become the poorest behaved child in the classroom.

“Each day presents a new beginning, because no matter how bad your day is it will eventually end. You will go to bed, a new day will rise and with it, a new hope.

— Robert Vega,
senior commercial music major

However, it was another budding gift that helped him find some purpose, but at the same time also pushed him into a different life.

“Naci para los chingasos (I was born to fight),” Vega said. “By the time I came to live in El Paso, I was older and the then prominent gang lifestyle was very interesting to me. I would go up to entire groups of people and tell them I could take them all on.”

El Monje (the monk), as he was named by his fellow gang members due to his shaved head and proficiency with martial arts, would spend the following years in a haze of alcoholism, fights and crime, with one incident that still plays in his mind with perfect clarity.

“One day a couple of friends and I wanted to drive around, but we didn’t

have a vehicle. My mother obviously didn’t lend me the car, so I just decided then and there that we would go steal a car,” Vega said. “We went to a 7-Eleven to scope out the cars. After sometime, eventually a couple finally pulled up with a truck and next thing you know I am telling the lady to hand over the keys. It was a carjacking.”

Although he was eventually caught, Vega managed to come out of the event relatively unscathed as he avoided prison time because the lady refused to press charges. This would serve as warning of what was to come in the future.

As the life style began to take a toll on him, Vega decided to renounce his gangster days and tried to live a calmer life. However it all changed in October 1999, when Vega was charged with intoxicated manslaughter with a vehicle.

“I was coming back with some friends from a reception,” Vega said. “There was a loud thud, I was in shock and my friend just said, ‘I think you hit someone.’”

The subsequent trial would end with Vega being convicted and becoming another statistic for the prison system.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the inmate population for 2013 was about 2,228,424, which leaves the U.S. in first place in the world for the highest prison population. In Texas alone, there are over 150,000 convicted offenders, with El Paso being responsible for 2,210 of them.

Perhaps even more impressive than the incarceration numbers is the rate of recidivism, which shows that 76 percent of released prisoners are arrested within five years of release for a new crime.

“There is a problem with not only Texas, but with the U.S. penal system as well,” Vega said “I was able to beat

the odds and not only make it out, but actually turn my life around.”

From the many stories that Vega shares about his time in prison and solitary confinement, the one that stands out the most is the actual way he lived.

“It was a very small cell, you could maybe walk three or four steps before you hit the wall, the bathroom or the bed. You live without anything, just four walls and reading material,” Vega said. “I remember that there was a small window that I could see from my cell, and I would just imagine how nice it would feel to be out and feel the wind.”

Vega credits faith for helping him survive the ordeal and devoting himself to a higher purpose in order to be able to escape sane from his personal hell.

On October 2008, Vega was released from prison into a new world—now at age 31 he had not only missed his 20s, but had missed the technology boom as well.

“When I went in, people still used beepers, now everyone had cell-phones,” Vega said. “To paint a better picture, I immediately went into UTEP following my release, and I remember that one of my first days, my professor asked us to look up a song

on the Internet. I raised my hand and asked what the Internet was.”

Much has changed from those days, and now Vega has his sights firmly set on his goal to change the world with his music. As he says, he was given a second chance to use his gifts for the world.

Not only does he want to continue to perform, but he also wishes to establish his own production studio in order to publish his own music as well harness the endless potential he sees in El Paso.

When asked if he had any advice for people who might be struggling with life or school Vega said, “Each day presents a new beginning, because no matter how bad your day is it will eventually end. You will go to bed, a new day will rise and with it, new hope. If you are positive, you can and will be able to come out of your problems.”

Alonso Moreno may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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What are you going to miss about UTEP?

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ADRIAN ALMANZA
Senior mechanical engineering major
“I will miss hanging out on campus.”



DINA CHAGOYAN
Senior English and American Literature major
“I will miss UTEP because it is a place where we can find new friends and new job opportunites. I found that I made many memories working at UTEP and made new friends by working here.”



RICARDO MORAN
Senior kinesiology major
“Since I work around athletics, I’m going to miss the football and basketball games the most.”



EDITH GONZALEZ
Senior psychology major
“I will miss being with the same people that I was with in all my classes.”



NATHAN BLACK
Senior music major
“I’m going to miss how accesible UTEP is and how limitless it is to do things here.”



MARISSA YANEZ
Senior math major
“I am going to miss UTEP because I enjoy the friendly atmosphere, and I will miss out on the beautiful Centennial Plaza.”



MUNIR BUHAYA
Senior microbiology major
“Yes, I will definitely miss UTEP, especially it’s beautiful campus.”



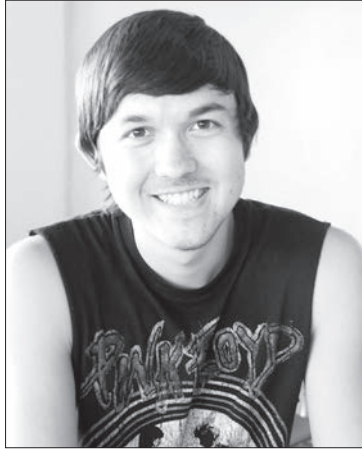
ROXANA RODRIGUEZ
Senior nursing major
“I will miss the friends I’ve made and the friendly people of UTEP.”



RICARDO BURCIAGA
Senior history major
“I am going to miss all the people here, such as my classmates and friends.”



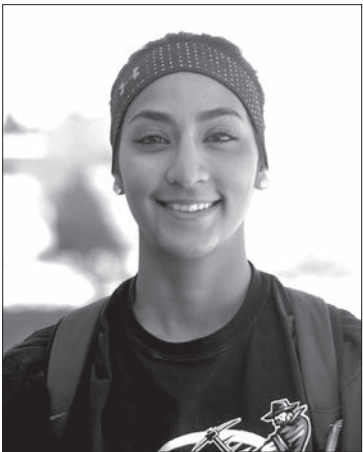
MARIA RIVERO
Senior finance major
“I will miss the events, such as basketball games as well as the student life.”



VICTOR VALESSOR
Senior digital media production major
“I will miss the easy going learning habi-tat and it’s amidable faculty.”



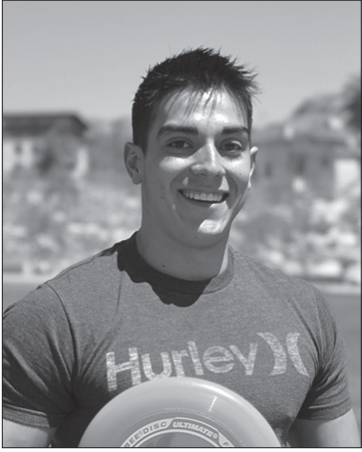
CECILIA VALENCIA
Senior bilingual education major
“I’ll miss the people, my friends and the college life in general.”



MIRAYA MONTIEL
Senior multidisciplinary studies
“Probably the dorm life and watching the games.”



AMY PADILLA
Senior operations and supply chain management major
“I will miss having constant homework assignments, studying for numerous exams and all the pressure associated with finals.”



MAURICIO TERREZ
Senior biomedical sciences major
“I’m really going to miss playing frisbee at Centennial Plaza.”



MEGAN FUENTES
Senior marketing major
“The coffee from the library. But mostly, I’m going to miss seeing my friends every-day. I’ve made life-long friends in these last few years and all of us are going in different directions.”



ROBERT VASQUEZ
Senior commercial music major
“The constant learning experienze that you have to go through everyday.”



ABIGAIL ROMERO
Senior media advertising and graphic design major
“I’m going to miss the student life and the people of the Hispanic enviorment from Juarez.”



RUBEN RIVERA
Senior electrical engineering major
“The UTEP Rec Center because I like to swim; it’s cool.”



LEONARDO MONTANEZ
Senior creative writing major
“Probably the campus, maybe some teachers, not all of them, and the mates I made here.”

Traditional breakfast grows with new location and activities



ILLUSTRATION BY JACOBO DE LA ROSA / THE PROSPECTOR

BY JOSE SOTO
The Prospector

As the demanding finals week commences across campus, a UTEP tradition will continue to relieve students from grueling due dates and exams, at least for one night. Students will be able to enjoy from an array of activities, free food, entertainment and quiet study spaces as the event expands this year and changes location.

Those who will attend Up All Night: Midnight Breakfast, the semi-annual tradition on campus, will have the opportunity to experience the expansion of the festivities as it moves to the Union Building East on Tuesday, May 12, from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. Previously, the event was held at the Natural Gas Conference Center.

The traditional breakfast will continue to be served at midnight on the second floor. This year, new additions include a relaxation room with free yoga and meditation sessions, a stress-free room with free coloring and Play-Doh and a screening of the film Old School.

Jamba Juice, Starbucks, Pizza Hurt and El Cazo inside the Union will remain opened until midnight. There will also be free coffee and donut

holes from midnight to 9 a.m. and free shirts for the first 100 students.

Tory Johannsen, a senior accounting major, said he will be attending the event since he hasn't made it to any of the previous ones.

"Whether I go with friends or go alone, I hope to network socially," Johannsen said. "Having a good time and making new friends is what it is all about. You can never have too many friends and acquaintances."

Johannsen said he has heard the environment of Midnight Breakfast is what makes it as popular as it is.

"From what I've heard, it does help with the stress of finals," Johannsen said. "It is good, wholesome fun in a safe environment with other students that have the same goal: to wind down and be care free for at least a couple of hours."

Eduardo Ochoa, a senior criminal justice major, will also be attending. He said the event if a good way for him to take a break from studying for finals.

"It's a great way for me and my friends to do things other than study," Ochoa said. "It's a peaceful experience with absolutely no drama."

the first one in 1991, that was hosted at the Natural Gas Conference Center because it is close to Kelly Hall, which once was a residency hall with an easy path for students to walk.

Irma Nicole Aguilar, director at the Offices of Student Life, said recent changes around campus prompted the planning committee to change the location.

"Our student demographics have changed and we recognize everyone comes with different methods of studying," Aguilar said. "Students may seek opportunities to take a break and relieve stress during this time. We want to offer additional services and cater to a broader range of students. The Union Building serves as the perfect location to offer a variety of services to our students and they deserve it."

"This event is definitely on its way to become larger than it has been in the past," Aguilar said. "The expansion of this event was done with the hope that more students will be interested in participating in a campus tradition which they may not have been part of in the past."

Aguilar said the event currently has approximately 30 volunteers but is still in need of more. To sign up as a volunteer and more information on Up All Night: Midnight Breakfast, contact the Office of Student Life at 915-747-5648 or visit them at Union West Room 102.

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

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Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering

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Javier Dominguez
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Gibran Erives-Moriel
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Michael Angel Melendez
Erick Martin Mendez
Jacqueline Mendoza
Mauricio G. Mercado
Jessica Alejandra Meza
Rocio Sarahi Mingura
Cristina Miranda
Jacqueline Marie Molina
Alejandra Molinar
Miguel Angel Molinar
Alejandra Monge
Jackelin Montelongo
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Gabriel Ruben Mora
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Nabil Alomari

Marco Antonio Andrade
Andrea America Armendariz
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Jovanna Areola
Hillary Deanna Avila
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Mario Gerardo Villegas
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Holly Victoria Alva
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In-state tuition for DREAMers at risk

BY MARIA ESQUINCA
The Prospector

A row of students dressed in cap and gowns stood in protest against a slew of anti-immigration bills introduced into the state legislature this session at an immigration rally on Thursday, April 30.

“Higher education is an institution that should reward individuals based on merit, on accomplishments, on good grades, they shouldn’t be forced to be in a position of disenfranchisement or discrimination.”

— Claudia Loli, junior political science major

The event was organized by the Border Network for Human Right in opposition to SB 1819, SB 3, HB 2912 and HB 11.

Out of the five bills, SB 1819 could potentially affect more than 100 estimated UTEP students if signed by Texas Governor Greg Abott.

SB 1819, would repeal a 2001 law that allows undocumented students to be considered Texas residents, effectively allowing them to pay in-state tuition.

Under the law, anyone who graduated from a public or private high school, received a high school diploma and has maintained Texas residency for the three years preceding the diploma is eligible to pay in-state tuition.

Jacobo Prado, counsel general of Mexico, said Texas is one of the few states that allows for this.

However, SB 1819 would amend existing law by stating that a person not authorized under federal statute to be in the country legally cannot be considered a resident for the purpose of paying in-state tuition.

“Higher education is an institution that should reward individuals based on merit, on accomplishments, on good grades, they shouldn’t be forced to be in a position of disenfranchisement or discrimination,” said Claudia Loli, a Deferred Action Against Childhood Arrival student and junior political science major.

SB 1819 would also allow an institution of higher education to establish a policy requiring a person to submit specific documentation to verify their authorization under federal statute to be in the country.

At the rally, a big human-sized puppet held by a wooden stick was plastered with the face of Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels, who is one of the authors of SB 1819. She is also the chair of the veteran’s affairs and military installations committee, a sub-committee on border security, where the bill will be heard.

“She’s a big advocate against dreamers,” said Oscar Silva, communications affairs and media relations officer for Sen. Jose Rodriguez, D-El Paso. “They truly don’t have logic that can be backed up with numbers and figures. Every single one of these bills has received bi-partisan opposition.”

According to the Higher Education Coordinating Board, 20,049 students in fiscal year 2012 and 24,770 in fiscal year 2013 qualified for in-state tuition.

see DREAMERS on page A18

In her author’s statement for the bill, Campbell said, “Each undocumented student takes away a valuable slot at a public university that is technically reserved for a Texas citizen.”

Campbell also cited data based on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s numbers, which state that the cost for providing tuition benefits for undocumented students has grown 68 percent over the past three years.

“If this rate continues, funding for in-state tuition for undocumented students will cost Texas taxpayers \$100 million by the year 2020,” she wrote. “The recent surge of undocumented aliens coming from Central America, coupled with President Obama’s questionable executive orders (such as DACA), will likely exacerbate these costs.”

DACA or Deferred Action against Childhood Arrivals allows Dreamers, or undocumented immigrants who entered the country before they were 16, lived in the U.S for at least five years and are under 31, to be con-



MARIA ESQUINCA / THE PROSPECTOR
Counsel General of Mexico, Jacobo Prado poses in front of the Mexican Consulate in Downtown El Paso.

20

15

SPRING
COMMENCEMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2015

DON HASKINS CENTER - THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

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

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

*All Ceremonies include graduate degrees corresponding to these Colleges.

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

Office of University Relations

THE DAY OF COMMENCEMENT

1. Please check-in at Auxiliary Gym at these corresponding times.

- For 9 a.m. Ceremony: check-in is from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
- For 2 p.m. Ceremony: check-in is from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.
- For 7 p.m. Ceremony: check-in is from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

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

2. Arrive early and have your green screen Commencement portrait taken in Memorial Gym prior to the ceremony.

3. Please leave all personal items (backpacks, mobile devices, purses, coats, etc.) at home/automobile. These items (along with food, beverages 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE GRADUATES!

Purchase your GRADPACK by visiting or calling the UTEP Bookstore at 915-747-5594 to take advantage of discounted cap, gown and tassel, and alumni products, including a 1-year membership, medallion, t-shirt and coffee mug!

BY ALONSO MORENO
The Prospector

140 days. The governor can also call additional special sessions as necessary, which cannot exceed 30 days. The 84th Legislative Session is January 13 through June 1, 2015.

Here is a recap on some the most prominent bills The Prospector featured from this session:

Higher Education

1. Revoking In-state Tuition for Dreamers

In 2001, Texas was the first state to introduce a law allowing undocumented students to pay in-state tuition rates to attend public universities in the form of HB 1403. The bill

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FILE PHOTO

allowed undocumented immigrant students to pay in-state tuition rates as long as they graduated from high school or received a GED in Texas. They also must have lived in the state for three years or more and sign and affidavit affirming that they were seeking legal residency. According to data from The Center for Public Policy Priorities, about 24,770 non-citizen resident students out of 1,303,684 total students (1.9 percent of total students) benefited from HB 1403.

This year's legislative session saw the introduction of legislation to repeal the Texas Dream Act by State Rep. Jonathan Stickland, R-Bedford. Texas Lt. Gov.-elect Dan Patrick said he wants to end the act, and Governor Greg Abbott has indicated he wouldn't veto any repeal efforts.

Pertinent legislation:
HB 209 Status: filed
HB 360 Status: filed
HB 586 Status: filed
SB 1819 Status: Pending committee

2. Re-regulate Tuition Rates

Texas lawmakers have also taken on the task of tackling the increased cost of state colleges and universities. Prior to 2003, the Texas Legislature was responsible for setting tuition rates, but since opting to abdicate that power, the statewide average for tuition and fees has more than doubled. However, according to a Texas Tribune analysis, only nine of the state's 38 four-year public institutions and fees went up at a higher rate after 2003 than they did in the decade before it.

State Sen. Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, introduced a bill that would re-regulate tuition by capping increases at the rate of inflation, and State Rep. Mary Gonzalez, D-Clint, also authored a similar bill as well.

Senate Higher Education Committee Chairman Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, and Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, have both also filed legislation that would re-regulate tuition. The bill by Seliger would tie tuition increases to performance measures, and the Ellis bill would require universities to get approval from lawmakers before increasing tuition.

According to information provided by The Texas Tribune, from 1993 to 2003 UTEP saw a tuition percent increase of 179.32 percent and a 95.40 percent increase from 2003 to 2013.

Pertinent legislation:

HB 89 Status: filed
HB 233 Status: filed
HB 255 Status: filed
HB 793 Status: filed
HB 827 Status: filed

3. Immigration Issues

Sanctuary Cities

Texas legislators also focused on so-called “sanctuary cities,” which is the term for government entities that forbid local peace officers from enforcing federal immigration laws, including asking the immigration status of someone detained or arrested.

Senate Bill 185 by state Sen. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock, would cut off state funding for local governments or governmental entities that adopt policies such as the ones described above.

According to state Sen. Sylvia Garcia, D-Houston, the bill would encourage racial profiling.

"I think it puts Texas on the wrong track," Garcia said during a debate for the bill. "It will lead to racial profiling and it will give people cover."

Texas is home to 13 sanctuary cities, amongst them Austin, Dallas and Houston. El Paso is not amongst those listed in Texas.

Pertinent legislation:
SB 185 Status: filed
SB 160 Status:filed
HB 592 Status: filed
Border Security Package

Texas Legislation introduced a three-part border security package, which Gov. Greg Abbott has declared a legislative priority.

House Bill 10 by state Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, House Bill 11 by state Rep. Dennis Bonnen, R-Angleton, and House Bill 12, by state Rep. Oscar Longoria, D-Mission, were presented to House members as part of a broad border security package.

Thompson's bill would increase the penalties for human trafficking, Bonnen's bill would increase the number of Texas Department of Public Safety officers on the border, establish a catchall intelligence center in Hidalgo County to analyze border crime data and create a voluntary corps of retired DPS officers all in the span of two years.

Longoria's bill would fund the Border Prosecution Unit, a body that was established to help border prosecutors handle increased caseloads. It consists of 17 jurisdictions that include counties on the state's border with Mexico and other surrounding areas.

Gov Greg Abbott has stated in the past that the Obama administration has done a poor job of securing the border.

Pertinent legislation:
 IB 10 Status: approved by House
 IB 11 Status: approved by House
 IB 12 Status: approved by House

4. Gun Rights and Marijuana

Gun Rights

Since the start of the session, Texas legislators have taken aim at gun rights in the state and the possibility of expanding them.

Senate Bill 17 from state Sen. Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls, and House Bill 910 by Committee Chairman Larry Phillips, R-Sherman, would allow concealed handgun license owners to openly carry a handgun in public.

Since 1995, Texans have been able to carry concealed handguns if they complete a training class and obtain a license. However, the state is also one of six states that prohibit unconcealed display of handguns outside of private property.

see RECAP on page A22

UTEP team wins second place in Desal Prize competition

BY MARIA ESQUINCA
The Prospector

On Earth Day, a team of UTEP professors along with the help of students placed second in the Desal Prize, a Securing Water for Food Challenge, in which competitors had to create technologies that can be used by farmers for crops in developing countries.

The challenge was launched by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The UTEP team competed against 69 other teams and was comprised by Tom Davis, director of the Center for Inland Desalination, Melynda Cappelle, associate director of CID, and Shane Walker, associate professor of engineering. Their second-place win secured them \$60,000 and the ability to receive \$400,000 in grant funds to implement their pilot projects in rural farms in a USAID mission region.

“We finished behind MIT, which is pretty good in my book,” Cappelle said.

Finalists had to fulfill several criterion, including technologies that had to be powered solely by renewable energy, high-system water recovery, minimization of environmental effects, cost efficiency and durability among others.

“The idea is to incentivize research and innovation, so these technologies will be implemented,” Cappelle said. “This is all about economic development in the larger sense.”

According to the Securing Water For Food website, often groundwater is brackish, water that is saltier than



RUBY CERINO / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP professors and students placed second place in the Desal Prize, a Securing Water for Food Challenge.

freshwater but not as salty as saltwater and not suitable for consumption leading to low crop yields and salinization of the soil.

Projections estimate that by 2025, two thirds of the population could be living in severe water shortage conditions.

“The purpose of this was to take groundwater that is unsuitable for irrigation and treat it to make it more suitable, and different research groups had different ideas about how they were going to do this,” Davis said.

The technology used by the UTEP team is called Zero Discharge Desalination, and was created by Davis when he worked in the University of Southern California alongside Sandia

National Laboratories and the Federal Bureau of Reclamation, but was improved upon when he arrived at UTEP.

“We’ve scaled it up, made it more efficient and we understand it a lot better than we did when I was at South Carolina,” Davis said.

The water treated by the team had high concentrations of calcium sulfate, also known as gypsum, the same mineral that composes the white sands of White Sands National Monument.

“Because there’s so much gypsum in the soil, rain percolating through the soil will dissolve the gypsum and produce ground water that is nearly saturated in gypsum, Davis said.

Usually brackish water is treated by a process called reverse osmosis, but because of the high calcium sulfate concentrations found in the water, this process only yields 70 to 75 percent of desalinated water.

“We combine two membrane processes to produce three things—drinkable water, agriculture water and waste drain bloated with gypsum,” Cappelle said.

The two membranes are called Dow NF90 membranes and Dow NF270 membranes, and after those processes, the water is fed into an electrodialysis metathesis system.

“The calcium ions from the gypsum associate with chloride ions from the sodium chloride and the sodium ions

associate with the sulfate from the gypsum,” Davis said. “By separating the calcium and the sulfate, we can produce very soluble salts.”

After the process, the gypsum taken out of the ground water forms a solid material that can be used for other things such as building materials or augmentation of the soil.

According to Davis, with reverse osmosis and EDM, the team was able to get a 98 percent fresh water recovery because they can take gypsum out as a solid material.

“This is different from most other techniques dealing with a gypsum-rich groundwater,” he said. “Our ability to make a solid material and have a solid byproduct rather than having a large volume of concentrated solution makes our process very attractive for better utilization of the ground water.”

UTEP students helped with the construction of the solar panels needed to build the system, which had to be completely powered by renewable energy.

Gustavo Puiatti, senior environmental engineering major and exchange student from the Brazilian Mobility Scientific program, was one of the students that helped.

He worked with water treatment technologies back in Brazil and would like to do so in the future.

“We can use the new technologies to give good water quality to the population,” Puiatti said.

Maria Esquinca may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.



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MAY 5, 2015

OUR VIEW

PHOTO EDITOR
MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7477

Community reacts to anti-immigration bills



More than 300 El Pasoans marched on April 30 through downtown to protest anti-immigration bills.

MICHAELA ROMAN/ THE PROSPECTOR

DREAMERS from page 15

sidered a low-priority deportee, and allows them benefits such as getting a social security card, a drivers license and work authorization.

“What we have been doing is to tell these kids to take advantage if you are really able to obtain DACA. It is not a regulation program, but it solves the problem temporarily,” Prado said. “We are working with lawyers, with organizations, with the community so they can do something. It is not

the best scenario, but it is what can be done.”

According to UTEP officials, there are about 130 Dreamers enrolled in the university.

“We are closely following the discussion regarding DREAM Act (DACA) students in Texas and will wait to see how it will affect the 130 students to which it applies,” UTEP President Diana Natalacio said in an e-mail. “We are committed to providing access and excellence to all students with the talent and motivation

to pursue their educational goals, regardless of their background.”

According to the Immigration Policy Center as of 2014, 673,417 young people have applied to the program and 553,197 have been approved.

“I myself am a DACA student and I graduated high school magna cum laude and had over \$200,000 in scholarships, which I couldn’t receive due to my immigration status,” Loli said. “UTEP was one of the few schools who took me in and allowed me to continue my education by allowing

me to pay in-state tuition. Making me pay out-of-state tuition now is inhumane.”

Critics of SB 1819 add that it does not make economic sense.

“They’re paying tuition...and they are spending their money here. They contribute to the local economy,” Prado said.

The UnDACamented Research Project by the Immigration Policy Center, surveyed 2,684 DACA-eligible adults and found that 60 percent of DACA beneficiaries had obtained

a new job since receiving DACA, and 45 percent had increased their earnings. Due to the wage increase, it allowed for a wider tax base and an increase to the economy.

“As immigrants, we contribute to the economy, we contribute to the schools, we contribute to our community,” Loli said.

Maria Esquina may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

INBRIEF

“THE FUTURE IS HERE”

From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on May 7, an opening reception will be held for “The Future Is Here,” a senior graphic design portfolio exhibition will be held for the Spring 2015 semester. Exhibition Dates will be from May 7 to May 18.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

UTEP will celebrate National Nurses Week at 8 a.m. at City Hall, May 5 at 300 N. Campbell with a proclamation where the El Paso City Council will proclaim the week of May 6-12 as National Nurses Week.

“AMERICAN SNIPER”

At 6 p.m. on Wednesday May 6, Military Appreciation Week 2015 Discussion Panel and Film Presentation of “American Sniper” will be shown at the Union Cinema. A discussion panel will be held before the movie and the film will start at 7:15 p.m.

STUDENT ART EXHIBITION

The Annual Juried UTEP Student Art Exhibition Opening Reception will take place from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on May 8 at the Rubin Center. The exhibit runs until Saturday July 18.

Join UTEP’s Alumni Association (whether you want to or not)

BY BEN WOOLRIDGE
The Prospector



As a senior at UTEP who is graduating this spring, I began to make preparations earlier this month to take part in the May 16 commencement ceremony. My first step was to attend the graduation clearance workshop, where I was informed that I was indeed cleared to graduate (cum laude to boot) and I was encouraged to join UTEP’s Alumni Association. According to the person conducting the workshop, UTEP graduates

in the past have not been particularly interested in joining the association. She mentioned all the benefits such as networking with those in the know about possible job opportunities and looking cool at tailgate parties (whoop dee doo). I appreciated the offer, but my four years at UTEP has been marked by one expense after another and I still needed to pay the graduation fee, in addition to buying a cap and gown. No matter the major, every student learns that UTEP is a business first and then a university—beginning with tuition costs, buying books, obtaining parking permits and other various student fees that allow access to facilities and services that a student

may or may not have time to take advantage of. There is also food and beverage stands scattered around campus, coupled with vending machines that give UTEP a more corporate feel—especially amidst the ongoing construction. But that’s life on most college campuses in America. So I went to the UTEP Bookstore ready to purchase a cap, gown and tassel, when I was offered a package deal by a very helpful clerk. Believing that she was simply providing me with an option, I told her I only wanted to buy the cap, gown and tassel.

She informed me that there was only the package, which includes a cap, gown and tassel, shirt, coffee mug, medallion, and (wait for it) a one-year membership to UTEP’s Alumni Association. At that moment, I wondered how many other graduating students were duped into involuntarily joining the association. I wanted to tell her that the bookstore should be declared a crime scene because of all the robberies that take place there on a daily basis, but the cashier was nice. It was a pleasant shakedown. I left the bookstore with my new purchases in hand, while reflecting on my academic journey at UTEP

that will be coming to an end next month. And I arrived at the only conclusion that could put all the money spent, the time invested, the incredible high of studying abroad, the unexpected lows of life-changing events in its proper perspective—because it was all worth it. I would like to thank the staff at The Prospector, and give a special thanks to Lorain Ambrocio and Kathleen Flores for allowing me the opportunity to share my voice.

Ben Woolridge may NOT be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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Hard-working seniors are recognized with prestigious award



Top Ten Seniors, top (left): Mayela Aldaz, Jeremiah Alexander Balcazar, Karla Becerra, Joselyn Cardenas Anaya and Lisa Haisan. Bottom (left): Steven Taylor Harmon, Beatriz Madrigal Sanchez, Andre Perez-Orozco, Claudia Preza and Esteban Quintanilla.

BY JOSE SOTO
The Prospector

As a child, senior mechanical engineering major Joselyn Cardenas would look up at planes as they flew by and knew one day she wanted to help design them. She is now one step closer to fulfilling her childhood dream.

Not only is Cardenas about to graduate, but she is also among the top graduating seniors, who received the Top Ten Seniors Award at Honors Convocation on April 24.

The Top Ten Seniors Awards are presented annually by the UTEP Alumni Association. The association reviews submissions made by graduating or recently graduated seniors, then chooses its top 10 picks. The Alumni Association has been honoring seniors with this award since 1993.

Cardenas, along with nine other UTEP students, was awarded based on their drive, community service and hard work.

“I’m a first-generation college graduate,” Cardenas said. “This is a big deal for me and my family. I feel very honored.”

To receive the award, seniors need to have a minimum cumulative 3.25 GPA, provide three recommendation letters from faculty, staff or advisers and show sustained involvement on campus and in the community.

Cardenas is part of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, among other UTEP organizations. She is also the recipient of 15 different scholarships.

Sonia Villa, associate director of Alumni Programs and Services, said the award is one that many students set out to obtain.

“Students that strive to achieve a high grade-point average and are involved in both campus life and their community see it as the ultimate goal,” Villa said. “They want to be acknowledged for their achievements.”

Villa said students should start aiming for the award as soon as they enter college.

“Students should strive for excellent grades and become involved to the extent possible as soon as they start attending UTEP,” Villa said. “By the time they are seniors, their college experience will be reflected in their application. The recognition this award bestows on the recipients is very rewarding and distinguishes them as the top students in their class.”

Mayela Aldaz, senior metallurgical and materials engineering major, is also one of the 10 seniors who were awarded. She said the key to receiving

the award is to always “have a sense of purpose.”

“It isn’t entirely about your grade point average and grades,” Aldaz said. “You need to value and appreciate what you are studying in order to give it purpose.”

Aldaz said that her community and family have also been a driving force behind her motivation to stay focused on her studies.

Both Cardenas and Aldaz are among four engineering majors who received the award. All four are female students.

Alex Balcazar, senior sociology major and health promotions minor, is another top 10 senior. Balcazar said the key for him was “finding something special about what you do.”

“It isn’t always about grades,” Balcazar said. “There is more to college than that. Find something special about what you are doing so that it matters

to you. You’ll be driven to do your best if you do so.”

Balcazar is part of the percussion ensemble at UTEP and a Junior Youth Empowerment group. He plans to continue his education at the University of Texas at Houston for a master’s degree in public health.

Balcazar encourages other UTEP students to always “strive for excellence.”

“Stay focused on your goals and you’ll achieve good things, such as this award,” Balcazar said.

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

COLLEGE GRADUATING CEREMONIES

The University of Texas at El Paso will be hosting various graduating ceremonies starting next week. Different colleges have different ceremonies.

The Hooding and certificate ceremony for Ph.D graduates and masters students of the College of Business Administration will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 14 at the Plaza Theatre in Downtown El Paso.

The College ceremony for the College of Education will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 15 at Magoffin Auditorium.

The Order of the Engineer ceremony for the College of Engineering will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 16 at Magoffin Auditorium.

The Graduation celebration and hooding ceremony for the College of Health Sciences will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 7 at Magoffin Auditorium.

Award and Hooding Ceremony for the College of Liberal Arts will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 14 at Magoffin Auditorium.

Military Science Commissioning Ceremony will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 15 at the Union Cinema Union Building East.

The School of Nursing Graduate Recognition Ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 15 at the El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center.

The Undergraduate Pinning Ceremony for the School of Nursing will begin at 6:00 p.m. on May 13 at the Magoffin Auditorium.

The College of Science Ceremony will be on Tuesday, May 12. The ceremony will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Magoffin Auditorium.

The UTEP Graduating Ring Ceremony will be on Thursday, May 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center. This ceremony is open to those who have purchased UTEP rings.

The UTEP Graduation Mass will be on Saturday, May 9 at 5:00 p.m. at the Holy Family Catholic Church located at 104 Fewel Street. Contact the Catholic Campus Ministry at 838-0300.

The pursuit of graduate school is for the motivated

BY LORAIN AMBROCIO
The Prospector

Many students already know where they will pursue graduate school, as acceptance letters rolled in during the semester.

But for those still contemplating whether they should go to graduate school, the age-old question is sure to be asked after the graduation celebrations have ceased – is it worth it?

As of April 2, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the unemployment rate for someone with a master's degree was 2.8 percent, whereas someone with some college and no degree was 6 percent and those with an associate's degree was 4.5 percent.

However, the type of degree a graduate student pursues depends on whether they will find employment after completing the program based on the demand for the field.

Over the next 10 years, BLS predicted that physical therapy assistants, audiologists, nurse practitioners, civil engineers and event planners would be the occupations in high demand, among others.

But for some occupations, the median earnings are only slightly different between having a bachelor's degree and a graduate degree, according to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

For example, someone who has a bachelor's degree in biology or life science can expect to make \$50,000 per year. Should that individual pursue a graduate degree, their median

Employment and earnings by degree level		
Degree	Unemployment rate in 2014 (%)	Median weekly earnings in 2014 (\$)
Doctoral	2.1	1,591
Professional	1.90	1,639
Master's	2.80	1,326
Bachelor's	3.5	1,101
Associate's	4.5	792
Some college, no degree	6	741
High school diploma	6	668
Less than a high school diploma	9	488

GRAPHIC BY LORAIN AMBROCIO / THE PROSPECTOR

earnings almost double, reaching \$85,000 per year.

The opposite is true for humanities or liberal arts majors, where their median earnings for a bachelor's degree is \$47,000 annually, as opposed to \$65,000 per year for a graduate degree.

"It's obvious in many professions, an increasingly advanced degree is required. More and more employers are looking for a master's degree to find employment," said Dr. Charles Ambler, dean of UTEP's graduate school.

Ambler said that there is a substantial gap that occurs between a bachelor's and master's degree.

"There's an economic logic to it, a professional logic to it, because it puts you in a position to be considered for a much wider range of job," he said. "There's a clear relationship between the training and the kind of education you receive."

UTEP's graduate school program currently has 20 doctoral programs and more than 80 master's and certificate programs.

If a student pursues a research degree, the program will usually pay the student to complete it, such as with biology, psychology or chemistry majors. The student is given a stipend, which helps pay for school and other expenses, along with being given a paid research assistant position.

For professional degrees, sometimes employers will pay for the student's tuition. Scholarships are also available, depending on the degree and the student, along with the option to borrow money.

"As long as you stretch out the borrowing, and don't borrow too much, it just makes sense to do," Ambler said. "If you are a master's student, and don't have that support available, it is easy to borrow money."

Adelmar Ramirez, who will receive his master in fine arts degree in creative writing this spring, said that graduate school was different from undergraduate school and provides a lot of background and knowledge for doing more of what he wanted to do.

"The last year of graduate school was kind of on my own—reading books and applying them to my thesis. It wasn't someone teaching me stuff. It was getting information on my own," Ramirez said.

Ramirez was in the MFA program for three years, and the program provided him with a job for each year – whether being a teaching assistant, an editor for a journal at UTEP or teaching classes.

These jobs helped him pay for school, where he only had to pay \$2,000 per semester. He was also awarded scholarships and grants to help pay for tuition.

Because of these experiences, he can now apply at the El Paso Community College to start teaching classes.

"When you go to graduate school, you can apply for financial aid," Ramirez said. "The great thing with graduate school is that you enter it with a steady job. So I used that money to pay for school and had extra left over. I really didn't have anything else to pay afterward. It is kind of expensive, but it is still worth it."

Ramirez wants to pursue a doctoral degree, but will wait another year before starting school again.

"I think I've had enough school for a while since I've been going to school back to back. I'm not in a hurry and I

will wait the year to see my options," he said.

However, deciding to attend graduate school for the possible \$20,000 extra in median earnings may not be advisable.

Out of the \$1 trillion in outstanding student loan debt for the U.S., 40 percent of that was from students pursuing a graduate or professional degree, according to the New American Foundation.

"You shouldn't do a graduate degree if the only reason you're doing it is to get more money," Ambler said. "It requires engagement and commitment to be successful. You have to be passionate, especially to get at the Ph.D. level."

Ambler said that going to graduate school is more about personal satisfaction.

"Graduate school is not just more years of college. It's about further researching what you love, to change people's lives and bodies of knowledge," he said.

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

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RECAP from page A16

Senate Bill 11 from state Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury, and House Bill 937 by state Rep. Allen Fletcher, R-Cypress, would allow students to carry concealed handguns on a college campuses.

Both Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp and University of Texas System Chancellor William McRaven sent letters to be read during the hearings for “campus carry.”

McRaven is opposed to the idea of having guns on university campuses and stated that doing so would create less safe environments.

In contrast, Sharp stated that he felt that he could trust “his students, faculty and staff to work and live responsibly under the same laws at the university as they do at home.”

Gov. Abbott stated in the past that he would support any form of legislation aimed at expanding gun rights in the state.

“I will sign whatever legislation reaches my desk that expands Second Amendment rights in Texas,” Abbott said during capitol hearings.

Pertinent Legislation
SB 11 Status: approved by Senate
HB 937 Status: filed
SB 17 Status: approved by Senate
HB 910 Status: approved by House

5. Decriminalizing marijuana possession

Texas lawmakers have also looked at marijuana during this legislative session, as five bills have been brought forward to the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence in efforts to decriminalize the use of the substance in the state.

House Bill 507 from state Rep. Joseph Moody, D-El Paso, would reduce penalties for possession of less than one ounce to a \$100 fine and no jail time.

House Bill 325 from state Rep. Gene Wu, D-Houston, seeks to reduce possession of 0.35 ounces of marijuana to a Class C misdemeanor. Currently



Protesters march through the streets of Downtown El Paso in opposition of anti-immigration bills on April 30.

MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

it’s a Class B misdemeanor. House Bill 414, from state Rep. Ron Reynolds, D-Missouri City, also seeks to lower the charges on marijuana possession.

House Bill 3326 from state Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, would decrease the punishment for certain misdemeanors and felony offenses involving drug possession, and House Bill 2165 from Rep. David Simpson (R-Longview), would repeal current provisions to end state-level prohibition on marijuana.

All bills have been left pending in committee.
HB 325 Status: filed
HB 414 Status: filed
HB507 Status: filed
HB 2165 Status: filed
HB 3326 Status: filed

6. Tuition Revenue Bonds

Tuition revenue bonds are how the state funds campus construction

projects at public universities, every other session. The last time this was done was in 2006.

In the last legislative session in 2013, a plan to provide more than \$2.7 billion to support about 60 campus construction projects around the state failed to gain final approval before the legislative session ended. Because of the lack of funding, many universities, including UTEP, have had to delay construction projects.

Senate bills related to this by senators Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, and Kirk Watson, D-Austin are all in the higher education committee.

Pertinent Legislation
SB 21 Status: filed
SB 150 Status: filed
SB 245 Status: filed

7. Anti-Gay Rights Legislation

In this legislative session, more than 20 anti-LGBTQ bills were intro-

duced, a 30 percent increase from the previous legislative session. Among them are HB 1747 and 1748, both authored by state Rep. Debbie Riddle R-Tomball. HB 1747 would prosecute transgender individuals for using a public restroom that is appropriate for their gender identity, but that does not coincide with the gender on their driver’s license. HB 1748 is similar, but it would prosecute a transgender person for using a public locker room, shower facility or toilet facility, appropriate to their gender identity, but not to the individual’s chromosomes. While HB 2801, authored by state Rep. Peña R-Pasadena, would fine school districts up to \$2,000 for allowing students to use a bathroom or other public facilities that do not coincide with their sex chromosome.

A number of cities, such as El Paso, Houston and San Antonio, have passed nondiscrimination ordinances that offer some protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Legislation by state Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels, and state Rep. Jason Villalba, R-Dallas, seeks to protect the religious liberty of small

businesses. Critics say their proposed constitutional amendments, SJR 10 and HJR 55, would limit the ability of cities to enforce nondiscrimination ordinances.

Meanwhile, several Democratic lawmakers have filed legislation to recognize same-sex marriage in the state, such as SJR 13 and HJR 34. These Democrats are also pushing for legislation to allow both same-sex parents to be included on a child’s birth certificate, as well as to repeal the state law that states homosexual conduct is an offense.

Pertinent legislation

HB 70 Status: filed
HB 130 Status: filed
HB 304 Status: filed
HB 453 Status: filed:
HB 537 Status: filed
HB 547 Status: filed
HB 553 Status: filed
HB 582 Status: filed
HB 627 Status: filed
HJR 34 Status: filed
HJR 55 Status: filed
SB 98 Status: filed
SB 148 Status: filed
SB 250 Status: filed
SB 343 Status: filed
SJR 10 Status: filed
SJR 13 Status: filed

For more information on these and all bills filed during the 84th Texas Legislature, please visit: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>

Alonso Moreno may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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ILLUSTRATION BY JACOBO DE LA ROSA / THE PROSPECTOR

Paying off loans troublesome for many, national student loan debt reaches \$1.1 trillion

BY AMANDA GUILLEN
The Prospector

According to a Pew Research Center Report conducted in 2014, about four-in-10 U.S. household owners who are younger than 40 currently have some student debt.

This is the highest share on record, some UTEP alums say that loan debt is something that can make graduation seem less of a joyous time and more of a daunting one.

Sergio Padilla graduated from UTEP with a degree in mathematics in 2011, four years later, he is still struggling to pay off his loan debt.

“My debt level was near the average for that time, and my monthly payments have been over \$300 a month, which is on the level of a car payment. I was lucky, however, to be able to find a job in my field before the six-month grace period ended, but I very nearly didn’t,” Padilla said.

The median outstanding student debt load stands at about \$13,000.

Some students may see the grace period as a clock ticking down the time to find a job, but an article for U.S. News and World Report says that grace periods are meant to help more than hurt. The report, titled “6 Little-known Facts About Student Loan Grace Periods,” says that “... grace periods are a tool meant to help student loan borrowers start off on the right foot. Their intent is to give borrowers some time to find a job and get themselves financially established before their student loan payments come due.”

Regardless of the time, Padilla had to find a job and he said that keeping up with the payments and other expenses has not been easy.

“Even with a job, it hasn’t been easy to make these payments. Factoring in housing, transportation, taxes and the myriad other expenses post-college adult life requires, having that loan payment can make things financially tighter. I don’t have children yet—and I can’t imagine having any until my student loans become more manageable. In order to give myself some more wiggle room in creating a life like my parents did after graduating from college, I have had to request lower payments, which amounts to basically paying the interest alone.”

A 2014 Survey of Consumer Finances finds that households lead by a young, college-educated adult without student debt has about seven times the typical net worth at \$64,700 than households lead by a young, college-educated adult with student loan debt, who had a net worth of \$8,700.

The study also finds that those students with no student debt have accumulated nine times as much wealth as those with debt—the numbers being \$10,900 in wealth for the students with no debt and \$1,200 for those with debt.

These numbers are significantly dramatic despite the fact that debtors and non-debtors have nearly identical household incomes.

The total balance of student-loan debt has reached a record high of \$1.1 trillion as of 2015.

President Barak Obama’s push for financial aid overhaul in Congress ultimately led to a government-subsidized private sector loan program being entirely shut down.

Once changes to the income-based repayments were made under the Affordable Care Act, borrowers had to pay only 10 percent of their income per month, with the forgiveness timeline lowered to 20 years. With legislation now in effect, students can borrow directly from the federal government and be eligible for the favored repayment terms.

Now in his fourth year of loan payments approaching the half way mark, Padilla advises all graduating seniors to look into programs that will help them pay off their student loans.

“My advice would be to start looking into legitimate programs that may help you reduce your debt. As a teacher, I can apply for the TEACH Grant, which will reduce my debt by nearly two thirds after working in a low-income school for five years,” Padilla said. “Different professions may have different programs. Also only reduce payments if you truly need to—or you will be treading water paying mostly interest without making a dent in your loan. Start paying it back as soon as you can.”

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



HUGO BRITO/ THE PROSPECTOR

About four-in-10 U.S. household owners who are younger than 40 years old currently have some student debt, according to a Pew Research Center Report conducted in 2014.

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MAY 5, 2015

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
KIMBERLY VALLE, 747-7477

BY FERNANDA LEON

The Prospector

Since the semester began, Deven James McCoy, senior studio art major, has dedicated his time preparing artwork for his exhibition.

His project proposal was accepted at the Campus Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives (COURI), a program that seeks to advance research participation among undergraduate students.

“My exhibition is entitled ‘Beyond Common’ and basically features work that I have created for research purposes over the course of the last two semesters,” McCoy said.

McCoy’s research is divided into two parts. One part focuses on the illustration of a character named Common Man, who represents the mundane social standard of what is an American citizen. The second part is the representation of McCoy’s ideas about the world of illustration.

“I’ve come across tons of people in the art community who kind of look down on illustration as an inferior practice,” McCoy said. “In my opinion, I believe that mentality is due to the commercial properties typically associated with creating and replicating illustrative work.”

McCoy found out about the opportunity to apply for his research program with the help of Kim Bauer, associate professor of art and McCoy’s mentor.

“Deven had been a teaching assistant of mine for a year and I respect his artwork, commitment to quality, along with his writing and research skills,” Bauer said.

McCoy said this semester meant a lot of work for him where he gained knowledge. He said art is not only something that a person can create, but also something the artist needs to learn how to communicate and convey.

I honestly could not have asked for a better mentor...Mr. Bauer an excellent resource both technically and conceptually.

- Deven James McCoy
senior
studio art major

“I feel like anyone can learn how to draw or paint well, but being able to come up with conceptions is something else entirely. It’s actually not a skill many artists own,” McCoy said. “I have always been pretty good about talking about my art and coming up with ideas, but now I’ve been able to develop those skills even further to work hand in hand with my technical ability.”

Professor Bauer became a support system during McCoy’s research project.

“I honestly could not have asked for a better mentor. Not only was Mr. Bauer an excellent resource both technically and conceptually, but he also kept my head on my shoulders when I felt like it was going to fall off,” McCoy said.



Senior studio art major, Deven McCoy, stands in front of his art work at the Fox Fine Arts Center.

ANDRES MARTINEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

Bauer also helped McCoy work with different methods and new technologies combined them with already existing art-making methods.

Among the methods that McCoy used to create his artwork is the use of 3D printers and CNC routers, which are computer-controlled cutting machines he used to create his relief prints.

“Relief prints have been around for centuries, but definitely not with these recent technological advancements,” McCoy said. “Working with these methods and technologies that very few, if any, artists are currently taking advantage of was pretty exciting.”

Professor Bauer also found the research project to be a challenge since this represented the use of skills that were out of his comfort zone.

“This grant demanded that I explore and investigate possibilities that will undoubtedly have an impact on my future teaching and personal artistic inquiries,” Bauer said.

For both McCoy and Bauer, doing a research project represented an opportunity to create support and attention to the art field. Both worked in the areas of knowledge, ability and craft and creativity in order to achieve the research goal.

“As artists, our research is based on all three of these areas in obviously different percentages for each endeavor,” Bauer said. “Continued artistic research is critical, as it develops ideas and questions for future investigation, eliminates stagnation and produces results.”

McCoy will be graduating this spring. His plans are to continue doing art and partake in as many opportunities that he can.

“Attending graduate school is an obvious choice, but it’s definitely not the only one,” McCoy said.

Fernanda Leon may be reached at theprospectordaily. ent@gmail.com.



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

An exhibit featuring the design work of graduating graphic design seniors will open May 7 at the Glass Gallery at the Fox Fine Arts Center. An opening reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. May 7 at the gallery.

MAY 5, 2015

OUR VIEW

PHOTO EDITOR
MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7477

Best entertainment moments during spring 2015



1. The UTEP Dinner Theater presented “Mary Poppins: The Musical.” 2. Cirque du Soleil’s “Varekai” came to the Don Haskins Center. 3. Enrique Iglesias and Pitbull brought their “Sex and Love” tour to the Don Haskins Center.



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UTEP students speak to high schoolers about the importance of education

JULIA HETTIGER
The Prospector

Student members of the many organizations at UTEP have been talking to high school students about the importance of college with the goal of motivating students to apply at places of higher education.

These organizations inform students about financial aid, scholarships, getting involved on campus, helping alleviate any fears and answer any questions they may have.

Vanessa Soto, senior biological sciences major and member of Peer-Lead Team Learning, said she has done advanced tutoring and spoken at high schools to help encourage students to attend college and be active on campus.

“In high schools there is definitely pressure on students who maintain grades above a B to attend college,” Soto said. “Scholarship opportunities and college applications are shoved down the throats of these students, but they aren’t really informed well on why they should care this much about attending college.”

Soto also makes it a goal to speak to struggling high school students because she said those students tend to be neglected the most.

Although Soto advocates the importance of students attending college, she also makes it a point to explain that higher education is a huge commitment.

“This first-hand advice could really lead the right students on the right path,” Soto said.

Soto said speaking to students has helped her evolve as a student be-

cause it has changed her point of view on college altogether.

“I think when you enter college, you definitely have a selfish point of view on life,” Soto said. “You strive to move forward regardless of how it affects others.”

By speaking to high school students, she said she has realized that it is okay to ask for help, and she wants to share this message with high school students.

“You yourself may need help every now and then, but can’t find anyone to help you out,” Soto said. “Giving this opportunity to students that I did not have, I feel has changed my view on how to become successful in life in some ways.”

Being a part of an organization has also given Soto the opportunity to speak to students and she said it is a very rewarding experience that has allowed her to make many friends.

Kimberly Vela, senior clinical laboratory science major, spoke to students with her department’s Early College High School Success Center. Vela said college students speaking to high schoolers about the importance of attending college has a great impact on the perspective of high school students.

“First, it allows them to see that college is an attainable goal regardless of socioeconomic background,” Vela said. “Especially in the El Paso region, where students may limit their options because they may not have all the means to finance a college education.”

Vela said high school students who see other students with similar backgrounds being going to college is a big motivator. It also gives students

an idea of what career paths they can follow.

“Personally, I didn’t even know about my major before a UTEP student at a job fair informed me about it,” Vela said. “It was because of this experience, which he made seem like a great one, that I decided to look into it.”

She said talking to high school students will hopefully motivate students to go to college.

“I hope that we have promoted students to ask themselves questions about the possibility of them attending college and what they can get out of it,” Vela said.

Esperanza Candelaria, staff member of the World Leaders’ Council at UTEP, said speaking to high school students was impactful on students pursuing their college education.

“I spoke to students at a school I previously attended in a low-income area,” Candelaria said. “It was mostly teaching students that I did it and they can too.”

Candelaria said that the goal of speaking to the students was to encourage them to attend college even if they think they cannot afford it because it is possible to still do so.

“We asked how many were attending college, and they raised their hands, and we wanted them to continue knowing that they can,” Candelaria said.

Julia Hettiger may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

Rumgay said the Gilman Scholarship and being able to study abroad will help her in a number of ways.

“Studying in Turkey will ease my fear so that I can pursue graduate school and a career in humanitar-

ian development without any hesitation,” Rumgay said. “Students who are willing to put in the time and effort, certainly have the support and resources on campus to make studying abroad with the Gilman Scholarship a reality.”

This year’s awardees were April Rumgay, who received \$8,000 to study in Turkey, Stephanie Arzate, sophomore mechanical engineering

major who was awarded \$4,000 to study in Italy, and Lorna Bustillos, who received \$3,000 to study in Peru.

The scholarship was awarded for the upcoming summer.

Julia Hettiger may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

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Student entrepreneur builds recipe for success

BY VALERIE HERRERA
The Prospector

Eddie Flores, 28, stared out across the piles of debris and dust with his hands in his pockets as he watched a portion of reconditioned shipping containers neatly stacked on top of each other transform into the Modern Hookah, located by the TI:ME center at the Montecillo shopping center in West El Paso.

With a sense of purpose, a plan of action and the help of family, friends

and business partners, Flores, junior business management major and owner of Modern Hookah and Common Ground, decided to launch his first business in 2011 when he was 24-years-old.

“I’ve always wanted to own one and owning two businesses is a huge blessing, but also a lot of work,” Flores said.

In 2011, Flores opened up his first business, Modern Hookah, as a catering service located inside The Garden restaurant at the Union Plaza. Since



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then, he gradually expanded into other local clubs and bars within the community.

“We consistently gained popularity, and when the opportunity came for us to open at TI:ME, we felt it was the best opportunity for us to branch out on our own,” Flores said.

Flores held the grand opening of Modern Hookah inside TI:ME in 2014. The same year he decided to open the doors to a second business,

Common ground, a quaint craft beer and wine bar located in East El Paso.

“Common Ground was an idea my business partner and I had been working on for months,” Flores said. “It was risky deciding to open both business within the same year, but is a decision I don’t regret.”

Flores dreamed of starting his own business, but did not wait until he graduated to become an entrepreneur. He was motivated to launch his own hookah business while still enrolled as a student in the undergraduate business program.

“Having a full-time job and co-owning both locations is hard, but I have great business partners and staff that make my life so much easier,” Flores said. “They help me keep my drive to keep improving.”

Flores said going back to school can offer valuable business insight. “I regret not finishing school first, but I know if I can achieve the success I hope for, then I will be able to finish school with a totally new perspective.”

Aside from obtaining his degree in business, Flores also hopes to seek another degree in web design.

Flores plans to expand Modern Hookah by adding an outdoor patio to the space and launching a clothing line with the brand. He would like to add a food menu to Common Ground and participate in local beer and wine festivals.

With aspirations to stay and expand as much as he can in the community, Flores also hopes to meet with the growing trend of owning a food truck.

“I am extremely happy to have made the decisions I made and wouldn’t change it for the world,” Flores said. “By the end of the day, if you are determined and passionate about something, then you will surely make it.”

Valerie Herrera may be reached at theprospectordaily. ent@gmail.com.

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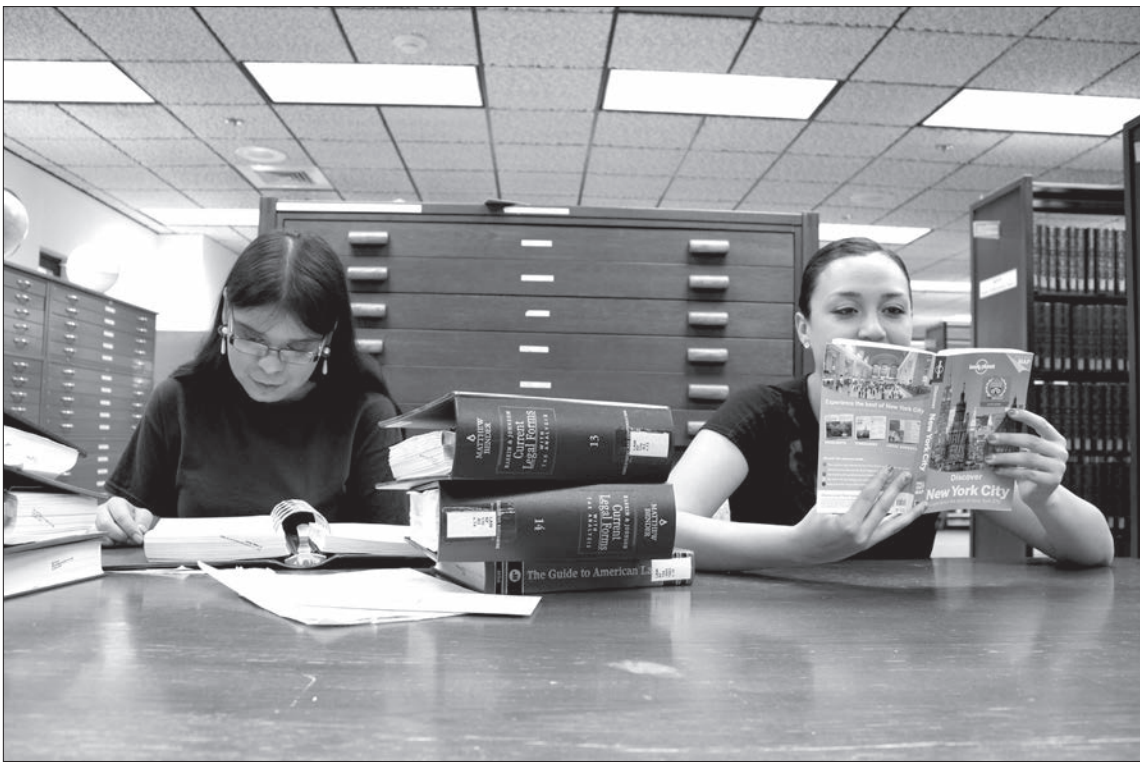
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THE PROSPECTOR

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/UTEPProspector

Learning never stops, even after graduation



ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Gloria Almaguer, senior education major, studies while Bianca Martinez, junior media advertising major, looks over a travel book at the library.

BY FERNANDA LEON

The Prospector

Graduation day is approaching and many students have been looking forward to this day, the start of their professional life, continuing on to graduate school, or a long vacation after all the years of studying.

Arely Camacho, senior media advertising major, is graduating this semester after being in college for more than four years. Her plans are to take a long vacation during the summer and get to know many different places in the world.

"I plan to travel out of the country for about a month and maybe do an au pair for three or four months," Camacho said.

She's planning to do two stops: first in Mexico and then a summer in Europe.

Camacho will first be in Mexico City, where she will attend a marketing conference. She plans to stay for a week and later move on to Morelia, to visit a friend.

In Europe, she plans on visiting the Netherlands, Belgium, Hungary, and attend a festival for a week.

"I have a friend who studied abroad in Amsterdam and she is going back, so I'm planning to join her on her trip," Camacho said. "I have never been to that part of Europe and I'm really curious about their culture."

"If I get to do an au pair with a family, I expect to learn their lifestyle and make it part of mine," Camacho said. "I like traveling with purpose, like volunteering or working for bed and food. You learn so much by helping the community you are visiting."

For Camacho, traveling is an important part of her life because she believes that travel helps you discover yourself and gives you the chance to meet people from other parts of the world. She also said traveling teaches her to manage her money and it is an activity with which she can get inspiration.

"I love graphic design and I think is really important for anyone in the arts field to travel, there is so much inspiration out there," Camacho said, who also has a minor in graphic design.

For her future plans after graduation and traveling, Camacho is planning to move to Austin with her sister and find a graphic design job and later become an art director at an agency.

"I would also try to become a freelancer. I'm passionate about traveling and I want to make it part of my life, and being a graphic designer gives you the freedom of being wherever you want," Camacho said. "I'm also planning to get a certification for teaching English to non-native speakers, which would also open me many doors in other countries."

On the other hand, many students decide to go to graduate school right after they graduate in order to fulfill their professional goals.

Harry Sanchez, senior art major, is one of many students who will start graduate school right away.

"I was out of school for many years, did not practice art and feel that I am still far behind many of my peers as well as other artists that are at my level of just entering the art world, and there is much more knowledge I have to gain as an artist in many areas," Sanchez said.

“_____”

Seeing the way other people live can always keep you grounded and remind you to stay humble.

— ”
- **Harry Sanchez**
senior
art major

Sanchez is planning to earn his master's degree at the University of Cincinnati School of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sanchez was accepted into the painting and drawing program of the graduate school, but as a student, he is not expected to only focus on those areas.

"Once we are there, we are allowed to and encouraged to make use of all the facilities in all the different studios," Sanchez said. "I can see my work being painting, but I will dip into many different ways of creating art."

said. "That is something I feel will always help when being a professional in any line of work."

"A gallery of a cupcake shop would be pretty funny but not out of the question," Sanchez said.

Sanchez said it is important to start graduate school right away because if he waited it would be harder for him to go back to school.

“One study pretty much said that once Hispanics leave school twice, they do not come back,” Sanchez said. “I am trying to be the exception and show others that you can overcome

life's adversity and finish school at any

time in your life. It is never too late

to finish school, no matter how many

times you need to go back.”

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"To those of you who received honors, awards and distinctions, I say well done. And to the C students, I say you too may one day be president of the United States."

-George W. Bush

Thank you to my family and those who supported me through out my career. Finished with school for now and now the real world comes. BALTAA.H.

Thank you to all my family, friends, and boyfriend who supported me to get through school. I did it! Corina g. ♥

Thank God for allowing me to complete this particular journey. Thank you to my mother, husband & children for their continued support. I did it! Amen! Angie O.

Thank you everyone that supported our dreams Samantha & David thank you guys for your love! Carmen M & David F.

Thank you to my amazing family & to my wonderful boyfriend Jr! I couldn't have done it without you guys! Congrats to all my SLPs! Love you guys! We did it! SLP Sepulveda

Thank you everyone that has helped me get to this point. Most of all my Parents - Jameel E. Jonathan Markel AM1912

Thank you for supporting me and helping me reach my dreams. I Love you! Nicole LaBeth

Thank you to all my family and the dream team! we survived ME! -class 2015 Daniel E. Morales

THANK YOU TO ALL MY FAMILY + FRIENDS FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT THRU THIS JOURNEY. NOW OPTIMISTIC FOR WHAT'S NEXT BENJAMIN GUERRERO

CONGRATS NERDS!

I had no idea that I'd major in Education. But, here I am becoming an Elementary School Teacher! Joshua DeLao

Thank you my supportive family, friends, and UTEP staff. E. Marie Cuevas

#DAM1NERS

Thanks to everyone for all the support. Couldn't have done it without y'all! AXA Jonathan Markel AM1912

CONGRATS COUNSELING STUDENTS + TEACHERS PLEASURE & IT WPSA Cynthia J. Jaldon

I finally did it!!! Thank you family and dream team -class of 2015 Daniel Vargas franco

Nurses Do it Better! Sergio TUSA! Nursing school rocks! *BSN* Thank you to the support and help from family and friends the Babe as well. Most important strength & serenity from the Lord! M. Carver

Gracias a Dios y mi familia! We made it! -Gabriel M. Ejedra

we did it! Congrats to all grads and good luck with everything. Thank you to everyone. Amy &

Master has presented Molly with a diploma! MOLLY IS FREE!

Gracias a mi mama, papa, mis hermanos, a diosito y principalmente a Anita por apoyarme siempre y darme ese impulso ese apoyo que necesito para. Jorge Carreón 2015 Mijers.

Thank you to my beautiful family, I hope I made you all proud, to my Amazing grandmas. Las quiero mucho! -class of 2015 Maribel Aragozo

Thank you to my amazing family love you guys a TON. Sorry for not cooking as often as you would like. W

MOM & DAD GRACIAS POR TODA LA AYUDA Y APOLLO QUE ME HAN DADO LOS QUIERO MUCHO ROSE & MARK I LOVE YOU GUYS SO MUCH! THANKS FOR EVERYTHING! LISSIANNA

Thanks to every one who I met and who have helped me get here! WWS school here I come! -Annie ZETA IS FOREVER!

Thanks

Finally! I did it! Thank you MOM & DAD! I love you! class of 2015! Michelle Bueno BEN

Gracias a mi papa, mama y hermanos por siempre apoyarme y a Dios por guiarme y siempre estar conmigo. Esto es por ustedes! Los Amo

MPA Gabriela Munoz

Thank you to my wonderful family & Amazing boyfriend who have motivated me through these years. I Finally did it. Whoa hoo! Tiffany Keppe

Another one bites the dust. Heres to greater endeavors NRC grads Gus Contreras

Thanks to my family, friends and all the people I've met during this journey. Gracias mama y papa. Esto es para ustedes! WWS seene

Gracias a dios lo hice! me gustaria agradecer a las personas que estuvieron conmigo padres, amigos. Todo lo puedo con Cristo que me fortalece. Nursing K. Gulland

We did it! ELI GAMEZ Summer Steele Pat Liar & Gina Brooks Whoo Fantastic Four Hoo

Para mis papas y hermanas. Gracias por todo. I did it!!! POR FIN!! ya era hora!!

Yay I finally did it! Thank you to my family friends and professors for your support Nicole Riquillo

Thank You for everything UTEP Gracias a mi familia que siempre es mi inspiracion. Aldo F.

Thanks to All my family. I LOVE YOU ALL! FINALLY!!



"Be who you are and say what you feel,
because those who mind don't matter and
those who matter don't mind."

-Dr. Seuss

Mom, Dad, Mark,
You've been my
support through this
gradual. Thank you for
everything & more ♡
-Shelbie Ponder

~~Thank~~ Thanks
to my family
& friends who
motivated me
and always put
up with my
craziness. I love
you all, Michelle

Thanks to my
family & friends for
all the support.
Keep going. It's
worth it @ the end
Michael James

Thank you Mom + Dad
and everyone who
supported me ...
Coffee!!!

-PRISCILLA SEINY

Thank you
friend & family for
all your love and
support.

-Bianca G.

Thanks to my family
and especially my
husband, who always
believed in me & had
faith that I could
do it! Go Miners
Teachers Rock!

My Babies & ♡
Terry Jaime JR &
Lorenzo Leyva JR.
You're my motivation
& my inspiration ♡
This is all for you ♡
Pumpkin Pies & O's
MOM-MELISSA

THANK YOU TO MY
family & ESPECIALLY
my wife "TERRY"
FOR ALL HER SUPPORT
FAITH & GUIDANCE LOVE
RICHARD

Shoutout to my
parents (Mary, Joe), a
Big shoutout to the
rhetoric & writing pro-
gram at UTEP! Grad
School here I come!
-Jimmy Desantiago

Thanks to my
family and friend
Big Congrats to
graduating class
of the Social Work
2015. So proud!
Jiana

She believed she
could so she did! ♡
Thank God I did it!
Thank you family
& friends.
Love you all, Diana
Lechuga

Mumzy & Popsicle,
I couldn't have
done any of this
without you. Thank
you! 17 forever,
Mandy

Thank you to
my two BFF's
Marcela & Caro!!
Through thick & thin
we did it together.
We love you! Travis

Thank you to
everybody my
family and friends
that supported me!
I will never forget
BDC!! In 7m

Thank God!! Thanks
Mom, Dad all my family
and friends!
Thanks for your
support.
-Daniel Mejia

Thank you to all of
my family that went
through this journey
with me. Especially
my husband who supported
me this whole crazy
experience - love always
Deliah

FINALLY!!!
Thank you mom and family
for never giving up on me.
To the best friends for your
help and support. I did
it!

JAY
2015

3 years of love
and pain and
success! Thanks,
Mom, dad, Joe,
& Joseph. Love
you,
John

Thanks to my
family & friends
"Nothing is impossible,
the word itself says
'I'm possible!'"
-Valerie Molina

Thanks to my
friends and family!
I came, I saw,
I conquered!
Hannah

Everything in your
life is a reflection
of a choice you have
made. If you want
a different result,
make a different
choice. J. Lee

I'm so very
happy of having
graduated from
UTEP!! The
best university!
Go Miners!!

Wooo! Graduation!!
Look mama I
made it!!!
-Love
Cassie

Thank you so much
for supporting me every
step of the way!!
I love you Mom and
Dad! Love always,
Diana Marie

Thank you everyone
who supported me
and put up with
my nonsense. I thank
God for all of you!

-Jon

Thank you Daddy
and Mommi for
your full support
these years! I finally
did it. One step
closer to the real
world. Family I
love you Guys ♡

Thank you to everything
UTEP, 4 years, 1 degree,
softball as well.
once a miner
always a miner!
-Pickup! Achey
Henderson

Thank God for
blessing me each and
everyday. Thank you
to my wonderful
parents for their love
& support! ♡ Vianney

GO MINERS!!

Thank you friends &
family for the support,
anything is possible
if you dream it.
-Ricky Beltran CO'15

Thank you to all
my family and friends
for your love and
support!! BDC!
YNUA
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2015
Thank you to all
who believed in me!
AXA SHRM

Thank You to my beautiful
wife Krystle! My parents
and family for All their
support.
Barbara

Proverbs 3:5-6
I Thank God &
my family for all
the support & love.
Hard work does
pay off! GO MINERS!
Julian D. Palma.

Psalm: 23
Thank you
Ramirez Family
for all your
love and support.
I can do all
things through
Christ. Rob Ray

THIS LITTLE MEXICAN
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GRACIAS MAMA, TITA,
ADA, OSCARIN, MARTIN,
NANO & DR. EKAL.
I ♡ U,
VIANEY ALDERETE

Thank You to
my family
for all the
support.
Go Miners!
Nancy Ch.

Thank you to my
most wonderful
family & loved ones
supporting me & dealing
w/ me through all my
hard times! Love you
all so much! Vanessa
p.s. love you momma! medina

Thank you mom
for all your
support & thanks
to all my friends
who became my
family. Claudia Najar

Thanks to my family
for their support and
UTEP for their edu.
See you in grad school!

Just wanna give a
shout out to the
SGA, the NSLS, &
the College of Liberal
Arts! You guys rock.
Dustin Schinner



"You get to make your own luck. 80% of success in your career will come from just showing up. The world is run by those who show up...not those who wait to be asked."

-Steve Blank

Gracias a Dios, a mi familia y amigos por ayudarme a cumplir una meta mas!!! -Tomas Espinosa

Mom, dad, and sisfer: I did it! Thank you for your support all this time. Love you! -Coby Enriquez

To my amazing family thank you for always being my #1 fans. My ZTH sisters & I got a family! Thank you for making my college experience amazing! -Lorena

TO my supporting Parents! Thankx mom&dad for pushing me to finish at times when I was ready to just put my books away! Love you-Nayby

COBA

Thanks to everyone who stood by me and the support that was given -Cf.

Finally!

Thank you to my parents for all your support. And to my boys Adam & Noah, I LOVE YOU!! Everything I do is for you. -Amy Padilla

MOM + Dad, Thank-you for always believing in me & supporting me through college. I love you guys so much! Kristie, Denisse & Cassie, I couldn't do this without you! These the best 2 years! I LOVE YOU MOTHER & FATHER! COULDN'T DO THIS W/OUT YOU AND THESE GIRLS! -BEST FUTURE PHYSICAL THERAPIST EVER, CASSANDRA W. ♥

This is for my boys, Aiden and Caleb. I love you! To my family, thank you for all your love & support. Linda Luna

To my supporting family! ♥ Thank you for everything you guys have done for me! -Desiree M.

Gracias a mis padres y a mis hermanos por su apoyo y consejos en mis estudios. Muchas Gracias!!! Carlos Corral

It's finally here! Congrats to everyone! Thank you mami & Sergio & Jucero

Thank you family and friends! I love you guys! Sandra Lozada

Thank You to my Mom and Dad! Thanks for All!

Thank you mom & dad for paying for my education and supporting me all the way! Thank you Denisse, Michelle, and Cassie for making these the best 2 years! Thank you mom & dad! I finally made it! Thanks to my mains Kristie, Michelle, & Cassie! I had so much fun with y'all! :) Denisse V. ♥

Mom, April, Dad, Emie & Zeus, thank you for everything you have done for me. I wouldn't have done it without you. I can't believe the big day is here. FINALLY! We have waited for this day for a long time. I love you and I will always make you proud Babe, thank you for not giving up on me. I love you! Love Summer

OSCM A P I C S #matiaGambalraizen Luis Coral Anallely

Thank you for the opportunity to do undergraduate research!! Julie Schlichte

It has been an amazing experience! Thank you UTEP, class of 2015 family & Friends! WE DID IT! -Pink D ~ BFF

Thank you Mom, Dad & Sister! I did it! Congrats to everyone! -Kerlu Muro

Thank You Mom, Dad & Sisters for your Support. Melissa Marrufo & Corina Marrufo

THANK YOU GOD AND MY AMAZING AND SUPPORTIVE FAMILY. I COULD NOT HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT YOU. I LOVE YOU!! MANUEL TRUSTILLO

To my family & friends, I love all of you so very much and can't thank you enough for all that you've done ♥ -Vanessa E

Thank you Mom & Papa IN y todas las que me apoyaron en este camino ave no fue nada facil Gracias a Dios por todo Sandra T

Thank you God for blessing me and allowing me to be a blessing to others! I'm blessed to have this education and the love & support from my family & loved ones xoxo Bianca Olivera 6/2/2015

To my loving parents & supporting family, thank you for everything! I wouldn't of made it through college w/out you! I love you!! -Belen sj.

Thank you to my Mom, my love, and my brother for all the love and support. Special thanks to my friends in heaven. Love you and miss you. Isabel C. 4/2/2015

Thank You Everyone for your never-ending Support! that's Aaron Pronger

Gracias a Dios, Mis Papas Oscar & Hilda, mi hermano Erick y mi familia y amigos por cumplir una meta mas. Gracias Oscar A. Gonzalez Pineda

Congrats to everyone! We did it!!! -Renee Malooly

Congrats to everyone. Thanks to my family for all the support. For my boys this is for you. -S

Thanks to all my family and friends who supported me but especially to my mom brother, carnalito and tia for the faith. To my patience for the patience I love you All! -Jes

To my wonderful family, thank you for all of your support & love. Finally made it! Love, Michelle F.

Thank you to my entire family! Without your support I wouldn't be where I am today. Love, Alejandra Marie Ortiz (:

Thank you to my Mom, my love, and my brother for all the love and support. Special thanks to my friends in heaven. Love you and miss you. Isabel C. 4/2/2015



"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

MUCHAS GRACIAS A MIS PAPAS POR EL APOYO QUE ME HAN BRINDADO TODOS ESTOS AÑOS, A POR AGUANTARME EN MIS MOMENTOS DE ESTRES, VALIO LA PENIA YA QUE ME GRADUO CON HONORES, LOS QUIERO.
-DAMIAN BALDERRAMA

Infinitas gracias a Dios por la oportunidad de llegar hasta aquí y a mi familia por todo su apoyo y amor. Lo hicimos!!! Gracias UTEP y El Paso por estos maravillosos y difíciles años. Te extrañare hasta que te vuelva a ver...
-Joselyn Cardenas Anaya-

Class Social

Thank you for all the support. We did it!
Melissa Olivo

Mom, Dad, Thank you so much for supporting me these past 4 years. I love you guys and only hope to make you even more proud of me.
-Sarah P.

Mai, Richard, Nikos & my baby Ryan, I made it!

I love you & thank you for all your endless love & support
Meg/Mommy

Social Work 4/0 2015.. WE DID IT!

FINALLY! THANKS TO ALL STAFF, FRIENDS & FAMILY FOR YOUR support & CONFIDENCE IN US & ME! YAY! HERE WE GO! ERICA B.

Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart to my parents, my husband, love you so much!!! and to all my friends for all the support! Love you all!

Maria Villalva-Barron
4/4 c/o 2015!!!

Gracias a toda mi familia y amistades por apoyarme en estos últimos 4 años para obtener mi educación. En especial gracias a mi mamá y papá.

Mami, Papá, gracias x el apoyo incondicional y x mis desayunos diarios. Gracias x el ejemplo a seguir. David, x apoyarme siempre!!
Dios te doy gracias x tus fuerzas que me diste durante estos años.
picks up! -Anna Almeida

Mom, Dad, Sis, Friends! Thank you for the support!
I Did It!
Love, Char G.

Class of Work

Gracias Familia Muñoz-Talavera Polanco por todo su apoyo. Los amo mucho, especialmente a mi angelito Damian.
-Ana M. Muñoz

Hey Hvizok family! Love you all! That includes you Elu! Thanks for your support + love!

Gracias A Dios por las bendiciones y por la fuerza.

Para mi C. Sneros Familia Con Mucho AMOR
Jesus Cisneros

Gracias a mi familia y a su apoyo incondicional. A mi novio por tambien haber estado conmigo los Amo!
-Lilia C. Hernandez

Thanks goes out to all of my family and friends who helped me get here. It's been a long four years but looking back, it seems to have flown by. Guess I'll get a job now.
-Nylar

Thanks to all my family and friends, new and old, who I got to grow on this college journey with! Mami

Thank you so much to my loving and supportive husband!! I love you and couldn't have done this without you! Dom, mama didn't Baby! I love you Punkins! Picks up! Go munes! Kin Degree!!

Class of 2015 -Lila
Thank You Mom and Dad! Finally!
UTEP Grad 2015!!! Gena

Class of 2015 Department!!

Thank you for everyone who supported & believed in me. This is for my family & mother!!!
Leslie Garcia

Thank you to all my fabulous professors for giving me amazing opportunities and a great education! It's been a long road but time for a new chapter!

To my husband, my parents, and my awesome in-laws. I couldn't have done this without your love and support! I love you all so much!
-Shannon

Thanks to my Parents for their full support! Gracias Also to my friends and trying to keep me sane throughout!!

I want to thank my family and friends for all the grand support they have given me to get to this point. I love you all!
-Crystal Rosas

Thank Mom for all the support you have given me to keep going and reach for new goals
-yvonne

THANKS TO MY COLLEAGUES, PROFESSORS, FAMILY, LOVE OF MY LIFE, FRIENDS AND GOD. NOW... TO MAKE SCI-FI REAL
IVAN

Thanks to all those in chemistry that helped me not go crazy! Even the professors (Gunn, Villagran, & Ferrier). Also to all my good friends and coworkers.
2015! -SN Rudek

Thanks to all the great UTEP professors that helped me get here!

Finally!!! God is good! Tristan this is for you! Thank you mom, Dad, and Johnny! I love you!

Albert you can go ahead and ask to marry me! First of all thanks to God for allowing me to get to this point. Thanks to my family, friends & professors for all the support & U.P.

Thank you to God for my accomplishments. Thank you to my family and friends for the support in this journey.
Love Erik

Gracias a todos. Gracias a mi mamá.
-Carlos Rafael Lozano

I'm here so I won't get fired.
-Alex M.

Happy Birthday Mom! Couldn't have done it without you w/out toka

UTEP is so much fun! I'll be back.
Judy

Thank you to my Parents, I could not have made it without you!!!
Mikey III

Thank you mom, for all the support & my baby Jade! I love you both
Darleen

Thank you Mom & Dad for supporting me first one to graduate from college! Addri

Family + Albert... Thank you for all your support + love along this process. Couldn't have done it w/out you guys. YARY

Dear family, thank you for all your love and support the past 4 years. I could not have done this without you guys! LOVE YOU!

he quiero dar las gracias a Dios por esta bendicion. A mi Papá y Mamá por siempre creer en mí. A mi hermano Die y a toda mi familia y amigos. -Irene



"In response to those who say to stop dreaming and face reality, I say KEEP DREAMING and MAKE REALITY."

-Kristian Kan

Thank you to my amazing support system. You guys got me to this point without you guys this would have been so difficult. I love you mom, dad and sisters! Thank you guys for all your support. I wouldn't be able to do it without you. Thanks you guys! Veronica

Thank you so much! you all have supported me through both good & hard times! I cannot ask for more! Thank you mom, Dad, Brother, Sister Zachary & Sister Zachary! Thank you to all my family & friends who have continuously supported me through these last 4 years. I love & cherish all of you!! Thank you so much to Jessica, Mom, Dad, Luis, Gabe, my friends and family for supporting me throughout this long journey for me. I appreciate everything, I love you guys! Michael Suenz is much to my beautiful family, amazing friends, and awesome faculty! I owe it all to you guys! - Esther Valenzuela

Thank you to all my family & friends who stuck with me through this crazy journey of undergrad. I love you and may happiness be in our future. Thanks for all the support. Couldn't have done it without you guys behind every step of the way. I love y'all & blessed to be a Matson!! Gracias mom Por todo su apoyo! Thanks to my wonderful sisters for being there for me! I couldn't have done it without you! Love, Delilah

Thank you guys for all the support and always believing in me even at my lowest. I wouldn't be where I am today without all your motivation. I love you guys! To my family. My love for you through all of this was my commitment to make solid my goals. Thank you for the love & support. Bright Eyes B.E.C. Thank you, UTEP. Another degree in the bucket. Onto the next goals. Bye Nicholas Rocha

Thank you to all my family & friends who stuck with me through this crazy journey of undergrad. I love you and may happiness be in our future. Thanks for all the support. Couldn't have done it without you guys behind every step of the way. I love y'all & blessed to be a Matson!! Gracias mom Por todo su apoyo! Thanks to my wonderful sisters for being there for me! I couldn't have done it without you! Love, Delilah

Thank you to my wonderful husband and family who always supported me! I love you! Marilyn Burdick

Thank you to my sister, brother, sister in law, parents for supporting me through all these years of college. Ryan Alford. Thank you all family & friends who have supported me through my long journey in my nursing education. I love you all. Rickin Burkhardt Jr.

Thank you to my family for all the support and prayers. Love you all. I did it! Rosa Aranda. This is for my kids. Yasmin & Alce. Thank you love all you love & support. Berenice

Thank you to all my family for always supporting me! Especially my mom Aileen. Love always. Lorie B. GRACIAS A DIOS! THANKS TO MY FAMILY THANK YOU STARBUCKS! (I'M YOUR SLAVE FOREVER) NO MORE SLEEPLESS NIGHTS! ALL MY LOVE. FRANCISCO M. VENEGAS

I would like to thank my friends, family, and boyfriend, Juan, for all their ongoing and amazing support throughout my undergrad years. I love you all and thank you for staying by my side! Leslie Proctor 2015, ME

Thank you to all my family for the support you have given me. A special thank you to my husband. You motivate me to be better. I love you all!

Thank you to all my family who helped me get through school. To my girlfriend for believing in me and to my pugs for bringing a smile to my face during hard times. This wedding Bukhari I had a wonderful year here hope the best for every one. Wedding

Thank you to all my family & friends your support is what made me come this far. It's been a rough road but I made it! I love you all. Esto es por ustedes papi abuel, y parti mami! Sazmin Moreno! Thank you to my family for their support and paying for school and my holiday for always believing in me. I love the great memories. I love you all. Lorain Watters Ambrosio

Sean, Ruben Kirsten & Chloe "I love you!" Paul thank you for believing in me. Thank you all for your support. Michele. To mom, dad, and sisters, thank you for all the love & support. I love you KAX Ashley Rodriguez

It's been a long road. Thanks to my 2 beautiful girls, parents, & other family for support!! Always Jackie. Thank you to my mom, dad, sisters and all my family for always being there, and believing in me. It was tough, but I finally made it!! Rube E. Rodriguez

I would like to thank my family for all the love and support during my time at UTEP. I would especially like to thank my wife Gloria. She has been with me through the beginning. I couldn't have done it without her. We did it!

Thank you to my wonderful family for all their support and for believing in me! Love you all! Josh Garcia. Thank You UTEP for all the great years! EQ Miners! Thanks to all my Kappa sigma brothers! Next

THANK YOU! MY FAMILY HAS BEEN A KEY MOTIVATOR AND I'M GLAD YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THERE! Eric Bobby Nieto. Thank you Chavez, Seebach, Belmonte, and Mendez family. Wouldn't be able to have done it without you all. Love, Josh Mendez

It's been a long road. Thanks to my 2 beautiful girls, parents, & other family for support!! Always Jackie. Thank you to my mom, dad, sisters and all my family for always being there, and believing in me. It was tough, but I finally made it!! Rube E. Rodriguez

Thank you to my mom, dad, sisters and all my family for always being there, and believing in me. It was tough, but I finally made it!! Rube E. Rodriguez





"A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality."

-Yoko Ono

Thank you all
my family, and
friends for your
support. Love you
all forever!

MBA Class
of 2015
we did it!

Thank you All!! The
journey was great &
a new one has yet to
begin.

Yes, the journey
was long & tough
but Thank God,
family and friends
for their support,
I did it. Love you
all! 2015

Thank you
for all your
support. Love
you all!!

THANKS FOR
ALL THE
LATE NIGHTS
-JOE A. ALLECORNOS

Gracias por los años
lentos de sacrificios
& tantas satisfacciones.
Gracias familiar!
Patty della Fuente

Thank you to
all of my family
for all of their
support!
Go Miners!
~Lisa Haisan

Thank you All!!
for your support
CLASS of 2015!!

Thanks
to my family
for making this possible
Love you guys
class of 2015!

Thank you to my
loving husband
Josh Serma & my
loving supportive family.
You are my rock!
my everything! This
is for you. Love
you all! 2015

To all of those that have
supported me throughout
my journey. To those who
helped me grow professionally
and personally, you will
always have my thanks
and love
2015 - Jonathan C.

Thank
you to my
lovely family &
finally, I'm DONE!
Love you all!!

CLASS OF 2015
is
The Best one!
Full of miner
pride
2015 - Cesar J.

Thank you to
my parents for
all their support
Class of 2015!!
Audrey -Kox-

Thank you family
for all the love
and support.
Couldn't have done
it without you!!
Dany

Thank you for
all the support
and awesome
memories. Family &
friends. Class of 2015!
James H. We did
it!

Thank you
for all the love &
support. Big thank
you to my husband
Dustin & my baby
Hayden. We did
it! Love you all!
2015

Thank you to my
family back home
& to my Cox's family
we did it!!
Paola R. class of
2015

Thank you to my
children for all the
minutes & stole them
to dedicate it to my
Bachelor. Thank you
to my husband and
my dear God for his
blessings.

It's been a long
24 years. Finally done.
Thanks to all my family
& friends for their
support. Thank you all.
Love you all!!

Gracias, DR. COX
& Dr. Jeff!
I am graduating
yey! Class of
-Rosio 2015

Thank you to all
the great professors
I have had over
the year.
Jacquie

Thanks to all
of my family
for the support
especially my
wife + son!
Esteran B.

Thank you Mommy
& daddy as well
as my family for
all your support!
I love you guys!
Samantha Gonzalez

Thank you!
Mom, dad, brother,
and people that
pushed me harder
and made me a
graduate!!! Love
you all! 2015

Thank you to my
family for always
believing in me
and pushing me to
my fullest. My boyfriend
for motivating me
and being by my side. I
love you guys!!

Thank you to my mommy
& daddy for your never
ending support. My little
sister for being my
motivation. My brother
for the pushing. My
older sister for being my
role model. Love you
all! 2015

Thank you
to my wonderful
& supportive husband
I love you!!
UTEF class of
2015

Thanks to my
loving and supportive
family and
friends! I'm excited
to be graduating!
-Elizabeth
Gallegos

Thank you to my
AMAZING family &
friends for always
being there for me
these long 4 years.
First in the family
to FINISH! I DID IT!
Love you all
Klarissa Mijangos

Thank you to my
parents for putting up
with me and always
being supportive!
I love you guys!
-Kayla Nava

Thank you God!
Thank you Family!
Thank you Friends!
Go Miners
C/O 2015

Thank you mom &
dad for always
believing in me & pushing
me everytime I wanted
to give up! I Love
you so much! Thank
you babe for always
being by my side.
Love you! Stephanie

Christopher, without
you I wouldn't have
gotten this far.
Mom, dad, sisters,
you are my motivation
I love you and
THANK YOU!!

I just want to thank
my family and friends.
It's been a long
Journey but I did it.
Thanks especially to
Mom, Dad, Evangelina Irene,
Shasha, Charlie and Mary.
I love all of you!!

Thank
you to my family
for their support
and for understanding
all my mood swings!
Love you all!!

por
terminar
namost civa-
clas a mitamilla
y lab, I did it
DIANA
2015

Finally
did it! Thank
you to everyone
who helped me
get here! Thank
you to my parents!
Class of 2015
Rosa O.

I did it!!
Thanks to all who
helped me get here. I love
you all. Go UTEP!!
Class of 2015
Baltazar S.



"We do not need magic to change the world. We carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better."

-J.K. Rowling

I have waited
So long for this
and it has finally
arrived
Esteban Casas

~~**** I HAVE IT!!~~
~~CHEERS TO THE~~
FUTURE...
#MinerLife
#WUTMS forever
Adventure

Finally Done!
Thank God and
my parents for
this blessing!
BSEE JDM

Muchas gracias a mis
padres, hermanos,
esposo y familia
por apoyarme en
cada paso que he
logrado! Karla Gomez

Thank you for
being my home
away from home,
UTEP! I'll miss
you greatly.
-Elizabeth C.

& D.N.P. &
more CLASS
#1's to
come!! OF
2015
Rocks!!!
Advane
Practice
Nursing
Major
Dif. Time

Thank
you for all
your support!!!
To my Family &
Love, Joanna
Finally Done!

I am very grateful to my
parents, my friends, and
God who believed in
me. I love you and
thank you for all the
support!
UTEP '15
Melle Vasquez

UTEP
Fine
Arts
Rocks!!
No Easy
No Easy

Le doy gracias a Dios por
todas las bendiciones que
me ha dado. Gracias a
mis padres, al amor de mi
vida, amigos & maestros por
apoyarme & creer en mi.
¡Los amo! Nos graduamos
todos. ☺ -Mayela-

Thank you to all
my family and friends
who supported me
during my career!
Thank you God
one accomplishment
more!! L.R.

Never give up on
your dreams!
-Caroline
Arellano

Thank you for all
the great memories
UTEP!
I thank God, my
family and friends
for all my blessings
XOXO Pam Isita

Thank you all for all
your support. Finally
Done! Love you Mom &
Dad. Babe thank you.
Love You, Briana, Jaedon
Mason & Mike
Rodriguez.

Mamá y Papá,
Los amo demasiado
y estoy sumamente
agradecida por
todo su amor y
apoyo en estos años
Daniela

La vida me a dado
grandes bendiciones
por fin cumpla me
meta y esto es gracias
a mis padres, hermanos
y novicia. Este logro se
los dedico a ustedes.

To my son
Noah, you
are all my
reasons.
you to me
and back
-Mam &

Later UTEP!
It's been interesting!
" Matt G.

Thank
you to my
babies Bela,
Babe for being
my motivation
Low
mom
Sylvia

Family,
I LOVE you!
-Diana L.
Padilla

Thank you to all
my family and friends
who supported me
during my career!
Thank you God
one accomplishment
more!! L.R.

Finally Done!!!
With
THIS

I thank God
and my family
& friends for all
the support &
encouragement!
-Cristy

Thank
you for
everything! It's
been a great
journey. Love you,
Fern, mom & Dad!
Gasmund

Goodbye to UTEP!
& learned a lot
and grew up
much quickly at
UTEP. -Punam

My last thank you
for your never ending
support Je Te Amas
Mom & Dad, Pollo &
Edica Thank you
& thank you Jesus
we did it! Go
miners

To the family I
made, to the friends
we lost in Juárez &
Iraq. Never forget.
Hoorah! -Class of
2015
-Carlito

About time!
Thank y'all for
the support.
Specially to my
family & Julie
class is

A special
thanks to my family
for their patience! We
did it! Love you,
Victoria Et.

Thank
you family for
all your support
& help!
Valerie
Munoz

Thank
you mom &
Dad for all your love
& support. I couldn't
do it without you!
Bro/Sis! (Honey!) Thank
you for being my
support system!
Hydra

Finally Done!!!
Thanks everyone
who supported me
Thanks SSTA for
the long nights in
lab and Dr. Cox
I promise not to
send more
posts.

A special Thank You
to all the family who
supported me in my
journey, especially
mom and Dad.
Love you lots
Natascha

Thanks to my family
and friends for the
support! I did it
mom and dad!
-mdina B.
GO MINERS!

Thanks
to my family
for all the support!
Thank You!
UTEP
You have
taught me so
much!

Conrats
class of 2015!
Thank you mom &
Dad for all your love
& support. I couldn't
do it without you!
Bro/Sis! (Honey!) Thank
you for being my
support system!
Hydra

Thank
you for all
who made all
this possible thank
you to my family
& friends for believing
in me!
-Hudson

Extremely thankful
to be finally done!
Mom, Dad, God,
family & friends
who believed in me,
we DID IT!!!
♥ Jessica Jazmine

I want to thank my
family, friends,
and fellow miners!
Congratulations
everyone! Goodluck

Thankful to
finally be done
and start my
career. It wasn't
easy but I did it!
Thank you!
-Mayra F.

MAY 5, 2015

SPORTS

EDITOR
LUIS GONZALEZ, 747-7477

Floyd takes a chance on Dominic Artis



MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR
Men's basketball coach Tim Floyd announced the signing of Dominic Artis on Saturday, May 2.

BY LUIS GONZALEZ

The Prospector

On May 5, 2014 sophomore point guard Dominic Artis was suspended by the University of Oregon basketball program because of his involvement in a forcible rape investigation. Artis will be suiting up as a part of the UTEP men's basketball team next season, Miner head coach Tim Floyd announced.

"We did extensive research on Dominic's history and character," Floyd said. "Based on our due diligence, meeting with Dominic and his parents, and the endorsement of Matt Willms, who played with Dominic in prep school, we feel comfortable adding him to our team."

“
I believe he is a good person and is worthy of a second chance.
”
- Tim Floyd, UTEP man's basketball head coachr

Artis was dismissed, along with two other players, after two years as a Oregon Duck because of an incident that took place on March 13, 2014. After a victory during the 2014 NCAA Tournament, Artis and his two teammates were accused of raping a female student.

Because of a lack of evidence, none of the three players involved were charged. Still, the Lane County District Attorney wrote in a statement, "there is no doubt the incidents occurred."

It was not the first time the 6-foot-1 guard from California was in trouble at Oregon.
see BASKETBALL on page B17



MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR
UTEP Senior hurdler Anna-Kay James sprints to the finish line.

Anna-Kay James: overcoming hurdles

BY JUAN CARLOS NAVARRETE

The Prospector

UTEP hurdler Anna-Kay James, senior accounting major, has had a challenging year to say the least. Riddled with injury from the start, her senior year has provided plenty of physical and metaphorical hurdles, but her will to end her career as a Miner on a high note remains. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, James has track and field in her blood. Her mother, a hurdler like herself, is her main drive and inspiration in the sport.

"She was very good at track. She is my biggest reason to keep running," James said. "Even when I feel like I see TRACK on page B19

don't want to run, she makes me want to run."

Although life on the track started as a family affair for James, her excellence in the sport has provided opportunities that have been the key to her education. She received a scholarship for hurdling that allowed her to attend high school and then another that took her to Lincoln University.

"I realized I could be good at track because it is something that has got me to school," James said.

Before coming to UTEP, James spent some time was in Jefferson City, Mo., competing in Division II. While she was at Lincoln University from 2012-2013, she was named an All-American three times.

UTEP softball says goodbye to Tahla Wade

BY JASON GREEN

The Prospector

Tahla Wade is a traveler. She travelled from Chicago to El Paso, found that she liked the campus and the local people, at least enough to call UTEP home for four years.

This season she spent a lot of time traveling between first and second base. She led the team in stolen bases, while setting the UTEP single season record with 17.

She is about to graduate and travel back home, only to travel some more. Her family is moving from her hometown of Chicago to St. Louis.

She has traveled a very long way in her career at UTEP and may have learned a few things about herself in the process.

"I think just my will to work hard," said the soft-spoken Wade when asked to what she attributes her dramatic improvement on the field during her four years at UTEP.

She also attributes the teams' vast improvement, as well as much of her own, to head coach Tobin Echo-Hawk and staff.

"It's just awesome to see how far you can come with people giving you the tools that you need," Wade said. "Getting the confidence that you need and knowing that you can really achieve anything as long as you work hard and you put your mind to it."

Wade traveled from left field—where she had played for first three years of her UTEP career—to center field because the team needed her there. Just like every move Wade has made, she made the best of this one.

Echo-Hawk points to Wade's tremendous speed when talking about the transition.

"She's the fastest kid we have and she's done a good job of working on getting better reads," Echo-Hawk said. "That was her struggle last year, but she's done a fantastic job of using her speed and just working with that."

If the move affected Wade at all, it would have been impossible for the casual observer to tell.

Coming into the 2015 season, Wade had a career .288 batting average at UTEP—definitely nothing to be ashamed of. This season, Wade finished with an outstanding .333, placing her third on the team.

“
She just has the powerful voice and when she uses it everybody just kind of stops and looks at her and follows her.
”
- Tobin Echo-Hawk, UTEP softball coach

Wade posted three triples this season giving her the career record for triples at UTEP with nine.
see WADE on page B17



JASON GREEN / THE PROSPECTOR
Senior outfielder Tahla Wade slides into home during a game at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex.

Softball just misses tournament berth



UTEP first baseman Courtney Clayton attempts to make a catch.

RUBY CERINO / THE PROSPECTOR

BY JASON GREEN

The Prospector

It is almost a shame to even mention the fact that UTEP missed the Conference USA tournament for the fifth consecutive year. It makes the season sound as if it was a total loss. That is far from the truth.

Although a 14-39 record would probably be frowned upon by those outside the program, someone who has been there all season can easily find the upside.

The team was only two wins away from making it to the conference tournament during head coach Tobin Echo-Hawk's second season. A boggling propensity for losing games on the road, the team was 0-19 away from home, costing the team a shot at the postseason.

One likely factor in the team's road woes could be the roster that only contained two seniors, Ashley Eldridge and Tahla Wade.

The team was very young and may have had trouble adjusting to being away from home.

Another factor contributing to the 25 game disparity is the fact that Echo-Hawk scheduled what can only be described as the hardest tournament schedule that UTEP softball has ever faced.

The Miners played four games against ranked opponents in only the first three weeks of the season. The team traveled around the Southwest and to Hawaii during the course of playing four early-season tournaments.

Almost every game was against opponents of a higher-caliber team.

Echo-Hawk is proud of the resilience that her young team showed in playing a tough schedule and getting used to life in NCAA Division I softball.

"It was a good season," Echo-Hawk said. "We overcame a lot of adversity and showed true resilience."

This year's team was led by seniors Eldridge and Wade. Eldridge – a pre-season, all-conference selection – led the team with 37 runs batted in. The Las Vegas native batted .340 with eight home runs. Wade continued the improvement that she has shown every season. Finishing the season with a .333 average and 17 stolen bases – playing almost every game as the table setter in the leadoff spot.

Junior outfielder Morgan Rasmason says that the two seniors have set the young UTEP team up for future success.

"Our seniors, Tahla and Ashley, left our program with a solid foundation for the years to come," Rasmason said. "I'm excited to see how much further we can take it."

Freshman infielder Hope Moreno hopes that her team will rise to the challenge of replacing such important contributors to the team's efforts.

"We lost two seniors this year; both had a huge impact on our team – offensively and defensively – so, those will be some big shoes to fill," Moreno said. "But, we are all going to have to step up and work twice as hard."

The team's immediate future will be led by rising junior Kawehiokalani Netane. The Orlando native will be joined by Rasmason, Danielle Pearson and Jade Rodriguez as the four seniors on next year's team.

This season, Netane led the team in most batting categories while nursing an injured shoulder down the stretch. A healthy Netane will be looking to improve even more on her outstanding .357 average, eight home runs and four triples.

“It was a good season. We overcame a lot of adversity and showed true resilience.”

- Tobin Echo-Hawk,
UTEP softball
head coach

Three new players will return next season looking to improve on a very good first season in the orange and blue.

Sophomore transfer Kiki Pepi fit in nicely on her new team after coming to UTEP from Pac-12 power Oregon last offseason. Pepi batted .311 with four home runs and 25 RBI.

Two freshmen played the majority of UTEP's games this season in the infield. Both took a little time to adjust to college softball, but showed plenty of what the team can look forward to for the next three years.

Taylor Sargent batted .232 while playing an outstanding defensive first base. Courtney Clayton batted .305 with seven home runs and 30 RBI in what could most likely be a C-USA Newcomer of the Year award-winning season.

Despite a very disappointing end to the season for two outstanding seniors, the future looks bright for the Miners' softball team. Echo-Hawk and staff continue to recruit well and train the players under their care to be the best that they can be.

Despite the fact that this season should not be considered a bad one, Moreno may have said it best: "There's nowhere to go but up."

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BASKETBALL from page B15

“I understand where some may be concerned—I have a daughter of my own,” Floyd said. “This was not a quick decision. A lot of research and conversation occurred before we chose to move forward.”

After his dismissal, Artis spent the last year at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, Calif., working out and practicing—and waiting for a second chance.

He did not participate in any games, therefore he did not lose a year of eligibility.

“I am grateful to coach Floyd for giving me another opportunity, a second chance,” Artis said. “I made a mistake and used poor judgment, but I have learned from this.”

He arrived at Oregon as a top-100 recruit in the nation in 2013. Artis started 25 games as a freshman, including all three NCAA Tournament games, leading to an appearance in the Sweet 16. He was a key factor in the Ducks winning 28 games that year.

He lost the starting job his sophomore season, in part because of the nine-game suspension. Artis started six of the 16 games in which he saw action that year.

During his two years in Eugene, Ore., Artis averaged 6.4 points per game, 2.7 assists, 2.1 rebounds per game and 1.2 steals per game. His career-high of 16 points came against Portland State in 2012 and against UTEP the same year, where he is looking forward to playing again.

“I am excited about this opportunity at UTEP,” Artis said. “UTEP has great fans and a tremendous game-day atmosphere.”

Artis is still regarded as an elite, pure point guard—something UTEP has not had for a while.

His addition to the program comes at a good time as well. The Miners’ starting point guard last season, C.J. Cooper, is graduating and his replacement, freshman Omega Harris, might be better suited playing off the ball.

The Miners will also be without this year’s leading scorer Vince Hunter and graduating senior and top defender Julian Washburn, who are both headed to the NBA draft.

Artis’ ability to score and defend fills a need for Floyd and his staff, but his off-the-court issues will make more than a few fans uneasy.

Floyd and the Miners have had plenty of experience with off-the-court discipline over the past few years. In early 2014, UTEP dismissed leading scorer junior McKenzie Moore, Jalen Ragland and Justin Crosgile due to gambling.

Floyd has taken chances with players like Artis before, because it’s one of the few ways smaller schools like UTEP can bring in major talent. Floyd is hoping this time it will work out.

“I believe he is a good person and is worthy of a second chance,” Floyd said. “I believe he will make the most of his opportunity here at UTEP”

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



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR
Outfielder Tahla Wader holds the UTEP softball record for most career triples.

WADE from page B15

Echo-Hawk enjoyed the luxury of having a burner like Wade at the top of the batting order.

“It’s not just her speed, but if you ever watch her when she’s safe at first, she’s just one of the most excited people to be out there and excited that she got on for her team,” Echo-Hawk said. “It’s one of those where not only does she get on and set the table for us, she also has that speed threat so we may steal her and not waste that sacrifice.”

As Wade travelled through her time at UTEP, she also found her voice. She is typically very soft spoken, but get her on the softball field and she can crank it up.

“I think, at first, she was a leader by example,” Echo-Hawk said. “As the year has progressed she’s really come out of her comfort zone and become a little bit more of a vocal... She just has the powerful voice and when she uses it everybody just kind of stops and looks at her and follows her.”

Freshman infielder Courtney Clayton was one of those who found herself instinctually following the leadership of the experienced Wade. Clayton says that Wade’s example in leadership will help her throughout her college career.

“(She has taught me) to be more of a vocal leader,” Clayton said. “That’s never been my thing, to talk, and seeing her and how she gets everyone riled up really makes me want to communicate with everyone on the field.”

Wade does not know where she will ultimately end up. She does know that there is travelling in her future. She also wants her teammates to know that no matter where she goes, she will be keeping an eye on the Miners’ softball team.

Wade sees big things in store for the team—including a Conference USA tournament berth—which the team just missed out on this season.

“I think that this program is going to be a force to be reckoned with,” Wade said as her voice began to crack. “We’ve been overlooked for so long and we’re starting to make a name for ourselves.”

Wade continues to refer to the team as “us” and “we,” reinforcing the fact that she truly believes what she said while fighting back tears.

“Once a Miner, always a Miner.”

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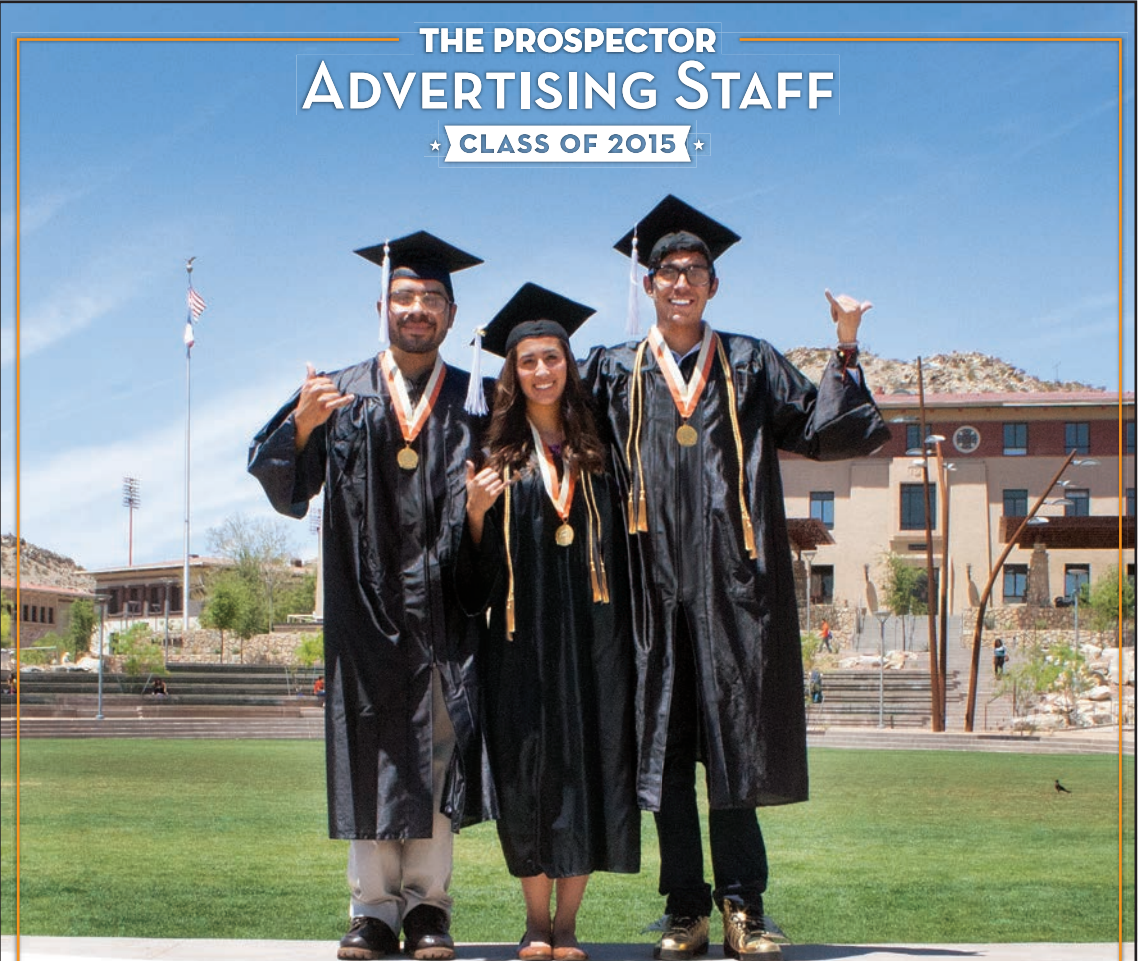
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me ayudaron a crecer tanto
profesionalmente como
personalmente Vero, gracias por
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abrirme las puertas del Prosper
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SUPPORT YOU GAVE ME AND
FOR BELIEVING IN MY WORK
THANK YOU UTEP FOR ALL THE
MEMORIES - DAMIAN B



► 4

ANDRES MARTINEZ, MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

1. UTEP track and field hosted three meets at Kidd Field. 2. Against Louisiana Tech on Feb. 27, the UTEP women's basketball team scored 88 points, their highest point total at home. 3. The UTEP men's basketball team held Old Dominion to just 47 points on Feb. 14 at the Don Haskins. 4. The El Paso Chihuahuas started their second season with a 13-8 record in April.

TRACK from page B15

After her time in Missouri, James made the jump to Division I and landed in the borderland looking for better competition and bigger accomplishments.

Now in her second year at UTEP, James has continued to perform at a high level, despite the increased competition. In 2014 she was part of the 4x400-meter relay team that took first place at the Conference USA Indoor Championships. During the outdoor season, she received two NCAA honorable mentions for her showing at the NCAA Championships in the 100-meter and 4x100-meter hurdles.

James may be having a challenging year, dealing with a knee injury that has bothered her all season, but she has still found a way to get results on the track. This year, during the indoor season, James aided the women's team to the program's first-ever conference championship. At the Conference USA Championships in Birmingham, Ala., James received a silver medal in the 60-meter hurdles.

Dealing with the challenges has been easier because of the support James finds in assistant coach, Lacena Golding Clarke.

"Anna is a very good athlete—she has struggled this year because of injury," Clarke said. "Hopefully she can get through it and qualify for regionals and end her year well."

Qualifying to regionals is not impossible. As of now, she is qualified and a place at regionals would be secured with a strong showing at home during the Conference USA Championships. Only five runners are behind her and even if she does not run her best time, she might qualify.

Returning and competing at the national level is not the only goal in mind for James. Achieving All-Amer-

ican status, like she once did at the Division II level, is also in her sights.

"To qualify to regionals and then go to nationals—if I end in the top eight then I'm an All American," James said.

The fact that her collegiate career is coming to a close makes these next few weeks of competition special for James. She is hoping to make them even more significant by having a special fan come to the conference championships at Kidd Field.

"I am trying to get her (mother) over here as a surprise," James said. "I want her to be here since it is my last conference (meet)."

Her coaches are also pushing her to end her career on a good note and relying on her to help the team repeat what they did during the indoor season. James will play a big role in UTEP's search for a second-consecutive Women's Conference USA Championship.

"She is an example for the other girls," said track and field head coach Mika Laaksonen. "They look to her and she is an example for them."

James has plans to continue her track career after she graduates. She would like to continue her professional track career before starting her career.

"I want to keep running after I am done running here," James said. "I want to continue after I am done and then become an accountant or own my own accounting firm."

The track team will have 16 seniors run at home for the conference championship. The Conference USA Championship will be held at Kidd Field on May 14. For James and the rest of the team, it may be a last chance for the team to finish as a winner.

Juan Carlos Navarrete can be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.



Senior Anna-Kay James is recognized during the Springtime Invitational at Kidd Field.

ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

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WOMEN’S GOLF

Senior golfer Camino Sardinero was voted into the All-Conference USA first team by the league’s head coaches.

Sardinero is having a career year after becoming just the third player in UTEP history to earn a spot in the NCAA Regionals.

The native of Villanueva De La Cañada will be one of 24 individuals selected to compete in the NCAA Division I Women’s Golf Regional Championships. The tournament will take place in San Antonio at the Briggs Ranch Golf Club on May 7 to 9.

The San Antonio Regional is one of four regionals in which the best six teams, plus the top three individuals not on those teams will advance to the NCAA Women’s Golf Championships May 22 to 27 at Concession Golf Club in Bradenton, Fla.

Sardinero leads the Miners for the third year in a row with a career-low scoring average of 74.2 this season. She finished third at the Conference USA Championship, played in Fort Myers, Fla. on April 20-22 after shooting a career-low 209. She was also named to the All-Tournament Team.

MEN’S GOLF

Senior men’s golfer Martin Simonsen was selected to play in one of the six NCAA Regional tournaments to take place next week around the country. The Denmark native will be in Lubbock, TX. at the Rawls Course May 14 to 16 competing for a spot in the NCAA Championships.

Simonsen has finished among the top 10 in four different tournaments, while averaging a career-low 71.8 strokes per round during the 2014-15 season. Simonsen finished fifth at the Conference USA Championships held in Texarkana, Ark. from April 26 to 29, where he shot an even par.

The Lubbock regional will host 12 teams including schools like Texas, Texas Tech, Auburn, North Florida, California, Houston, Louisville and Duke.

The top five teams and the top five individuals on one of those teams will advance to the National Championship Tournament.

Simonsen has played at the NCAA Regional tournament twice prior to this year. He finished 27th in 2012 and 12th in 2014.

The NCAA Championships will be in Bradenton, Fla. from May 21 to 28.

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