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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

# THE PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 101, NO. 14

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

DECEMBER 1, 2015

GRADUATION ISSUE 2015

2015

*“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.  
Live the life you have imagined.”  
- Henry David Thoreau*

DESIGN BY JACOBO DE LA ROSA / THE PROSPECTOR





**NEXT TO UTEP!**  
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DECEMBER 1, 2015

PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
LUIS GONZALEZ, 747-7477

Seasons greetings from the Prospector’s Fall 2015 staff



From left to right

(Back row) Andres Martinez, Jose Soto, Edgar Hernandez, Angel Ulloa, Alonso Moreno, Luis Gonzalez, Blake Lanham, Jonathon Duarte.

(Middle row) Jacobo De La Rosa, Julia Hettiger, Maria Esquinca, Fernanda León, Alexandra Martinez, Javier Cortez.

(Front row) Michaela Román, Kathleen Flores, Veronica Gonzalez, Isabel Castillo, Julio Cesar Chavez.

Not Shown: Christopher Zacherl, Sergio Zamora, Juan Carlos Navarrete, Omar Herandez, Valeria Delgado, Mariel Mora, Vanesa Guevara, Marcela Luna.

Del hola al adiós

Thank you to The Prospector

BY FERNANDA LEÓN  
The Prospector



La desidia, es en muchas ocasiones un factor muy importante que nos lleva a no tomar ni malas ni buenas desiciones sino a simplemente no tomar ninguna.

Es precisamente por esta cuestión que mi instancia en esta publicación estudiantil, hoy en día, me resulta tan corta. Hay miles de circunstancias que pude haber dejado de lado pero, sobretudo, muchísima gente que no terminé de conocer lo suficiente.

Este año me toca despedirme no solamente de lo que represento un trabajo y experiencia en el ámbito del periodismo para mi, sino de un grupo de personas que compartieron pocas o varias experiencias conmigo y que se tomaron el tiempo de conocerme.

Todas estas personas con muchas ganas de hacer las cosas bien y con un talento personal al momento de realizar su trabajo.

Cada personalidad diferente a tal grado que solía escuchar entre mis compañeros que para trabajar en esta publicación uno tenía que estar loco.

En sentido figurado ó no, cada una de estas personas se volvió parte de mi día diario por un tiempo aproximado de un año.

Desde la chavita con personalidad dulce pero con un tono de voz bastante fuerte que, a final de cuentas, fue la insistencia y una gran parte del motivo por el que yo formara parte de este equipo, la “gordita” (que para nada es gordita) que se la pasa hablando por teléfono y se tomo el tiempo de platicar conmigo durante mis primeros días, el chavo con el

cabello más largo de la universidad, el jefe más “cool” al que siempre le hablaba para decirle las dudas más tontas, el jefe que siempre se la pasaba en su oficina figurando que no hacía nada y que no le interesaba nada, el chavo que se la pasaba molestándome y haciéndome “bullying” pero al cual le agarre mucho cariño, el “hippie” que se la pasaba fumando y tomaba una actitud sin importancia pero que en realidad se interesaba por todos y siempre estaba atento a lo que le decía, la chava que toma las fotos más bonitas de la ciudad y así, una multitud de personalidades.

Por otro lado, las personas que hacen que esta publicación sea posible, resultaron ser mucho más interesantes y lindas de lo que me imaginé. Desde la jefa con la sonrisa y el ánimo más bonito de todos hasta la jefa con el corazón más bonito que se la pasaba regañando al hippie por no saber diseñar.

Podría hablar una infinidad de la gente que llegue a conocer mucho (y no tanto...) y de todo lo que aprendí siendo parte de “The Prospector”, pero la gran alegría y la satisfacción personal que me da haber formado parte de este equipo, no tiene precio ni lugar.

Las personas, el estrés, las risas, las platicas y las historias con las que tenía que cumplir semanalmente y que, en muchas ocasiones, se volvieron una preocupación en conjunto con todo lo que tenía que hacer de mis clases fueron parte de mi mejoría como escritora y, sin duda alguna, una de las mejores experiencias que la Universidad de Texas en El Paso le dejó a mi persona.

Fernanda León may NOT be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

BY MARIA ESQUINCA  
The Prospector



Journalism was never my first option. My first dream was to be a doctor. I wanted to cure cancer and entered UTEP majoring in biology. I considered political science for a while, then I majored in creative writing. Finally, after fighting the cynic in my head, I settled on journalism. I thought it be a reasonable compromise.

It took me two years before I was given a chance by the newspaper. In fact, my very first published item in the newspaper was before I was hired, it was a Letter to Editor, that criticized the way women’s bodies were being objectified into shapes for the Fashion Issue.

I remember the first article I wrote, it was about a two-story commercial/residence building called The Mix. I interviewed the owner, Octavio Gomez, who also owns Crave and Independent Burger. I remember the feeling of glee. I remember those first sparks of awe, to be listened to and to listen. I sat inside Village Inn, an uncertain girl, taking her first, precarious steps into writing. It took me hours to figure it out, to get it just right.

One year, and 70 articles later, I’m still unsure. Graduation looms over me like a giant, open-ended question, but I leave a better person, who has grown, but still yet has much to learn.

I will forever be thankful to The Prospector for all the invaluable lessons I have learned while working here. It made me disciplined. It allowed me to give a voice to the voice-

less. It gave me the freedom to pursue stories that mattered to me. It taught me there are gatekeepers that hold the truth, and as journalists, we constantly have to fight for the truth. It taught me the importance of journalism, it gave me the reason and the means to write with purpose and meaning.

I have so many people to thank, some of them here, some of them gone.

I want to thank Jasmine Aguilera, for sitting with me and going through edits. For still taking the time to sit with me, when you visited El Paso, after you came back from your internship in Dallas. I’ve learned so much from you.

I want to thank Lorain Ambrocio for giving me a chance at The Prospector. It was your recommendation that got me in. Thank you for not censoring me while you were editor-In-chief. For the bountiful freedom you gave me to pursue stories that mattered to me, and for letting me voice my opinion through columns.

I want to thank Kathy, for her advice, patience and guidance.

I want to thank Vero and Isabel, for your charm and humor.

I want to thank Marcie, for laughing with me. For making my day a little better with your genuine and comforting “Hi’s.”

I want to thank David for taking the time to show me how Adobe Audition works, and for showing me all the cool little tricks you can do to get better audio.

I want to thank the advertising team for making the newspaper possible.

I want to thank the editorial team Luis, Jacobo, Javier, Michaela, Jose and Alonso, for

sacrificing your Mondays for publication night. For leaving at night, tired and sleep deprived, after only the cats remain at UTEP, because we believe in the importance of the newspaper.

I want to thank my journalism professors and TA’s, Zita Arrocha, David Smith, Andrew Kennis, Lourdes Chacon, Luis Hernandez and Aaron Montes, because your lessons and wisdom bettered my writing and reporting.

I want to thank UTEP PR, for teaching me that there’s gatekeepers to the truth, and for giving me insight into the bureaucratic way in which institutions work.

I want to thank all the people I interviewed and who took the time to speak with me.

As I write my last column, I can’t help feeling perplexed by the odd juxtaposition of being surrounded by the familiar, yet looming over me is the finality of tonight. I leave, comforted by my memories and lessons I’ve learned, they will follow me forever.

Thank you Prospector.

Maria Esquinca may NOT be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

THE PROSPECTOR

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## I will ramble on

**BY ALONSO MORENO**  
The Prospector



University life is weird, not in an ironic way, but in a way that has defied all expectations I had.

To begin, I didn't start with journalism in mind or anything remotely associated with it. Like many before me, I was a starry-eyed freshman with delusions of greatness in an exciting field such as health sciences or possibly law.

My poison of preference was medical school and the allure of being a doctor. I never did decide, but at the time I felt that pediatric surgeon was my calling, after all, I had been a very sickly child growing up, so it made sense. At least it did for me.

Anyways, I started in fantastic fashion; I had good grades and was fairly motivated on getting out of UTEP as quickly as possible and on to med school. It's important to point out that this is an incredibly hard and stupid thing to try and achieve. You don't really dictate the pace; you like to think that you do, but once you actually start taking on some of the upper division classes, then you quickly realize that you are at the mercy of professors and the such.

Surprisingly, I prevailed with little damage to my grades. Of course, it wasn't perfect 4.0 territory, but I was fairly decent through it all and had good hopes for the future.

Around year of two of the adventure, things got hard and a drastic change had to be taken. I would love to say that I had a fantastic reason to quit, but the reality was that I just sort of stopped caring. I no longer felt passion for medicine, and I began dreading classes along with the extracurricular effort needed to stand out.

It was both an interesting and scary time in my collegiate career. I could continue with the science path and eventually end up with a degree in something. I would have still been a college graduate and in the science field. Sure, nothing would have guaranteed that I would have loved it or made any decent money out of it, but it was a hell of a lot better than just dropping out.

The problem was that I needed to make a quick decision, the class work was not going to get any easier, and I could jeopardize my academic standing if I began dropping classes or failing. After some soul searching, I decided to stop with the science and focus on something else. The very next week I changed my status to general studies and began my journey in search of a new meaning in my academic life. There was only one problem, that didn't happen.

I was wise enough to change my degree, but after that I was lost and didn't know what I was going to do. For the better part of three years (senior year of high school and my first two university years) I had been dead set on a goal that I thought was everything for me. This period of my life

is actually rather scary, as the lack of direction almost forbade a feeling of certain doom. This is not true by any means, but at the time it felt like it.

I spent a considerable amount of time, which to this day I still can't bring myself to accept, lying and avoiding everyone that cared about me. I would lie, claiming that graduation was just around the corner and such things.

Eventually everyone caught on, but the only one that confronted me about it was my mother. As most caring mothers do, she proceeded to tell me I was an idiot, but that the situation was manageable. I was still the same person; I had just deviated from the path a bit.

To summarize a bit, I eventually settled on journalism out of my love for sports; or so I thought at the time.

Through some matter of luck, faith or destiny (whatever you want to believe), I landed on The Prospector's front door. I had nothing to offer, didn't even have the decency of printing a resume. But due to some strange reason, my boss decided to bring me on as an intern. From there I moved up to copy editor and the rest has been pretty much history.

This column is not supposed to be some feel good story that lifts your spirit. If anything, you can look at it as a weird tale of how things worked out for one graduating senior.

Life has a way of working out sometimes, you still have to bust your ass, but if you have the right attitude it can work out.

I would like to thank everyone on The Prospector staff for everything they have shown me. My editors that showed me the ropes of journalism, my fellow reporters that helped and inspired me to be a better writer, and my boss who gave a random guy a chance to prove himself.

It's been fun, weird at times, but fun.

Alonso Moreno may NOT be reached at the prospectordaily.  
news@gmail.com.

## Program aims to aid African-American and Hispanic males on campus

**BY LUIS GONZALEZ**  
*The Prospector*

In July of 2015, the Student Engagement and Leadership Center was awarded a two-year grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for minority male initiatives. The grant was the major step toward the creation of UTEP's Male Empowerment Network. Corey Bailey, director of SELC, launched the program with the goal of aiding incoming freshmen of African-American and Hispanic backgrounds as they transition into the college life. The program sets freshmen up with a mentor, who will help them with different aspects of college life.

"The intent was to help, what they say, close the gaps," Bailey said. "African-American and Hispanic males do not graduate at the same rates as their counterparts or women or white students. So, this program was designed to help that."

According to the Pew Research Center, Hispanics are attending college at an all-time high. In 2013, 2.2 million Hispanics were enrolled in college. It is a 201 percent increase from the number in 1993 when only 728,000 Hispanics involved in post-secondary education.

Even though the number of Hispanics in college is at an all-time high, the graduation rates of this population still lags behind. Among Hispanics between the ages of 25-29 only 15 percent have a college degree, compared to a 40 percent of whites and 60 percent of Asians. African-Americans are similar to Hispanics in that 20 percent in this demographic have a college degree.

The Pew Research Center also published a study in which female college enrollment far outpaces male enrollment. The numbers, from 2012, claim that 71 percent of women enroll in

college after high school, compared to 61 percent of males.

The MEN program looks to address these trends by reaching out to students while they are still seniors in high school and as they become freshmen in college, providing support in all areas of their lives.

"The outcomes associated with it (the MEN program) are around helping these young men establish a stronger connection to the university and also gain knowledge around university resources that can aid them in their academic and personal success," Bailev said.

The program, which started in August at the beginning of the fall semester, will have eight mentors per year. Twenty-four mentees will be divided among the eight in the first year, while the goal is to increase the number of mentees to 42 by the second year.

Currently there are six mentors, who receive monetary compensation at least during the life of the grant. MEN is still looking for two more mentors, who must fulfill certain qualifications. A junior or senior class

see **MEN** on page A4




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MEN from page A3

sification is required in order to be a mentor, a 3.5 GPA and they must have shown prior involvement at the university.

Joel Ronquillo, junior international business major, is one of the six mentors who are currently involved with the program. He was attracted to the idea because it was something he could have used as a freshman.

"I saw myself in it," Ronquillo said. "I remember when I came into UTEP, there was a lot of resources I wasn't familiar with, I thought it'd be nice to give back and help out some freshmen."

Ronquillo meets with his mentees at least once every two weeks and has developed a relationship with them while helping them with everything from personal business to academic advice.

The meetings are not the only place where mentors and mentees interact. MEN organizes different events in which the two groups can interact as a whole, looking to strengthen the relationship. Events like attending the first UTEP hockey club game or team-building exercises are some of the ways in which MEN attempts to aid incoming freshmen.

"You get to meet these different kids," Ronquillo said. "They have different backgrounds, they all come from different areas of El Paso and their circumstances are different, some struggle with this some struggle with that. It's just nice to get to know them."

The ideal mentee for the MEN program is an incoming freshman with no college experience. They must also come into UTEP with no college credit, so high school seniors

that were involved in dual-credit programs before coming to the university are really not the targeted group. At this point, however, the 24 slots for this year are not completely filled. Freshmen interested in the program that were enrolled in the fall semester can become part of the program for the spring.

“The hope is that this becomes one of the premium mentoring programs on campus.”

— Corey Bailey,  
Director of the Student Engagement  
and Leadership Center

"At this point it's not a matter of whether or not they have credits for this particular year, because we have already started the academic year," Bailey said.

This past summer, the program worked with three area high schools in recruiting mentees for this semester and the next. For next year, MEN is expanding. Not only is the target number increasing to almost the twice that of the first year, it is also working with more people and schools around the community in identifying young

men who could benefit from involvement in this program.

The number of high schools in contact with Bailey and his office has significantly increased and they are focusing on those that have Go-Centers. The university has offices in different high schools around El Paso, where high school students can go seeking direction when it comes to life after graduation. MEN is looking to use the relationship high school seniors develop with the staff at these centers in order to attract incoming freshmen to the program.

"We are now moving into our year two phase of recruitment," Bailey said. "The difference this coming year is that we're going to go to as many schools as we can hit, we're broadening our scope now."

The MEN program is still in its infant stages, but Bailey, Ronquillo and the others involved hope it will continue to grow and improve. The grant that triggered the launching of the program is set to expire after year two in the 2016-2017 school year, but the hope is the program will continue, and it can develop into an important asset the university can offer its student population.

"We have a number of mentoring programs around campus, but there aren't any that focus specifically on these two populations of students," Bailey said. "Moving down the line, the hope is that this becomes one of the premium mentoring programs on campus that people can model future mentoring programs after."

Those interested in getting involved with MEN may visit [sa.utep.edu/selc/utepmen](http://sa.utep.edu/selc/utepmen) or call 915-747-5670.

Luis Gonzalez may be reached at [theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com](mailto:theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com).

IN BRIEF

GEOLOGY

The Award and Hooding Ceremony for the College of Liberal will be at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 10, 2015 at Geology Reading Room.

MILITARY SCIENCE

The Military Science Commissioning Ceremony will be at 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11 at the Union Cinema, Union Building East.

EDUCATION


The College of Education College Ceremony will be at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11 at the Magoffin Auditorium.

ENGINEERING

The College of Engineering Order of the Engineer Ceremony will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12.

HEALTH SCIENCES

The College of Health Sciences Graduation Celebration and Hooding Ceremony will be at 3:30 p.m., check-in will begin at 2:20 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12 at the Magoffin Auditorium.




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GRIFOLS



# December 2015 graduates face favorable outlook on job market and economy

BY ALONSO MORENO  
The Prospector

As winter 2015 commencement approaches, hundreds of graduates can look to the future with hope as positive trends in the job market and the economy favor the timing of graduation.

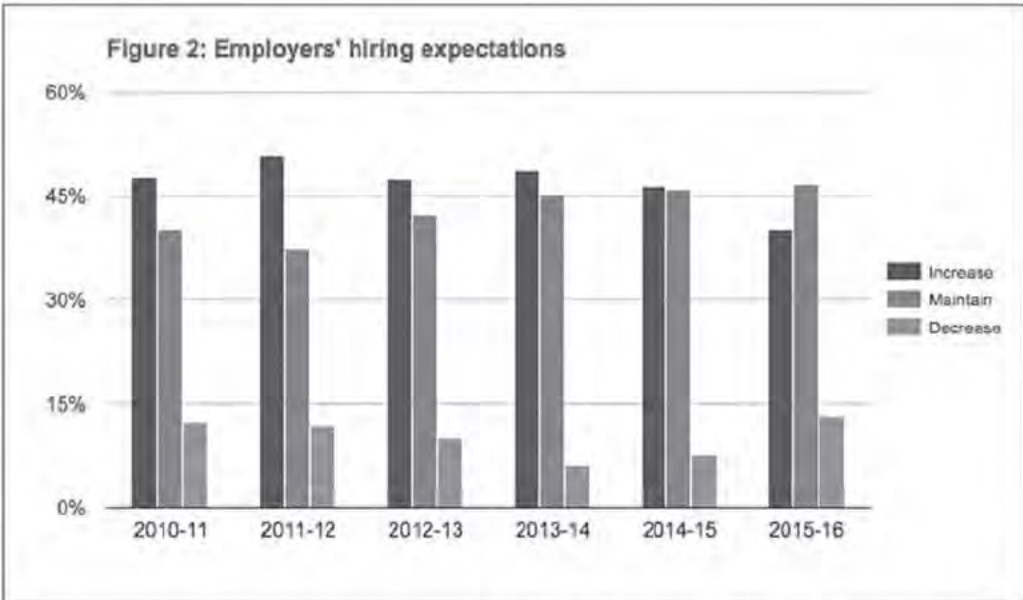
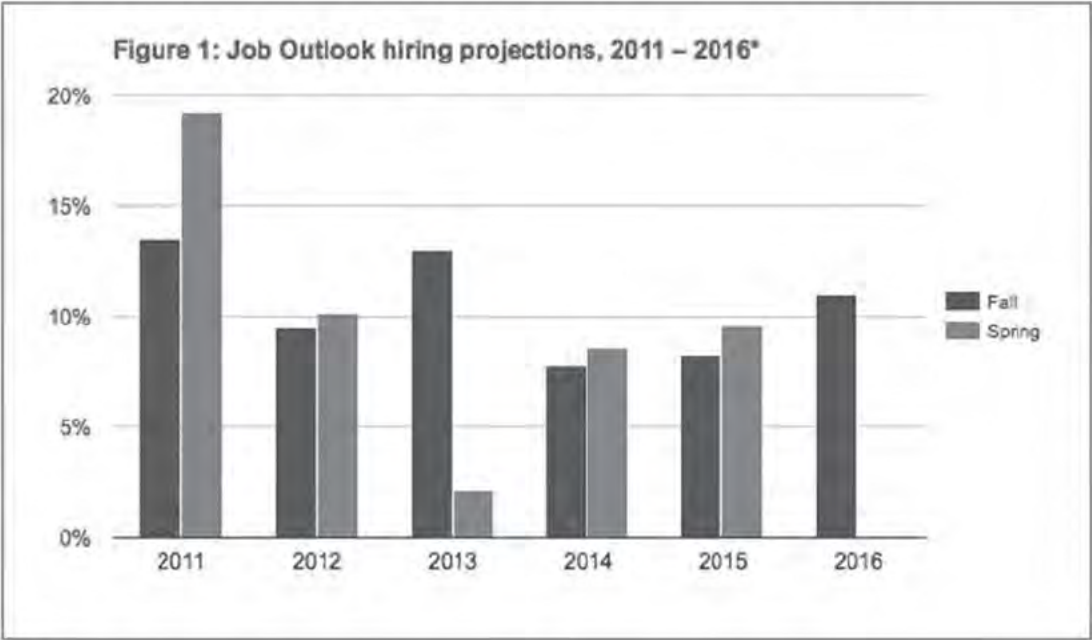
According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers job outlook 2016 survey; employers plan to hire 11 percent more new college graduates from the class of 2016.

This represents a slight improvement from their previous spring 2015 survey, which indicated an end-of-year hiring increase of about 10 percent.

Unemployment is also down, The Wall Street Journal tracked the unemployment rate at 9.5 percent overall in November 2010. The numbers for November 2015 are not out yet, but for October they were reported at 5 percent overall, continuing a small but steady decline since 2010.

Although there is no perfect blueprint to follow for success in the job market, Dr. Thomas Fullerton, chair for the Study of Trade in the Americas and professor of Economics, said that having a college degree provides an entry to a workforce with the lowest unemployment rate.

"As long as they graduate from college they are going to be treated better by the job market than somebody that had not graduated from college; at least on average," Fullerton said. "The unemployment rates for different worker categories clearly show there is an inverse relationship between educational attainment and unemployment."



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND EMPLOYERS

The Wall Street Journal also tracked the unemployment rate for individuals who hold at least bachelor's degree, showing that in October 2015 their overall unemployment rate is 2.5 percent.

Fullerton said that the trend of unemployment is pretty clear, the less educated workers are those that face the steeper markets. People with only some college education have an overall unemployment rate of 4.4 percent, still below the overall average as reported by the Wall Street Journal.

Those that only have a high school diploma or less, face a much steeper climb, as they are above the overall average, with high school grads having 5.2 percent and those with less than high school being at 7.4 percent.

"Well it's no secret really, since you were young, teachers, parents and a lot of people let you know that college is the best option if you want to get ahead in life," said Enrique Portugal, a graduating senior with a Spanish degree. "But it's also about flexibility, you have to be able to apply what you study in different ways to be more marketable and increase your chances of a landing a great job."

The allure of a high-demand job or a lucrative salary are the two biggest factors for students when it comes to deciding what to focus on, but this might not always be the best train of thought for students.

"There are number of practical decision that can be made in this regard (picking a career path), so if somebody is not sure what to study and does not have a strong desire to study a specific field, then it might make

see GRADS on page A14

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Defunding Planned Parenthood could mean struggles for health centers

BY REBECCA ANZEL AND JESSICA PEREDA

SHFWire

WASHINGTON — Scott County, Ind., is a 190 square mile, rural area on the southeastern edge of the state. Thirty-six miles north of Louisville, Ky., it is home to about 24,000 residents. As with countless Midwest towns, the county has wide open spaces. Weekends, the local concert hall draws crowds with live music. Scott County also has a low college-education rate and high drug use. One thing the county is short on is medical care — there are 25 practicing physicians, a ratio of one doctor for every 960 patients. That's below the 2011 national rate of 2.5 doctors per thousand people, according to the World Bank. It was also ranked the most unhealthy county in Indiana five years in a row. The Planned Parenthood Clinic in Scottsburg, the county seat, closed in 2013 because it lost state funding. And there have been consequences.

From 2004 to 2013, the county had five reported cases of HIV. In 2015, that number jumped 3,520 percent to 181 cases. The only difference, according to some officials, is the number of medical providers. The state has a complicated history with Planned Parenthood. Indiana became one of the first states to try to exclude Planned Parenthood from the Medicaid program in 2011, an effort eventually overturned by the courts. That was followed by numerous other efforts to restrict funding to the public health system. Scott County's clinic is one of five that has closed since 2011 as a result. It left an area struggling from what the state health department called an "opioid epidemic" with no HIV testing facilities, although any physician can perform the test.



Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards speaks at a House committee hearing on Sept. 29. The hearing was called after the July release of videos about Planned Parenthood officials talking about accepting reimbursements for fetal tissue to be used in research.

PHOTO BY JESSICA PEREDA / SHFWire

"I think the HIV outbreak has a host of environmental issues, but yes, the clinic that was in Scottsburg was one of the only HIV testing centers," Kristin Adams, president and CEO of the Indiana Family Health Council, said. "That doesn't mean docs weren't testing, but the fact is, did we miss an opportunity? The possibility is there." IFHC manages public family planning funds. While loss of the Planned Parenthood clinic was not a direct cause of the HIV outbreak, its services increased education, awareness and testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. Since the outbreak, the Indiana State Health Department

began a needle exchange program and introduced a mobile health clinic that does testing.

A national problem

A Herculean struggle between pro- and anti-abortion groups reignited in July after videos were released showing Planned Parenthood officials speaking about how the organization supplies fetal tissue to be used in research. Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards was called as a witness in a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing in September.

Critics of Planned Parenthood have called for Congress to withdraw the group's public funding for a year while an investigation is conducted. Several states have initiated investigations into Planned Parenthood. Politicians who are calling for Planned Parenthood to be defunded have said the solution to end the gap of care, should Planned Parenthood lose federal funding, would be to redirect funds to federally qualified health centers, community health centers that offer comparable services. "I support legislation that would strip roughly \$540 million in federal funding away from the Planned Parenthood Federation of America or any of its affiliate organizations and redirect it to women's health care services at facilities like community health centers," Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., said in a statement.

Others have said it might not be that simple. "Community health centers really are not equipped and should not be expected to be equipped to fill the gap in the safety net that would be left if Planned Parenthood were defunded," Kinsey Hasstedt, public policy associate at the Guttmacher Institute, said. Sara Rosenbaum, founding chair of the Department of Health Policy at the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services, echoed that thought in a piece she wrote for Health Affairs.

"A claim that community health centers readily can absorb the loss of Planned Parenthood clinics amounts to a gross misrepresentation of what even the best community health centers in the country would be able to do were Planned Parenthood to lose over 40 percent of its operating revenues overnight as the result of a ban on federal funding," she said.

Community health centers saw 22 million patients nationally in 2013. According to the National Association for Community Health Centers, the cost per patient visit was \$644 in 2012. Federal funding covered \$344 of that. While health centers could have additional sources of funding — including loans and other grants — many still struggled to close that gap. Planned Parenthood is different in that "other health-care providers do not raise private dollars to ensure that their patients can get the care that they need if they are unable to pay themselves, and we do," Betty Cockrum, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky, said.

While loss of federal funding would not automatically result in the closure of all 652 Planned Parenthood clinics across the U.S., 5 percent to 25 percent of the organization's patients would be at risk of losing health care, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Planned Parenthood clinics saw 2.8 million patients across the country in 2014, according to its website. A 2014 Guttmacher Institute report found that, although Planned Parenthood clinics represented 10 percent of all health centers, the health-care provider served 36 percent of family planning clients. With additional patients looking for medical services, stress on health centers would intensify. Sending additional funding to these health centers would be of tremendous help, but some officials say that effort might not be enough to avoid a public health-care problem. Rosenbaum said it will be hard for community health centers to immediately use money previously allocated to Planned Parenthood because "there's a gulf between that assertion and being able to provide that care."

How public health-care funding works

Planned Parenthood and community health centers receive Medicaid reimbursements and family planning grants under Title X of the Public Health Service Act. The two, with other smaller grants, make up about 40 percent of Planned Parenthood's revenue.

Medicaid is a federal-state partnership that pays for health care for people with low incomes. State governments decide which programs or services they want to fund, and in some cases they can choose how much money to allocate to health clinics.

Medicaid also pays for care in hospitals, nursing homes and doctors' offices. The federal government spent \$330 billion on Medicaid in fiscal 2015, according to the Office of Management and Budget. Title X, the only federal grant program dedicated to family planning, started during the Ronald Reagan administration. Grants are awarded to a variety of agencies, including hospitals and independent health centers. The law dictates that recipients of the grants must follow specific rules and regulations.





But money under Title X hasn't kept up with inflation. The Guttmacher Institute found the Title X grant program would need to receive \$941.5 million to keep up with the price of medical care. In 2014, Congress allocated \$286.5 million. "The need is going up — the financial support for this program is going down because Congress is cutting it," Hasstedt said.

Federally Qualified Health Centers and Planned Parenthood affiliates can receive Title X grants if they apply and meet the criteria. If they receive these grants, the middle section of the graphic is applicable. SHFWire graphic by Rebecca Anzel. Federally Qualified Health Centers and Planned Parenthood affiliates can receive Title X grants if they apply and meet the criteria. If they receive these grants, the middle section of the graphic is applicable. SHFWire graphic by Rebecca Anzel. According to the Guttmacher Institute, "Medicaid pays for core clinical care, while Title X and other see PARENTHOOD on page A8

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# For veterans, seeking mental-health treatment still has hurdles



Nick Karnaze poses for a photo on the roof of the Arlington, Va., building where he lives. Karnaze is using his experience and influence on Capitol Hill to advocate for easier and more accessible mental health care for veterans.

BY HEATHER KHALIFA  
SHFWire

WASHINGTON — After two deployments to Afghanistan and more than seven years in the Marine Corps, Nicholas Karnaze left the military in the fall of 2011 to start his men's grooming company in honor of a bearded friend who was killed in combat in 2012.

But it was in the fall of 2014 that he began to notice his concentration slipping, and his memory fading. He reached out the Department of Veterans Affairs to seek mental-health treatment, not entirely sure what was wrong with him.

One month after making the call, Karnaze met with a psychiatrist who prescribed an antidepressant.

"Two weeks into taking the medication, I began to feel depressed, beyond my initial issue with memory and concentration," Karnaze said Oct. 28 at a Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing. "Cold, lonely depression took its hold. I felt hopeless. At first I thought I was just having a really bad day, but these feelings persisted. I knew something was wrong. This was not me."

Karnaze made the decision to stop taking the medication after being told he would not be able to meet with his psychiatrist for another 30 days.

Today, Karnaze is using his experiences with the VA to advocate for better and more accessible mental-health care for veterans. He shared his story, and those of others, at the Senate hearing in hopes of paving the path for more advocacy and discussion on this issue.

"I had a few friends commit suicide upon coming home, and seeing some of my other buddies struggling with it, I was like, you know I'm kind of in a position to have an impact here," said Karnaze, who lives in Arlington, Va., just outside Washington. "I have my experiences. I'm close to the Hill. I can alert a few people who are willing to talk about this. I don't need my security clearance anymore. I have no desire to work for the government, so I can air this out, and if I lose my clearance, that's fine."

Having started his career as an intelligence officer, Karnaze knows what goes into getting a government security clearance. Seeking mental-health treatment can affect that clearance, which is why Karnaze believes many veterans chose to suffer silently.

"Let's just say you were having a really tough time at home, or fighting depression that may or may not have been PTSD related. That could in theory jeopardize your security clearance," Karnaze said. "So a lot of people I know were suffering, but wouldn't seek help, because if they lost their clearance, then they lost their job."

But the stigma that surrounds mental health is another reason Karnaze believes vets are reluctant to speak out.

"I was walking around without a cast with a broken foot, I didn't even want a cast because I didn't want guys to know I broke my foot," Karnaze said. "That's on the physical side. So mental wounds, which are much more sensitive, and guys are far less willing to share. But what I learned is that a lot of guys do want to talk about it."

## An increase in demand for mental-health treatment

The Senate hearing was called after a Government Accountability Office report highlighted many issues plaguing the VA, including appointment scheduling and the lengthy hiring process that often deters mental health professionals from working there.

Dr. Harold Kudler, chief consultant for mental health services at the VA, also testified. He said that from 2005 to 2014, the number of veterans who received mental health care from the VA grew by 71 percent — more than three times the increase seen in the overall number of VA users.

"The GAO report found that VHA met mental health hiring initiative goals, but that VAMCs reported continued challenges in ongoing hiring of mental health staff and in meeting the increasing demands for such care," Kudler said about the department's medical centers. Kudler also cited the pay disparity between the VA and the private sector, and the overall nationwide shortage of mental-health professionals. The GAO report found that unclear policies and a lack of data cause long wait times.

"Given the vulnerabilities of veterans seeking health care, ensuring timely access to care is crucial," said Dr. Debra Draper, director of the

health team at GAO. Once Karnaze got into the system, he said that the care he received from the VA has been fantastic. But the hurdle of getting into the system, along with the long wait times for appointments and a tangled phone system is ultimately what he would like to see fixed, particularly for those seeking mental-health treatment.

"With some people, they need that help and they need it now — otherwise it could end tragically," Karnaze said. "Like one of my friends who committed suicide — it was the way he did it, it seemed like it might have been planned, but he did it spur of the moment, after an argument."

## Struggling for support

Alisa Hurkman, 40, of Dallas, a full-time student at Central Texas College and a retired tank mechanic who served in the Army for over 13 years, was one of several vets who reached out to Karnaze before he testified at the Senate committee hearing.

"I could literally feel my world crumbling. I had gone through a really tough divorce, he wasn't letting me see my kids ... I felt like what's the point. I'm done. I was having panic attacks and nightmares and depression. I called and called and there was never an answer from the VA mental health building. It took me calling the patient advocate," Hurkman wrote on Karnaze's Facebook page, after he posted a status about the hearing.

After calling the patient advocate, Hurkman found out she had been dropped from the mental health log, and had to be re-entered into the system. From her last appointment with a mental-health specialist in July 2014, it took her until February to schedule another appointment.

Despite finally seeing a psychiatrist, she said her mental health still hasn't improved substantially.

Hurkman said in a telephone interview that many vets she has spoken to around the country have great experiences with the VA. But at her local clinic, that is not the case — a trend that the GAO report has found to be true. The VA performs to standards on a national scale, but many individual centers fall short of expectations.

"It is so packed every time I go in there, it's just unbelievable," said Hurkman, who goes to the Olin E. Teague Veterans' Medical Center in Temple, Texas. "There's only one hall of psychiatrists and psychologists. There should be a whole separate hospital dedicated for mental issues in the VA. This is a huge epidemic. If you're losing so many soldiers and vets from suicide from depression and PTSD, that's a red flag right there."

Hurkman said that VA doctors genuinely want to help veterans, but the administration overall and the bureaucratic way the hospitals are run are what ultimately cause the patient-doctor disconnect. Many times she has felt disrespected by the system, and by those who work at her VA center.

"Is it because I'm a female vet? Is that what it is, or is it because you have total disregard for every vet you come in contact with?" she said. "There's been a couple of times where I've been in there and I thought, 'I'm going to be escorted out of here by a cop.'"

## Advocacy for non-traditional treatment

On the morning of Veteran's Day, veterans and advocates alike woke up and emerged from the tents where they slept in McPherson Square to march to the White House two blocks away.

Among them was Jose Martinez, 27, a veteran and an activist who came from Santa Monica, Calif., to Washington to advocate for the use of marijuana, or cannabis, for veterans suffering from mental wounds.

"I think when we say marijuana, we start to limit the properties of it," said Brandon Wyatt, 31, an organizer of the event who is also a veteran and an attorney living in Washington.

"We're here advocating for the use of marijuana over actual opiates," Martinez said. "Who better than me to actually go up and talk to the people who need to be talked to, and show them this is actual true medication, or a better way, because if you're giving us opiates and we're still having people die, that's not really an answer."

According to a report by the Center for Investigative Reporting, prescriptions for opiates for veterans have more than tripled since 9/11.

see VETERANS on page A14



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grant programs buttress the system of family planning centers and fill gaps in services and coverage.”

Abortions cannot be funded through Title X grants. Medicaid pays for abortions only in cases of rape, incest and danger to the mother’s health.


Planned Parenthood received \$528 million in 2014 through Medicaid and Title X. Community health centers were allocated \$11 billion over five years, beginning in 2014.

Planned Parenthood and federally qualified health centers operate under two different sets of regulations and procedures. Health centers can choose which family planning services to offer based on need, but they do need to provide some of those services. As part of its mission statement, Planned Parenthood provides extensive family planning services.

“I think there’s some misnomers that any community health center can pick this up because the Title X grant has some different requirements that federally qualified health centers don’t have to meet,” Adams said. “The concern is, can they operate on two really different sets of rules and regulations.”

Other Concerns

If Congress votes to block Planned Parenthood from receiving federal money, some clinics may close, causing increased patient demand at public health centers. The question for patients will be whether those other clinics offer similar family planning services.

Federally Qualified Health Centers	Title X Clinics	Planned Parenthood Affiliates
		
Considered essential community providers. Required to provide primary care. Permitted to choose level of family planning services to offer. Required to treat patients below the poverty line. Required to collect statistical information annually. Care provided by physicians.	Considered essential community providers. Focused on providing family planning and sexual health services and supplies. Required to treat patients below the poverty line. Extensive reporting procedure is required. Care provided by nurse practitioners, physician assistants.	Designated as nonprofit health-care organizations. Private donations accepted to offset costs not covered by insurance companies. Focused on family planning services and supplies. Patients below the poverty line are treated as part of their mission statement. Extensive reporting procedure is required. Care provided by physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

GRAPHIC BY REBECCA ANZEL / SHFWire  
Federally Qualified Health Centers and Planned Parenthood affiliates can receive Title X grants if they apply and meet the criteria. If they receive these grants, the middle section of the graphic is applicable.

Another problem is the time it would take to allow the new funds to reach community health centers. “Other federally qualified health centers or the county health departments, which in theory could provide the same care that we provide, in theory does have a relationship with the same populations that we do. Even with the chunk of money we get from Title X, it’s not enough for them to sort of revamp their whole delivery system and take on a whole new population,” Nicole Safar, director of government relations for Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, said.

A federal appeals court on Monday overturned a 2013 Wisconsin law requiring physicians who provide abortion services to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals. The judges found the law to be unconstitutional because it placed an undue burden on a woman’s right to an abortion. State Rep. Kylie Oversen, D-N.D., said she does not think the problem is with more money for community health centers, but their accessibility. “They’re not struggling with capacity or resources, but they do not have a great reach to rural communities,” she said.

Cockrum agreed. Community clinics, she said, “don’t put a priority on public transportation. We’re not always able to make sure our locations have public transportation, but that’s a priority for us when we’re locating.”

Another issue to consider, Adams said, is whether patients would be comfortable switching to a different health-care provider. “To get patients through doors to a provider they may not be familiar with or trust is another piece many don’t think about,” she said. “For some communities, unless they

know and trust a provider, it can take 12 to 18 months to build that trust.

What’s next

The Senate must vote on a spending bill by Dec. 11, when the current spending bill expires. Planned Parenthood funding could come up in several different ways.

One is a House-passed bill that would repeal some aspects of the Affordable Care Act and defund Planned Parenthood.

“It will contain a defund of Planned Parenthood in the Obamacare repeal bill,” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said at his weekly press conference Nov. 17. “We’ll be moving to that after Thanksgiving.”

President Barack Obama would veto such a bill.

Many Republicans would prefer that a measure defunding Planned Parenthood instead be part of an overall spending bill. If that passes, Obama could veto it, triggering a government shutdown. Or when legislators return to Capitol Hill next week, they could negotiate a different solution.

“Family Planning Locations” graphic by Jessica Pereda.

Reach reporter Rebecca Anzel at rebecca.anzel@scripps.com or 202-408-1489 and reporter Jessica Pereda at jessica.pereda@scripps.com or 202-408-1493. SHFWire stories are free to any news organization that gives the reporter a byline and credits the SHFWire. Like the Scripps Howard Foundation Wire interns on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram.

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**For questions or submit your materials, contact: artdept@utep.edu • (915) 747-5176**





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Jesus Manuel Carranza  
Jorge Abraham Carreon  
Carmen Casillas  
Greg Edgardo Castillo  
Bernardita Gonzales Cone  
Arturo Contreras  
Jonatan Miguel Contreras  
Jose Alberto Contreras  
Carl Duran Cooper II  
Andrew Dominic Curtis  
Heather Ann Daniels  
John Alex Davis  
Nestor Yered Duran Nungaray  
Joslynn J. English  
Christina Ashley Esparza  
Donna Estrada  
Kristina Nicole Fierro  
Lucero Stephanie Flores  
Krista Joy Nicole Frenz  
Shannon Leigh Frymyer  
Eduardo Gamboa Jr  
Edgar Ivan Garcia  
Pedro Garcia  
Sarah A. Garcia  
Gracy Z. Garcia-Samaniego  
Diana Gomez  
Carmen Elia Gonzalez  
Iris A. Guillen  
Justin Hargrave  
Arturo Hernandez Jr  
Daniel Garrett Hernandez  
Daniela Maria Hernandez  
Dulce Maria Holguin  
Robert Nicholas Holguin  
Daniela Ibarra  
Ava Noel Jednak  
Angela Jazmin Lechuga  
Andrea Liano  
Linda Lopez  
Gilberto Lucero Jr  
Marisol Marroquin  
Alysandra Erika Martinez  
Erick Jesus Martinez  
Omar Martinez  
Samuel Adrian Medina  
Lannie Lee Mendez-Patton  
Jose Luis Mendoza  
Denisse Estefany Mendoza Valdez  
Adrian Enrique Meza  
Michelle Denise Millen  
Silvia Paola Miranda  
Darnell Lamar Murray Jr.  
Marcos Alfredo Myers II  
KC Nelson  
Nallely Calanche Nieto  
Jennifer Nunez  
Karla Olivas  
Evette Roxanne Ortiz  
Maria De Jesus Ortiz  
Yanira Ortiz  
Edward Tyler Parrott  
Tania Patlan  
Elizabeth Portillo  
Joshua Blakely Radabaugh  
Donna Priscilla Reyes  
Martha Isabel Reyes  
Cesar Reza  
Stephanie Rincon  
Gabriela Rivera

Andres Rodriguez  
Crystal Rosains  
Rosa Denise Rubalcava  
April Marie Rumgay  
Michael Alan Saenz  
Luis A. Salas  
Lynette Mariel Salazar  
Leandra Karina Sanchez  
Dustin Nicholas Schirmer  
Ellisia Naomi Shafer  
Jizelle Silerio  
Ivan Silva  
Adrian Michael Soto  
Claudia Lizzette Taylor  
Lorenzo Joaquin Tena Jr  
Yolanda Sarai Tiemann  
Aaron Tinoco  
Julio Cesar Valdez  
Edgar Valdivia  
Caroline Goretti Vazquez  
Xavier Alfredo Vazquez  
Ryan Danelle Venegas  
Robert Lee Vint IV  
Brandi Eileen Wade  
Sylvia J. Ward  
Jennifer Leanne Whelpdale  
Guadalupe Wiles  
Cecilia A. Zambrano  
Esther Zapata

**Bachelor of Fine Arts**  
Staphany Garnica  
Cholong Jeon  
Mark Adrian Sadler  
Harry Sanchez Jr  
Stephanie Torres

**Bachelor of**  
**Multidisciplinary Studies**  
April Alvarez  
Silvia Alejandra Amador Ortega  
Elizabeth Anchondo  
Shokooh Bahadorzadeh  
Lawrence Edward Brown III  
Sonia Leticia Carr  
Joy Denise Cassagnol  
Marcos Castaneda  
Agustin Cordova IV  
Luis Miguel Del Villar  
Abraham Dominguez  
Belinda Dominguez  
LaQuintus Antonio Dowell  
Joseph John Fernandez  
Audrey Nicole Gleason  
Diana Gonzales  
Heraldo Gonzales III  
Alexandra Selenia Gonzalez  
Terry Wayne Green Jr  
Mario Andree' Hagelsieb Matthew  
Lamar Heard  
Patric Kyle Holderfield  
Elizabeth JoAnn Holmack  
Mark Gerald Jordan  
Krista Elizabeth Lane  
Aisha O. Lee  
Christal Sue Leon  
Tanisha Laverne Lewis  
Dorian Nickole Luxon  
Nancy Gloria Martinez  
Victoria Yvonne Martinez  
Margarita Elena Miramontes  
Madison Wynn Morris  
Alma Esther Munoz  
James Allen Nichols  
Marta Oledzka  
Eliza Reyes  
Irene LouAnn Rivera  
Jasmine Victoria Rodriguez  
Monica Paulina Rodriguez  
Danielle Rae Scott  
Rhasean Terrell Stephens  
Alyssa Kazmin Toney  
Marie Ulloa Vega  
Carla Elena Valdez  
Carlos Valdez  
Jennifer Leigh Weed  
Alexandra Jan Williams  
Amanda Gaye Wolf

**Bachelor of Music**  
Nathan Thomas Black  
Rocio Adriana Martinez Penner  
Mariana Sandoval

**Bachelor of Science**  
Paulina Lisset Escobar  
Edith Gonzalez  
Christopher Edward Juarez  
Daphne Mustakidys  
Adriana Perez  
Angelica Sepulveda

**COLLEGE OF SCIENCE**  
**Bachelor of Science**  
Jacqueline Nicole Acosta  
Alejandro Alfonso Acuna  
Uriel Leopoldo Aguirre  
Delilah Aranda  
Maria Valeria Ayoub  
Brian Barraza  
Julian Malachy Biddle  
Ethan Colten Black

Irma Irene Blanco  
Crystal Francine Caire  
Celeste Cano  
Athyla Marie Carrasco  
Kathy Dianne Carter  
Daniel De Anda  
Jessica Fernandez  
Felipe Antonio Gamboa Jr  
Jennifer M. Garcia  
Sarah Michele Garcia  
Celia Garcia Amparan  
Miqueas Gomez  
Crystal Rose Grajeda  
Alexandra Julieta Gutierrez  
Omar Lorenzo Gutierrez Ruiz  
Derek Max Hendryx  
Thomas Joel Hughes  
Elizabeth Margaret Johnson  
Coral Lechuga  
Antonio Ebed Legarda II  
Eric Kevin Marin  
Jonathan Antonio Martel  
Lilian Ivette Martin del Campo  
Eva A. Medina  
Liliana Esther Meza  
Michael Miranda  
Noel Molina Limon  
Jenny Moya  
Ricardo Myers  
Karla Daniela Nessman  
Eric Bobby Nieto  
Joanna Arleen Olivas  
Juan Alberto Oropeza  
Erik Marcel Pacheco  
Jesus Alejandro Pedroza  
Samantha Eve Ramirez  
Enrique Ramirez-Homs  
Alejandro Rios  
Humberto Rojo  
Jaime Antonio Sanchez  
Laura Isabel Saucedo  
Jerry Omar Sena  
Emma Marta Adelaide Sundin  
Yessica Torres Sosa  
Anthony Jesus Vasquez  
Sergio Villanueva  
Erin M. Wofford  
John Curtis Yenshaw  
Brenda Guadalupe Zepeda

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**Bachelor of**  
**Interdisciplinary Studies**  
Yolanda Dolores Amaya  
Patricia M. Boyd  
Monica Amanda Corona  
Norma Yolanda Dominguez  
Elsa C. Estrada  
Aremy Moreno De Vallecillo  
David Muniz  
Jenelle Renee Pedroza  
Lizette Guadalupe Pillado  
Brenda L. Vidana

### COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

### ADMINISTRATION

**Bachelor of Business**  
**Administration**  
Blake Christian Adams  
Armando Aguilar  
Abeer Nusseibeh Ahmad  
Ricardo Alberto Alarcon  
Juan Carlos Alvarado  
Mark Rene Anchondo  
Andres Ivan Ariza  
Carlos Ivan Avila  
Ivan Benitez  
Justin Aaron Briones  
Damien Guillermo Carranza  
Carina Castillo  
Cesar Chavez  
Anthony Alberto Crespo  
Leo De La Rosa  
Brisa Jannet Delgado  
Adolfo Espinola  
Gerald Anthony Espinoza  
Carlos Andrey Estrada  
Edgar Ivan Fierro  
Elizabeth Kay Fierro  
Aldo Fuentes  
Hector Hugo Garcia  
John Joseph Garcia  
Irene Del Rebollet Gari Gilabert  
Rene Gonzalez  
Aaron P. Grijalva  
Benjamin Guerrero  
Wendy Esmeralda Halm  
Edwin Marshall Hamilton  
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Pablo Ivan Hernandez  
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Julio Cesar Lara  
Kathleen Lee Lattner  
Kiyoko Maria Li  
Xiao Ling Liu  
Walter Ricardo Lopez  
Daniel Alberto Loya  
Juan Pablo Lozoya  
Elizabeth Luna Lujan  
Mark Anthony Manzanares  
Coral Palmira Mata  
Rodrigo Maynez  
Monica Montalvo  
Fabiola Alexandra Nevarez



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Carlos Barrientos  
Edwin Cordoba  
Nabil Lucero Gonzalez  
Gabriel Arturo Infante  
John Anthony Madrid  
Anthony Ramirez  
Luiz Alberto Rodriguez  
Robert Vega Jr.

## Bachelor of Science

Christine Marie Alarcon  
Julie Alvarez  
Grace Noemi Angeles  
Andres Blanco  
Meagan Renee Borbon  
Destiny Sierra Butler  
Luisa Linette De La Torre  
Elizabeth Dominguez-Fierro  
Diana Paola Flores  
Danielle Marie Leyva  
Kaitlyn Marie Rinehart  
Javier Rivas  
Destiny Celeste Rodriguez  
Cristina R. Saiz  
Stephanie A. Shaw  
Iliana Soto  
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Carlos Urias  
Sarah V. Van Pelt  
Kristian D. Villanueva

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

### Bachelor of Science

Sammy Abdelhafez  
Isha Allina Ahmad  
Alejandro Alonso  
Caitlin Nicole Alvarez  
Corinna Demi Alvarez  
Regine Sarau Amaro  
Amy Jannett Arrieta  
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Jocelyn Rebecca De Leon  
Daniela DeStefano  
Ana Ruby Delgadillo  
Adriana Demoss  
Benjamin P. Deutsch  
Renada Lynn Devoll  
Jennifer Grace Dixon  
Claudia Dominguez  
Elizabeth Dominguez-Fierro  
Alexandra Duarte-Duran  
Veronica Escalante  
Christopher Anthony Falcon  
Valerie Favela  
Lucy Estela Fierro  
Andrea Flores  
Marianne Giselle Villena Fortaleza  
Eduardo Galindo  
Ana Georgina Garcia  
Jesus Brian Garcia  
Amanda Susan Garnica  
Alexandra Gonzalez  
Joseph Gonzalez III  
Brian Ivan Grajeda  
Jalayne Heather Graniczny  
Jovana A. Grimaldo  
Cecil Ariana Guardado  
Alexa Guerrero  
Andy Sergio Gutierrez  
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Cynthia Maritza Hernandez  
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Vanessa Hernandez  
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Alexander Rene Holguin  
Saul Ivan Holguin  
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Jonathan Antonio Huerta  
Sue Ellen Huffman  
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Abner Andres Linares  
Juan Carlos Lopez  
Stephen Matthew Luna  
Kimberly Ann Lywiski  
Belem Martinez  
Irving Martinez  
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Grecia Daniela Medina  
Mayra Alejandra Medina  
Alejandra Lizeth Medina Herrera  
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Lois Mendez  
Esmeralda Mendoza  
Irving Miramontes  
Gloria Marie Miranda  
Natalia Moreno  
Efen Narvaez  
Allison Marie Nawman  
Eric D'angelo Nevarez  
Stephanie Nevarez  
Jesus Orozco  
Andrea Jessica Ouchley  
Lilliana Padilla

Kassandra Nikol Pallares  
Victor Yuanhao Pang Huang  
Zachary L. Parada  
Hector Fernando Pariente  
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Michelle Angelina Pinho  
Brenda Dennise Ponce  
Vanessa Ponce  
Luis Ivan Prieto  
Paulina Aileen Quinonez  
Gaspar Arturo Quintana  
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Waleeja Khurram Rashid  
Rachel Reyes  
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Joshua John Rincon  
Valeria Ivette Rivas  
Alex Rivera  
Israel Rivera Jr.  
Gaston Rodriguez  
Javier Isaac Rodriguez  
Jorge Romero  
Nasreen Roohi  
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Alyssa Frances Salcido  
Arin Saldivar-Duchene  
Rodolfo Sanchez Jr.  
Daniel Schacht  
Nicolas Daniel Silva  
Lionel Solis  
Tanay Latrice Stevenson  
Mauricio Terres  
Samuel Anthony Torres  
Claudia Liliana Torres Rincon  
Michael Angelo Trujillo  
Lisa Jacqueline Valles  
William Jerardo Vasquez  
Juan Manuel Villalba  
Ben Marcelo Villalobos  
Janelly Villalobos  
Brianna Anjuli Webb  
Ahmad N. Yousif  
Celso Adrian Zamora

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies**  
Victoria Acosta  
Alejandra Araiza  
Rebecca Lauren Arellano  
Jessica Christina Arias  
Monique Erika Armendariz  
Kristen Nichole Ash  
Elizabeth Irene Barker  
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Isabel Castro  
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Andreina Chavira  
Jacqueline Hinojos Chavira  
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Rosa Carolina Contreras  
Laura Sofia Cueva  
Jennifer Rose Davis  
Cristal Naraim Enriquez  
Johana Alejandra Gallegos  
Marcia Lizzette Gama  
Diana Garcia  
Karina Garcia  
Krizia Loren Garcia  
Maria Yvette Gonzalez  
Lorena Guerrero  
Valerie Isabel Gutierrez  
Mayela Guzman  
Celeste Hernandez  
Vicente Hernandez  
Rebecca Ballesteros Ibarra  
Naira N. Isais  
Lizeth M. Leon  
Cristian Leyva Lerma  
Luis Fernando Loera  
Judith Lopez  
Daniella Patricia Lucero  
Mayra Martina Marquez  
Rochelle LeeAnn Melendez  
Rocio Mendoza  
Lorena Guadalupe Mireles  
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Angelica Molina  
Meagan Janay Montoya  
Valeria Nevarez  
Veronica Pacheco  
Luis Adtian Polanco  
Marisol Quiroz  
Adriana Reyes  
Krystle Michelle Reyes  
Silvia Erika Robles  
Laura Maria Rodriguez  
Jennifer Rubio  
Lizet Salazar  
Veronica Sandoval  
Andrea Siegfried  
Desiree Michelle Silva  
Whitney Leigh Stewart  
Brooke Elizabeth Tausch  
Elijah Thang Thompson  
Maria del Rosario Tijerina  
Alexandra Valles  
Marisol Angelica Vazquez  
Monica Vazquez  
Judith S. Williams

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

**ADMINISTRATION**  
**Bachelor of Business Administration**  
Maleni Acosta  
Diana Acuna  
AnaCristina Aguilar  
Carlos Antonio Aguilar  
Giselle Brenda Aguilera  
Diego Andres Alanis  
Elliott C. Alcantar  
Khaled Ahmed Ali  
Aaron A. Allen  
Sofia Alejandra Alonso  
April Alvarado  
Jeanette Nicole Alvarado  
Vanessa Alvarado  
Abigail Alvarez  
Yoshika Yamilet Amamori  
Estefania Amato  
Victor Arturo Ambriz  
Jose Luis Anaya  
Diana Araceli Arellano Elizondo  
Diana Alejandra Avalos Aragon  
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Jonathan Ayala  
Monica Baca  
Fidel H. Baeza  
Pearlie Marie Bailey  
Alyssa Danielle Barcena  
Marissa J. Barcena  
Octavio Baro  
Silvia Andrea Barrera  
Matilde Barroteran  
Paul Eric Hubiera Bautista  
Monica Ivonne Bejarano  
Alejandro Armando Bretado  
Gustavo Alonso Briseno  
Ricky Ifeanyi Buchunam  
Eugenio Alonso Calzada  
Eduardo Campos  
Viridiana Campuzano  
Jose Andres Canales  
Christian Cardenas  
Eduardo Cardenas  
Daniel Jacob Carrasco  
Esmeralda Carreon  
Armando Carrillo  
Cynthia Cedillo  
Benjamin Cera  
Jazmin Cervantes  
Laura Cecilia Chacon Gonzalez  
Cynthia Chavez  
Jazmin A. Chavez  
Mario A. Chavez Jr.  
Marissa Diane Chavez  
Valerie Denise Chavez  
Ruben Andres Chavez Paz  
Luis Adrian Chavez Villalobos  
Raul Chong  
Andrew Christmas  
Francisco Javier Contreras Jr.  
Maribel Cordova  
Celina Nicole Corral  
Michael R. Costello  
Elizabeth Croas  
Vincent Robert Czerniewski  
Antonio De la Garza  
Jorge Alberto Delgadillo  
Jose Luis Delgadillo  
Alan Ricardo Delhumeau  
Brenda Diaz  
Karina Astrid Diaz  
Rosa G. Diaz  
Jazmin Diaz De Leon  
Luisa F. Diaz De Leon  
Daniela Dominguez Arriaga  
Veronica Wanda Donnelly  
Francisco Jonathan Duenas  
Mirka Yadeth Duran Vega  
Jesus Manuel Enriquez Jr.  
Morris Eugene Epstein  
Danielle Rachel Escalante  
Karen Luliana Escobar  
Javier Ilian Espino  
Percy Christian Espinoza  
Joaquin Esquivel Jr.  
Ana Karen Estrada  
Shenti Idhali Estrada  
Thania Bethzabel Facio  
McKenzie Joy Finley  
Maria Fernanda Fiscal Centeno  
Igor Alberto Flores  
Natalie Flores  
Pablo Azzad Fournier  
Rebeca Fourzan  
Cynthia Frausto  
Rafael Gabilondo  
Charles Patrick Gabriel  
Juan Hector Garcia  
Michael Jonathan Garcia  
Stephan Brandon Garcia  
Jacob Christian Gardea  
Ruby Soledad Garibay  
Marco Alejandro Gomez  
Miguel Angel Gomez  
Arturo Gonzalez  
Jose Luis Gonzalez Jr.  
Louie Gonzalez  
Marlyn Gonzalez  
Perla Gonzalez  
Ruby Gonzalez  
Natalie Granillo  
Yaisah Joanna Granillo  
Justin Michael Guaderrama  
Juan Jose Guerrero Zapata  
Jorge Gutierrez  
Roberto Gutierrez Saldana  
Mirian Isabel Haight  
Oscar Hernandez  
Lizeth V. Herrera  
David Rodrigo Horcasitas

Brandi Lynn Huffman  
Crystal Marie Hughes  
Damian Hurtado  
Victor Manuel Ibarra Romero  
Victor Jimenez  
Talia Nicole Jones  
Sylvia Alexandra Jurado Clift  
Michael Karpus  
John Kenneth La Prade  
Paulina Vianey Lara  
Guadalupe Lara Ornelas  
Adriana Lares  
Karla Lastra  
Courtney David LeMar  
Alanna Lagise Leasau  
Alan Lechuga  
Eric DaShaad Lee  
James Andrew Lefebvre  
Jennifer Anne Licking  
Hollie Elizabeth Liles  
Samantha A. Lira  
Karla Susana Lizarraga  
Ruben Lopez  
Tracy Elizabeth Lopez  
Efrain Lopez-Gameros  
Carlos Arturo Loya  
David Loya  
Hazael Loya  
Jacob Frank Loya  
Blanca Alejandra Lozano  
Claudio G. Lozano  
Carolina Marquez  
Christian A. Martin  
Alejandro Martinez  
Crystal J. Martinez  
Daniel Martinez  
Marcos Martinez  
Paulina Martinez  
Sofia Elena Mata Sanchez  
Ariel Jessica Means  
Maritza Medina  
Miguel Angel Melendez  
Mariely Mendoza  
Valeria Mendoza  
Maria Fernanda Mendoza Bermudez  
Andrea Elizabeth Mercado  
Angel Meza  
Devin White Miertschin  
Saray Miramontes  
Nicole Lynn Montano  
Jackelin Montelongo  
Andres R. Montoya  
Miguel Angel Mora  
Amanda Morales  
Alan Abner Morquecho Loera  
Julio Raymundo Munoz  
Justin Lee Nabhan  
Nayef Joseph Nebhan  
Blaise Lewis Nelson  
Jose Alberto Nevarez  
Nhan T. Nguyen  
Malcom Edward Nightingale  
Kathryn Kristine Nunez  
Adrian Olivas  
Amber Giovanna Olmeda  
Carlos Adrian Ontiveros  
Amanda Nicole Orozco  
Crystal Orquiz  
Julio Cesar Ortega  
Angel Santiago Ortiz  
Diana Paulina Ortiz  
Monica Julie-Ann Ortiz  
Ashley Krystelle Pacheco  
Marco Antonio Panama  
Ariel Brito Pardo  
Elizabeth Ashley Peak  
Jere Ryan Pelletier  
Omar Alfonso Pena  
Daniela Maryel Perea  
Angelica Yvette Perez  
Hernan Perez Diaz  
Nicole Hope Pon  
Claudia Patricia Ponce  
Isaiah Jabneel Portillo  
Rodrigo Portillo  
Angelica Prieto  
Claudia E. Pulido  
Jose Alfredo Pulido  
Jaime Ramon Ramirez  
Javier Humberto Ramirez Jr.  
Josue Ramirez  
Lorena Rangel-Pineda  
Omarr Farid Rasool  
Daniel Reyes  
Donna Priscilla Reyes  
Erica Marie Reyes  
Henry Reyes III  
Nicolas Adrian Reyes  
Rogelio Reyes  
Martin Joseph Reynolds II  
Matthew Dean Reza  
Daniel Dario Rios  
Daniel Rios Jr.  
Melissa Rivera  
Carlos Alberto Rivera Aguilar  
Maribel Rodarte  
Gabriela Rodriguez  
Karen Rodriguez  
Mario Adrian Rodriguez  
Rene Adrian Rodriguez  
Mario Alberto Rodriguez Chavez  
Jacqueline Ruby Rubalcava  
Francisco Rubio  
Yazmin Gonzalez Saenz  
Jorge Christian Salices  
Corina Ileana Salas  
Josue Salas  
Maria Salas  
Viviana Salas  
Roberto Salcedo  
Dania Maribel Sanchez  
December Grae Sanchez

Moraima Daisy Sanchez  
Erick Eduardo Sanchez Medina  
Laura Andrea Sandino  
Angel Osval Sandoval Soto  
Marisa Santacruz  
Mariana Schenk  
Chrystian Schmitt  
Monica Gabriela Servin  
Samantha Nicole Silva  
Martin Leth Simonsen  
Jessica Sosa  
Abraham Sotelo  
Nahum Sotelo  
Pedro Daniel Sotelo  
Elizabeth Soto  
Michael Andy Soto  
John Phillip Umali Sy  
Krystal Tellez  
Daniel Enrique Terrazas  
Erica Alejandra Torres  
Michael Aaron Torres  
Sandra Torres  
Claudia Yazmin Trevizo  
Richard LeRoy Ulrich III  
Diego Valadez  
Mario Andres Valverde  
Silvia Patricia Vargas  
Nancy Elizabeth Velarde  
Noe Villa  
Carlos Jose Villarreal  
Edgar Yosefat Villaverde  
Carla Rocio Villaverde Mayorga  
Hector Vitela  
Rolando Enrique Vivas  
Juan Antonio Vizcarra Hernandez  
Alec Wiener  
Erika Lee Williams  
Ana Gabriela Yanez  
Sofia C. Yee  
Eric Kevin Zaragoza  
Norma Zuniga  
Karen Zuniga Anchondo

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH

### SCIENCES

#### Bachelor of Science

Clarissa Nicole Alvillar  
Miguel Angel Amaya  
Alejandro Patrick Anoveros  
Natalie Arredondo  
Marylou Astorga  
Christian Joseph Balandran  
David Devon Bowens  
Brandon Tyler Brown  
Tiffany N. Butler  
Salvador Orlando Caballero III  
Raul Adrian Calderon  
Justine Ashley Carnera  
Monic Eva Chavez  
Sandra Leticia Cobos Ms  
Fernando Cortez  
John Delarosa  
Rodolfo Antonio Diaz Jr.  
Ricardo Arie Diaz De Leon  
Sarah Elizabeth Grace Dilling  
Amber Nicole Eck  
Ishmael Cyrus Espinal  
Zoraida Espinoza-Castro  
Danya Sofia Fernandez  
Cristina Flores  
Andrea Goche  
Daisuke Esteban Goya  
Alfonso Granados  
Itzel Gabriela Guerrero  
Aldo Hernandez  
Christopher Alan Isabelle  
Shawna Taylor Lee  
Jose Guadalupe Lopez Jr.  
Samantha Lozoya  
Amy Marie Lucero  
Ernesto Lujan Jr.  
Julie Christine Macias  
Alexa-Reign Marquez  
Cynthia B. Marrufo  
Caitlin Marie Martinez  
Diamond D. Martinez  
Julio Cesar Martinez  
Nidia Angelica Martinez  
Ashley Monique Melendez  
Oscar Jesus Melendez  
Jenessa Irene Moguel  
Ricardo Luis Moran  
Alexis Sofia Navarrette  
Ashley Nicole Neal  
Ski A. Noriega  
Shawna Leigh Payan  
Jallicia R. Pearson  
Cesar G. Perez Jr.  
Veronica Annette Pompa  
Laura Annette Porras  
Ilse Vanessa Quinonez  
Jacqueline Renee Quinonez  
Marcos Ramirez  
Angel Ray Raya  
Leimomi LaJuan Reyes  
Jose Rivera  
Alejandro Salazar  
Alfredo Salazar  
Christian Adrian Salazar Mares  
Jonathan Sanchez  
Stephanie Sazo  
Jessica Renee Siegel  
Ricardo Antonio Silvera Jr.  
Daniel Alfredo Torres  
Julio Cesar Vargas  
Julian George Vasquez  
Jesus Andres Vega  
Hannah Romelle Velasco  
Javier Zamarripa  
Elsy Alejandra Zermeno

## SCHOOL OF NURSING

### Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Humberto Acevedo  
Lillie Annette Alvarado  
Jazmin Avila  
Diana Jean Baker  
Fabian Matthew Barragan  
Alejandra Borja  
Eileen Brenda Boureslan  
Jessica Marie Buyo  
Angel Cabrera Jr.  
Melissa Lan Tran Calderwood  
Adriana Abigail Castillo  
Riann Concepcion Chavez  
Stephanie Chavez  
Melissa Dawn Clark  
Ronalee Cochran  
Stephen Isaiah Contreras  
Itzel Abigail Cortes  
Robert Gabriel Credeur II  
Crystal Davis  
Joanna Delgadillo  
Mayany Delgado  
Celina Maria Doyle  
Paulette Arely Dozal  
Kristina Escobar  
Manuel Estrada  
Sara Lorene Marie Flowers  
Luis Eduardo Fons  
Priscilla Emilia Fraire  
Alma R. Fuentes  
Nohemi Galindo  
Diana Stephanie Gamboa  
Frances Gamboa  
Veronica Diane Garcia  
Jacob Able Gaytan  
Gary Gilman  
Kenneth Moses Githinji  
Mayte Lizbeth Githinji  
Cleo Patrick Glover  
Aldo Humberto Gonzalez  
Christina Granillo  
Mario Gurrola  
Arturo Guzman  
Reyna Guzman  
Victoria Ashlee Hall  
Dora R. Hernandez  
Erica Charlene Flores Hernandez  
Francisco Hernandez  
Giovanni Andre Hernandez  
Karina Susana Hernandez  
Guadalupe Herrera  
Christopher Daniel Holden  
Christian Omar Holguin  
Jannel Jara  
Gina Juarez  
Leondra Lachelle King  
Kathryn Marie Kory  
Betsaida Lara  
Oscar Leonardo Lazcano  
Marisela Lopez  
Jacqueline Andrea Lowe-Young  
Denise Marquez  
Annette Salas Martinez  
Andrea Jessica Maynes  
Ashley Diana McMullin  
Nancy Nayeli Medina  
Hugo Javier Melendez  
Andrew Christian Mena  
Gabriel Mendoza Marquez  
Carlos Mirabal Jr.  
Jessica Francis Mireles  
Holly Suzanne Mitchell  
Araceli Moreno  
Kimberly Jennifer Najera  
Pedro Armando Napoles Jr.  
Candice Marie O'Connor  
Lynda Katherine Obando  
Gabrielle Olivas  
Marco Antonio Oropeza  
Brenda Padilla  
Fedirmando J. Parra  
Jessica N. Pena  
Maria Francisca Perez  
Ivette Porras  
Edna Ramirez  
Angel Ruben Ricci  
Annette Marie Rinehart  
Omar Alejandro Rios  
Denice M. Rivera  
Brandon Scott Rodriguez  
Yolanda Rojo  
Paul Romero  
Priscilla Romero  
Bianca Marie Ryan  
Dion Anthony Saenz  
Karla Margarita Salazar  
Iris Estrella Sanchez  
Veronica Sanchez Valadez  
Marcos Arturo Sandoval  
Gillian Mary Sheppard  
Lizette Alejandra Sidransky-Ulloa  
Marco Antonio Sotelo  
Armando Soto  
Carmila Marie Steen  
Jeannette Tapia  
Daniel Hector Tarin  
Sarah Elizabeth Thornton  
Monica Tom  
Rebecca Urias  
Katherine Christine Valles  
Veronica Varela  
Arlette Villalobos  
Michele Ann Villalobos  
John Charles Wood Jr.



# UTEP continues to rank low in sexual health report card



Two members of the Healthy Miners Sex Positive Peer Education Program demonstrate safe sex.

SERGIO ZAMORA / THE PROSPECTOR

BY MARIA ESQUINCA  
The Prospector

The University of Texas at El Paso ranked 103 out of 140 in Trojan's Sexual Health Report Card, an annual study sponsored by the makers of Trojan Brand Condoms and conducted by Sperling's BestPlaces. The independent study ranks American colleges and universities according to the availability of sexual health resources on campus.

"At the top schools, what we're seeing is a real focus on talking about sexual health," said Bert Sperling, president of Sperling's BestPlaces. "They're trying to talk about sex as part of a real, natural, healthy living. They more they talk about it in the open, the less likely there is for unintended consequences."

“This is a real tool students can use to start a dialogue with the administration.”

— Bert Sperling, BestPlaces president

According to the report, when it comes to sexual health, the country is failing. Data published in the 2014 Center for Disease Control Surveillance Report, reveals an increase in reported cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis. There were 1.4 million reported cases of chlamydia, an increase from 2013.

Youth between the ages 15 to 24 are the biggest at-risk population. Although they are the lowest portion of the sexually active population, they account for the highest rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea. Previous CDC estimates suggest they acquire half of the 20 million new STDs diagnosed each year.

"The consequences of STDs are especially severe for young people," said Gail Bolan, director of the CDC's Division of STD Prevention, in a news release.

In El Paso, the rate of chlamydia is higher than the state average. According to data from the State Department of Health Services, in 2013 there were 128,036 chlamydia cases in Texas, a rate of 475 per 100,000 residents. While data from the Healthy Paso Del Norte reveals that El Paso's chlamydia incidence rate at 598.9 cases per 100,000 residents.

"There's definitely an urgency to talk about this," said Corina Garrison, graduate assistant for UTEP Healthy Miners. "I feel people are a little resistant to talk about the topic."

The current ranking represents an improvement for UTEP from the two previous years, of 127 and 122. The study ranks colleges based on how they measure on 11 criteria, including contraceptive availability, free or at cost condom availability, free or at cost HIV testing, sexually transmitted infection testing and sexual assault programs, among others.

Some of the things in place at UTEP that fall under the 11 categories measured by the Trojan report card include: STD testing, which is offered by the Student Health Center.

They provide 8 different STD tests, the cost ranges from \$20 to \$36, plus a \$15 charge for processing and handling; condom availability, which is provided for free at the student pharmacy, located inside the SHC, they are also provided for free by the Healthy Miner Sex Positive Peer Education Program at room 134 inside the Health Science and Nursing Building.

Free female condoms and dental dams are also provided upon request in the Healthy Miner Sex Positive PEP office and UTEP Student health center depending on availability; HIV testing, which is available through the SHC. The College of Health Science offers free, monthly HIV testing.

The next scheduled HIV Testing Day is Wednesday, from 11 am to 2 pm on Dec. 2 at the College of Health Sciences and Nursing Building, Room 134; and birth control, which is available at the SHC for \$17.

Sexual assault awareness is being addressed by UTEP Do One Thing program. The program was unveiled in the summer and trains colleges, universities, civic and government groups, as well as other organizations about how to reduce and prevent violence.

The one category that is unfulfilled by UTEP is an extra-credit program.

However, Sperling said UTEP falls short in providing sexual-health

information and resources, compared to other universities of its size.

"Other schools that we see of similar size have a much more active number of programs," he said.

University of Oregon, who took the No. 6 spot, developed a free, mobile app, called SexPositive. The app follows a matches the potential STI risks, with selected body parts.

Sperling said in order to improve, UTEP could increase wellness resources, workshops, programs and provide more sexual health information on their website.

Sperling said students from other low-ranking universities, used the report card as a tool to talk with administration.

"This is a real tool students can use to start a dialogue with the administration, it (sexual health) doesn't have to do a lot with money, but with a willingness to make a change," Sperling said.

Eileen J. Aguilar, University Wellness Program Manager, said the Healthy Miner Sex Positive Peer Education Program, should help increase sexual-health education on campus.

The HMSPPPEP program was established by the UTEP Wellness Program through a three-year grant under the Two Should Know initiative developed by the Paso Del Norte Health Foundation.

The HMSPPPEP aims to educate students so they can make informed decisions about their sexual health by providing them with factual, medically accurate information. It focuses on safe sex, STDs, healthy relationships and sex positivity. The program employs two graduate assistants and 20 Healthy Miner peer educators. The peer educators receive training on sexual health, present workshops and table around campus to provide sexual health information to students.

The program emphasizes creating a sex-positive culture so that students feel comfortable approaching peer educators with questions about sex.

"The basis (of a sex-positive culture) is that sex is something natural, it's positive, it's something two people consent to. We want to make them feel comfortable in ask see SEX on page A15

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VETERANS from page A7

Advocates like Wyatt and Martinez believe that the opiates given to veterans by the VA are doing more harm than good, making them feel not only more depressed, but also likely to become addicted. Weed for Warriors is pushing for the use of medical marijuana as an alternative to opiates for veterans to use without facing any discrimination.

"I was suicidal, with the pills the VA gave me," said Robert Jordan, 67, a Vietnam veteran from Parish, Fla., and an advocate for the legalization of marijuana. "What people have to understand is that cannabis isn't addictive. Unless you really truly been addicted to something and know what addiction is, then you haven't got a clue."

Jordan continues to receive his health care through the VA, and has been keeping up with the hearings and latest talk on the Hill.

"I don't understand the bureaucracy of it," Jordan said. "I was watching a hearing. This ain't nothing new. They're running on 1986 computers and stuff, and they keep throwing money and money at them. They got to run like a business, be more efficient, that's what they've got to do."

Like Karnaze and Hurkman, Jordan takes issue with the wait times.

"I don't need to wait for them to get an appointment," Jordan said. "People die waiting to get appointments, and they're trying to get better about that, and that's the bad. There's good and bad, it's mostly good, but the bad is really bad."

The VA Office of Inspector General's latest report found that "as of September 30, 2014, over 307,000 pending [enrollment system] records were for

individuals reported as deceased by the Social Security Administration."

Jose Martinez had an experience while on opiates similar to that of Jordan. He has not taken an opiate in more than two years. Instead, he smokes cannabis. Martinez, a triple amputee, stepped on an improvised explosive device while serving two years in Afghanistan.

"I actually don't take any opiate pills. I tried to commit suicide after all of this happened to me," Martinez said. "I just started mentally beating myself up, and as I was taking opiates, it was depressing. And all I wanted to do was be sleeping every single day and night, because I didn't want to look at my body. I went from being this amazing human being, this gorgeous man with a beautiful smile that was able to walk on this Earth and do whatever he wanted. I'm wheelchair-bound for life now."

Both Hurkman and Martinez have said that many who work at the VA simply cannot relate to their military experiences.

"I know exactly what it took to go and do what we did over there, and you guys will never be able to understand that," Martinez said. "And some politic, or some person that feels like they have the right answer or they know the right answer, they'll never understand."

Bridging the gap

While Weed for Warriors may be one of the more vocal groups advocating for alternatives to treating mental health, it is not alone. Karnaze has a friend in Florida who takes vets on fishing trips to get them away from the bar and to put their minds at ease

– an approach to mental health that does not require medication. Karnaze said his psychiatrist at the VA gave him options other than medication.

"I think the VA now is realizing, and psychiatry in general, mental health in general, is realizing that there are other options aside from medications," Karnaze said. "Personally, I can think of a handful of veterans that have stopped taking medication, or are complaining about medication, and I can't think of any who are saying this medication really helped me."

These stories coming from veterans on their post-war experience is ultimately what Karnaze advocates – to offer that vet-on-vet help for those, like Hurkman, who are seeking it, and to encourage an open dialogue between the VA and veterans.

"I was so grateful for me and Nick's back and forth emails. He shed a lot of light on some stuff, he was very proactive with me," Hurkman said. "He was very like, 'I'm going to help you. We're going to find a path that will help you.' I was completely appreciative that somebody would take it serious other than me."

While bringing awareness to the topic, Karnaze is also learning new things along the way, not just on the topic of mental health treatment, but about himself.

"It's been an eye-opening experience for sure," Karnaze said. "I know that Secretary [Robert] McDonald and the VA are trying hard. I think there's been a perception that it's been the vets against the VA, and I don't believe that to be the case."

Being vocal has worked in Karnaze's favor, and now he's hoping to make it work in others' favor as well.

"When you talk about these things, it can be therapeutic," Karnaze said. "And my big thing, as an officer of the Marine Corps, you have a great sense of responsibility for the well-being of your Marines, and that kind of carries over even when you leave the service. So I almost felt like I was doing my guys a disservice by not speaking up, because I know a lot of them are suffering kind of silently, so I decided to preach the topic. If I can help them feel better, then it's worth it."

This story has been updated to correct the number of years Karnaze spent in Afghanistan.

Reach reporter Heather Khalifa at [heather.khalifa@scripps.com](mailto:heather.khalifa@scripps.com) or 202-408-1488. SHFWire stories are free to any news organization that gives the reporter a byline and credits the SHFWire. Like the Scripps Howard Foundation Wire interns on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram.

GRADS from page A5

sense to study something like business management," Fullerton said. "It's a general all-purpose degree plan, but it allows that student to compete for jobs in the private sector."

On the other hand, Fullerton said that even though some students are entering college with very specific educational objectives in mind, many of them will find themselves working in other fields.

According to a CareerBuilder study done in 2013, one-third of college-educated workers do not work in a job related to their college major. The study also revealed that nearly 47 percent of college-educated workers said that their first job after college was not related to their college major. 32 percent said they never found a job related to their college major.

"You know, it's a feeling that we all (students) get – not knowing really what you will end up doing," said Africa Deleon, a graduating senior, who is unsure about her future in the job market. "I know what I am good at, but in my case, I am starting to see a better outlook on my minor than what I previously believed. It pays to be smart about your education as well as having different plans in case something does not work out the way you envisioned it."

Alonso Moreno may be reached at [theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com](mailto:theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com).

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION  
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SEX from page A15  
ing these questions,” Aguilar said..  
“We don’t want to scare students—  
a lot of programs in high school  
do that. We don’t want to do that.”

The program has only existed for  
a year. Garrison said peer educators  
table at least four times a week. Ac-  
cording to their most recent progress  
report, in the past year, the Healthy  
Miners have conducted 482 work-  
shops and spoken to 2,561 students.

“One of our goals is to empower  
students because we feel if they have  
more info, they’re able to make well-  
informed decisions,” Garrison said.  
“We’re trying to say sex is healthy,  
and it’s natural, and people should  
have the right info to make their  
own decisions when it comes to sex.”

Future plans for the program in-  
clude a sexual health website that will  
be launched next spring. The site will  
provide a sexual health tool for stu-  
dents. Aguilar said they also want to  
work more closely with other depart-  
ments, such as the Entering Student  
Program, to develop a Miner guide  
that could be incorporated inside the  
university textbook that will provide  
students with information about  
sexual-health resources on campus.

“We’ve identified some of the  
things we need to work on and  
now we can start working to-  
wards those goals,” Aguilar said.

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

# Experience key when getting a job after graduation



ANGEL ULLOA/ THE PROSPECTOR

The unemployment gap between college graduates and the general population continues to shrink.

BY JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ  
The Prospector

Recent reports show college gradu-  
ates are facing a growing job market,  
as the unemployment gap between  
them and the general population  
continues to shrink. In the middle  
of an expansionary phase in the cur-  
rent economic cycle, businesses are  
investing more into new employ-  
ees but those spots are not easy to  
get. As to how students can be more  
marketable, Career Services Direc-  
tor Betsy Castro had some advice.

“Having a strong GPA, de-  
veloping those networks and  
knowing how to communicate  
will really help out,” she said.

One of the most important tools  
to land a job, Castro said, was hav-  
ing work experience during school.

“Internships have a neat correla-  
tion to getting jobs,” Castro said.  
“It allows students to network.”

According to a job outlook sur-  
vey from National Association of  
Colleges and Employers, nearly all  
the employers who completed the  
survey preferred hiring employees  
who had previous work experience.

The same study showed men and  
women had similar chances of land-  
ing an internship, around 65 percent.

It’s not just limited to internships.

Castro explained any kind of work  
experience will help people learn on  
the job and form relationships with  
people in the field. Those relationships  
could end up being the key to landing  
a position once the student graduates.

“Typically nursing students have  
jobs after graduation and that’s usu-  
ally because of their practicums,”

said Castro, citing information  
taken from the Spring 2015 Ca-  
reer Services Graduation Survey.

The survey, given to graduates be-  
fore their commencement ceremo-  
nies, is one of the university’s most  
important tools in knowing how to  
help students, Castro said. She ex-  
plained the survey answers let the  
university know how much it should  
push students to look for work expe-  
rience and better their job searches.

The survey shows more than 60  
percent of students who gradu-  
ated in the spring of 2015 either  
already had a job or were looking  
for one, while 25 percent planned  
on going on to graduate school.

The survey doesn’t only help out re-  
maining students. However, those who  
fill the survey out may benefit from  
the same piece of paper they turn in.

“If they say yes [to looking for jobs  
after graduating], we reach out to  
them and let them know they can  
still use our services free or charge  
for two semesters,” Castro said.

“  
Internships  
have a neat  
correlation to  
getting jobs.

”  
- Betsy Castro,  
Career Services Director

Services like resume re-  
views, mock interviews and even  
professional clothing rental.

Looking at the recent data, Cas-  
tro agrees the job market will re-  
main lucrative for graduates.

“It’s steady. It’s been very steady  
with getting offers,” Castro said.

Julio Cesar Chavez may be reached at theprospectordaily.  
news@gmail.com.

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What are your plans after graduation?

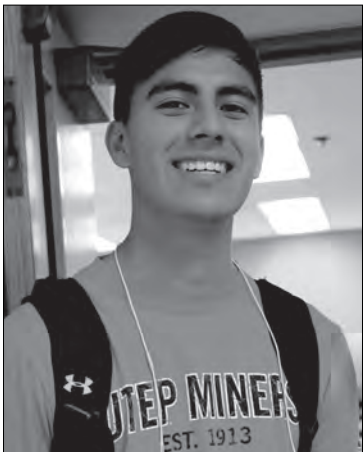
ADRIAN BROADDUS, ANDRES MARTINEZ, ANGEL ULLOA / THE PROSPECTOR



**ADRIAN SALAZAR**  
Junior accounting major  
“I’m going to try to get a job in the business field, start my own business, then get my masters degree.”



**ALEXANDRA BERRIOS**  
Freshman forensics major  
“I plan on pursuing a Doctorate and also becoming the head of the forensics department for the FBI.”



**BENJI RODRIGUEZ**  
Sophomore finance major  
“My plans after I graduate are to go with the flow and try to get a job out of town. Live day by day. No long term planning.”



**DELANEY KUEHNEL**  
Sophomore kinesiology major  
“After graduation I plan to travel the world.”



**KEVIN RODRIGUEZ**  
Sophomore accounting major  
“My plans after graduation are get out of town, get a job to get experience, and afrer acquiring experience apply for the FBI.”



**NAOMI TORRES**  
Freshman pshycology major  
“After I graduate I want to be a psychologist and travel the world.”



**JULIO ESTEBAN MONJE**  
Freshman kinesiology major  
“After I graduate I want to be an athletic trainer for the NBA.”



**IBRAHIM SALAMA**  
Junior cellular and molecular bio-chemistry major  
“My plans are to apply to medical school, move to a city with a beach, and eventually recieve my M.D.”



**ITZEL PAYAN**  
Sophomore political science major  
“After graduation I plan to marry rich and become a trophy wife.”



**JUAKHEEM RUMPH**  
Freshman criminal justice major  
“After I graduate I want to go straight to the FBI.”



**JEAN ANDRE MOORE**  
Sophomore commercial music major  
“I want to perform in front of thousands and thousands of people and entertain audiences.”



**ROXANNA ROCHA**  
Sophomore pre nursing major  
“I hope to go for my MSN and be a nurse practitioner and specialize in family care.”



**VICTOR MADRID**  
Junior mechanical engineering major  
“After graduation, my goal is to work for a company to gather resources and begin my entrepreneurship in the energy field to provide clean energy.”



**ANDREA VILLELA**  
Sophomore mechanical engineering major  
“After graduation I plan to go on to get a masters degree while working as an intern.”



**SEBASTIAN PEREZ**  
Sophomore mechanical engineering major  
“I dont know, I didn't think I would get this far.”



**OLIVER SINDAYIGAYA**  
Software engineering - second year graduate student  
“Look for a job as a software engineer.”



**CARLOS VIZCARRA**  
Junior mechanical engineering major  
“Work for a construction company as an engineer.”



**MARCEL GILLEY**  
Freshman mechanical engineering major  
“My goal is to graduate with honors and go to graduate school so I can one day own my own business.”



**JESUS OJEDA**  
Senior marketing & economics major  
“I want to go into commercial real estate and franchising, but first get my MBA.”



**JOSHUA SILVAS**  
Senior kinesiology major  
“I want to become a college football coach and one day become the head coach of the UTEP Miners.”



DECEMBER 1, 2015

**OUR VIEW** EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
**MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7477**

**Best news photo moments of 2015**



► 1



► 2



► 3



► 4

MICHAELA ROMAN, SERGIO ZAMORA / THE PROSPECTOR  
1. UTEP unveils Centennial Plaza on Apr. 18, 2015. 2. Senior lecturer David Smith-Soto speaks at anti-campus carry rally. 3. The Terry Foundation Scholarship Program awards 16 students with full ride scholarships including housing at the unveiling of Miner Canyon.



Q&A

*In honor of the upcoming winter commencement, The Prospector had a Q&A session with UTEP President Diana Natalicio.*



FILE PHOTO

*When you first graduated from college, how did you know what to do after that?*

With encouragement from my professors at St. Louis University, to consider going to graduate school. I had my eye on the University of Wisconsin because it was highly regarded for its programs in Spanish language and literature, which is what I'd studied at SLU. At the suggestion of one of my professors, I also applied for a Fulbright Fellowship to spend a year in Brazil, but didn't think I'd actually be selected, so I didn't give that possibility much thought. When I received a letter from my congressman informing me that I'd been awarded the Fulbright, I was shocked and somewhat frightened at the prospect, especially since I'd

never flown on an airplane or lived away from home before! Happily, I gathered my courage and traveled to Brazil, where I spent the most exciting and intensive learning experience of my life—totally transformative!

*What is your advice for students graduating this semester?*

Be confident that the preparation you've received at UTEP will enable you to be successful in achieving your biggest dreams. Be bold in pursuing opportunities that may initially seem daunting to you.

*What is the biggest difference you see in today's students from when you first became president in 1988?*

There are nearly 9,000 more UTEP students today than there were

in 1988, and they more faithfully reflect the demographics of the surrounding region than they did then. UTEP students in 2015 set higher aspirations for themselves—graduate/professional schools and career options—and they are far more actively engaged in seeking to capitalize on the rich range of opportunities for professional and personal development offered to them on today's UTEP campus.

*What efforts are being done to increase graduation rates?*

Traditional graduation rates, which are a vestige of mid-20th century higher education, are highly misleading measures of the performance of large public universities like UTEP, because their calculation requires that students start and complete their degrees at the same institution. At UTEP, this method of calculating graduation rates means that 70 percent of our graduates—including all our transfer students—don't get counted, simply because they didn't start their bachelor's degrees as full-time freshmen at UTEP.

*Given the fact that 79 percent of UTEP students make less than \$19,000 a year, do*

*you think increasing tuition will decrease access to education?*

No, I don't think that modest increases in tuition would have that impact because, through our UTEP Promise program, students whose family incomes total \$30,000 or less, are guaranteed financial aid that eliminates any out-of-pocket cost of attendance.

*What progress has been made toward achieving tier-one status, and why is this accomplishment important for UTEP?*

We've made huge progress. We set two tier-one goals: \$100 million in annual research expenditures and 100 doctoral degrees conferred annually. Over the past several years, we've already exceeded the 100 doctoral degrees goal, and our annual research expenditures now total more than \$90 million, so we're getting very close to achieving that goal as well.

*Since you became president, there have been major, significant changes at UTEP, such as an increase in enrollment, research expenditures, the construction of new buildings, etc. What future do you foresee for UTEP?*

*What legacy do you wish to leave behind?*

I see UTEP as a national model for educating historically underrepresented students—Hispanics, first in their families to pursue higher education, and those who have very limited financial means. The disparity in higher educational attainment between low and high socioeconomic quartiles in U.S. society has grown wider over the past 40 years. Fewer than 10 percent of U.S. young people in the lowest socioeconomic quartile today earn a bachelor's degree, while in the highest quartile, bachelor's degree attainment has risen to nearly 80 percent. UTEP's access and excellence mission has become well known for successfully addressing that absolutely unacceptable socioeconomic disparity and for re-shaping the national narrative on the role of U.S. public higher education in the 21st century. To me, that will be, far and away, UTEP's most critically important and lasting legacy.



# Dealing with stress during finals



ANGEL ULLOA / THE PROSPECTOR  
Sophomore finance major Benji Rodriguez studies for his finals at the library.

BY VALERIA TERRAZAS  
The Prospector

Finals week is almost here, and several students have begun their efforts toward saving the semester, either because of procrastination or because they are obsessed with turning in perfect work. Whatever the reason may be, this time of the semester is characterized by lots of caffeine, sleep deprivation

and stress, which actually are not good in the quest for good grades. Stress, however, is not always a bad thing. According to Dr. Sheri I. Terrell, licensed psychologist and director of the University Counseling Center, there is "bad stress" and "good stress." "Stress itself is not always bad, it is a natural reaction of your body to get stuff done, and can get you motivated," Terrell said. "But when you feel so stressed out, when you can't sleep and can't get things done, stress is getting in your way, and then is problematic." Terrell says that stress is a natural reaction that can make a student efficient and focused when completing tasks.

## Manage your stress effectively

In order to help students, the UCC director shares some recommendations to manage stress and keep it from interfering in a negative manner with grades. At the top of the list, the UCC recommends to manage time effectively. Usage of an agenda, scheduling projects, due dates and even a daily planner that lists study and leisure time, always giving priority to complete the most important stuff first. "Since the beginning of the semester, start working in your planner and attach to it," Terrell said. "Only use one single planner, where you manage time for school, work and family instead of having one planner for each."

Secondly, the UCC recommends taking a small break to reduce stress. Between the tasks you list to be completed during the day, schedule several small breaks for activities such as stretching, calling a friend or going for a walk. Eat healthy food and get some exercise. Avoid eating foods high in fat, sugar or sodium that can lower your energy. Instead, pack healthy snacks


instead. This way you can keep your energy up throughout the day. Exercise is also recommended—it releases endorphins and gives you a natural boost of energy. When stressed, students can experience worry and anxiety. Some people may look to reduce these symptoms through the consumption of alcohol or drugs. The UCC recommends avoiding the use of drugs or alcohol to cope with stress. "These substances will only mask the symptoms of stress, reduce our efficiency and after their effect, stress will come back," Terrell said. These tips can be applied since the beginning of the semester, and it is recommended they be applied as early as possible. The more a student repeats these actions, the more easily they become a habit for good. Unfortunately, we are not at the beginning of the semester and there may not be enough time right now to make all these modifications.

## In the worst case scenario

If something occurred during the semester, something that made us go off the track, either procrastination of just a life happening, do not panic. There is still a chance. "It's not a catastrophe. Stress is more about how we feel about our own stress and how we handle it. The main difference between anxiety and excitement is what we tell to ourselves," Terrell said. She emphasizes that a positive attitude is a key factor when dealing with


stress. Keeping a positive attitude toward the situation can help to better handle stress and keep you moving forward to accomplish goals. On the other hand, if we see the situation as the end of the world, we would just be more overwhelmed. Terrell also advises students to "not hesitate to look for help, don't wait to the last minute and use your resources." There are plenty of resources that can help a student excel during their college life, especially when they are having trouble in a particular class. The University Counseling Center, tutoring, talking to professors, asking the teaching assistant for any sort of help, are among many ways in which a student can seek help during this stressful time. From Terrell's perspective, finals are the best time of the semester to assess oneself. "Sit and talk to yourself, being realistic and honest. What have you done right? What could I improve?" she said. "It is a reality check." Finally, Terrell advises students to think about the big picture. It can help students work on those aspects that are not showing positive results and causing stress and modify them for future semesters. It is also important to assess how much time a student invests in professional preparation, because in the end that is what college is all about, a student's biggest investment is time.

Valeria Terrazas may be reached at theprospectordaily@news.gmail.com.



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DECEMBER 1, 2015

# ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR  
JOSE SOTO, 747-7477

## Entertainment moments to remember from 2015



1



3



2



4

ANDRES MARTINEZ, MICHAELA ROMÁN / THE PROSPECTOR  
UTEP students and alumni participate in this years Chalk the Block. 2. PartyNextDoor performs at the 2015 Neon Desert Music Festival. 3. George Lopez performs at the Don Haskins Center on Friday, July 24, 2015. 4. Earth, Wind and Fire perform at the Don Haskins Center on Thursday Nov. 5, 2015.



# BarMen serves up good food and a good time



ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

BarMen Kitchen and Patio Bar is located at 4130 N. Mesa St.

BY JOSE SOTO  
The Prospector

Few of the local bars are known for their food as much as they're known for other aspects of their establishment. I am literally sitting here writing this review thinking about the tacos I had last night. It isn't often that you find a bar that can stand their ground amongst the best taco places. Mainly, bars are known for the crowds they attract, the music they play or their service, but the tacos at BarMen have to be some of the best in town.


BarMen Kitchen and Patio Bar, located at 4130 N. Mesa St., has been open for about three weeks, and they dish out signature Mexican dishes with actual Mexican flavors. The tacos, milanesa and tortas at BarMen are legitimately some of the most delectable and authentic around. It is definitely at the core of their success. I tried their tripitas and buche tacos. The meat was both flavorful and tender, two qualities that are hard to find when it comes to taco meat. BarMen's tortillas are made fresh daily as well, which only adds on to the top-notch

quality of their tacos. Well put together, it makes for a delectable taco. BarMen started off as a food truck, serving their tasty offerings through a window on their van. Now, the newly opened location offers the same food while you enjoy their beers on tap and their newly designed location. Javier Ramos, owner of BarMen Kitchen and Patio Bar, said the business is "re-introducing Mexican cooking to a modern world with a classic flavor." "When I develop the recipes, I want to have something simple and basic," Ramos said. "We go for a classic Mexi-

can taste and not a watered-down version we commonly experience on the border. I wanted to bring southern Mexican flavor to El Paso and nailed it. Our steak had to be perfect enough for a 5 year old to chew and not need a knife and an elderly with dentures would have no problem chewing and yet each slice of steak would be able to pack the flavor of a full one-inch thick steak into a thin slice." Ramos added that their tripitas are the cleanest and offer the actual flavor of the meat and no added flavors. "Our barbacoa has to have almost no added fat to find the true flavor," Ramos said. "Every recipe goes back to wanting to find the purest taste of the meat or veggie without having to marinate it. All of our food is focused on the natural taste of the food. No Mexican restaurant ever wants to give you top-shelf ingredients. We strive to only use top shelf." Ramos said his passion for good food is part of his familial upbringing, which has now helped him perfect the food offerings that are available at BarMen. "My family has always been cooking since before I was born," Ramos said. "My grandfather drove a truck with potatoes and baked them to perfection. My parents started the El Paso Meat Company from scratch, but before all of that, we had one of El Paso's first food truck before they were trendy. Back in 1993, my father began to make tacos and I tagged along working the cash register. My mother cleaned and restocked the food truck daily."

Ramos said he credits his father for his success because he was the one who taught him how to cook, especially how to get the right temperature when cooking meat. "We are having some fun along the way," Ramos said. "We have been a successful restaurant for the last three weeks because people have constantly repeated their visit to our place at all hours of the day. People come from all ages—from kids to older adults—they have tried our food and can taste the freshness of the ingredients." BarMen has a welcoming ambience. The patio is softly lit and convivial. Vintage airplane chairs on the patio give customers a unique way of sitting down and enjoying their adult beverage while socializing. Ramos said he decorated the place himself. It's safe to say he did well. The sliding main doors are the bar's best assets. If the food isn't reason enough to visit BarMen, the ambience will definitely not disappoint. If you're looking for a chill, fun time with some good food, this is the place to go.

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



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HOLIDAYEVENTS  
A CHRISTMAS CAROL

The UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance will perform the classic play starting on Dec. 13 at the Wise Family Theater at the Fox Fine Arts Center. Call (915) 747-5118 for ticket prices and showtimes.

FRED LOYA CHRISTMAS LIGHTSHOW

The winner of ABC’s “The Great Christmas Light Fight” will bring back an El Paso tradition beginning on Nov. 27 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 6, 7 and 8 p.m.

RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER

This musical brings the holiday favorite off the screen and onto the stage. Show dates are Dec. 8 and Dec. 9 at the Plaza Theater. Ticket prices vary from \$31.50 to \$50.

DAVE KOZ CHRISTMAS TOUR

Grammy-nominated saxophonist Dave Koz will give a jazzy touch to holiday favorites during the El Paso stop of his 2015 tour at the Plaza Theater on Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.

TRADITIONAL MEXICAN POSADA

The El Paso Museum of History will host a posada on Dec. 17 from 6:00 to 8 p.m. There will be piñata breaking, candy, villancicos (holiday songs), tamales, hot chocolate and live music. Limited seats are available. RSVP is required by calling (915) 351-3588.

The Cure to perform in El Paso for the second time



FILE PHOTO

The Cure will return to El Paso on May 17 at the Don Haskins center.

Few bands are synonymous with their musical genres and political statements as The Cure. The iconic punk-rock band has enjoyed a long-lasting musical trajectory with abundant success. A lot of their success is in part due to their front man Robert Smith, the only original member of the group. Smith is the primary

songwriter for The Cure and acts as lead vocalist. The Cure will be launching a 22-city North American tour beginning in the spring. The band will be performing in El Paso on May 17 at the Don Haskins Center. This will be the bands second El Paso concert after headlining Austin City Limits Music Festival in 2013.

The Cure released their debut album, “Three Imaginary Boys,” in 1979 in the United Kingdom. It was later re-titled “Boys Don’t Cry” for a North American release. The album included their break-through hit under the same title. The band later released hits such as “Love Song,” “Just Like Heaven,” and “Friday I’m In Love,” which made them among some of the

best-selling and most successful bands of the 1980s. A statement on the band’s official website states that they will perform unreleased tracks while showcasing a brand new stage production. Ticket prices range from \$19.25 to \$69.25. They are available at the UTEP Ticket Center and at the official Ticketmaster website.



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# The top ten albums of 2015



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS  
The Prospector

## 1.Kendrick Lamar “To Pimp a Butterfly”

Labeled as the successor of Tupac Shakur and known in Compton as the African-American messiah, the best album of the year goes to the album that summed up every hip-hop album that has ever been released, combined them into one, while also featuring an intricate storyline. The Californian rap-god tackles topics such as self-love on “Complexion,” politics on “How Much a Dollar Cost” and race on “The Blacker the Berry.” K-Dot plays with the love he has for “Lucy,” which can be interpreted as a metaphor about how evil is welcomed into our lives too easily, and his constant struggle with his inner demons. The hip-hop, jazz blend that Kendrick uses on the album fuses with deep and meaningful lyrics, which makes it undoubt-

## 2.Donnie Trumpet and the Social Experiment – “Surf” Orchestrated by Nico Segal (a.k.a. Donnie Trumpet),

edly the best album of the year.

“Surf” was one of the most anticipated albums of the year, with the help of front man and lead vocals Chance the Rapper. Along with Donnie and Chance, Peter Cottontale, Greg Landfair Jr. and Nate Fox make up the Social Experiment band. The album is full of features from the likes of BJ The Chicago Kid, Big Sean, KYLE, B.o.B, Busta Rhymes, J. Cole, Quavo, Erykah Badu and more. On lead vocals is Chance the Rapper, who was able to explore outside his comfort zone by joining a band-setting and making unique music with the intent to spread good vibes and positive messages. In the closing song, “Windows,” Chance encourages his audience by saying “Don’t you look up to me, don’t trust a word I say,” encouraging his followers to be themselves and follow their own ambitions.

## 3.Jamie XX – “In Colour”

Yes, we all knew Jaime Smith from his previous work with The XX, but listeners did not know what to expect when Smith released his solo project “In Colour.” On both albums with The XX, Smith never once disappointed with the melodic sounds. However, on this 11-track album, Jaime completely visits a new realm in music. In fact, that was Smith’s intentions. He had been working on “In Colour” collectively for five years. Smith aimed to create an album unlike one from any era. Combining sound bits with groovy and acid-like beats, Smith capitalizes on the record. Smith uses a comfortable features approach with fellow XX member Romy on “SeeSaw” and “Loud Places” and independent songwriter Oliver Sim on “Stranger in a Room.” Then, he explores new areas outside his comfort zone with his clash with Young Thug and Popcaan on “I Know

## 4.A\$AP Rocky- “At. Long. Last. A\$AP”

There’s Gonna Be (Good Times).”

Mark my words, 10 years from now, rappers will be referencing “At. Long. Last. A\$AP.” As a prelude to the album, Rocky released the best single of the year, “Multiply,” which set the serious yet inventive tone for the album. Hard beat songs such as “Canal Street,” “JD,” “Lord Pretty Flacko Jodye” and “M\$” are perfect hard-hitting songs to listen to with heavy bass. However, Rocky experiments with new sounds on “Electric Body,”

## 5.Tame Impala “Currents”

“Fine Wine” and “L\$D,” which combine slow beats and smooth vocals that add to the drug-based album.

After two albums that had fans begging for more, guitarist and vocals Kevin Parker and the rest of Tame Impala delivered quite a unique sensation with “Currents.” Using Pink Floyd-esque guitars and sounds, the album is an easy listen. The theme of break-up is seen almost evidently throughout songs such as “Eventually.” The somber, melancholy tone is seen through songs such as “Let It Happen” and “Cause I’m a Man.”

## 6.Logic- “The Incredible True Story”

Synthesizing pop beats combined with a ballad guitar gives this album a sweet and easy listening groove.

Set in the future as two space travelers reminisce on when music was good, Logic’s sophomore album takes flight to all new heights. The 25-year-old rapper from Gaithersburg, Maryland, continues to spit flows on godly levels, and this album does not disappoint. Stellar tracks, such as “Young Jesus,” “Innermission” and “Like Whoa,” highlight

## 7. Alabama Shakes – “Sound in Color”

Logic’s diverse ability to rap on bars. This album gives Logic a claim to be known around as one of the greats.

“Sound in Color” is Alabama Shakes discovering new heights as folk artists while still incorporating sweet, electronic sounds. The 12-track record kicks off with “Sound in Color,” possibly the best intro song of the year. The track sets a soothing, newfound tone for the album. Throughout the album, 60s rock & roll influences bounce throughout the songs. Other songs to check out are “Gimmie All Your Love” and “Don’t Wanna Fight.”

## 8. Adele-“25” “Hello”

Adele-“25” “Hello” is the five-letter word that Adele uses to capture her audience after her prolonged hiatus from music. “25” is not like Adele’s

previous work. In her new work of art, Adele enters a new deep realm of meaning. She continues her classical, orchestrated sound, but uses mainstream pop and faster beats to clash with her vocals. “I Miss You” and “Remedy” are the typical Adele tear-jerkers. However, that is not all the album offers. With acoustic guitars, faster piano play and folk drums, Adele discovers new heights with “25.”

## 9. The Weeknd – “Beauty Behind the Madness”

The ex-underground, R & B sensation Abel Tesfaye, better known as The Weeknd, finds the limelight in “Beauty Behind the Madness.” Tesfaye delivers radio hits with the likes of “Often,” “Earned It,” “Can’t Feel My Face” and “The Hills,” but he does not float too far away from his roots. This album was as if he combined his first three mixtapes, “House of Balloons,” “Echoes of Silence” and “Thursday,” and picked what he liked best from each one. Transitioning from quirky trap sounds and orchestrated beats are what this album goes through. “Tell Your Friends” is more for his long-time fans, using the line, “I was broken, I was broken, I was so broke, I used to roam around the town when I was homeless...Now we get faded, when we want girl, we got choices.” The come-up for Tesfaye was a long process, but now that he has made it, he bursts through in this album.

## 10. Drake– “If You’re Reading This It’s Too Late”

Love him or hate him, Drake was the most talked about artist of 2015, and this mix tape did not fail to give more credibility to Drizzy as an artist. The album, which came out in the first quarter of 2015, can still be listened to nowadays with total ease. Hits like “Energy” and “Know Yourself” are trap-filled and get the listener excited. Drake also slows it down with fellow Toronto artist PartyNextDoor on “Preach” and “Wednesday Night Interlude.” “Jungle” can be related to his older sex-driven songs, “You and

the 6” brings innocence to Drake by bringing his mom into the song as a metaphor for him venting on the harsh reality of fame. This album was a prelude to Drake’s fame for 2015, paving the way for his project with Future, “What A Time To Be Alive,” his beef with Meek Mill and having everyone singing “Hotline Bling.”

## Just Missed it

Wale – “The Album About Nothing”

Quite the contrary to the album title, this album encompasses everything. From drugs, to sneakers, to societal movements, “The Album About Nothing” is a view on society from the eyes of an East-based rapper.

Travis Scott – “Rodeo”

Maybe in the league of the darkest albums of the year, Rodeo gives trap/hip-hop lovers a new feel for dark and trap music. Features shine on this album and leave listeners wanting more out of Travis Scott.

Miguel – “Wildheart”

If you told me Miguel would be a part of this list at the beginning of the year, I would’ve called you crazy. However, this Cali-artist uses influences from Frank Ocean, Trey Songz and Jeremiah to captivate the listener in this drug-filled wonderland of an album.

Mac Miller – “Good A.M.”

Mac’s constant battle with sobriety and moderation clashes with theology in this album. It’s an easy listen and separates Mac Miller from his stereotypical hype up music that he used to be about.

Adrian Broaddus may be reached at theprospectordaily. ent@gmail.com.



# Up All Night helps alliviate stress from finals week



The annual Up All Night midnight breakfast will take place on Dec. 8 at the Union from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

FILE PHOTO

BY JULIA HETTIGER  
The Prospector

Finals week is known for students pulling all-nighters, downing energy drinks and having erratic sleep schedules, so it is no surprise that an event, which has become a UTEP tradition, is going to attract many students. To commence finals week, the Office of Student Life will be hosting their annual Up All Night midnight breakfast event on Dec. 8 at the Union from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. The event will feature activities, movies and plenty of food to fuel students as they go through this stressful week. Last spring, the Up All Night event was moved to the Union East Building to allow for more space for different activities. Nicole Aguilar, director of the Office of Student Life, said this semester's activities will make the event fun, engaging and interactive.

“Students who frequent the event meet new people, experience a sense of belonging and most of all create memories to last a lifetime.”

- Nicole Aguilar,  
director of the Office of  
Student Life

“The Union is a place that gives our students what they need and want; additional study space, fun and engaging activities, camaraderie and

most of all free food,” Aguilar said. “This year, we’re showing two screenings of the movie ‘Elf,’ at 6 and 9 p.m. In addition, new this year are Zumba classes, a game room, photo booth and other activities that will be announced as we get closer to the event.” Free breakfast foods will be served all night, and although the menu for the evening has not been finalized, the Office of Student Life is already planning on having a wide range of foods. “We are working on a variety of foods,” Aguilar said. “We will definitely serve hot chocolate, menu-do and other delicious foods.” The purpose of the event is to give students an efficient place to study, while helping them foster a connection with the university. “We want students to feel supported by faculty and staff,” Aguilar said. “This is just one way to keep students engaged on campus

and for us who volunteer to show support toward student success.” The event will provide opportunities for students to study in groups or individually, and students will have access to computers and projectors to make their studying experience more effective. “There are many ways to achieve this and for Up All Night we’ve been able to create an evening full of interactive activities as well as opportunities to study,” Aguilar said. Overall, the event is an opportunity for students to interact with their fellow classmates and find their scholastic niche at UTEP. “Students who frequent the event meet new people, experience a sense of belonging and most of all create memories to last a lifetime,” Aguilar said. “By offering a variety of activities, we are able to tap into a greater audience, and we have something for everyone.” Karen Escobar, senior accounting major, said she is considering attending the event and believes it can help grow a student’s sense of community. “I want to go to study with my friends because it can help us be more relaxed for our finals,” Escobar said. “It helps us know that we are not alone since almost every-

one is there for the same reason; to pass the exams and relieve stress.” Besides providing many activities for a fun-filled night, the Up All Night event will also provide ample space, equipment and support for students studying for their finals. “As much as we recognize students may need a brief break from studying, we also realize the importance of supporting those who choose to focus on simply that all evening,” Aguilar said. Students will have access to conference rooms in the Union Building, along with audio and visual equipment in each room. Students will also be able to utilize the Cyber Café and printing service, most of which can be accessed through wireless capabilities. “Faculty and staff volunteers roam the facility informing all students of the access to these amenities,” Aguilar said. “In addition, we remind them the Union Building is open 24 hours that day and night.” For more information about the Up All Night event, call 747-5648 or visit the Office of Student Life at 102 Union West. Julia Hettiger may be reached at theprospectordaily. ent@gmail.com.

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## CALENDER

### ANNIE: THE MUSICAL

Kids-N-Co. will present the famous musical which will be directed by Mia Carreon. The show will run until Dec. 20. For showtimes and ticket prices, call (915)-351-1455.

### DOWNTOWN ART AND FARMERS MARKET

The first El Paso Downtown Artist and Farmers' Market of the month will be on Dec. 5 at Union Plaza. The market is an outdoor artisan market that features locally crafted artisian goods and locally grown food.

### JUAN GABRIEL CONCERT

The legendary Mexican singer-songwriter will be performing at the Don Haskin Center on Dec. 6 as part of his “Bienvenidos al Noa Noa” concert tour. For ticket prices, call 915-747-5234.

### CHINGO-BLING

The Houston-based comedian will be performing at The Comic Strip, located at 1201 Airway Blvd # E1, on Dec. 4, 5 and 6. For Ticket prices, call (915) 779-5233.



# *'A Christmas Carol' to spread Christmas cheer at UTEP*

BY FERNANDA LEON

The Prospector

December is a month full of joy and happiness. Christmas is one of the few holidays that bring these qualities to the community. As a way to celebrate this holiday season, the UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance will be showcasing their annual Christmas play.

"A Christmas Carol," the famous, traditional play, is inspired by the Charles Dickens' book that goes by the same name.

"A Christmas Carol" is a timeless Dickens classic. It's probably one of the most well known plays in the Western theatrical canon," said Jay Stratton, director of the play.

The book tells the story of a grumpy, bitter old man and the steps he takes to transition into a gentler, kinder and humble person. This transformation occurs due to the visitation of the ghost of a business partner he had years before. The story continues with the appearance of three other ghosts: the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come.

Each year, the UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance invites the public to experience "A Christmas Carol,"

with different adaptations of this story plot.

"Each director is chosen every year to head the project, so every show is different," said Jesus Lopez, assistant stage manager of this year's play. "Every single director has different perspectives on how the show must be performed and designed."

According to Lopez, even though this is a play that is presented each year, it takes a lot of time in order to have everything ready for the opening date.

"It takes about two months for the whole process," Lopez said. "We begin with production meetings, in which the director and stage managing team meet with the production team to come up with a design. We also begin rehearsals early in order to have everything ready on time for tech week."

With more than 10 years of being a production that is part of UTEP's Department of Theatre and Dance's repertoire, the play, year by year, intends to bring joy and fun to the audience.

"I think it's good that they do these kind of events at UTEP because it gets families to get together and enjoy a good show," said Sergio Hernandez, junior multimedia journalism major at UTEP.

Apart from being a source of entertainment and a good way to start enjoying the holidays, this theatrical play showcases the talent that many UTEP theater students have.

"I really like the concept of UTEP making a play related to the holiday season. I think it is a good opportunity for theater and dance students to expose everything that they learned during the semester," said Angel Iruegas, senior art major at UTEP. "Besides, it is an opportunity for families, especially young family members, that start to have vacations to have the chance to experience a professional-level theater play at a very low cost."

Everything from rehearsals, lighting and stage design become part of the process to create and give the public the Christmas spirit and festive atmosphere when they go see the play.

"The play rehearses for about five weeks, but there is so much more to it than that," Stratton said. "Casting, costumes, set, sound and lights all work alongside the rehearsal process. Beyond this, there are administrative and marketing efforts working well in advance of the project."

This play promises to be funny, heart warm-

ing and very entertaining for all audiences and, of course, it is full of the seasonal atmosphere that Dickens portrays in his iconic book.

"I have been working in this play since the beginning of November and the work is arduous and time consuming, but we are doing great," Lopez said. "The show is incredibly funny and human, people of all ages will be able to familiarize with the story and its many characters."

The play will be held on Dec. 13 and 20 at 2:30 p.m. and on Dec. 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wise Family Theatre in the Fox Fine Arts Center at UTEP. Prices for tickets will vary from \$9 to \$14 and can be purchased at the theater's box office.

For more information about "A Christmas Carol," visit UTEP's Department of Theatre and Dance website at [theatredance.utep.edu](http://theatredance.utep.edu) or call the department's box office at (915) 747-5118.

Fernanda Leon may be reached at [theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com](mailto:theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com).



# The University of Texas at El Paso

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Gracias Norma y Armando por todo su apoyo durante estos 5 años. Gracias por toda su dedicación y comprensión. Espero brindarles la mayor alegría. Mamá por fin tu sueño se cumplió! los amo att. puky

Gracias a mi familia y a Dios por darme esta magnífica oportunidad de cumplir uno de mis sueños. Ser mercadólogo. Wish

Thank you to our sensei Ricardo Blazquez for his excellent philosophy in the Gembu ways. Thank you Ricky!

Gracias a mi familia por el apoyo. I also want to thank everyone who supported me in this journey. Love you Jess

I want to thank my family & support system that I had through out my college years. Most of all thank you God for being by my side. Alexa

I am very thankful with this experience and for everything I had learn. Thank you to my family.

Finally done and time to start the road of life! Thank you to all who help me. Andy

Thank you to my mom for just always being there. Jonathan and Liam you are the loves of my life this achievement was for you. Love - Ericka Hernandez

Gracias a mi familia por todo su apoyo y por ayudarme a ser mejor cada día. Los quiero mucho att: Diana Arellano

Gracias a mi familia empezando con mis Padres por apoyarme en toda decisión que tomamos. Gracias a ustedes estoy aquí con un logro mas. Los amo mucho su hija Dania.

Le doy gracias a mi familia por el apoyo que me han dado!! I'm happy to graduate with my degree in Accounting!! Jessica Luna

I would have never completed this long journey to graduation without my family. I love you guys and thank you for everything!!! -Pehlie

Finally, Dang... Isaac clemen

Gracias papá y mamá por darme el mejor regalo. Finalmente soy una licenciada! los amo - Ana K.

Thank you to my family and friends for all your support! -Stephanie Nevarez

I'm finally done but not really. cheers to another few more years of studying. YAY MASTERS BABY FINALLY!! LISA MARIE MENA

Thank you to all my family and friends for their awesome support and patience. Love you all! -J.I. ♥

Thank you family for sticking with me through all the struggles and always believing in me. I appreciate all the love! Stephen.

I am grateful to my family and friends who supported me through my journey. I am thankful for the opportunity to get my degree as well. Wendy!!

Después de tanto! Gracias a mi familia Rivas

Gracias a mis papás, mi hermano y mis amigos. fue una aventura pero lo hicimos! Los adoro a todos!

I FINALLY MADE IT! Papás, Andrea esto es por uds. Gracias por su apoyo, cariño y amor. LOS AMO! -Carla Daniela Hgo

finally DONE!!! couldn't have achieved this without my parents. Thank you

Yay! I couldn't have done this without my friends and family. Thank you!

Thank you to all my loved ones for pushing to get to this point. I am overwhelmed by the Lord's grace over me. This accomplishment is for you all! Love you! -Miriam C.

Thank you God! God made me get through along with the support of family & friends. A special thanks to Sylvia for all your help.

Gracias porque por ustedes es por quienes estoy aquí. Los amo mamá y papá. Rosalinda Z

GRACIAS A MIS PAPAS POR TODO SU APOYO DURANTE TODA MI CARRERA. LOS QUIERO KARLA VALDEZ

Yuppie! I am done with undergrad! y le doy gracias a mi papa, mama y tío. I could not have done it without you. Los amo mucho thank you for the love & support! -Alexa B.

Gracias a mis papás y a mi hermano por todo lo que han hecho. No fue fácil pero lo logramos! Love, Sam

Gracias a todos los que me han apoyado en esta etapa. -Alexa B.

You DID IT! Baby Girl! Dominique N. CLARK ALL your hard work has paid off. So proud of you. Love u

Lots of gratitude goes to my mother & father who made this degree possible. I Love you & will be forever grateful -Andrea M.

I would like to thank my friends & specially my family, my beloved husband for all your support.

Thank you to my family for supporting me in many ways to get me started in the real world. Love Elissa. S

Gracias a mis papás, a mi hermana y a toda mi familia por todo su apoyo durante mi carrera. Gracias a Dios por todo. Los amo todos. -Jovana Brimaldo

Gracias a mi mamá por apoyarme en todo y a mi mejor amigo en el cielo. Sin ustedes no estaria llegando a esto. Los amo mucho. -Jovana Brimaldo

Thank you friends & family for attending my graduation! Love, Marc Prado

I want to thank my family and friends for their support. Finally DONE! Me, Myself and all my Millions! -Viviana SALAS

I want to thank my husband Armando & my daughter Ashley for always being there for me. I also thank my mom & dad!

Mom & Dad, I couldn't have done it w/o you. Mammy thank you for the inspiration! Nick thank you for the motivation! Natalie thank you for being my best friend! Sebastian this is to you! Maria Salas

Gracias a mis papas y mi familia y a mi esposo por todo el apoyo y el cariño durante todo este tiempo y al fin ya salimos licenciados! Yay! los quiero.

Thank you everyone for the support and dedication to me. Kissy Isha -Michael Karpus

Gracias a mi familia por el apoyo incondicional para ayudarme a lograr una meta mas en mi vida. Silvana Atte: Vargas

I WAS ON THAT TEN YEAR PLAN THAT EVERYONE WAS MAKING FUN GUESS WHAT THOSE TEN YEARS ARE FINALLY OVER. THANK YOU GOD FOR GIVING ME THE STRENGTH TO ACCOMPLISH MY GOAL.

What a great day to be a miner! Being a college athlete was fun thank you to those who supported me!

Gracias a mi papa, hermanas mis hijos y en especial a mi esposo por el apoyo y creer en mi. gracias Adrian Laves

MOM, DAD, Alyson!! Thank you so much for pushing me! This graduation is for all of us. Without you guys I could not be here! Thank you for loving, supporting me!! YAY WE DID IT!! With so much love, Wiest



# The University of



# CLASS

Thank you to everyone who supported me from day 1 I finally did it!!

Thanks to all family & friends who support me during this journey! I finally did it!!

Thanks to my friends, family, and professors that help me to go through all the project here.

Without family, friends, and determination, none of this would be possible!

Thank you Family & my love for the support. I did it! MEOW

This is my Circus... These are my Monkeys! I did it for you GUYS! BEANSY, Mia, & SAMMY MOM - SEND

Thank you Family, for all of support.

To all of those who have accompanied me in this journey, thank you very much for your support, you know who you are. I love you all.

MOM + DAD, and everyone else that has supported my journey. THANK YOU! I DID IT!! ON to the next goal! I will make you proud!

Thank you to my awesome family and my amazing friend! Without your support I'd be nowhere!

Thank You Mom & Dad!! My wife and kids!! All your patience & belief in me

Thanks to all my family for all of your support. Love you all. I DID IT!!

I love all my family and I thank all of you for the support.

Thank you for your support. I would be here with you.

I want to say a HUGE thank you to my family & friends that have been at my side through this long journey through the ups & downs, and have never lost faith. I love you all very much and look forward to having you at my side for this next step in my life. MUCH LOVE,

To my family & friends: Thank you for all your support these past years. The love and encouragement you all provided is what got me here! About time! Love you all!

Quiero agradecer a mi Padre Dios por permitirme llegar a este día y a mis padres por apoyarme hasta hoy. Todo lo puedo en Cristo que me enseñó.

mom, my biggest Thank you for your support and encouragement. Without you I couldn't do this for myself and my 3 children.

My husband and my daughters support me. I love them and thank them for everything.

Family & Friends! Thank you for all your support and love! I do all I do with all you in my heart! Love you Always!

Thank you I could not have done this without help from my friends & family. I MADE IT!

Mom, Thank you for all the love & support! I could not have done it without you. Love you always!

To my loving family: Thank you for coming along this ride I took to get my degree. Love you very much & know I couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you to my family who have helped & motivated me throughout this process! I love you all! And my love Ivan D. Gracias!

Thanks to everyone who's helped me get this far! Leslie 4/20/15

I would not be half the woman I am today without my amazing father. -Arielle

thank you all who made this possible. WE MADE IT! this is just the beginning. Ruben chavez

Thank you Family & Friends for everything. Love!

Weber, it was all because of you. Gracias Ma por todo! NOE V.

Thank you to all the people who supported me through thick and thin. Family and chosen family alike I love you!

Gracias a toda mi familia, amigos y claro a mi novio por siempre darme todo su apoyo sobre todo cuando yo estaba en la escuela. Amo a todos!

Thank you Lord for getting me through this amazing accomplishment over to my family & friends for supporting me along the way.

Thanks for all your support & throughout these long 5 years! I love you guys very much & appreciate all the help to get me here!

To my Garcia 5 gang: I love you and I thank you for all of your support. Mom - Mary Garcia

Thank you For Being I Love You Dad I Love You For Always out. Kimberly

Tommy loving fam Thank you for your support and hang in there with me. Love R. Link

Yai, we all owe it. should be proud of ourselves for accomplishing something big for ourselves. God bless everyone in life. M.

Sergio, mom, family & friends, thank you so much for helping me pursue my dream and motivating me to keep going! We finally did it!! Thank you love you!

Thank you UTEP with the support from my family and friends. I am FINISHED! I love you all! -Andrea Mercado UTEP-SHRM President

Gracias a mi familia, amigos, compañeros de trabajo. Siempre apoyaron me en todo! Lologué! -Carla Nand papá y mamá's amigos

To family, friends, and my battle buddies: Thank you all for your support. Couldn't have done it without you! James LaFavre SGT L

Thank you mom & dad for always being there for me. Thank you for giving me the chance to fulfill my dreams. I did it!

Gracias a mis Padres por impulsarme a dar a dar Pare ser negor. Primer Biseño con Diploma :)

To my mom & Dad this is for you who helped me through all the tough times!! Christina Grijalva

Thanks for putting up with all my attitude and for pushing me to keep going when I was close to giving up. I finally did it! I love you Mom & Dad! -Annette

We did it my lovely family & friends! Thank you for all the love and support! I couldn't have done it without you! I LOVE YOU! -Diamond

Very thankful for the unconditional support of my family and friends throughout my college years. I love you all!

Thank you to all my family and friends. Thanks for putting up with my attitudes and staying up late with me. And thank you for pushing me through till the end. I made it! -Tanya

Thank you mom & dad for me. Thank you grandma always being there for me. Thank you for all the love. -Jose

Gracias a mis padres y a Dios finalmente esta etapa llega a su fin. To all who walked this journey with me, many thanks. I'm Finally Done! -Damaris

Thank you for me support and motivation. Without you all I wouldn't have been possible. Much love to all! -Jenny

Thanks fam for all the support throughout the years. It's been a long awesome ride! -Josh R

Pa y Ma gracias por su apoyo! We did it! -Cucu

Thank you God Family and friends for all the support and motivation. love you all. -Carlos G. Lora

Quiero agradecer a todos los que me apoyaron durante estos años, en especial a mis papá. Gracias Carlos!

Thank you mom & dad for all the love. Thank you for everything. -Jose



# F2015



Gracias familia y amigos por su apoyo!

— Henry

To my family & friends,  
Thank you for all your love and support.  
Thank you God for all the blessings you sent my way. I did it!!

Ski

Gracias a mis padres por apoyarme y ayudarme, en este gran logro! Juntos lo hicimos porque sin ustedes esto no sería posible! Encrias familia!!

— Edgar Sanchez

GRACIAS FAMILIA!

Gracias a mi madre estoy aqui porque ella fue la que me empujó a pesar de los obstáculos que tuvimos. Y a toda mi familia que siempre me apoyó!

To my family & friends, thank you for all of your support!!! It wouldn't be possible without you! Made it!!

Yoshika class of 2015

To my family, friends, and beautiful princess! Thank you for all your support and love. I love you!

— Alyssa F. Salcido

Thank you Family for helping me accomplish one of my greatest goals! Love

— Anthony Holmes

To my Family, Thank you for all your love & support. I DID IT!

— Norma

Another Degree! If I am Rich I thank you mom! DAD — Renny

Don't stop Keep getting A's and B's and 5/ackin Degrees

— Luis

Gracias familia por todo su amor y apoyo! Lo hicimos! Los quiero! — Stephanie

UTEP 2015 — Christine

To All my FB Teammates: Keep ball in NEVER lose to NMSU!

No lo puedo creer!! Fueron 4 largos años!! Gracias familia por el apoyo y por saber manejar mi ausencia. Gracias a Dios!! Los amo a todos!!

I'm so blessed to have such an amazing family. Thanks for all the support I did it!!

El Gallo / Junior haciendo lo no esperado y logrando mas para seguir un sueño. Gracias papá!

Gracias mamá! Gracias a todos! Puedo sonar!!

To my parents, my family, friends, UTEP, El Paso, and my great professors. This achievement is not mine, but for all of you!

To my family, Thank you for all your love and support. I could not have done it without you! I Love You All!

— Jaclyn Flores

THANKS! To all my family & friends for all their support & I'M DONE! YAY!

— Isha 2015

Gracias a mi familia por el apoyo incondicional Los Amo

— Stephanie Chavez

Gracias a mi mamá, amigos y vecinos por todo el apoyo y cariño Espero que estes orgullosa de mi pibis — Sol

For my loving family who has supported me every step of the way, this is for you!

— Erika Mendoza

Gracias a mi madre, hermana, familia y amigos! Special thanks to Dr. Daniel & Alumn Relations. S/o to SAA & Miner Ambassadors. Thank you UTEP for this great opportunity! memories! — Daniels

Mom: Dad

Thank you for everything!

— Michael Trujillo

A long journey is worth the wait! Thanks to my family for their support Jose Almanza III

Thank you for all your support. I love you, Mom and Dad. Sorry it took so long. Help me, I'm poor!

— Angela Saavedra

Gracias a mis Papas y Familia por todo el apoyo. Los Quiero

Javier Gonzalez

Thank you to my adoring mother and my Beautiful wife!

— Kagan

Thank to my Awesome Family for all of my support!! Gominers!!

— Lannise

Thank you Mom for loving me & your support. Luis for pushing me beyond limits!

Thank you all for your love & constant support! It's been a long journey, but I did it! I love you!

— Celeste 2015

To my loves and my mama! Thanks for all the love & support!! And Thank you Jesus!!

— Anyelie

Single mom's can go back to school & have it all.

— Shavon Payne

Mom and Dad Thank you for all your support and patience because I did IT! I LOVE YOU!

— April

I did it! Mom, family and friends thank you for everything. It would of not been possible without all your love and support. I love you!!!

Thank you to my family and friends who supported me through this journey I love you all! I thank God for never letting go.

— Sandra Morales

They say it takes a village to raise a child & it couldn't be true. Thank you to my family, friends & close friends for helping me reach this point.

I did it!!!

Thank you for Everything! I Love you Mom and Dad!

— Jarmin

Mom, Dad... I Did it!!

Thank you for Supporting me with everything.

— Angelica F.

For my Family and Friends!!! I thank you for the love and support!!!

— Isha

Thank You to my AMAZING Family for everything! Class of 2015

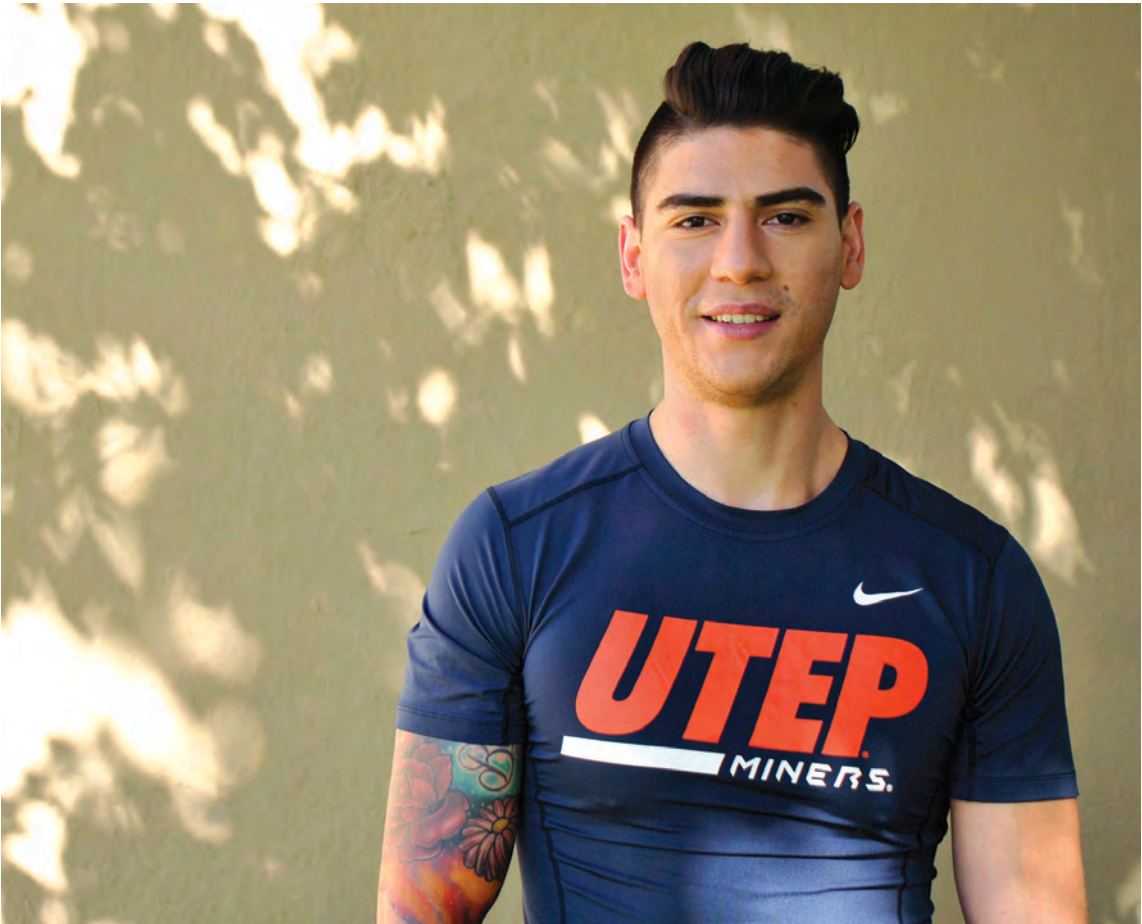
— L.V.

Mom, Dad, I DID IT!

Thank you for all your love & support! Love, Jess M



# Upcoming graduate values degree through hardship and triumph



JONATHON DUARTE / THE PROSPECTOR

Senior corporate and organizational communication major Alberto Rodriguez will graduate this December.

BY JOSE SOTO  
The Prospector

Graduating from college is a milestone in any student's life. It is a rewarding experience where all of your scholastic efforts and daily struggles to stay on top of your schoolwork and tasks finally come to fruition. Alberto Rodriguez, a graduating corporate and organizational communication

major, knows all too well how it is to finally see all of their hard work pay off. "College has been a lifetime experience," Rodriguez said. "I experienced a handful of events that really defined me as a person." Like many, Rodriguez found his scholarly niche by simply experiencing the many aspects of college life.

"My major was pretty much a go with the flow kind of thing," Rodriguez said. "I help out with a debate team, in which I was exposed to public speaking and debate. I knew from there I wanted to somehow be involved with communications. Also, I also have always envied Samantha Jones from 'Sex and the City,' and coming to realize she worked in pub-

lic relations, I too realized that is what I wanted to do. Luckily, mainstream television did me good as it led me to do exactly what I wanted to do." Although he is about to close the collegiate chapter of his life, Rodriguez also recognizes that it wasn't entirely a path of roses. "I lost everything," said Rodriguez. "I lost my car, apartment, a job. I was literally left with nothing at one point while going through college. I was at the point where I was hospitalized due to how bad things had come to. I don't count with the support of my family due to our differences, so I had to go through this by myself, but above it all, I never dropped out. " Rodriguez battled depression and a chronic disease, but refused to drop out school. School was the only thing he had at one point and was the only thing that kept him going and focused. He realized while going through all this that life does not stop for anyone, that either you find your way through it or it will take you with it. That's how he got to the point of graduation. Just like Rodriguez, every student has felt the pressure of finishing school projects and passing exams. Rodriguez said that is actually a feeling he enjoys. "The stress was actually enjoyable," Rodriguez said. "Having the anxiety of presenting your final project, brand analysis, campaign or marketing idea and knowing you're about to be criticized to the ground by it. That has by far been the best feeling, you hate it when you feel it, but then you realize you feel nervous, stress, anxious because you care, then you value it." Just like many college students, Rodriguez had to balance his school with his work life.

"Working and going to school at the same time was challenging, but it's also a time management lesson," Rodriguez said. "You understand what needs to be taken care of and what can wait. School always came first. I didn't see myself without a college degree." Rodriguez plans to leave El Paso after graduation in order to pursue bigger ambitions, much like many UTEP graduates do. "I need to finish working on me," Rodriguez said. "Now that I am about to graduate, I plan to move to a bigger city to find a job, settle in, hopefully be accepted to a master's program in the future, but mainly reinvent myself." Rodriguez said everyone's college trajectory is different, so students need to figure out what works best for themselves. He said it is not only about getting good grades, but also building relationships along the way. "Being a straight-A student will open some doors, but knowing the right people opens the right doors," Rodriguez said. "It's not about working harder, but about working smarter. So go to it knowing where you want to be, at least an idea. Go to class, work with others and make connections." Jose Soto may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

# Graduating student pursues dream in illustration



ANGEL ULLOA / THE PROSPECTOR

Senior art major Leah Tellez shows off a book she designed herself.

BY JULIA HETTIGER  
The Prospector

For many students, college is a form of creative expression. These students take classes that inspire them to work outside the lines by working on projects that take their artistic ambitions to the next level. Leah Tellez, an art major who is graduating on Dec. 12, has built an artistic livelihood throughout her educational career at UTEP. Majoring in graphic design and minoring in drawing has allowed her to explore her artistic abilities in a brand-new way. "I like doing illustrations that are fun and quaint," Tellez said. "My drawings are inspired by memories, and I focus a lot on what we remember and how we remember it." Although she is pursuing what she loves, Tellez said there are many challenges she has had to overcome both as an artist and as a student. "I think the hardest part of being an art major, no matter what the discipline is, is to constantly be aware that what you're doing is not fresh," Tellez said. "In order to succeed, you need to reinvent yourself." To really let her personality shine through her work, Tellez said she has to put in a lot of effort to reach a level of artistic skill that allows her to follow her ambitions. "You need to put in a lot of hard work to get where you can even think about creating yourself as an artist," Tellez said. "Sometimes, it's hard going from the technical to conceptual." Like many aspiring artists, Tellez's love for art came to her at very young age and has flourished throughout her life.

"I have enjoyed art ever since I can remember," Tellez said. "I was always drawing, ever since I was a kid." Tellez remained very involved in the art scene at UTEP through her job and volunteer work that has connected her with other artists. "I work at the UTEP art department, which is right next door to the Rubin Center," Tellez said. "I have volunteered at the Rubin Center whenever they have events and art shows, and I got really great exposure there." Art has been a big part of Tellez's life and has impacted her in many ways, including in aspects she was not expecting. "I would say the biggest way art has helped me is that it helped me develop critical thinking skills," Tellez said. "When I'm working on my art, I need to look at things from an analytical point of view, and in a way it has also helped me develop my communication skills through my art." Once she graduates, Tellez hopes to continue her passion for drawing and graphic design in her career at a design studio here on the borderland. "After graduation, I hope to stay here in El Paso working for a design studio here," Tellez said. "Later on, I want to get my master of fine arts in graphic design, but in graduate school, I want to focus more on illustration." Julia Hettiger may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.



DECEMBER 1, 2015

SPORTS

EDITOR  
JAVIER CORTEZ, 747-7477

# Men’s team shows grit in Corpus Christi Classic



MICHAELA ROMAN/ THE PROSPECTOR

Junior guard Dominic Artis leads the Miners assists and assist to turnover ratio through six games.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS  
The Prospector

After being crowned champions at the Corpus Christi Coastal Classic tournament, the UTEP men's basketball is off to its best start in 15 years. It's the first time since the 2000-01 season that the Miners have started 6-0.

With the title, the Miners captured their first in-season championship since 1984.

After breezing past Alcorn State and Florida A&M, 88-66 and 72-54, respectively, Tim Floyd and the Miners found themselves on the road for the first time this season, traveling to Corpus Christi, Nov. 27 – 28.

Led by the two big men down low, Hooper Vint and Terry Winn combined for 33 points and lifted the group over the likes of Southern Illinois, 71-66.

Next came the championship game against a very familiar Colorado State team. Head coach of the Rams, Larry Eustachy, was the assistant coach for Tim Floyd at Idaho during the 1986-87 season,. Also, this was the 73rd time the two teams clashed. The long-time rivals did not fail to play an exhilarating game.

Despite trailing by 17 at the half, the Miners stormed out in the second half, opening with a 10-0 run. With nine minutes to go, losing 62-52, UTEP rallied with a 9-0 run and

closed the gap to one point. Then both teams traded baskets until the end of regulation. After Emmanuel Omogbo of the Rams hit a jumper, Moore responded with a clutch 3-pointer that would send the game into overtime, deadlocked at 73-73.

Although the Miners stole a quick lead, Colorado State was able to tie the game at 81. Junior guard Dominic Artis attempted a last-second step back jumper, but could not convert. The game was sent to double overtime.

With back-to-back layups by Vint and Morris, the Rams were not able to find any luck in the second extra period. Tevin Caldwell capped the win for the Miners with an offensive

rebound with less than two minutes remaining, thus sending the squad to the charity stipe to extend the lead.

Earvin Morris and Lee Moore both posted a team-high 28 points as the Miners defeated the Rams 99-90 in double overtime, thus being crowned champions of the tournament.

“I'm real proud of them,” Floyd said after the game to UTEP athletics. “We’ve got a lot of things that we still need to get better at. We got thoroughly pummeled on the glass (against Colorado State). We’ve got to simply get better on the glass some way or another. We’ve got to figure that out. I think we can learn a lot from this game though, and that’s the beautiful thing about it. That’s a very good, well-coached Colorado State team and it’s a quality win for us.”

Morris was named the Corpus Christi Coastal Classic tournament MVP, while Moore and Vint were named to the All-Tournament Team.

Morris finished the four games with 70 points, including his 58.8 shooting percentage in the championship game, where he made 10-of-17 shots and 7-of-8 free throws.

Moore led the team in scoring throughout the four-game period with 72 points. His game high came from the championship game as well..

Artis continues to be a dual threat in scoring and in assists. He scored 43 total points in the tournament, but his ability to distribute with a low turnover rate has made for a very efficient start to the season. Artis has 36 assists this season and averages six per game. He accounts for 39 percent of the team's assists thus far.

Vint and Winn continue to dominate the paint for the squad as well.

Winn finished with 12 points in the championship, while Vint barely missed a double-double, scoring 13 and snatching nine boards.

In the championship win, Floyd was able to dip into his bench and give minutes to different faces. The newcomers to the squad have been playing substantial minutes thus far and continue to contribute to the team. Players such as Paul Thomas, Trey Touchet and Christian Romine are getting substantial minutes and portrays that depth is a factor that Floyd continues to seek for the team.

“We were able to get great minutes from Trey Touchet off the bench and Paul Thomas off the bench in critical times,” Floyd said. “Those two freshmen were outstanding, and Christian Romine for a couple of minutes.”

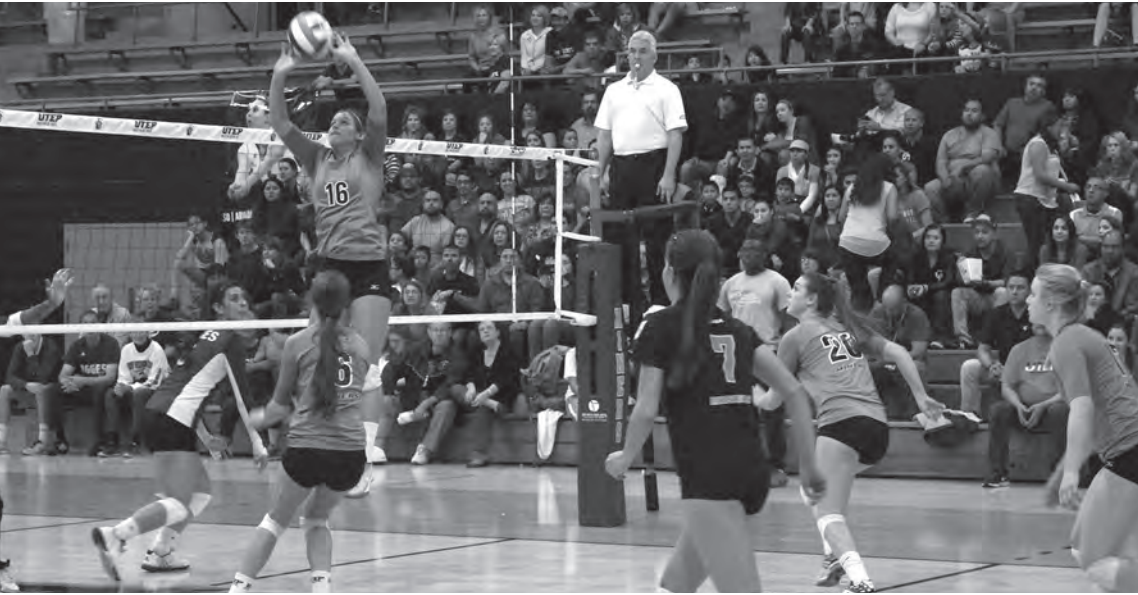
Although they faced some less challenging opponents in the opening six games, the Miners will have an arduous road ahead. During the tougher drive, the Miners will face rival New Mexico State twice, and host University of Texas at Arlington, who have already beat Ohio State and Memphis and Pac-12 affiliate Washington State.

“It’s a good group,” Floyd adds regarding the team. “I think they’re resilient. We had chances to lose (against Southern Illinois). I’m just glad that we didn’t and we’re learning how to win.”

Floyd and his team will attempt to continue their unbeaten streak against New Mexico State on Wednesday, Dec. 2 in the Pan American Center in Las Cruces. Tip off for their first official road game is set for 7 p.m.

Adrian Broaddus may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

# Miners show promise for the future even in a rebuilding season



ANGEL ULLOA / THE PROSPECTOR

The UTEP volleyball team lost their last match of the season to New Mexico State last Wednesday on Nov. 25.

BY JAVIER CORTEZ  
The Prospector

This past Wednesday, Nov. 25, the UTEP volleyball team fell in their final match of the season against the New Mexico State Aggies 3-0 (25-23, 25-21, 25-21). Despite being out-matched, the Miners put up a strong fight to conclude their season, in one of the highest attended matches at Memorial Gym this season.

The match was emblematic of the Miners’ season, closely contested with short burst of solid play, but not enough consistency to close out sets and come out with the win. Com-

ing into the season, the Miners were hopeful of a positive season, after a ghastly 2014 season that came with just seven wins and only one win on their home floor.

Then injuries, inabilities to close out sets and a lack of experience became too much to overcome. The Miners improved their win total by two to finish the season with a pedestrian 9-23 record, and all in all another disappointing close.

Nevertheless, the talent is young and the future is bright. The 2015 season turned out to be another rebuilding season that will be a precursor to a brighter future.

“It’s been a rebuilding season,” said senior Ashely Peak. “We have a lot of young girls and just three seniors graduating. They have to cover some ground as far as defense, but they are going to be stacked for next year. I think they’ll do pretty good.”

Peak, like many of the upperclassmen, has had to endure a tough past two years, only seeing 16 wins in more than 60 matches. Although being excited for what the future holds, Peak will miss her time as a collegiate volleyball player.

“It feel weird because I’ve been playing for 12 years, so I’m going to miss it,” Peak said. “I’m gonna miss

the crowd, adrenaline, teammates, but I’ll still come and watch them and support the Miners.”

Peak is graduating with a bachelor’s degree in marketing in December and is staying in El Paso to get her second bachelor’s in finance. Other departures besides Peak are Naomi Whitehair and Talia Jones. Whitehair was a defensive specialist who was in and out of matches, while Jones was the Miners’ premier offensive specialist at outside hitter for the past two seasons.

“It’s going to be tough to lose Talia (Jones),” said head coach Holly Watts. “She had her moments where she was unstoppable. We’ll have to recreate that.”

Jones was a bright spot in a very dim offensive attack that the Miners put out on the floor. The senior led the team in kills, with 329 this season. Despite Jones and a talented setter in Lindsay Larson, the Miners were competitive solely because of their defense.

“Our blocking and our defense were our bright spots,” Watts said. “Our blocks and digs per set in conference and national rankings were up there and pretty decent. Whereas our hitting percentage and kills per set were not.”

The Miners posted one of the worst hitting percentages in Conference USA. The win totals were low, the statistics were bland and the individual accolades never poured in, but coach Watts saw growth from a very young team.

“I think there was a lot of growth,” Watts said. “There was some improvement in areas, but our offense is young still. We had some good players on the bench, who didn’t get a lot of opportunities this year, but they’ll have more opportunities in the future.”

This season showed that the Miners were simply a bad team, but their season was also hindered by injuries.

Sophomore Collene Coessens’ mid-season injury that saw her miss nearly the rest of the season was the straw that broke the camel’s back. The Belgium native suffered a collapsed lung, which effectively ended her season. Coach Watts was forced to switch lineups, play players who would not be playing, while finding ways to combat continuous injuries.

Granted injuries are a part of sports, Watts and her players made no qualms about the injury-plagued season and chalked it up to the nature of volleyball. It was a season of uncompleted goals, but the optimism for the future is still intact.

“It didn’t go as we hoped,” Larson said. “One of our goals was to make conference tournament and we are disappointed that we couldn’t make it. But we had a lot of really good matches within this season. Next year, if we can build on finishing matches, we’ll do really well.”

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

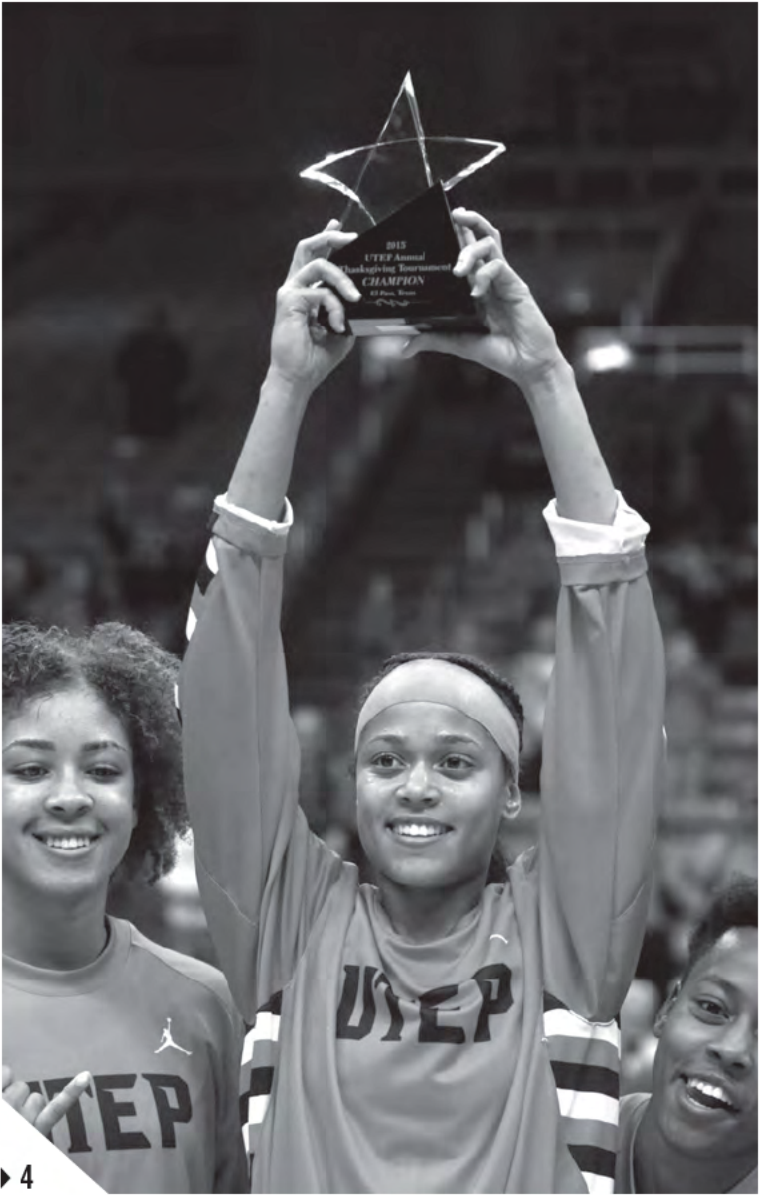


DECEMBER 1, 2015

OUR VIEW

PHOTO EDITOR  
MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7477

Women’s team wins fifth annual Thanksgiving Classic



MICHAELA ROMAN/ THE PROSPECTOR

1. Sophomore guard LuLu McKinney stops and pulls up for a mid-range jumper. 2. Senior guard Jenzel Nash high fives teammates during the pregame introductions. 3. Head coach Keitha Adams looks on as her team faces Idaho State. 4. Senior guard Cameasha Turner raises the trophy after the Miners win over Idaho State. 5. LuLu McKinney uses a hesitation dribble before driving to the rim.



COLUMN

At the end of the day injuries were too much to overcome for UTEP Football



BY JUAN CARLOS NAVARRETE  
The Prospector

The Miners' goal this season was to repeat last year's bowl bid and eventually win the first bowl game for the University of Texas at El Paso since 1967. The Miners finished the year at 5-7 and without a bowl game bid for the second time in Sean Kugler's three-year tenure at UTEP.

Aaron Jones went down in the second game of the season against Texas Tech, but the injury to Jones did more than add another loss. It set in motion what would become a prevalent theme in the Miners' season— injuries.

With a 0-2 record the Miners rallied against New Mexico State after being down 31-16 in the fourth quarter. Then again it was New Mexico State, the school with the worst losing streak in the country—17 losses in a row.

The Miners' victories were often short lived this season. They only had one winning streak in the season and it was when they won the next week against Incarnate Word at home.

The Miners conference record of 5-7 did not paint a better picture for this team. The Miners may have lost their best player in the second week of the season, but the unorganized offense just proved that UTEP had no back up plan for Jones being out of the picture.

Added to the mix was a quarterback carousel after Mack Leftwich got hurt; which featured a glimpse of great quarterbacking out of Ryan Metz, and the turnover machine he became in the following weeks, as well as the hype that surrounded Kavika Johnson.

The losses piled up on a week-to-week basis, win one, lose one, win one, lose one. The Miners proved to be inconsistent, but the team saw injuries for most of the season, so it's understandable.

However, the injuries do not explain why the team collapsed as a whole in every facet of the game. Jones doesn't play on the defense and Leftwich's concussion did not make special teams struggle; it was an inconsistent team this season and they lacked a leader.

The losses on the scoreboard did not reflect the wins this team accomplished on a different level, as fans of the team got to see the future of this program. UTEP's offense morphed after Jones was out and it took a different form, depending on who was the quarterback under center. When it was Leftwich, we got a glimpse of the running ability the young quarterback has, as well as his throwing accuracy.

Leftwich found a way to win games and a way to move the ball. He also found a way to take care of the ball as well; as he only had three interceptions in the entire year.

Although he had three interceptions returned for touchdowns, he showed traces of a prototypical pocket-passing quarterback.

Two of the pick six's came in in the same game, but despite his turnover problems; he helped junior wide receiver Cole Freytag have a break-out season. With Ryan Metz under center, Freytag had 14 receptions with three touchdowns.

Finally, Kavika Johnson, the third-string quarterback, got plenty of playing time with an offense that at times seemed to be welcoming any quarterback who stood out at practice.

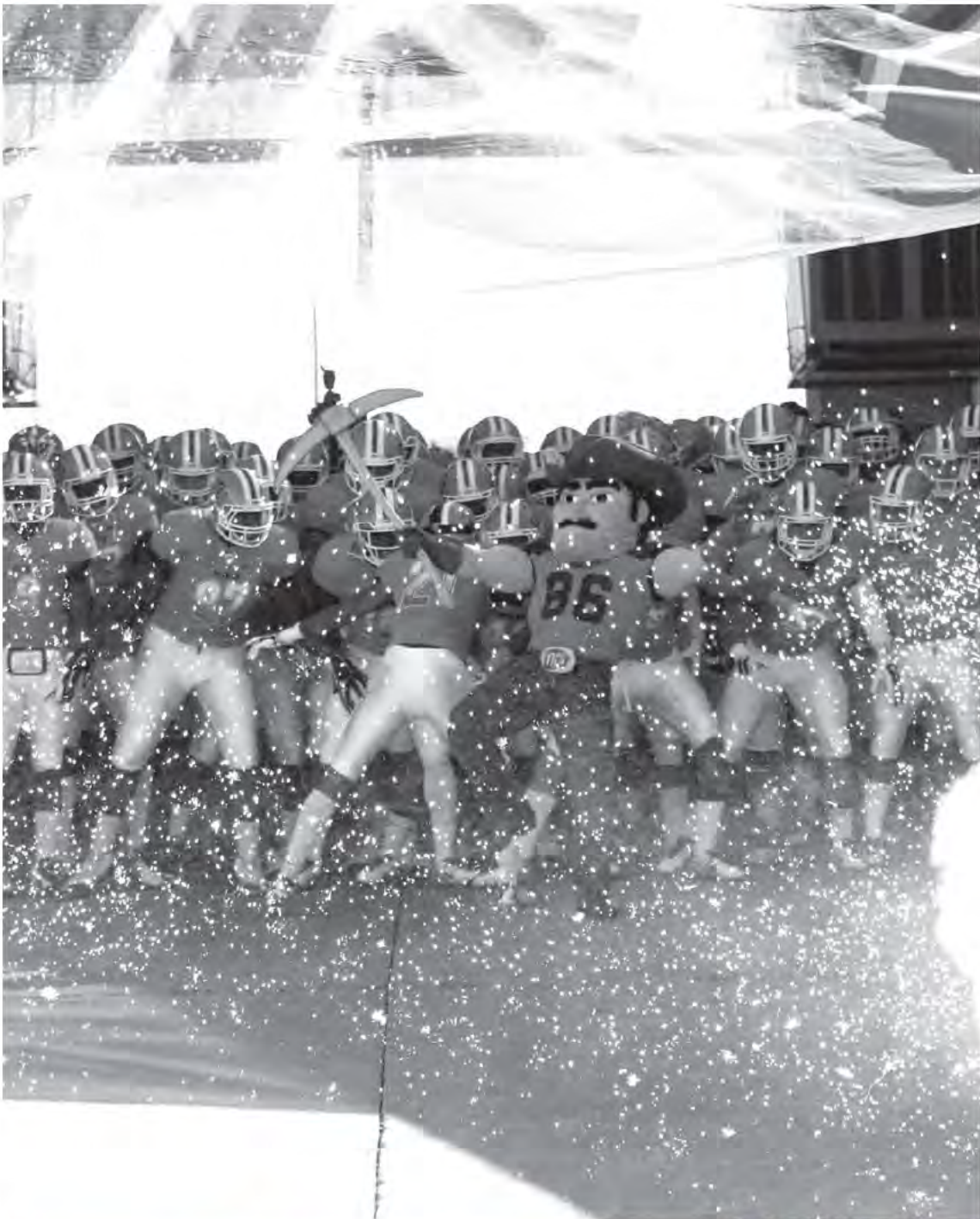
The freshman quarterback played the best game of his career in the last game of the season against North Texas. The freshman had a rushing touchdown and a lob on a trick play that counted as a passing touchdown.

Overall, a 5-7 record is a losing record, but for these Miners, the odds were stacked against them from day one when the schedule was released, and just like in their last game of the season, where they had five turnovers, the Miners fought back.

The Miners were on the cusp of a bowl bid entering the last two games of the season. Against La. Tech, it was a missed field goal; against Old Dominion it was a lack of offense in the second half.

The Miners were always on the verge of turning their season around but they did not have enough in the injury-riddled tank. Hopefully, when these young quarterbacks have time to mature and Jones is back they will turn the team around.

Juan Carlos Navarrete may be reached at theprospector@daily.sports@gmail.com.



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# Give the Miners time and temper your expectations



BY JAVIER CORTEZ  
The Prospector

In the words of the great philosopher and former NFL Most Valuable Player, Aaron Rodgers, fans of the UTEP men's basketball team and media members alike need to relax. The Miners are 6-0 for the first time in 15 years and the local media is already propping them up as the best team coach Floyd has had in his six years.

Let me preface the rest of this column by saying that I am staunch supporter for the men's team and I wish them nothing but success. But this early season anointing and propagation that this team is really good needs to stop.

Granted, the Miners have had six games and have won them all, but they have played against subpar teams for the most part and when you break down this team, there are plenty of flaws that will be exposed down the road.

This is all too similar to last season with the fast start of Vince Hunter. He was un-guardable, a freak of nature, the best player on the team and NBA ready by all early season accounts.

Then conference play came around. Teams were prepared; they studied the tape and swarmed the former Miner. Granted, Hunter did play well in conference, but his level of play did drop.

His field goal percentage dipped, turnovers were raised, while his propensity to foul stayed intact. Let's not

do this again with this team or any of its players.

This edition of the Miners is young, talented, at times very exciting, and promising for the future. With that being said, it is not fair to re-raise the level of expectations for a team that will most likely win 20 games and finish third in conference.

If the Miners win the conference, win 25-plus games and make the NCAA tournament, they over-achieved. As previously stated, this team has a lot of flaws, and here are a few.

The first is they have little to no front court depth. They lost 7-footer Matt Willms for the season, and freshman forward Brodricks Jones will be out for an extended period of time while he recovers after surgery on his meniscus (knee joint).

Second, is an overall lack of experience. Half of the team is comprised of freshmen; redshirt freshmen and junior college transfers. This is not a team that is filled with four-year seniors; they are young and inexperienced for the most part.

Lastly, they are still learning how to play at the collegiate level. Tim Floyd loves to employ man-to-man defense, and through six games, his team has showed that they are not ready to use that type of system on a consistent basis.

As the season goes on, the Miners will gain the experience, learn how to grasp different concepts and find success. But there is no way to offset injuries. Willms and Jones are not the only Miners who have to deal with being sidelined.

Josh McSwiggan is still recovering from a torn meniscus and dealing with eligibility issues, Omega Harris will not return until next semester because of academic probation, and Tevin Caldwell already suffered a concussion this season.

I've covered the men's team as extensively as any college journalist could and I can say with full certainty that this team is nowhere near being a lock for the NCAA tournament.

I am not writing this to diminish their early-season success; this is just a warning to all the UTEP Miner fans that create irrational expectations, which only lead to disappointment.

When it comes to UTEP athletics, the fans of El Paso have become habitual complainers. Somehow the Miners are always a let down, failing to meet expectations, while never failing to blow their chances.

Fans who think like this do not come in watch these teams play and if they do come, they are not really paying attention. Everything is black and white, no nuance and no consideration of circumstances. Take it from someone who is trying to make a living off covering this team; they are not that good yet, so give them time.

The level of immediacy in this town is unreal. Anytime there is a whiff of success, fans think it should be followed with more and more and more. For the love of God, let's slow down and give this team time.

If you don't want to listen to me or to people who have better insight on the team, that's fine, but don't say I did not warn you.

Fermin Hernan may be reached at theprospectoraily.sports@gmail.com.



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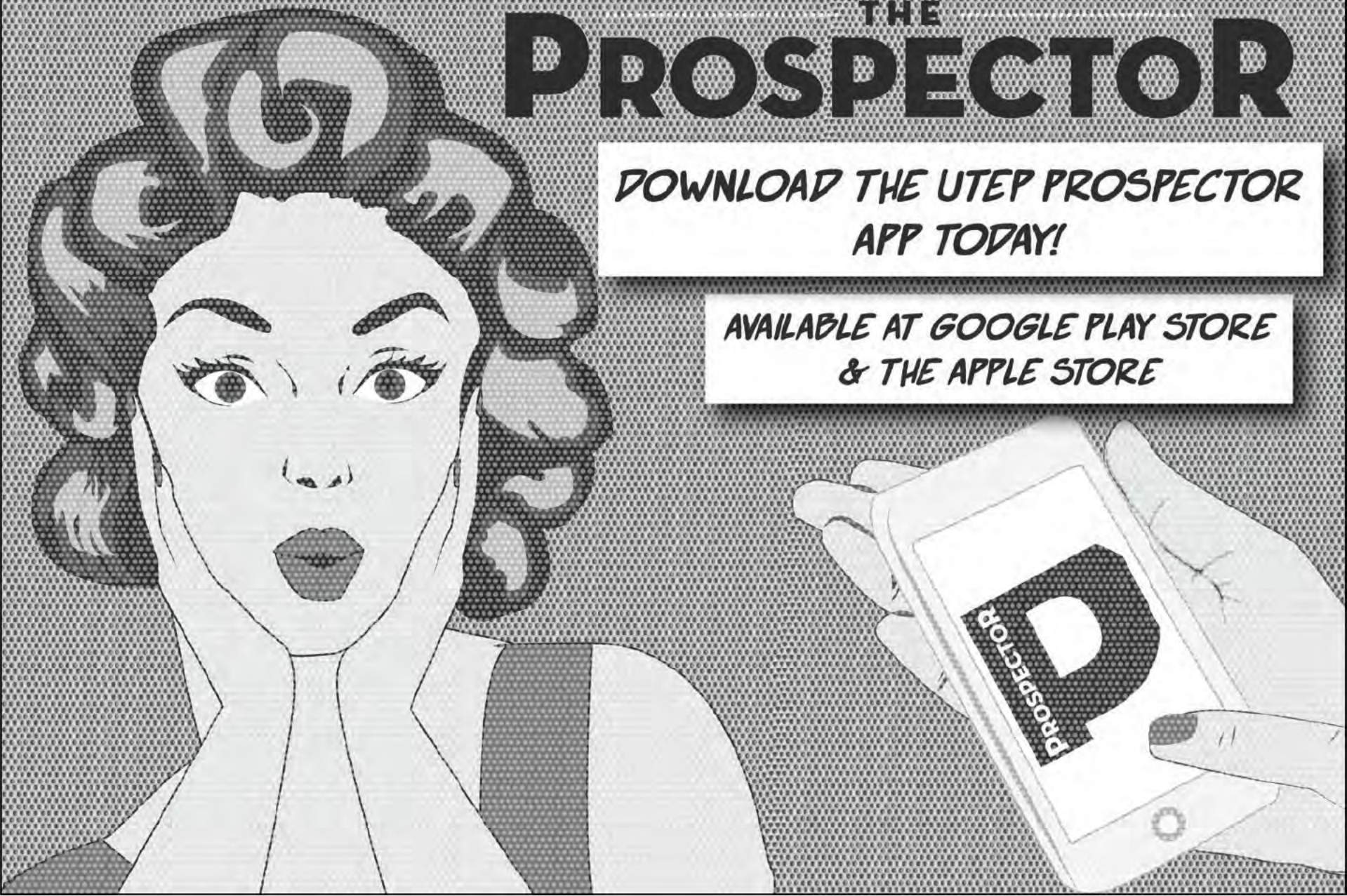
Junior guard Lee Moore has been a positive addition for the UTEP men's basketball this season, the junior college transfer leads the team in scoring.

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DECEMBER 1, 2015

OUR VIEW

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7477

A look back at the 2015 year in sports



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1. Cruz Azul defeated the Tijuana Xolos 2-1 at the Sun Bowl. 2. Julio Cesar Chavez outclasses fellow Mexican boxer Marco Reyes at the Don Haskins Center. 3. 11-time All-American Anthony Rotich show off his rings. 4. Tight end Cedrick Lang celebrates after scoring the game winning touchdown against New Mexico State in Las Cruces.

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INBRIEF

EARVIN MORRIS GETS INDIVIDUAL PRAISE

UTEP Men's basketball guard Earvin Morris earned the Conference USA Player of the week Monday, Nov. 30 due to his stellar performance in the Corpus Christi Coastal Classic. Throughout the tournament, Morris scored a total of 70 points, 28 coming in the championship game against Colorado State. Morris scored 22 of his 28 points in the come-behind rally after halftime. He averaged 17.4 points per game, with a .559 field goal percentage and .733 free throw percentage.

UTEP MEN'S TEAM RECEIVES TOP 25 VOTES

After being crowned champions for the Corpus Christi Coastal Classic Tournament, the men's basketball team received NCAA top 25 votes. The undefeated squad is off to their best start in 15 years, and gained three votes in the Associated Press Poll and one vote in the USA Today Coaches Poll.

UTEP CROSS COUNTRY FINISHES 11TH AT NCAA'S

The UTEP Men's cross country barely slipped out of a top-10 finish at the NCAA Championships on Saturday, Nov. 21. Georgetown beat the Miners 352-354, respectively. Anthony Rotich and Jonah Koech were named United States Track and Field Cross Country Coaches Association All Americans for their success at the NCAA Championships.

FOOTBALL WILL GO THROUGH STAFF EVALUATION

Amid rumors of coaching departures, UTEP football head coach Sean Kugler announced that he would go through an evaluation of his staff.

MEN'S BASKETBALL INJURY REPORT

The men's basketball squad lost two players in Matt Wilms and Brodericks Jones. Center Matt Wilms will be sidelined for the remainder of the season, while Jones suffered a torn meniscus, which will refrain him from play from three to four weeks, or three to four months.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

RIVALRY NIGHT WEDNESDAY

The UTEP men's and women's basketball team will both be in action on Wednesday against. The men's team will travel to Las Cruces to face New Mexico State in the Battle of I-10 with 7 p.m. start time. The women's team will host the New Mexico Lobos at the Don Haskins Center with a 4:15 p.m. start time.

UT-ARLINGTON COMES TO TOWN

On Saturday, Dec. 5, the UTEP men's basketball team will host the battle tested University of Texas at Arlington Mavericks. The east Texas team has already made a name for themselves early in the season with wins over Ohio State and Memphis. UT-Arlington currently has a 5-1 record. The game is slated for 6:05

SELECTION SUNDAY

Frankie's Sports Bar & Grille, located at 5850 Onix Dr, El Paso, TX, will host the selection of the two teams that will play in the 82nd annual Hyundai Sun Bowl. The Atlantic Coastal Conference and Pacific-12 conference will both send on team.

54TH ANNUAL SUN BOWL INVITATIONAL

The 2015 Don Haskins Sun Bowl Basketball Invitational is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 21 and Tuesday, Dec. 22. This years competitors that will join UTEP are; University of California at Irvine, Norfolk State and Sam Houston State. The Miners have won the Sun Bowl Invitational three consecutive years.

82ND ANNUAL HYUNDAI SUN BOWL GAME

The nation's second oldest bowl game is back again for the 82nd time. The ACC and Pac-12 will represent their respective conference, as the game is slated for a noon kickoff on Dec. 26. The game will be televised by CBS. Tickets are on sale, with prices ranging from \$22 \$32 \$47 \$57 and \$62. Tickets also available at TicketMaster outlets beginning August 1, 800-745-3000, or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

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