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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

..... THE
PROSPECTOR

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

MARCH 20, 2018



MICHAELA ROMÁN/THE PROSPECTOR

BY MICHAELA ROMÁN

The Prospector

Diana Natalicio was only supposed to be at UTEP for one year. But that one year turned into a 45-year legacy on campus and 30 years as UTEP's president.

Her tenure consists of awards and recognitions including the Texas Women's Hall of Fame, a spot in TIME's 100 Leaders, the 2016 Hispanic Heritage Award in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) by the Hispanic Heritage Foundation, and Fortune Magazine's fourth-annual 2017 list of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders.

In 1988, Natalicio became the first female president in the University of Texas System. There was a period when she was often the only woman in the room.

"At first people don't quite know what to do about that," she said. "It was a little unusual for them, I think that's no longer true, but it was a little awkward. Sometimes they were overly polite."

She said in most of her experiences, people have been kind, despite a few inappropriate jokes in the past, which were rare.

"Most of the people that I interacted with were supportive and as long as I was participating and demonstrating I had something to contribute I felt that they were all fairly supportive," Natalicio said. "I've felt through the years that I've had a lot of support and a lot of support from men."

Natalicio said it was motivation that helped her overcome self-doubt that kept her from persisting as a leader.

"You can't doubt yourself," she said. "Now, that doesn't mean you have to be brazen and pushy, it just means deep down you have to believe 'I can do this job, I can make these decisions, I can work with people.'"

Passion and perseverance are two attributes she feels have played a large role in her success.

"You have to have a passion of a certain kind for the work that you do," she said. "I have a real passion for education because I knew what it did for me. If I hadn't gotten that degree at St. Louis University, I wouldn't be sitting here right now and I wouldn't have had this wonderful life at UTEP."

She explained that although there will be setbacks in life, she found that perseverance and tenacity is sometimes more important than brilliance.

"If you have a good idea, but you don't know how to move it forward, it doesn't matter much, but if you have a really good idea and you do see it through, that will have an impact," she said.

Although Natalicio recognizes not everyone wants to be in a leadership position, she said it's up to an individual to choose how they're going to move forward in life.

"In a role like this, you can make things happen. I never thought it would be 45 years, they've flown by like that," she said as she snapped her fingers.

Before working at UTEP she received her doctorate in linguistics at UT Austin. There she found students were more entitled and appreciated how students at UTEP did not take anything for granted. She decided if she had the opportunity to stay she would, but never imagined it would be so long.

Natalicio recognizes 30 years is unusual since university presidents often use one job as a stepping stone to another.

"I wasn't interested in that," she said. "I was interested in trying to see how you could have a vision, develop a mission, execute it and live with the consequences of the decisions you make, because if you stay 30 years you make a lot of decisions and you know if you've achieved whatever it is you were trying to make a decision on or not."

"For me it's been such a privilege and I'm glad I didn't get fired," she said jokingly.

Prior to her presidency, Natalicio was a linguistics professor on campus and felt content being a faculty member, teaching and doing research.

"I never thought that I would be a university president," she said.

Through a strange set of circumstances, where there wasn't anyone else to do the job, Natalicio said, "for a year I'll do it," but quickly enjoyed the impact she had serving in that position.

"You have control in resources, determining class schedules, you're doing a lot of things—and if you do those efficiently that benefits every-

body—so you have a multiplier effect on your impact," she said.

Natalicio's first challenge was getting past the initial shock of her new-found title.

"I thought, now that I've caught this butterfly, what am I going to do with it," she said.

But 15-plus years of faculty experience put her one step ahead of an incoming president, who would not have understood UTEP's culture.

"Since I had been on the faculty here before, since 1971, I knew the students. I knew how hardworking and talented they were, but I also knew how stressed they were to get an education because all of the other responsibilities they had and so on. I also knew the faculty quite well so I really had a very good grounding. In that sense, it really wasn't very difficult," she said.

One of the first challenges Natalicio took on was helping high school students from all parts of the region make their way toward UTEP.

"I began digging into data and figuring out who were our students, what high schools do they come from," she said. "I hadn't been aware of the odd imbalance between certain high schools that were sending us many graduates. Coronado was sending us many graduates, but then other high schools, like Riverside—they weren't sending us many at all—maybe none in some cases. That was sort of puzzling because if you believe that people are talented everywhere, in every zip code and across gender, ethnicities and

racess you have to ask yourself 'why aren't they coming?'"

After conducting a study, she learned that money was a big factor in students choosing not to attend UTEP. Natalicio grew up in a blue-collar high school, where she said college was not thought of. The boys were expected to go into the workforce and girls were expected to marry them. However, Natalicio was the first in her family to attend college.

"I began to realize, based on my own experience, that I knew there were students just like me who weren't all that encouraged to go to college, but who had the talent to at least survive, which is what I did. Then I began to do better and better because I built my own confidence that I could do it."

Natalicio and her team then went on a quest to reach out to high schools and work with them to create a positive culture, to encourage, not discourage, the thought of going to college.

The next step was to make sure UTEP had competitive degrees, where a degree could serve as a prize in its competitiveness and brand in the marketplace to get better jobs.

"That came to this whole idea of access and excellence," Natalicio said. "We had to be affordable and accessible, but we also had to be very high quality so that our students could go out and be superstars. They had the talent, it was up to us to make sure that our programs delivered on that."

see NATALICIO on page 3



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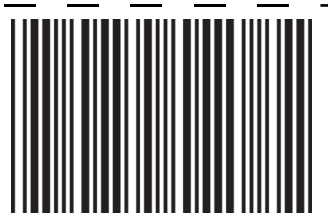
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MARCH 20, 2018

OPINION

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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We go forward together or we don't move at all

BY MICHAELA ROMÁN
The Prospector



If there's anything that's certain, it's that not all women are going to have similar values, religions, political stances or even an idea of a fun weekend night. But even when there's not a single interest we can relate to, women still need to practice intersectionality on a day-to-day basis.

If you have yet to understand intersectionality, it is essentially the premise of feminism. Picture intersecting circles where race, disability, sexual orientation, nationality and gender identity come together. At the center, they all intersect and they are all of equal value.

If any type of movement, such as the women's march, is not including women who fall into all of these social categorizations, it is not true feminism.

But wait, one may ask, does this mean I have to stand up for the Ann Coulters, Tomi Lahrens and other Trump supporters of the world? To an extent, the answer is yes. We have to recognize that every woman deserves to have her voice heard even if it's a voice we do not agree with. That's democracy at its finest.

It's bad enough that women have to endure constant pressure and expectations from men. We are also often held to high standards by the women around us. In working toward equal pay, equal respect and making sure more women are represented in positions of power, we have to break this stigma and stick up for one another when need be.

One example of how to practice standing up for one another is by stepping in when you sense a woman is being pushed down.

In January of this year, a British woman's tweet went viral when she told the story of a stranger coming to her rescue when a man at a café she regularly attended would not take no for an answer.

Amma Saleem said that she was waiting for her boyfriend to finish work and join her for dinner when a man started talking to her.

"A man approached me while I was reading and refused to accept that I wasn't interested in being bought a drink or further conversation," Saleem told Mashable. The man's persistence, despite her protestations, began to irritate Saleem. But, thankfully, a woman stepped in to lend some assistance.

She tried to remain polite so it didn't escalate, but she became irritated, at which point a woman nearby intervened pretending to be an old friend.

The random woman saw and yelled, "Carla? Hi!" She then leaned in to hug her and whispered "you okay?"

She said the man looked annoyed and awkwardly hung about before finally leaving.

Saleem says she "profusely" thanked the woman who helped her, who also invited her to join her and her friends. She says she was so touched by the woman's gesture that she tweeted about it. Her tweet clearly resonated with many people as it gained almost 430K likes and 84K retweets.

We can learn from this one incident and together work toward a day where women can go to their favorite coffee shop and not be put in this type of situation.

Practicing intersectionality can also be done by getting to know the women around us who do not look the same and live what we perceive as totally different lives. Respectfully asking questions and getting to know one another in just short conversations can really help break down stereotypes and help us feel connected.

Here in El Paso, a lot of us have similar social classes and fundamental values. However, around the world women in developing countries face horrifying practices, such as genital mutilation, acid attacks and child marriages. In 2017, 28 transgender individuals were violently killed in the United States. Over 80 percent were women and over 67 percent were people of color.

Be there for women and stand up for them, whether it may be in a work place, in class and out and about.

Follow Michaela Román @michaelaroman_

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It's time wake up and take action

BY ELENIE GONZALEZ
The Prospector



As the saying goes, "Well-behaved women seldom make history."

The phrase was coined in the '70s by historian and Harvard professor Laurel Thatcher

Ulrich, who wrote a book with the same title. Although I haven't read the book, I took some time to think about what this means to me and how this phrase can be interpreted.

When you look back at women who have made a big impact and contribution to society such as Susan B. Anthony, Margaret Fuller, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Rosa Parks, Dolores Huerta, Katharine Graham, Oprah Winfrey and so on, you will notice that these women made a difference in history because they did not stay quiet.

Each woman had a different motive, but at the end of the day their determination was the same. These women chose to speak up whether it was in their writing or by using their voices or taking an action.

With movements such as #MeToo, Time's Up and the Women's Marches, the wave of women continues to gain strength. And the truth is, that these movements are not new, they've been around for well over a century.

In 1848, a group of mostly women and some men, came together to discuss the problem of women's rights and the lack of those rights. The two women

who were the primary organizers of the first convention known as the Seneca Falls Convention, were Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. Over the next few years, with rising awareness amongst supporters like Susan B. Anthony, this would go on to become the first Women's Rights Movement.

After decades of women's rights activists fighting for an equal political voice, women were finally given the right to vote. But, the crusade didn't stop there.

During the same era, a writer by the name of Margaret Fuller had already published "Woman in the Nineteenth Century," which is considered to be the first major feminist's work in the United States. She was also an activist for women's rights, particularly for education and the right to employment. Fuller was well ahead of her time as she challenged the traditional role women take in households.

She believed that both men and women needed to be their own individuals and be self-reliant. She called for men to eliminate their dominance over women and for women to remove themselves from a man's influence in order to become independent. Fuller also stressed that women needed to teach other women how to become individuals. Much of her work inspired the leaders of the first Women's Rights Movement, including women's suffrage.

If you can't tell, there is a pattern here. Although these weren't the first women to speak up about what they demanded for themselves and others, each woman who spoke up and took some type of action was inspired by another woman who also did the same.

With countless powerful female leaders along with way who paved the way for more significant female figures, this wave of women only grows with any injustice that is encountered. It is important to understand that these continuous movements led by women, have never been solely for women, but for those who society continues to suppress time after time.

Think about the current climate and the ongoing social justice movements the world is experiencing now. Reminiscent of the '60s and '70s when other movements were prominent, only with slightly more progress.

Women's History Month is a time to reflect on all the women who have had an impact on society since the beginning of time. Each era in history had its own powerful women breaking the mold, not going along with what society says women should do or how women should act.

It was because women decided not to "behave" in the way patriarchal society expects them to that women made a difference, even in the slightest way.

Just like Margaret Fuller said, women need to help other women. Women need to empower other women. It sets a standard for others to follow suit and demands respect from those who don't.

Although many strides have been made in women's history, there is still a long way to go.

For the women who are reading this and the men who support and respect them, let's continue to break the negative stereotypes and challenge the rules because we're not going anywhere but up.

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The Prospector Sports Weekly Podcast - UTEP QB

Ryan Metz

7 days ago

Sports

Join The Prospector Sports Weekly Podcast as they talk with UTEP quarterback Ryan Metz about spring ball, the upcoming quarterback battle, his favorite moments at UTEP and much more: Listen to what Metz had to say now at theprospectordaily.com

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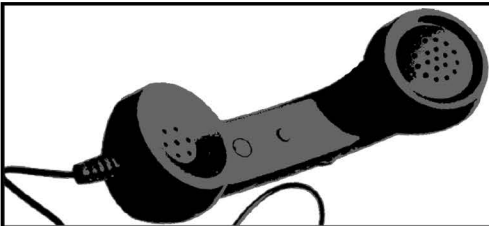
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NATALICIO from page 1



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(Left) **President Diana Natalicio** started her journey at UTEP in 1971 as a professor of linguistics. (Right) Natalicio celebrated UTEP's ranking by Washington Monthly, in 2014 at the Union breezeway, surrounded by UTEP students.

Natalicio finds it gratifying to see student demographics that now mirror the city's. Thirty years ago, El Paso was already around the 80 percent Hispanic population it is today. However, UTEP's student body was less than 50 percent Hispanic at the time.

"We look like El Paso, which if talent is spread across all sectors, we should look like El Paso," she said.

Going forward, Natalicio still sees financial resources as an ongoing project.

"Financial resources are always a major issue because state funding has not increased and its either leveled out or in some years declined. Because of the demographics of our student population, the socioeconomic level of many of our students, it's very very hard for us to raise tuition," she said.

Natalicio understands that at a certain point students will not pay for a high-price education. She has encouraged UTEP keeps tuition as low as possible.

Natalicio said at other campus like UT Dallas their tuition is \$4,000 a year higher, but they pay because they are able to.

Although on Monday, March 19, UTEP's vice president of student affairs announced proposals have been approved to increase tuition by five percent, Natalicio said she does not want to price students out of an education.

"If we were to raise our tuition to UT Dallas' level that would be impossible. We're focused on the diversification of our revenue because we can't just use state appropriations as counter balances to make up the difference."

Natalicio said research has helped UTEP by being one of the main sources of revenue in recent years.

"We bring in a lot of research dollars that help build facilities as part of the grants and they create a lot of jobs on the campus for students," she said.

Natalicio explained the grants usually contain a section on student support. This enables students to earn the money that they need to pay for school by working on campus.

UTEP is now working on tech and engineering in other parts of El Paso by testing machines and other devices out in Fabens and the outskirts of the city.

"Now we're starting to work with students in the Lower Valley who have difficulties getting to campus. It's a long trip to get from Fabens to UTEP through public transportation," she said.

Seeing El Paso's growth outside of UTEP has been exciting for Natalicio.

"I think it took a while to get some momentum, but I think the momentum is there now and a lot of people are involved in all sorts of creative activities, and opening businesses, and renovat-

ing old buildings and all of these things. I think it's very exciting and I think that will help UTEP leverage opportunities that we wouldn't have otherwise been able to leverage because it will enable us to aim higher because we have more assets to offer."

Natalicio said that she still has a really long list of things she would like to do before retirement.

"[The list is] probably unrealistic, but that's because I don't set limits on anything. I don't set limits on my own career or on what UTEP can accomplish. The list always grows long and the more you do, the more you think you can do and the more you will do," she said.

She wants the UTEP student body to take away the concept of never underestimating what they are capable of.

"They can tell you 'you can't do that,' but if you're really determined and passionate about what you do you'll find a way around it," she said. "You can't underestimate what can be accomplished, and if you do underestimate it, you will under perform, there's just no question about that."

Follow Michaela Román @michaelaroman_

Paso del Norte region leadership initiative for women awarded by UTEP

BY RENE DELGADILLO

The Prospector

After the 2016 Wise Latinas International Findings and Impact Report shed light on the injustices and barriers that Latina women of El Paso were facing, a group of women set out to put a stop to the inequity.

These women decided to create LEAD (Leadership, Education, Advocacy and Development), which is part of Wise Latina International, a non-profit organization serving the cities of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez as well as parts of New Mexico. WSL empowers women to overcome cultural and economic challenges through entertainment and cultural performing arts, among other activities.

Women who want to join the leadership training program have to fill out an application and provide WSL with a synopsis of a program or an idea that would benefit the communities WSL identified as in need of support.

Liz Chavez, president and founder of WSL, said that a committee then goes over all the applications and selects finalists who have the best projects. After this, another interview process takes place, where organi-

zations, elected officials, people involved in the business area and others help select the group of women who will be supported in their projects.

"They had to give us a three-minute pitch of the idea they have for a project that would address some of the needs that we had identified," Chavez said. "So we selected seven fellows, who are now going through the first inaugural class."

Some of the women in the inaugural class of LEAD worked in establishing a community bank that would lend money to women, who otherwise would not get loans, to start a business or to provide for their family.

Other women worked on projects that would help kids with disabilities, while others decided to help people find affordable housing. LEAD and WSL members served as mentors.

LEAD offered these women different training sessions, speakers, workshops and seminars as part of their leadership and education training.

"We wanted to inspire them and let them know that they can achieve whatever they have in mind," Chavez said. "We were pretty much their

see LEAD on page 4



MICHAELA ROMÁN/ THE PROSPECTOR

(From left to right) **President Diana Natalicio** presents Guillermina Nuñez- Muchiri, Areli Chacón, Cynthia Marentes and Liz Chavez with UTEP's Outstanding Team Service Award on Feb. 28 at Magoffin auditorium.

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El Paso family law attorney becomes strong voice for civil rights groups on the border



GABY VELASQUEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR
Lyda Ness Garcia speaks at the 2018 Women's march of El Paso on Jan. 21 at San Jacinto Plaza.

BY PAULETTE VILLA
The Prospector

A single mother, a family law attorney, a committee representative and an organizer of a civil rights group—these are all the roles that 46-year-old Lyda Ness-Garcia has in the city of El Paso. Ness-Garcia was born in North Carolina and moved to Athens, Greece, with her mother at the age of 4. She still has family living in Greece and considers them her most valued memories while living there. “I think that’s why I fell in love with El Paso because it reminded me of the family connections we have in Greece, with your second cousins, with your third cousins and all this extended family,” Ness-Garcia said. “I would see the

same thing here when friends brought me to their family parties.” Ness-Garcia moved to the U.S. to start high school in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She later graduated in 1992 from the University of Michigan, with a bachelor’s degree in English literature. “I moved to Austin and started working for an environmental group that sued companies that were polluting in order to make them clean up,” Ness-Garcia said. “I thought, you know you what, I’m going to school and get a law degree to continue doing this.” While pursuing a law degree at UT Austin, Ness-Garcia worked under the supervision of a practicing attorney at a

children’s clinic to represent those in the foster care system. “I remember I had this client at the time, who was HIV positive, and I learned that if her mother had just taken medication twice during her pregnancy, she wouldn’t have been born HIV positive,” said Ness-Garcia on what influenced her to work for children’s rights. She graduated from UT Austin in 1997. She had visited El Paso regularly before by going rock climbing at Hueco Tanks. As her first job out of law school, she decided to move to the city in 1998, with the intention of returning to Austin. “I worked with then-county attorney Jose Rodriguez as an assistant attorney to prosecute child abuse cases,” Ness-Garcia said. “Then I met my ex-husband, but ended up staying because I fell in love with the city.” In 2002, Ness-Garcia opened her own law offices, currently located in 501 N. Kansas St., to focus on child protective services such as child welfare law and representing parents and children. “Being a family law lawyer is really emotionally exhausting because people are good people, but they’re the most stressful times,” Ness-Garcia said. “I like doing children’s rights issues because it provides me with perspective and helps me remember there is a bigger picture out there.” Ness-Garcia has represented El Paso in the State Democratic Executive Committee (SDEC) since 2015. She also ran for state representative in 2014. “I kept being asked how I was going to be able to be a politician as the state representative if I was a mom,” Ness-Garcia said. “Somehow, I was a bad mother for taking time away from my children and wanting to make this

world better, which for me was the exact reason why I was doing it.” Ness-Garcia felt El Paso was a good community to raise children, and currently has two daughters and a son. She kept her maiden name in order to stay connected with her roots along with her married name to stay connected with her eldest child, the only one from her previous marriage. “I’ve been blessed to have some really incredible children, who are very socially active in their own way,” Ness-Garcia said. “My oldest daughter went to see Bernie Sanders, reads the news and she comes and tells me what worries her.” During Donald Trump’s presidential race, Ness-Garcia said her children were worried for their caretaker from Cd. Juárez, believing a wall would be built overnight and not being able to see her again. “We hear about how dangerous it is that we’re right here with Mexico, not realizing that’s one of the blessed gifts this town offers,” said Ness-Garcia. During this year’s Women’s March on Jan. 21, Ness-Garcia’s 14-year-old daughter, Ysabella Blue Garcia, had the opportunity to give a speech after the march and suggested that organizers include those in Generation Z. “I might be young, but I know what I want for my future and I march because I have experienced inequality,” Garcia said at San Jacinto Plaza during the march. “I want to live in a world where others do not dictate my actions.” Ness-Garcia was one of the organizers of the march, along with Monique Navarro and Linda Rivas, since the start of local sister marches that occurred in conjunction with the women’s march at Washington D.C. in 2017. Besides vol-

unteer training and ordering t-shirts, Ness-Garcia was the mistress of ceremonies for this year’s march, whose national theme was to go out and vote. “There’s a committee of about 20 of us and we did it in 10 days, we’re all very proud of how hard we all worked to make this successful in such a short time,” Ness-Garcia said. “I’m also proud of the people I got to know there and the passion that’s out here in our community.” Women’s March El Paso was created as an organization to continue arranging future marches and events for civil rights issues. Their future events will cover a different issue each month in order to mobilize the community. “There’s not one type of women’s issue. We all have diversity in our religions or colors, creed, belief systems,” Ness-Garcia said. “Between now and then, that’s all we’re doing, is donor letters, trying to get endorsements from political figures and trying to raise money.” Their current focus is in providing support to students across El Paso and volunteer training for the upcoming March for Life event on March 24 at 3 p.m. in Cleveland Square Park and ending at San Jacinto Plaza. U.S. Rep. Beto O’Rourke will be speaking at the event. “I think there’s a lot of women who came before all of us who can be mentors in order to help you find yourself,” Ness-Garcia said. “I think that those kids at Parkland are showing us they did it—they found themselves.” People interested in being a speaker at the upcoming rally should contact Women’s March El Paso before March 21 on Facebook or at epwomensmarch@gmail.com.

Follow Jason Green on Twitter @greenevansj

LEAD from page 3
mentors, who guided them in the ways to achieve their goals.” These seven women will become WSL fellows and will help mentor the next generation of women who enter this training program. “We’ll have their graduation in April or May of this year, and once they graduate, they’ll become Wise International Latina fellows, and we will be monitoring and supporting each of their projects,” Chavez said. Chavez, said that LEAD is a leadership initiative that is trying to empower women who are dedicated to serving the El Paso region by helping them recognize the socioeconomic, educa-


tional and other needs and priorities in the El Paso del Norte region. Chavez said that the report identified several issues pertinent to Latina women in El Paso that needed to be addressed and resolved. She said that housing, healthcare, education attainment, opportunities and advancement were among the biggest problems they were struggling with. “What I envisioned was to enhance leadership and abilities of Latina women to transform communities through social justice, equity, empowerment and through education,” Chavez said. Professor and director of Women’s and Gender Studies Program, Guillermina Nuñez-Mchiri, said that LEAD

is a way for women to work toward achieving gender equality. “We want to invest in women who want to invest in improving their own lives and the lives of others,” said Nuñez, who is also the faculty co-chair for LEAD. “Women are the head of many households. We need equality and we need women to have the power to achieve that.” Cynthia Marentes, director of community engagement for the College of Liberal Arts and committee member with LEAD, said that one of the reasons why she joined this initiative was because she wanted to look at opportunities for UTEP to become more engaged with the community. “We wanted to look at what was out there for faculty to connect with the community and maybe develop their own projects—it could be a community service project, a research project,” Marentes said. “We take pride in serving and helping Latinas because we’re affected in so many ways that initiatives like these can really make a difference.” Areli Chacón, co-chair of the curriculum committee of LEAD and director of the master of leadership studies program at UTEP, said that working for LEAD has been a rewarding journey that has inspired her to work harder in everything she does. “It has been a great experience. It’s one of those that you only have once in a lifetime,” Chacon said. “It’s an honor to

work with such a great group of women—that are so intelligent, brilliant, hardworking and highly committed to the community.” On Feb. 28, LEAD received UTEP’s Outstanding Team Service Award, during the annual meritorious awards for service ceremony, which recognizes outstanding achievements by staff and faculty members at UTEP. “It was a great feeling, the efforts of all these very hardworking and intelligent women were being recognized by the institution,” Nuñez said. For more information on LEAD and Wise Latina International, contact them at (915) 204-3871 or by email at wiselatinainternational@gmail.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
CLAUDIA FLORES , 747-7446



Cristina Goletti, a dancer and associate professor and chair of the theatre and dance department at UTEP, listens to her dance pedagogy students presentations.

BY ELENIE GONZALEZ
The Prospector

A traumatic accident changed the course of Cristina Goletti. While walking on the streets of Italy, she was hit by a motorcyclist from the back, causing a life-altering injury.

Goletti, a dancer and associate professor and chair of the theatre and dance department at UTEP, found herself bedridden for a little while, but the stillness was enough to make her determined to dance again.

She currently serves as president for the World Dance Alliance Americas, and is one person on campus that seeks to change how women and minorities succeed in the arts.

Before moving to El Paso, Goletti had an elaborate career of dancing and traveling around the world. Her education includes a master of fine arts from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a secondary emphasis in gender studies

and somatics (study of bodywork and movement).

Born in Italy, Goletti received her first taste of dance when she began taking ballet lessons.

Despite the setbacks she may have encountered, including the lack of dance training in school, she found a way to make it work.

“In Italy, unfortunately, dancing is not a part of the school curriculum, so I always have to have my academics first and my dance on the side,” Goletti said. “So, from an early age I’ve been working really, really hard.”

She sought to improve her craft and decided that she would audition for the London Contemporary Dance School, which according to her, is the best in the world.

Goletti was called back for a second audition, which she was forced to miss due to her obligation to a show she had already been cast in.

Thinking she missed her chance, she returned home from vacation,

where she received a letter from the LCDS congratulating her on her admission to the school.

“I came back from holiday and there was a letter from the school that said ‘Congratulations, you’ve been admitted to the London Contemporary Dance School (LCDS),” she said. “I was like, ‘I didn’t even go to the final audition. How did that happen?’”

see GOLETTI on page 6

Surf rockers Pilots of Venus to perform at Neon Desert

BY CLAUDIA FLORES
The Prospector

With a new EP about to be released, local band Pilots of Venus are more than ready to take the stage at the Neon Desert Music Festival.

Vocalist and guitar player Joel Chavez and drummer Stephen Razo have known each other since they were kids, but it wasn’t until they reunited that they decided to start a project together.

“I know Razo since he was a young boy, but he disappeared during high school and it wasn’t until later that he reappeared that we started as a two piece, and then we found Maribel and then Sam and it finally felt like home,” Chavez said.

After bass player Maribel Hernandez joined the group, it took them a while to find guitarist Samuel Pedroza to complete the band.

“They had established the band for almost a year and it was at this random Christmas party that I asked Joel for a cigarette and it was just by chance that we met and we became best friends,” Pedroza said.

Earlier this month, Pilots of Venus participated in the final round of The Lowbrow Palace’s Battle of the Bands and their performance got them a third-place win.

“We didn’t feel it was really a battle. We were there for the same reason as everyone else, to play a good show and hang with all of our friends and the fact that we won was really cool,” Razo said.

Chavez said this time was a redemption moment as last year at the same event they faced the worst technical difficulties they ever had at a live show.

“We couldn’t use any effect pedals or my voice pedal so it was completely dry, and it sucked because everybody was there and they saw me break,” Chavez said. “This show was important to us. We didn’t care about winning we just wanted to do it right.”

For Pilots of Venus, the good times are barely taking off, as they are one for the many local bands that will have to chance to perform at the Neon Desert Music Festival this May.

“(Neon Desert) is a big deal because we really want to get on that,” Razo said. “Last year in battle of the bands, the winner got a spot to play at Neon Desert, and this year we got the call to play on Neon a week before battle of the bands started.”

For the band, this is the perfect opportunity to share their sound with people from outside El Paso. Razo said this is the chance they need to see how their sound holds up with people from different backgrounds as they have a mixed genre.

“We want to do punk music, indie, pop and we even do some hip-hop music because we don’t want to get bored of our own set and sound,” Chavez said

see PILOTS on page 6

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PHOTO COURTESY OF PILOTS OF VENUS
Pilots of Venus will perform at the Neon Desert Music Festival this May.

PILOTS from page 5

Next month, Pilots of Venus will be releasing their new EP, which includes six tracks. Although they haven't decided on the final title for their album, the band has in mind the name of "Lady Astronaut" for this project.

The album will be released on April 20 at the Lowbrow Palace. Razo said this is a live recorded album and is a mix of their old stuff, their classics and some of their new sound.

"The songs talk about some dark stuff such as drug addiction and suicide, but also about positive stuff like getting over pain and remembering someone in a good way," Chavez said.

After the release of their EP and their participation at Neon Des-

ert, the band has plans to go to the West Coast for their first tour.

"It took us a solid year to make the album, and I don't want to say the album was an obstacle, but it was something we wanted to do before touring," Hernandez said.

Chavez said that as a band it was important to make an impact in their city before going somewhere else to promote their music.

"I see bands go on tour immediately thinking that is the answer, but you have to make an impact in the city and then you can go out there," Chavez said. "Now that we've made our point of giving people a good show, I think we can finally start thinking about touring."

✉ Claudia Flores may be reached at gigibertaflores43@gmail.com.

GOLETTI from page 5

She took her once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and moved her life to London, a foreign country to her native Italy, and she spoke little to no English.

"It was very difficult, very complex to get adjusted. I was sharing an apartment, there was a different language, a different currency," Goletti said.

Goletti stayed there for two years and completed a one-year certificate in art education and soon after, auditioned for the post-graduate company at the school where she was accepted in.

"It's basically a company that represents work by emerging or renowned choreographers," Goletti said. "We tour extensively in England and then we also tour in a little bit of Europe."

Once her time at the LCDS had come to an end, she found herself in Ireland, where she continued to grow her opportunities. In 2007, she and Nick Bryson co-founded Legitimate Bodies Dance Company, the dance company in residence at the Birr Theatre and Arts Centre.

The company has toured to some of the most important venues and festivals in Europe, the USA and Mexico, such as Aerowaves Dance Festival at The Robin Howard Theatre London, Dance House Limassol, Auditorium Theatre Rome and the European Parliament in Brussels, just to name a few.

In 2013 she moved to Mexico to work at Universidad De Las Americas Puebla as a full-time professor, becoming the school's chair of the arts department in 2015. During her time in Mexico, she co-directed the festival Performatica.

Goletti found herself in El Paso just four months ago in October

when she became the chair of the theatre and dance department.

She says that the demographics of the population in El Paso and her personal experience with Mexico is what really attracted her to UTEP.

"One of my goals is to make sure that the faculty and the curriculum that we offer are absolutely aligned with the demographic of our population, but also with the mission of the school, of the university," Goletti said.

The department is revising its curriculum and looking at a way to bring in more performance studies and infuse them within the community and to become more art engaged with this community. In dance, specifically, they're moving toward two tracks. One track is performance and the other one would be a dance studies/community-engaged type of art track. It is not necessarily for people who just want to dance or perform, but for people that want to use dance as a language for social change and social justice.

She believes this will help people understand the value of dance in terms of the larger academic institution and how dance can be absolutely at the same table with social justice.

"Dance is part of the way we understand the world," she said.

Her colleagues have also spoken highly of her. Professor and head of the dance program Myron Nadel says that in the short time Goletti has been here, she has already had an influence on the community.

"In only four months, our new chair of theatre and dance has been an inspiration for students and faculty in all our areas including, theater, technical and dance," he said. "Professor Goletti is intelligent, imagina-

tive, competent, empathetic, and as they say in music, has 'the chops' to build a future for a university department of prominence, not only on the border, but in the entire country."

Goletti knows the potential UTEP and the students in her department have and the way they can make an impact not only on campus, but in the world of arts.

"You have a lot of women entering with this idea of 'I want to become a dancer or I want to become an actress,' but who gets to the top are very often men. So, what I'm hoping I'll be able to achieve while at UTEP is to make sure that my program is doing everything that we can to provide the tools and the confidence for young women that might not look like what a traditional ballerina might look or how traditional actresses look, that they have the confidence to go out and change the world," Goletti said.

"We need that. We need more Latinas. We need to see people on TV who have accents. I think bilingualism is fundamental. People that can bring this, that can bring forward this culture—this multicultural identity is super important in their work as artists, as citizens."

Along with the UTEP community, she also believes El Paso can be the start of the change she seeks in her students due to the strengths of the community when it comes to women in power.

"El Paso is great though, it has great women in position of leadership," Goletti said. "It's a really wonderful community and I think a lot of positive change are going to come out of El Paso."

Follow Elenie Gonzalez on Twitter @eleniegonz

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MARCH 20, 2018

SPORTS

EDITOR
JEREMY CARRANCO, 747-7446

Women prevail throughout sports across the nation

BY MIKE FLORES
The Prospector



Since Title IX, the law that states that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation or denied in any education program or activity, was passed in as part of the Education Amendments of 1972, women and sports have formed an important bond.

Before Title IX, only 7 percent of students in high school sports were female, and women were only 2 percent of the college students participating in sports, according to feminist.org. Slowly but surely, though, women in sports began to grow after President Richard Nixon signed the law.

In 1981, there were 4,776 women's sports teams in the nation, from Division I to Division III, and over 74,230 female athletes participating in college. Nearly 35 years later, in 2016-17, the number of women's sports teams in college has grown to over 10,520 squads, and over 215,300 female athletes were recorded nationwide, according to ncaa.org.

Some of the most influential sports figures in the world happen to be female.

The last time an American tennis player won a men's singles Grand Slam championship was back in 2003, over 15 years ago. But in that same time frame, Serena Williams, one of the greatest female tennis athletes ever, has won 15 single Grand Slam titles, nine doubles Grand Slams and has four Olympic gold medals.

Mia Hamm, a legendary U.S. women's soccer player from 1987 to 2004, scored 159 career goals, was named the Women's FIFA World Player of the Year the first two years

the award was given, and until 2013 Hamm held the record for most international goals scored by both men and women. She also led USA to two World Cup championships, five Gold Cup championships, and two Olympic titles.

The U.S. men's soccer team has never won the World Cup or the Confederations Cup or even the Copa America title.

Another is American race car driver Danica Patrick, who is known as the most successful woman in the history of NASCAR racing. She's not only been a pioneer to the sport, but she has proven that she can compete and even win against men in the sport.

Patrick is the only woman to ever lead in the Indianapolis 500, and is also the first female NASCAR driver to ever win a NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Pole, winning the Indy Japan 300 in 2008 to make her the first and only female to ever win an Indy Car Series Race.

However, not only have female athletes shown the ability to succeed when given equal opportunities, many other women in sports have flourished as sports reporters, anchors, coaches and in many other positions.

Since 2004, Kelli Masters, a graduate from the University of Oklahoma College of Law, began her career in sports law and started representing Olympians with her own agency, Kelli Masters Management.

In 2010, Masters made history by becoming the first female to represent a first-round pick with Oklahoma defensive tackle Gerald McCoy, who became the No. 3 overall selection in the NFL draft. Fast forward to today, and Masters is still hard at work, as she now represents 24 athletes.

Although women in sports media still don't get the recognition or respect they deserve at times, one of the most well-known and best voices in all of sports has had an influence

see WOMEN on page 8

The top UTEP female athletes of all time

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

5. Camilla Carrera—softball (2008-12)

Although the UTEP softball program isn't known for its winning history, it was home to one of the best hitters in school history with Camilla Carrera. There might never be a player quite like Carrera, who made an impact almost immediately.

Off the bat in her freshman season, Carrera led the team in batting average, slugging percentage, RBIs and hits. Her freshman season propelled her sophomore and junior seasons.

In her senior season, Carrera truly left her mark at UTEP, with an impressive .447 batting average and a 1.199 slugging percentage. She led teams in home runs, runs batted and on-base percentage.

4. Kim Turner—track and field (1981-84)

During the Miners prolific '80s run, sprinter Kim Turner stood out among the shining track and field sprinters. Turner was exceptional in the 60-meter and 100-meter hurdles, claiming seven All-American selections. In 1984, Turner took the NCAA Outdoor National Championship in the 100-meter hurdles.

Over her four-year career at UTEP, Turner finished in the top five six times at the NCAA championships. She is still the fastest hurdler in the 100-meter race in program history, having set records both indoors and outdoors.



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

Kayla Thornton currently plays in the WNBA for the Dallas Wings.

3. Kayla Thornton—basketball (2010-14)

Born and raised in El Paso, stand-out basketball player Kayla Thornton left her mark at UTEP with her skills on the court. She started her career at Irvin High School, where she was an All-State basketball player and a state qualifier for the 100-meter relay in track and field.

In college, Thornton used her athleticism and raw basketball talent to make an immediate impression. She was an off the bench go-to player in her freshman season. Then by her senior season, Thornton became the all-time leader in

points, rebounds, double-doubles and field goals made in program history.

She joined the winningest class in program history and shined in those strong years, making the NCAA Tournament and raising both the C-USA regular season and tournament crowns in 2012.

2. Melinda Sergent—track and field (1991-96)

Melinda Sergent did it all for the UTEP track and field program. She starred in 12 conference championships, holding many school records and became the 1995 NCAA

see ATHLETES on page 8

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ATHLETES from page 7



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

Tobi Amusan was the Conference USA female track Athlete of the Year in back-to-back years (2016-17).

Indoor National Champion in the 55-meter run. This is what truly makes her one of the most illustrious athletes in program history. Sergeant held the school record in the 200-meter dash for 20 years. Her time

of 6.73 seconds in the 55-meter dash is still the top time in program history, going strong for over two decades. **1. Blessing Okagbare—track and field (2008-10)** Unmatched and untouched, Blessing Okagbare will be known as the

greatest female Miner athlete in UTEP history. After a long drought with the program struggling, Okagbare helped raise the track and field program and pave the way for its modern-day success that UTEP track and field has achieved.

Through three seasons, Okagbare secured 11 All-American honors, which set the path for her long-fought career. She won four NCAA championships in total, winning one in the 60-meter dash, 100-meter dash and the long jump. Okagbare also took home 15 conference championships during her time with the program. During the 2008 and 2010 seasons, Okagbare set a combined nine school records and was undefeated in the 100-meter dash and long jump in 2008.

Honorable mention
Tobi Amusan—track and field (2016-17)

In back-to-back years, Tobi Amusan shined not only in Conference USA for track and field, but she made a global impact in the hurdle events. A native of Nigeria, she captured the 2017 NCAA championship in the 100-meter hurdles. She is also a two-time C-USA female track Athlete of the Year. In 2016, Amusan ran for Nigeria in the Olympics. She advanced to the semi-finals in the 100-meter hurdles and was .2 seconds away from being in the finals. After her conference championship, Amusan decided to go pro for track and field and untimely left the school.

Follow Adrian Broadbuss on Twitter @adrian_broadbuss

WOMEN from page 7

on women all around, who dream of working in the media—current Fox Sports reporter and former ESPN reporter Erin Andrews.

During her entire career, Andrews has been one of the best at her job, but critics will still say she's only where she's at because of her beauty—which is a criteria many women still face in 2018. But just like every other female in media, Andrews is much more than just a pretty face.

Andrews' influence on women in sports media is unmatched; she set the standard for many young women wanting to do what she does.

Andrews is a sideline reporter for the NFL on Fox, a contributor for "Good Morning America" and was previously the co-host of "College GameDay" on ESPN. She also hosts ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

Out of all the coaches in sports, the most successful coach in all of college sports is arguably Pat Summit, Tennessee's women's basketball coach from 1974 to 2012 before she passed away. When Summit retired, her 1,098 career wins were the most in college basketball history between both men and women coaches.

In her career, she won eight national titles—a record when she retired. Summit was named the Naismith Basketball Coach of the Century. And in 2009, she was placed in the top 12 on the list of greatest coaches of all time in sports by Sporting News.

Needless to say, Summit became one of the greatest coaches in history.

In El Paso, women in sports have also made their influence on the city.

From 2001 to 2016, UTEP women's basketball was home to one of the finest coaches in the nation with Keitha Adams. At UTEP, Adams went 284-209 (UTEP's all-time winner) and is responsible for most of the success the program has experienced. Adams led UTEP to all four postseason bids—two in the NCAA tournament (2008 and 2012) and two appearances in the WNIT (2014 and 2016).

Adams coached UTEP to 29 or more wins three times before she left to Wichita State in 2017. Only nine other programs had accomplished that success. She is also the only three-time Conference USA Women's Basketball Coach of the Year.

While the men's basketball team has the history, the UTEP women's basketball team is the one that has tasted the most recent success in the past eight years, where Adams was the main component.

In the three major professional sports—football, basketball and baseball—there has yet to be a female head coach. The stereotype that women can't lead men as a coach will come to an end sooner rather than later.

One of the greatest sports dynasties of the 2000s, the San Antonio Spurs, who have won five NBA championships, have had a woman as their assistant coach since 2014, Becky Hammon.

Hammon, the second female assistant coach, but first full-timer, also became the first female head coach at the Summer League for the Spurs. In that 2014 Summer League season, she led the Spurs to a title against all men coaches.

She recently was scouted for the head coaching job for the Colorado State Rams men's basketball job, but turned it down.

I am convinced that once legendary Spurs coach Gregg Popovich calls it quits, the reins to the Spurs will be handed over to Hammon.

It may take some time, but within the next 10 to 15 years, I expect women in sports to keep growing. I expect women's teams to be aired more nationally, for there to be more opportunities for female coaches and for female reporters to get the respect they deserve.

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @mikey_flores

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