

11-27-2018

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# Research should be about quality not quantity

BY DIEGO BERMUDEZ

The Prospector



During my undergraduate time at UTEP, I have been privileged enough to have worked with a remarkable team of student researchers and outstanding mentors. I am convinced, because of that privileged position, I was able to compare and contrast appropriate research practices from bad ones, as well as gauging the helpful professors from the ones that detach themselves from good teaching and mentorship practices.

By comparing my experiences with my colleagues and classmates, it is easy to believe there is something inherently disconcerting about the consequences in the ways that research can be treated in a university setting. You can probably relate to this: the unnerving feeling that comes from a really close deadline on an assignment you haven't started.

Unfortunately, a similar hassled atmosphere surrounds many student researchers and professional scientists at universities across the United States. At the collegiate level "making it" in research typically means meeting a quota of research publications. Publications will reward the publisher and his or her university, with appetizingly large amounts of money. The pressure is exhausting.

Money is a strong incentive, and as such, engaging in the race for the coveted funding that can tempt researchers to take shortcuts to meet deadlines. Some of these shortcuts could be compared to borrowing your friend's homework to 'change it up a bit' and make it pass as valid; other times the urgent

atmosphere in research trickles down from the professors directly into the classroom, affecting members of the student population by way of poor instruction.

Generalizing would be unfair to those who manage their research work and classroom duties in an appropriate manner, but in my experience, there is room for improvement on the complicated dynamics that come with research practices in our institution, as well as in others.

Broadly speaking, two main concerns arise from the way the race for research funding is approached, and they both involve quality: the quality of research publications and the quality of instruction provided in the classrooms. Both research professors and research assistants constantly find themselves under pressure to deliver publication-worthy materials.

So much effort is being spent publicizing as many reports as possible in a condensed period of time for money, thus making it very easy to fall into the temptation of taking shortcuts like manipulating results to make the study statistically valid, or simply overlooking the quality of the output in favor of the amount.

Even more worrying, being caught up in the funding race can make researchers forget about the fundamental purpose of scientific investigation, which is to share with the world a dependable, voracious approach to finding the answer to questions of interest. Contributions to the scientific community are more valuable when they do exactly that: contribute.

Quality publications set the foundation for others to continue to improve on the good work and solve problems; no contributions are made when low-quality papers—that only seem to regurgitate others' work—are sent out into the world only to make scientists jobs that much harder by forcing them to excavate from a mountain

of waste to find valuable material to build from. It is a devaluation of the work of those who do it right. A consequence of forcing scientists and researchers to make their livelihoods depend on how much they produce at a fast rate.

Students also suffer the consequences of strained research practices. They can experience them directly as research assistants and as regular students. As an example, student research assistants can find themselves surrounded by a dangerous environment if their mentors are not holding themselves to the highest possible standards. It could be poor practice, it could be that they have demanding administrative positions, but professors who do not prioritize proper mentorship will, unfortunately, breed misguided scientists, thus exacerbating the problem.

The issue begins with those professors who are not as invested in their teaching duties as much as their research; these professors get so caught up in meeting the research demand, that they neglect to put effort into planning the best possible environment for the next generation of professionals to learn.

Surely the individual teaching skill and attitude of a professor are major contributing factors for the classroom experience. Since attitude or willingness are not typically traits able to be manipulated in professors, as a student I am convinced more effort could be put into helping their teaching techniques and skills, something like a required series of pedagogical sessions to be able to bridge the communication gap be-

tween the master and the apprentices.

For students, there has to be a middle ground, a sweet spot where we are sufficiently challenged, while not having to be self-taught. After all, much is expected when education is valued at thousands of dollars per year.

Beyond reducing students woes to teaching techniques, the magnifying glass remains pointed at the underlying reason professors are distracted in the first place: nearly-impossible demands of the high volume of publication that deters from a greater potential in a culture of academic experience.

Diego Bermudez may be reached at [theprospector1@gmail.com](mailto:theprospector1@gmail.com).

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# UTEP students react to El Paso Streetcar opening

BY BRIANNA CHAVEZ

The Prospector

It's been 45 years since streetcars were operating in El Paso.

Now, after several years of planning, preparation and construction, the streetcar project has finally come to fruition.

Thousands of El Pasoans, including UTEP students have had the chance to ride along the 4.8 mile-route on the same streetcars that were driven through the 1950s to 1970s.

"It was like seeing El Paso for the first time," said senior organizational and corporate communication major Mitzi Anguiano on her experience riding the streetcar.

"It was like stepping into a time machine," added senior media production major Abel Jaquez.

A time machine indeed, the El Paso Streetcars are Presidential Conference Car streetcars (PPC), the same model approved by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the mid-1930s.

City Representative Peter Svarzbein told the El Paso Times back in December of 2017, "Our streetcars are older than the famous San Francisco streetcars. And, what's most unique is that it's the very same streetcar that at one point traveled over 500 times a day between Juárez and El Paso."

The streetcars that once ran where left in the desert near the El Paso International Airport and decayed over time. Six streetcars were sent to the Brookville Equipment Corp.

in Pennsylvania to be refurbished in 2015. The refurbished streetcars made their way back to El Paso in March of this year.

Carl Jackson, assistant director of Streetcar Operations at Sun Metro, told The Prospector back in early 2017 that he believed El Pasoans would love the project once completed.

"It's going to go from the downtown to the uptown and the movement is to take the city and uplift it," Jackson said.

Younger generations are experiencing something new for the first time. While older generations of El Pasoans are overcome with a sense of nostalgia riding along the same cars they once rode on four decades ago.

"I got on it for the first time with my family, and it was fun being able to ride it thru my mom's old neighborhood," Jaquez said.

The El Paso Streetcar has two loops, the uptown and downtown loop. The Uptown loop has 27 stops from Downtown to Kern Place to UTEP and back. The Downtown loop has 10 stops starting downtown before working its way to Segundo Barrio.

All six streetcars have several amenities including free Wi-Fi, bike racks and air conditioning. They are also all ADA accessible.

Students who have ridden the streetcars told The Prospector that the cars have been packed with people waiting 10 to 15 minutes to climb aboard.

They also added that the ride was smooth and drivers have been friendly.

"We live in a fast-paced society and being

on that trolley that afternoon, it felt different, timeless even," Anguiano said.

Jackson told The Prospector that the streetcars offer something for everyone.

"Millennials, especially, will take this concept and love it. This is a fundamental change for El Paso that people will end up loving," Jackson said.

While they have been a hit so far, senior organizational and corporate communication major Gabriel Gonzalez, who enjoyed riding the streetcar for the first time, is not quite sure if students will benefit from the project at all.

"Unfortunately, UTEP is a commuter university. I believe that students would not use it much," Gonzalez said.

Anguiano disagrees adding that the streetcar is a great and new form of public transportation that is perfect for the UTEP community including the students that take the Sun Metro buses to UTEP.

"If you want to take a quick bite, but don't want to move your car from a UTEP parking lot out of fear that there won't be any spots when you get back, you might want to opt for the streetcar. It's less complicated than a bus," Anguiano said.

The \$97 million endeavor caused a lot of traffic nightmares for students and faculty as construction crews stripped the roads on Oregon, Mesa, and Stanton. It made parking and commuting around the area difficult, prompting people to accommodate their routes.

All of those complaints and construction headaches seemed to have halted for the time being since the Streetcar Project was completed on Nov. 9. For Anguiano, the benefits of the streetcar have outweighed all of the costs.

"The streetcar took years of planning, preparation, and tax dollars. But by the looks of it, El Pasoans enjoy it. Any cost and traffic outweigh enjoying time with friends and family," Anguiano said.

The streetcar operates Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The fare to ride the streetcar is \$1.50; one dollar for students and military. It's free to ride every weekend until Jan. 6, 2019.

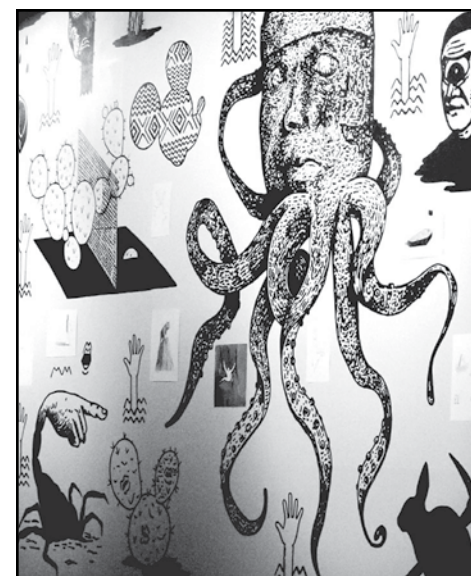
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# A way toward progress for 3-D printing at UTEP

BY ALEXIA NAVA CARMONA

The Prospector

On Nov. 8th, America Makes and UTEP announced an update in their agreement regarding 3-D printing innovation at the university.

"I think being here as a satellite, here at UTEP, here in America, it's one of the best things that we could ever really have. And I think we should take the best advantage of it as possible," said Héctor Lugo, Instructional Technologist at UTEP in the GAIA center in the UGLC building.

Five years ago, Lugo made a senior project for his bachelor's degree that included the use of a 3-D printer. He was amazed by what he saw and, since then, it became his dream to make that technology available for all UTEP students and all students from all grades in El Paso.

"It was so fascinating," Lugo said reminiscing. "Still right now, a reprint, it always amazes me because the fact that you have an idea, just the thought of having something in your mind, something that is intangible, something that you just cannot like you cannot share, you cannot have a physical something. But just after some work, hard work, dedication, at the end by the technology using 3-D printing, you can have it physical right here. So that's what really always amazes me, that even though you have an idea, or you're working with people, just at the end, you get to see the final product, the prototype or your final end product physically. That's what really amazes me."

With help from coworkers, a Microsoft director, and the building coordinator, the 3-D printing service became available to students of all

grades and majors, and with a varied set of services that will, in the end, benefit the community, especially with the high demand of even more advanced technology.

"We do a lot of outreach from K through 12 all the way to college. Right now, we are trying to create an awareness for all students that with the advance and the use of high-end technology, such as 3-D printing, you can make infinite, you can do infinite things, and there are infinite possible solutions, you can... there's never just one correct answer, you can always solve one challenge or one situation in thousands of ways," Lugo said.

As of now, Lugo and his team in the 3-D printing area are working with teachers to incorporate this advanced technology in their classes, most likely, in the form of class projects that could benefit their students. They are also helping students through workshops that teach them how to use this technology.

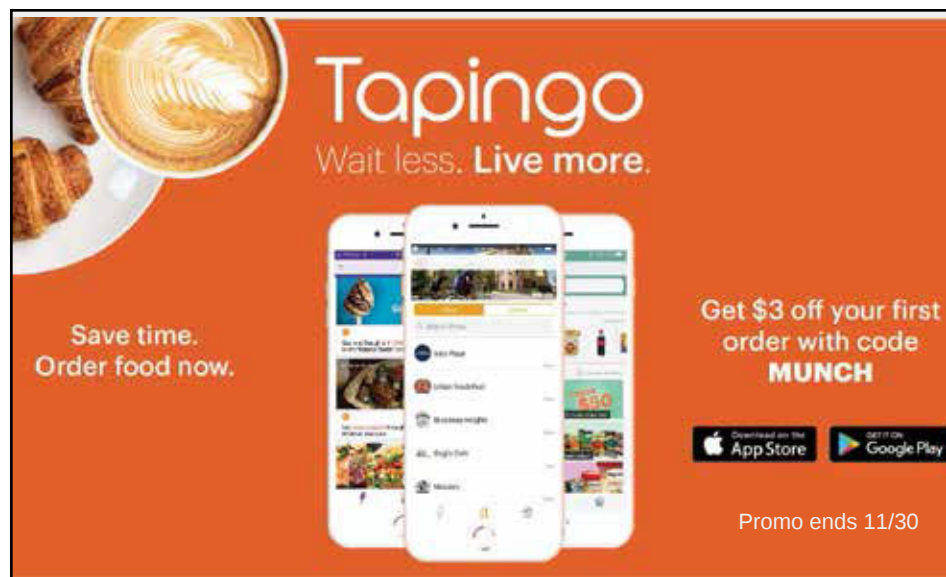
"It could be a very basic program all the way to professional software, like Efficient 360 Solidworks, or an Exent. And then, from there, we teach them the process of optimizing their print, and how they can actually just send the file

to print by using the cloud system. So, in other words, you can create, you can start designing, you can work like in your house, or you can meet somewhere else in El Paso. Then you get together, you start designing. Then, once you're done with your design, you can send that file to print by a cloud, so you don't actually have to come right here," Lugo said.

As of now, Lugo and his team are preparing themselves for the future, since technology is becoming more and more available for the next generations.

"We see a high demand. A lot of students are aware of the terminology and Maker Space about 3-D designing and 3-D printing. We see, in middle school and also on K through 12, we get to see that they are familiar with this software and that we need to be prepared because there is an incoming big wave of students already prepared with this knowledge and technology, how to use it, and we need more resources," Lugo said.

Alexia Nava Carmona may be reached at [theprospector1@gmail.com](mailto:theprospector1@gmail.com).



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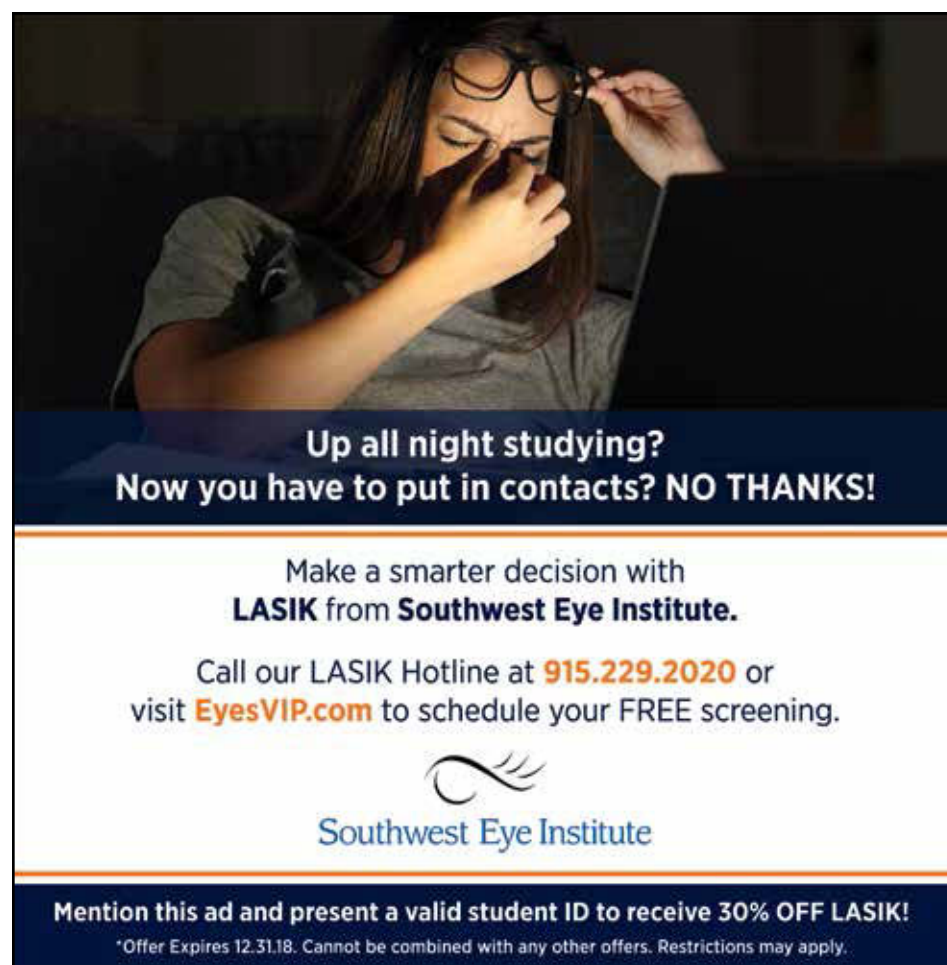


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## El Paso WinterFest returns to the borderland

BY ASHLEY JOHNSON

The Prospector

For the third year in a row, The Hospitals of Providence and Providence Children's Hospital kicked off WinterFest in Downtown El Paso with the Scherr Legate Celebration of Lights Parade and Lighting Ceremony.

On Nov. 18, El Pasoans gathered to enjoy the holiday entertainment from the Celebration of Lights Parade that traveled through Downtown, commencing with a lighting ceremony in San Jacinto Plaza.

"It brings people together, and it just creates a tradition for El Pasoans," said Vianey Esparza, public affairs specialist for the City of El Paso. "It's important that they (guests) come and see the lights, and they're excited about it."

The event began with performances from First Armored Division Band and St. Anthony Franciscanos Choir. Shortly after that, KVIA's Estela Casas hosted the Holiday Lighting Ceremony, which concluded with a ten second countdown to turn on more than 400,000 mini lights that covered 120 trees around San Jacinto Plaza.

As the lights began to gleam, the celebration parade began. Starting on Texas Ave. and Campbell St., the parade consisted of several attractions such as cars wrapped in Christmas lights, El Paso's Wild West reenactors "Six Guns and Shady Ladies" and baton twirler group "Star Twirlers."

El Paso WinterFest is known for its fam-

ily oriented atmosphere, with several different elements that turns downtown into a winter wonderland that are perfect for kids including an ice skating rink, a giant snow globe, food trucks and local vendors.

One of those vendors include WinterFest veteran Jesus Mancillas. Mancillas has participated in the Winterfest since its debut in 2015. His business, "It is...What It Is," includes handmade scrollwork using maple or mahogany wood.

"My work here, I don't do it for myself, I don't make a living out of this," said Mancillas. "All of our proceeds go to the opportunity center to feed homeless women."

Since 2015, thousands of people gather in downtown to watch the lighting of the plaza and cheer on the parade to celebrate the holiday season, but every year there are always first timers.

Yanet Velasquez, a mother of two, has lived in El Paso for close to ten years and has never attended WinterFest but said she is overjoyed with her family's first time experience.

"It's nice, I like it," Velasquez said. "It's our first time and they're having fun and I think we're going to come back next year."

El Paso WinterFest expanded this year by hosting free movies at the Plaza Theatre and providing free rides with the WinterFest Express trolley that takes guests on scenic rides through Paseo de las Luces.



GABY VELASQUEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

El Paso WinterFest will conclude on January 6.

The WinterFest Express trolley will provide free rides every weekend for WinterFest guests from 6 to 11 p.m. Friday, noon to 11 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. The trolleys will go from Father Rahm to El Paso Street, up El Paso Street to Overland and to Santa Fe back to Father Rahm.

The trolleys are not to be mistaken with the newly inserted streetcars that run perpendicular on Stanton Street.

Ashley Johnson may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com.

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# UTEP Choir 'revels' with sixth-annual holiday concerts

BY CATHERINE RAMIREZ

The Prospector

To kick-off the holiday season, the UTEP Choirs held their sixth-annual Holiday Revels concert at the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall on Nov. 19 and 20. This year's theme of "T'was the Night Before Christmas" featured a diverse selection of students and faculty from UTEP Department of Music.

The "Holiday Revels: T'was the Night Before Christmas" concerts featured over 120 UTEP students from the University Chorus, Concert Chorale, Chamber Singers, UTEP Ceremonial Brass, University Chorus Women, University Chorus Men and the Jazz Combo.

"Every year the choir put on two evenings of Holiday concerts right before Thanksgiving to kick off the holiday season," said Elisa Wilson, director of choral activities and the Holiday Revels concerts. "There's always a variety of music—it really has a little bit of something for everybody."

Prior to the main performance, the UTEP Department of Music provided special holiday refreshments while guests enjoyed music by "QuattroVoci" quartet, made up of UTEP choir members who also performed in the concerts.

"My favorite part of the concert tends to be the pre-show. Not only do I get to sing alongside my quartet friends, but people can enjoy hot chocolate and peppermint sticks as well," said David Herring, vocal performance senior and member of the UTEP Chorale, UTEP Chamber Group and QuattroVoci.

The show began in the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall with a performance of "Joy to the World" by UTEP Ceremonial Brass and moved into an interspersed evening of the rendition of 20 celebratory and holiday songs—along with recitals of stanzas from "T'was the Night Before Christmas" by UTEP singers.

"Dr. Wilson flowed it together through the fun poems and music to make it such a festive feeling. It truly is a show to remember and we've worked very hard," said Elizabeth Gandarilla, music education sophomore and member the UTEP Chorale, UTEP Chamber Group and QuattroVoci.

UTEP professor Elisa Fraser and Brian Downen conducted the evening with guest performances from UTEP faculty members James Logan and Cherry Duke. Judi Wilkinson accompanied the evening on the piano and James Logan on the clarinet to add to the celebratory evening.

"It's not just the choral side but it's the instru-



CLAUDIA HERNADEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP Choirs held their sixth annual Holiday Revels concert at the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall on Nov. 19 and 20.

mental side coming together to present a beautiful two nights of holiday music," said Brian Downen, assistant professor of voice and conductor in the "Holiday Revels" concerts.

UTEP singers and musicians musical skills shined as their music rang in the recital hall for an entire hour, filling the audience with warm holiday cheer as they swayed along to the tunes.

The evening ended with "Angels From the Realms of Glory" by UTEP Choirs and UTEP

Ceremonial Brass to send the audience feeling enthusiastic for the upcoming holidays.

"We want the audience to feel geared up for the holidays and have a very joyful celebration," Downen said.

The "UTEP Choirs Holiday Revels" concerts will return next year during the week of the Thanksgiving to ensure the community has a merry beginning to the holiday season.

Catherine Ramirez may be reached at [theprospector1@gmail.com](mailto:theprospector1@gmail.com).

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## Where does UTEP football go from here?



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

The UTEP football team snapped their 20-game losing streak against Rice on Nov. 3.

### BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

It was another rough season for the UTEP football team (1-11, 1-7 C-USA), who finished their 2018 campaign last Saturday with an abysmal 39-7 loss to Southern Miss.

What started off as optimism and excitement to begin the season turned into frustration and worries after early losses to Northern Arizona and NMSU.

Then there started to be a sense of determination by the team once conference play hit. The Miners nearly won their first three conference games, falling by nine points or fewer in those games to UTSA (30-21), North Texas (27-24) and Louisiana Tech (31-24).

It all built up to a road game against Rice, which looked to be the most winnable game of the year. UTEP got up to an early lead, and despite a Rice comeback, snapped their 20-game losing streak with a 34-26 victory over the Owls.

**UTEP did the near impossible: win a game.**

But the hangover from the win spanned for three straight weeks where the Miners simply could not put out the same consistent product that they worked so hard to develop. They were out-scored 125-55 against Middle Tennessee, Western Kentucky and Southern Miss.

They fell apart and were too depleted to do anything about it.

Year one did not look pretty under the first year of the Dana Dimel era, but the team's 20-plus injury report would suggest an excuse for the squad.

Nevertheless, one may be weary of what's to come of this team.

As far as coaches go, Dimel said he doesn't foresee any major changes, which is under-

standable. Any changes among the coaching staff would be Athletic Director Jim Senter stepping in on the changes, which probably won't happen.

Then there comes recruiting, which is the single most important part of the coaching staff from now until mid-February, and beyond for graduate and JUCO transfers. UTEP has 11 open scholarships, which include the three that have already verbally committed. For the remaining eight, Dimel says he will look to add to the secondary, linebackers and get a tight end as well.

However, eight scholarships are tough to work with. UTEP loses 16 seniors this year, which includes linebacker A.J. Hotchkins, linebacker Jamar Smith and wideout Warren Redix, among others.

Finally, there comes spring ball, where the Miners will have to reevaluate most positions while strengthening others. Junior quarterback Kai Locksley will enter the offseason with ankle surgery. Locksley played hurt for the majority of the season, but if UTEP were to make a splash with a quarterback transfer or recruit, there could be a quarterback battle in the offseason.

However they may do it, they have nine months to process the one-win season and try to bounce back next year for something more. UTEP's 2019 season will kick off at home against Houston Baptist (Aug. 31), followed by non-conference games at Texas Tech, vs. Nevada and at NMSU.

Adrian Broadus may be reached at [theprospector1@gmail.com](mailto:theprospector1@gmail.com)

## Miners prepare for back-to-back home games



GABY VLEASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP men's basketball will face Battle of I-10 Rival New Mexico State on Wednesday, Nov. 28.

### BY ISAIAH RAMIREZ

The Prospector

The UTEP men's basketball team (2-3) looks to remain undefeated at home this season as they are set to battle against their archrival New Mexico State (4-1) on Wednesday, Nov. 28, and Northwestern State (2-4) on Saturday, Dec. 1.

Coming off a tough loss to the New Mexico Lobos, the Miners are focused on bouncing back in the win column. Here are a couple of key points to look at for UTEP and their upcoming opponents.

#### Ride the Wave of Gilyard

Sophomore guard Evan Gilyard has been playing exceptionally as of late. Gilyard was named Conference USA Player of the Week, leading the Miners in scoring in four out of the five games played this season, and averaging a team-high 20 points per game. Gilyard is third in scoring in C-USA. Gilyard is also the team's leading three-point shooter, shooting 50 percent, tying him for fifth best in the conference. At 5-feet-11 inches tall, Gilyard is not your usual suspect for an imposing rebounder but with an average of four rebounds per game this season, that is exactly what he has been for the Miners. Against Eastern New Mexico, Gilyard registered a team-high 11 rebounds, while tying a career-high 29 points in route to a 66-59 win. If the Miners plan on winning at home this week and in the future, Gilyard must be their main centerpiece.

#### Cut down on turnovers

Turnovers are inevitable in basketball but with 87 turnovers through five games, ball security has become a main issue for the Miners. UTEP is averaging 17 turnovers per game. New Mexico State will look to capitalize off those turnovers, as they currently average 15 points

a game off turnovers. In the Miners' last two road games against New Mexico and Arizona, they had 17 turnovers and had a season-high 22 turnovers, respectively.

#### Big Man On Campus

Freshman forward, Efe Odige, was named C-USA Freshman Player of the Week, averaging a double-double on the season, and leading C-USA in rebounding with 10 per game and is 16th in the conference in scoring with 14 points per game. Odige is shooting 58 percent from the field, putting him ninth in the conference. In the last matchup against the Aggies, Odige put up 13 points but had his lowest rebounding performance of the season with five.

#### Main opposing players to focus on

New Mexico State's main centerpiece is junior guard A.J. Harris, who is averaging 15 points per game, which puts him fifth in the Western Athletic Conference. The Aggies are also relying on another junior guard in Terrell Brown who is averaging 13 points per game ranking him 13th in the WAC while also averaging three rebounds per game.

Northwestern State is looking for their first road win of the season, and to do that they will rely on the play of senior center Ishmael Lane. Lane is averaging a team-high 15 points and seven rebounds per game while shooting 46 percent from the field for the Demons. Senior guard Deandre Love is averaging 10 points and three rebounds per game for the Demons and the tandem of Lane and Love will be the main area of concern for the Miners.

Tip-off against New Mexico State is set for 7.p.m on Nov. 28.

Tip-off against Northwestern State is set for 7.p.m on Dec. 1.

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# UTEP women's basketball prepares for first road test of the season



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

The UTEP women's basketball team will face its first road test of the season against Weber State.

BY DANIEL MENDEZ

The Prospector

The UTEP women's basketball team will face their first road test of the season when they go on the road to Ogden, Utah to face the Weber State Wildcats on Wednesday, Nov. 28.

UTEP (2-3) is coming off back-to-back losses that were determined in the final seconds of each game. In the seventh-annual UTEP Thanksgiving Classic, UTEP had to come from behind double-digit deficits early in the first half. The Miners lost both games to Nicholls State and to Abilene Christian due to poor offensive execution down the stretch.

## Looking ahead to Weber State.

Weber State (2-3) is averaging 71 points per game, sophomore forward Kayla Watkins is the team's second-leading scorer and team-leading rebounder averaging a near double-double with 16 points and nine rebounds per game.

Weber State likes to take advantage of points off turnovers averaging 18 points per game. UTEP averages 16 turnovers a game. Mistake-free basketball and discipline on defense will be needed.

Weber State is coming off a close game against Conference-USA's own UTSA, the game went down to the final seconds as UTSA was able to edge out Weber State, 66-59, senior guard Jaia-

moni Welch-Coleman led all Wildcats with 19 points and five assists. Welch-Coleman is team's leading scorer averaging 18 points per game, the senior is also ranked in the top 10 of all-time assists in the program history with 332.

## A glance at the Red Wolves.

The Miners (2-3) then return home on Dec. 1 to face the Arkansas State Red Wolves (1-4) at 1 p.m. at the Don Haskins Center.

Prior to UTEP, the Red Wolves will face Murray State at home on Tuesday, Nov. 27. The Red Wolves have been battle tested losing on the road by two points to Oklahoma State, and losing in overtime to UT Martin, their one win was at home against Memphis.

Arkansas State visits the Don Haskins Center averaging 70 points per game. Sophomore forward Peyton Martin leads the team in scoring averaging 15 points per game. The Red Wolves rely on attacking the ball the defensively, as they average eight steals per game. Senior guard Akasha Westbrook and freshman guard Jireh Washington leads the team in steals, with 12 and nine respectively.

As a team, Arkansas State struggles to score behind the arc, they have made 13-of-69 attempts on the season. Sophomore forward Kayla Williams is the teams best three-point shooter as she is shooting .500 from behind the arc (7-for-14).

## What's been working for the Miners.

If UTEP is going to snap their three-game losing streak, the Miners must continue applying pressure on opposing offenses with their defense. Abilene Christian is the 34th best scoring offense in the country averaging 81 points per game, UTEP was able to hold them to 70 points. UTEP opponents have averaged 59 points.

UTEP must continue their ball movement to snap its current losing streak. Currently, UTEP is ranked 61st in the nation in assists with 89 on the season and averaging 17 dimes a game. Every member of the team has at least contributed two of the team's 89 assists. Sophomore guard Jordan Jenkins leads the team with 17 dimes, junior forward Zuzanna Puc is second on the team with 14.

UTEP must also protect the ball and minimize their turnovers as much as possible because both teams they face like to attack the ball defensively.

Puc and Gill have been main contributors to the UTEP offense, they each average 14 points per game. Puc leads the team in rebounds averaging seven boards per game.

UTEP will play Arkansas State at the Don Haskins Center on Saturday, Dec. 1, tip-off is scheduled for 1 p.m.

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