

11-6-2018

# The Prospector, November 6, 2018

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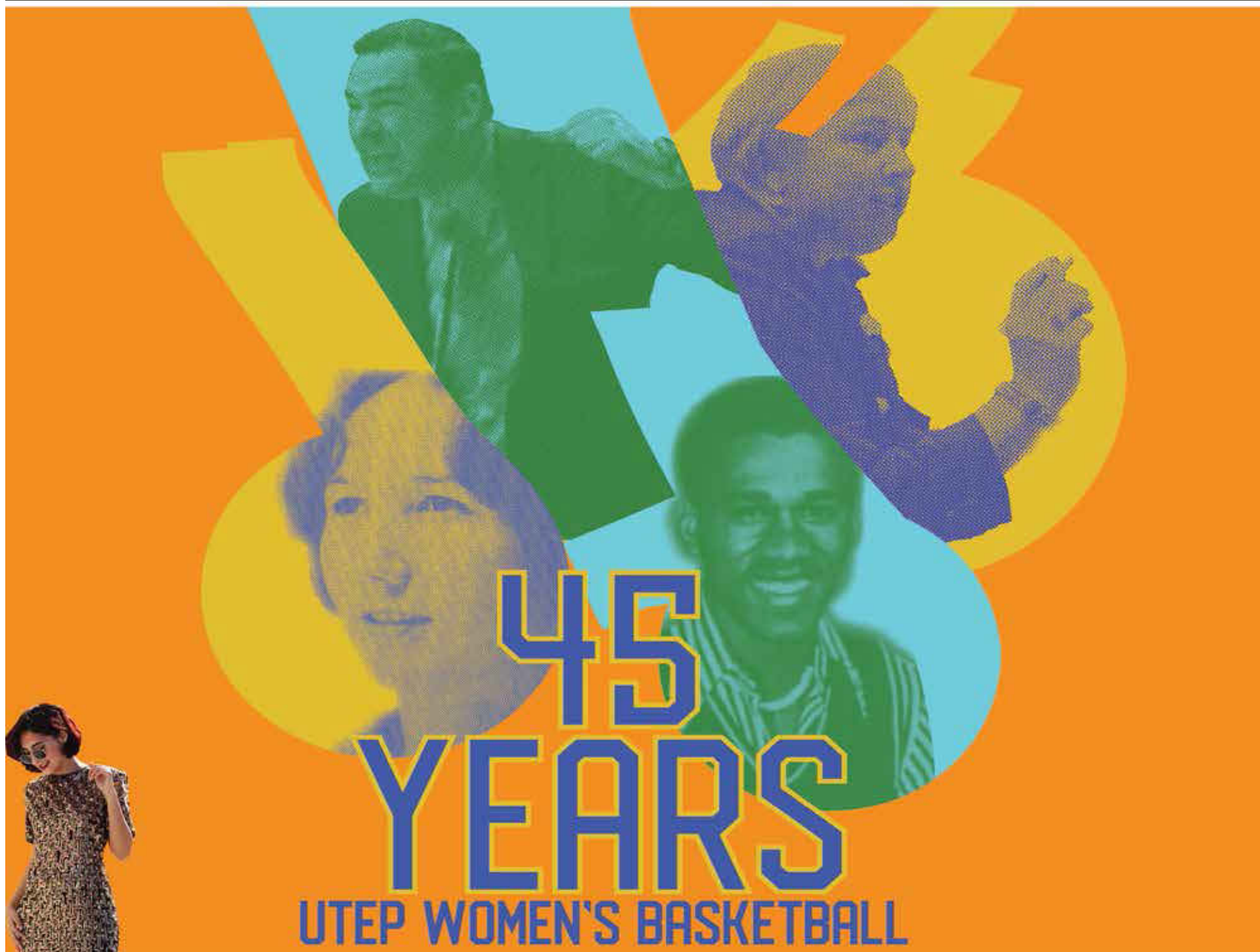
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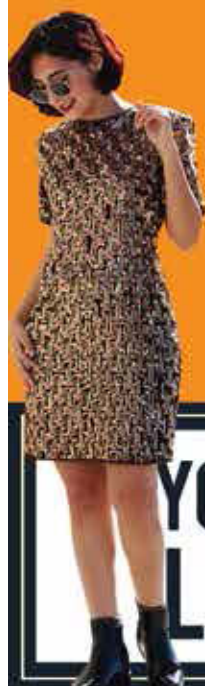
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A large graphic celebrating the 45th anniversary of UTEP Women's Basketball. The background is orange. A large, stylized number '45' is formed by two overlapping shapes: a yellow one on the left and a blue one on the right. Inside the yellow shape is a black and white photo of a woman's face. Inside the blue shape is a black and white photo of a man's face. Overlaid on the '45' is a black and white photo of a man in a suit, possibly a coach, with his arms raised in celebration. Below the '45' is the word 'YEARS' in large, bold, blue letters with a yellow outline. At the bottom of the graphic, the text 'UTEP WOMEN'S BASKETBALL' is written in blue capital letters.

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# A win is a win



**BY ADRIAN BROADDUS**

*The Prospector*

All good things must come to an end.

Or in the UTEP football program's case, all awful things must come to an end.

And Saturday, the black plague of a 20-game losing streak, the most in UTEP history, came to an end, as the Miners stomped on the Rice Owls 34-26.

Rejoice Miner fans, being the laughing stock of the nation is no longer on your shoulders.

But in reality, it was expected for UTEP to get their first win. The Miners have lost four of their last five games by nine points or fewer. And in those four games, the Miners had the chance to either tie the game or win in the final minutes. They revved up one of the worst offenses college football has seen in recent years to something productive and positive. UTEP's defense can hang in with the best in C-USA.

For first-year head coach Dana Dimel, it was a big sigh of relief. The narrative week after week went along the lines of "can UTEP finally get their first win?" or "will the losing streak finally be snapped?" or as I have said countless of times, "it has been 600, 700-plus days since the Miners last won a football game."

It's daunting, tiring and redundant—and it probably weighed on the coaching staff and team, which they will never admit to.

Through the first two weeks, hell even the first three weeks, fans and supporters were ready to write off the program and even suggested dropping the team's Division I status. Some called for Dimel's head prematurely, while others gawked at the lack of fan support at games. With record low attendance, inconsistent results on the field, growing number of

injuries and no wins, fans were ready to jump ship.

But this team is vastly different than the 0-12 2017 team.

They became numb to close losses. Injuries, even though they piled up, never seemed to be a looming problem with the bunch. Dimel, although pressed by the media and fans to show some sort of life, remained poised and stuck to his plan. Hats off to him for keeping the program intact and not letting up, despite starting 0-8.

Another big applause must go to junior quarterback Kai Locksley. He had battled three weeks with an ankle injury and even though he was nowhere near 100 percent healthy, Locksley decided to play against Rice because he knew that breaking the streak was important to the community and for the team moving forward.

Locksley was in-and-out of Saturday's game, but finished nearly throwing for 200 yards, managed four touchdown drives and scored on two rushing plays, with only an interception as his blemish of a performance.

Take all this back to presser after presser where Dimel would reiterate that this team was improving, in which not many people would have agreed a month ago that this team improved. Low and behold, he was right. The offense has been revamped and productive. Defensively, the team is sound and has rid of inconsistencies. And, to top it all off, UTEP pulled out with a win this past weekend.

So rejoice Miner fans, the better days are still to come. If this team ends up 1-11 or 4-8, they still got the one win they were chasing after. Be it against Rice, who is among the worst teams in FBS, the Miners will hang their hat on the win and not look back on the opponent it was against.

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# Retire number five

**BY JAVIER CORTEZ**

*The Prospector*



After 45 years, it's time UTEP women's basketball gets some recognition. More specifically, it's time Kayla Thornton gets some recognition. It's time UTEP retires her jersey. No more waiting, no one else, just her.

The next time a jersey is raised to the rafters at the Don Haskins Center, it should be Thornton's jersey.

The 2018-19 season marks five years since Thornton last played for the Miners, wearing the number five jersey. In short, she is the greatest player in program history. But her greatness started before she stepped on campus.

A product of Northeast El Paso, via military parents, Thornton was a standout athlete at Irvin High School. Along with being the most dominant player in the city, she was a star athlete in track & field as well—qualifying for state in the 100-meter hurdles her senior year.

She led the Rockets to district titles and racked up individual accolade after individual accolade. In high school she was known for overwhelming physicality—she was bigger, faster, and stronger—out-jumping, running and bruising her opponents for every rebound and basket.

In college, not much changed. After adapting to the faster paced collegiate game, it was business as usual for Thornton. She coupled her great physical talents with hard work and an unmatched determination on the court.

She was the springboard that catapulted the UTEP women's basketball to unseen heights. Thanks to Thornton, then head coach Keitha Adams and a litany of great roles players, the Miners experienced their winningest four-year run in program history.

On top of that, she retired as the program's all-time leader in field goals made, free throws made,

points, rebounds and double-doubles.

In summation, Thornton checked off just about everything you could check off to get a jersey retired. Granted, there are players that preceded Thornton that deserve the distinction as well, but no one is more deserving.

Her sheer athleticism, skills and work ethic combined with her record setting career statistics and contribution to team success is unrivaled in program history. Furthermore, she is one of the best female athletes to come out of UTEP Athletics in the past 20 years.

Whether it was at a high school gym in Northeast El Paso or the Don Haskins Center, she dominated. Anyone who ever saw her play would not say otherwise. If anything, Thornton is one of the best athletes to come from the Sun City, let alone UTEP.

Past achievements aside, you can now find Thornton playing for the Dallas Wings. After a small stint with the Washington Mystics in 2015, she went overseas playing in Israel before finding a home with the Wings.

Thornton was a key contributor to Dallas' 2018 playoff run. Starting 32 of 34 games, she set career-high marks across the boards. If the El Paso native's WNBA career keeps trending upwards, she will probably set a new standard for UTEP Miners in the professional ranks.

UTEP women's basketball will probably never ascend the heights of the men's program. The pathos of the '66 team is what the city thrives on. The '80s saw the most dominant decade for UTEP men's basketball—notable for the insane crowd noise—the "Don" was one of the most intimidating environments in college basketball.

But for a small time, Thornton & Company, were the program to see. They didn't get too much fan support or media notoriety, but they did a lot more winning than the men. They soldout games during their historic NIT run in 2014—arguably providing the most memorable games of the decade—and Thornton was to thank for that.

If all of that is not worth retiring a jersey, I don't know what is. Retire Kayla Thornton's jersey.

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THE **PROSPECTOR**

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The Prospector is published by the Student Media and Publications Board, 105 Union East, 500 W. University Ave. El Paso, Texas, 79968. The Prospector appears in print once per week on Tuesdays during the fall and spring semesters. The newspaper is not printed during holidays and when classes are not in session. The Prospector does provide news online at [www.theprospectordaily.com](http://www.theprospectordaily.com).








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# Woo decides to come out

BY VALERIA OLIVARES

The Prospector

Dee Woo, one of UTEP's longest standing faculty members in the Department of Communication has publicly come out as transgender. Dee, whose given name is Dennis, was born a male in 1955.

She graduated from UTEP in 1976 with a degree in Mass Communication and proceeded to work in the broadcasting business for more than 30 years.

Woo is the operations manager at KTEP, the university's radio station that broadcasts National Public Radio, music and locally originated programming, and has become an essential component to the inner workings of the station.

Woo came out to her friends, family and colleagues on a Facebook post on Oct. 17 and said that, while many congratulated her, many people unfriended her.

"...at the end of the day, for those who still think in binary terms that it's okay to refer me as Sir, then you know that you insult me, therefore you disrespect me, for I do not have to tell you that I am trans. Get over it, I have been here, I am who I am and you are..." Woo said on an Oct. 17 Facebook post.

It was in her last year of high school that she decided to come out for the first time. One of her openly gay classmates empowered Woo, but when she tried to come out, her classmates thought that she was joking and did not take her seriously.

She understood that she did not fit into the binary lifestyle. Over time, Woo's gender dysphoria, which she has grappled with throughout her life, progressively built frustration, suppressed feelings and anger up within her which, eventually, turned into depression.

Gender dysphoria is the contrasting disagreement between a person's assigned gender, decided by genitalia at birth, and the gender that the same person identifies with, according to the DSM-5 by the American Psychiatric Association.

In 1990, at the age of 35, her therapist told her that her depression was gender-related and essentially reaffirmed the fact that she is transgender. It was the first time that she had heard someone say it to her.

"The more we got into it the more my therapist said, 'well this isn't traditional depression, yours is gender-related, you're transgender,'" Woo said. "I thought okay, that explains everything."

In 2005, Woo lost her mom. Woo explains that, while she never told her parents about her being transgender, her father seemed to have an inkling and was more accepting of Woo's personality, while her mother questioned her feminine nature. This loss persuaded her to begin accepting herself as transgender in order to eventually come out.

For the past 13 years since her mother's death, Woo has been working on herself in order to become the person that she is today. Nevertheless, her journey is far from over.

"Having to go through most of my adult life living a lie, basically, was never comfortable," Woo said.

Woo has played a role for the greater portion of her life, finding it difficult and frightening to come out as transgender. "I understand why actors get so burned out after a while," Woo said.

It wasn't until Woo gave a keynote speech that she realized she was not being truthful with herself. "Be true to thine own self," is what Woo told the audience.

Woo's words hit her with the realization that she had to follow the advice that she was giving to



SERGIO MUÑOZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

Dee Woo, the operations manager at KTEP, recently came out as transgender.

the graduating students she was speaking to. From that moment she began working on herself and her transition.

"The other day is when I just decided that I'm just going to be me. If they have a problem with it, screw it," Woo said.

One of the places in which she has begun to completely embrace herself is in the Communication Department, the building that houses KTEP. She says that she understands that it is hard for the people who

work in the department because they are used to seeing her as part of the binary community.

"I see Dee as to having a lot of courage," said Dr. Guillermina Gina Núñez Mchiri, the Director of Women and Gender Studies. "I think it is important to be visible...It takes a lot of courage to say 'I'm going to own the body I think I belong in and live that life that I need to live. Because the way I've been living is not living.'"

see WOO on page 4

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# Search committee now accepting nominees

BY BRIANNA CHAVEZ

The Prospector

The Presidential Advisory Search Committee is now accepting nominations and applications for the next UTEP President through a website launched by the UT System, as promised by the committee and Russell Reynolds and Associates.

The website also allows the public to give input on what they would like to see in the next UTEP President. Comments and nominees can be made anonymously.

In late August, the UT System announced that a committee was selected to help choose the next UTEP President and Russell Reynolds and Associates, a global search firm, would be assisting them.

President Diana Natalicio announced she would be retiring after 30 years as UTEP President.

In October, the search committee along with representatives from Russell Reynolds held a town hall meeting in the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall to receive input from the UTEP and El Paso community.

Russell Reynolds took time to explain to the audience how the selection process will work.

The search firm will spend about two months recruiting candidates and will share each candidate they have selected plus the candidates who have ap-

plied for the job, as well as those who have declined with the committee.

The search committee will then select around 12 people and conduct two rounds of interviews to determine who they will select to present to the Regents. The entire process is confidential.

At the meeting, the firm promised 100 percent transparency between the firm, the committee and the community.

Unfortunately, the announcement of the search committee, as well as the confidentiality of the process, led to some controversy. It was addressed by community members at the meeting, including former UTEP Professor, Oscar Martinez.

On Sept. 14, the El Paso Times published a guest column written by Martinez, stating that he and 28 other prominent members of the community from a variety of backgrounds believed there was a lack of inclusiveness in the presidential search and that several members of the committee represent the business sector in El Paso.

At the meeting, Martinez reiterated what he wrote in the El Paso Times.

"It is not hard to imagine that business elite will dominate and spear the selection of candidates their way," Martinez said.

Another concern that was addressed was the

selection process that the University of Texas at San Antonio went through in 2017.

UTSA went through the same process of selecting a president. The UT System faced a backlash from the San Antonio community for not being transparent and failed to consider Latino candidates.

Martinez and the adherents of the letter feared that what happened in San Antonio last year, will happen in El Paso.

"Because the UTEP search will be conducted in secrecy, the only way to allay suspicions and prevent protests regarding the UTEP search is for the regents to appoint more at-large community representatives to the committee," Martinez said.

In response, Leslie reiterated that the committee is selected per UT System rules and regulations.

He also tried to assure the audience that the committee and the firm will do everything they can to make sure they selected the right candidates.

To provide input, nominate someone or submit an application visit [www.utsystem.edu/utep-president-search](http://www.utsystem.edu/utep-president-search)

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Dr. Núñez explains that it is a privilege to fit into the binary categories that society has set. Therefore, it is important to reassure those who do not and make sure that they know that they are not alone.

In order to become the woman that she knows she is, Woo will have to undergo various expensive operations one day. She considers the physical reconstruction of her body as something necessary in order to fully transition into a woman.

At the age of 63, Woo is racing against time.

The rest of the transition involves taking steps toward reaching a mindset that is actively trying to combat her gender dysphoria day to day. Woo has to remind herself to be her true self and to learn to accept the fact that not everybody will accept her for who she is.

After a long life of confusion, repression and anger, Woo is moving on. She no longer hides or abides by the binary way of life that she was socialized into and only asks for the respect of others.

"All you need to do is to be true to yourself. Be honest with yourself about yourself and then everything else will fall into place," Woo said. "After a while you get fed up being underground, you want to be yourself and, at the tender age of 63, I just had to be me."

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# The Rodney Terry Era begins with newcomers and new faces

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

It was a dreary night and the Miners had just lost a dreadful game to Lamar University (66-52) at home. Tim Floyd and the Miners had just lost their fifth straight game and looked as underwhelming as ever.

Floyd took a step into the press room to speak to the media and announced his immediate retirement six games into the season.

Exit the Tim Floyd regime, enter the Rodney Terry era.

Upon his hiring in March as the program's 19th head coach, Terry stormed through the program by snatching highly regarded recruits, while losing some returners along the way, and transformed this program into a completely different team.

Terry, 50, carries a new swagger as the Miners' head coach. He's calm and collected when he's coaching players one-on-one and barks at his team to bring up the intensity when they are in team drills. His trust in his coaching staff radiates the minute you walk into a practice and the foundations are what he is trying to build upon.

Dial it back a notch, Terry simply wants to develop a winning program at UTEP.

And with the team's home opener on Tuesday against UT Permian Basin, Terry is fine-tuning the team's final product to put on the court and display it for fans.

"I think the thing we've tried to instill in this group is they have to play extremely hard," Terry said. "We've got four freshmen, two sophomores and one senior scholarship players—they have to play extremely hard. You have to lay out the foundation in terms of identity. We have to be a scrappy team this year and really learn to compete to do it at a high level. Then we can start to learn how to execute on both ends of the floor."

Although the roster has 18 players, 12 are eligible for this season and Terry will likely rely on an eight-man rotation for the season. UTEP returns senior forward Paul Thomas and sophomore guards Kobe Magee and Evan Gilyard. Freshmen forwards Efe Odigie and

Kaosi Ezeagu and freshmen guards Nigel Hawkins and Jordan Lathon will chip in with significant minutes. Walk-on's Garrett Sullivan, Jakobe Dill and Gilles Dekoninck will fight for minutes this season as well.

"We don't have a lot of bench this season," Terry said. "We're thin. With seven scholarship guys, down one of our better players, we have six guys right now for scholarship players and we need our walk-on's to come in. Right now our young guys got to play. That's the beauty of this year. They're going to get a chance to play, play through mistakes, learn to play hard and learn to play at this level."

For a lone senior like Thomas, the mentorship role has been significant for him, to which he says the newcomers have made significant, positive strides.

"Pros to having young guys is we always have a lot of energy," Thomas said. "Young guys are eager to learn and eager to get on the court. Cons is just with any young team, adjusting to the speed, the physicality, and just picking and choosing wiser spots."

For the most part of the season, UTEP will rely on their four scholarship freshmen to play meaningful minutes. Having to play UTPB and then travel to NMSU (Nov. 10) and Arizona (Nov. 14) in just a week of action means that it will be about maturing quickly for the Miners.

"This team lacks experience and the only way they're going to get it is if they get thrown in the fire," Terry said. "They're going to have to compete against a really good non-conference schedule. We'll get a chance to compete at this level and what it takes on both ends of the floor."

The probable lineup for Tuesday's game will be having three guards in Gilyard, Magee and Lathon, while relying on Thomas and Odigie down low. Hawkins will come in to sub for the guard spots, while Ezeagu will take more of a role as a reserve down low.

"You have to really coach the details and do a lot of coaching," Terry said. "Right now we're coaching guys on how to play hard, how

see MEN'S BASKETBALL on page 8



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP Men's basketball head coach Rodney Terry was introduced as the 19th head coach in program history on March 15, 2018.



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# UTEP looks for two in a row after breaking the chains

BY ISAIAH RAMIREZ

The Prospector

After snapping the nation's longest losing streak against the Rice Owls. The UTEP Miners (1-8, 1-4 C-USA) look to keep the momentum rolling as they take on Middle Tennessee, (6-3, 5-1 C-USA) Saturday, at the Sun Bowl.

Coming off their best first-half performance of the season the Miners are looking for more of the same for sixty minutes. The Miners haven't beaten the Blue Raiders since 2014 in a 24-21 win. The Blue Raiders are currently on a streak of their own winning their last three games.

## Offense must have a repeat

Through the first half against Rice, the Miners offense was clicking on all cylinders. Junior quarterback Kai Locksley, who is usually more prominent in the run game, was an efficient 13-for-18 for 193 yards through the air.

Junior running back Quadriz Wadley had his second-best rushing game of the season going for 91 yards on 20 carries and two touchdowns. Up to this point in the season when Wadley has 15 or more carries for the game he has rushed for over 90 yards and averages over five yards a carry.

Three senior wideouts had over 30 yards re-

ceiving for the Miners against Rice—wide receiver Warren Reddix finished the game with four receptions for 63 yards, Eric Brown had three receptions with 60 yards and Terry Juniell finished with 3 receptions for 35 yards for the Miners.

The well-balanced offensive attack the Miners displayed last Saturday against Rice will need to be in attendance against the heavily-favored Blue Raiders. MTSU is a 20-point favorite against the Miners.

## Blue Raiders streaking

Middle Tennessee's defense has been exceptional of late allowing a mere 13 points per game in their last three games.

Senior safety Wesley Bush is ranked 14th in the nation with a team-leading three interceptions. The defense as a whole has six touchdowns this season ranking them sixth nationally.

On the offensive side of the ball, senior quarterback Brent Stockstill is having a successful season ranking 10th nationally in completion percentage at 69.3 percent. Stockstill, the son of head coach Rick Stockstill, has 16 career 300-yard passing games tying him for seventh all-time in Conference-USA. His next 300-yard performance will tie him with former NFL and Houston Cougar



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP Men's football won their first game in 707 days snapping the longest losing streak in the FBS.

quarterback Kevin Kolb for fifth all time.

## UTEP defense will need to be a factor

The Miners are battling a Middle Tennessee team that is coming off a 484-yard outing against Western Kentucky. For the season the high powered Blue Raider offense has 33 total-touchdowns and is averaging 368 yards of total offense a game.

On defense, the Miners will look to lineback-

ers A.J. Hotchkins and Jamar Smith this Middle Tennessee offense. Hotchkins leads the team with 84 tackles and three sacks on the season, while Smith has 52 total tackles on the season.

The matchup against Middle Tennessee is set to have an early kickoff time of 1:30 P.M. at the Sun Bowl.

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# UTEP women's basketball celebrates 45 years



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

**UTEP Women's basketball** Gloria Estrada was a part of the inaugural basketball team, she was elected to 2013 UTEP Hall of Fame.

BY DANIEL MENDEZ

The Prospector

This upcoming basketball season marks a significant anniversary for the UTEP women's basketball program as they celebrate 45 years when the Miners start their upcoming season on Saturday, Nov. 10, at the Don Haskins Center.

Before we move to the 45th year, let's revisit how they got here.

## How it all started

In 1973-74, two students by the name of Don Lewis and Wayne Thornton approached then president of the university, Arleigh B. Templeton, with hopes of creating a women's basketball team. The duo impressed Templeton enough that he rewarded them a \$1,000 to kick-start the program. It was barely enough to purchase uniforms and basketballs but it was a start.

"That 1974 season was so special because it was the first," Thornton said. "Nobody can ever take that away, the fact that it was the first women's

team ever. What they did and how they did it with the class that they used to do what they had to do is unmeasurable."

The two men would go on and coach the first ever UTEP women's basketball team. They then held tryouts and got coeds they rounded up from around campus and the team was born. During that season, the Minerettes, as they were originally called, only played three games that year, against New Mexico State. They lost all three games but it was the beginning chapter of UTEP women's basketball.

"For me, it was important because there were a lot of El Paso players that otherwise wouldn't have gotten a chance to play," said former Miner Gloria Estrada. "So, I mean, starting the program were the pioneers, but it meant a lot to me because we were all mostly local players when we started."

Carol Ammerman would end up taking over the program and be the first female coach in UTEP athletics history. In her first season, Ammerman finished the campaign 11-5 (1974-75), becoming

one of the first coaches to experience a winning season in their first year at UTEP.

Every program needs a star, and the Miners had one of their own in the early years of the program by the name of Gloria Estrada. At the time, hardly any fans nor media witnessed what Thornton called "the greatest shooter he's ever seen." Estrada was a fundamental part of the inaugural team, as a junior and senior she led the Miners in scoring. Estrada was a member of the 2013 UTEP Hall of Fame and was named to UTEP's All-Centennial Team in 2014.

## The Bear's influence

During the early years of the program, during some of the team's practices, they would get an unexpected visit by the legendary Don Haskins. He would come in echoing his voice through Holiday Hall—which was the former gymnasium of the women's team—often inserting himself to teach them defensive schemes to make up for their lack of height.

"Wow, we were in awe when he walked in, Estrada said. "I remember we were practicing. He walked into the gym, and we could hear a booming voice we were like, oh, what's he doing here?"

Haskins would continue to be one of UTEP women's basketball biggest supporters until his passing in 2008. The basketball legend often shared stories to fellow women basketball coaches, that would, in turn, get them to think. One particular moment still stands out to former UTEP head coach Keitha Adams.

At the time, Adams and her Miners were riding high into the month of Feb. as they were nationally ranked for the first time in program history. Haskins shared this piece of advice to Adams, "don't you let those gals get too happy," that statement would resonate with Adams as she stayed true to the Bear's words and led her 2007-08 Miner team to the program's first 16-0 record in conference play to claim the program's first league title.

"Hot. Damn, I knew you were good. But I didn't know you were that damn good," said Keitha Adams doing her best Haskins impersonation when sharing a story of Don calling her cell phone after her Miners put on a fast break clinic against Eastern Carolina on ESPN.

## The introduction to blue banners

Throughout the history of the program, no other coach has been successful for the Miners former coach Keitha Adams. Adams is the winningest coach in program's history, 284-209, she coached at UTEP for 16 seasons before taking the head coaching job at Wichita State in 2017.

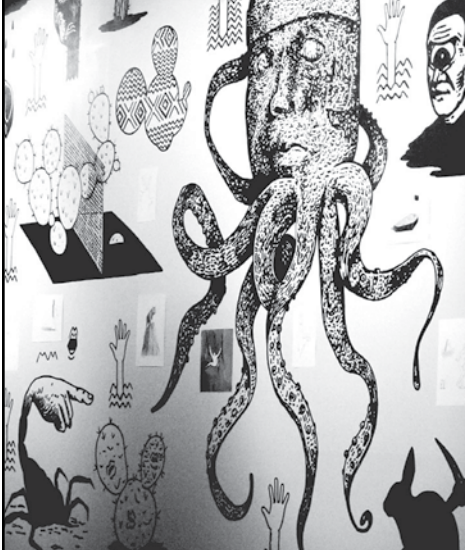
Before coach Adams, the Miners had never won more than 18 games in a season. Prior to Adams, the Miners had no postseason bids, zero conference titles, never made it past the semifinals in league play, nor received a top-25 poll.

Adams would go on to change all of that.

"When I came in there, men's basketball had such a rich tradition that we really just embraced that success and wanted to work extremely hard to win the first championship and continue to put banners in the Haskins Center," Adams said. "When we first got there, there wasn't any, there's a whole lot of orange banners in there but there wasn't any blue. And so, we just really wanted to work hard to build championships and change to a winning program."

Adams is responsible for all four postseason bids, which include WNIT in 2014 and 2016 and the two lone NCAA Tournament appearances in program history, 2008-09 and 2012-13. Those two seasons saw the most wins Adams compiled in her tenure at the program with a 28-4 and 29-8 campaign respectively. The 2008-09 Miners made it to the Round of 32, the farthest UTEP women's basketball has ever gone in the big dance. That same year Adams would be named Conference USA

see BASKETBALL on page 8



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FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP women's basketball begins their season Saturday, Nov. 10, at the Don Haskins Center.

## BASKETBALL from page 7

Coach of the Year she would go on to win the award again in 2012 and 2016 she still is the only coach in league's history to win the award three different times.

"Coach Baker's a great coach, and it's now his program, and he's a winning coach," Adams said. "He's done great things in his coaching career and so, I think it's in good hands, and I'm excited to continue to see that program be successful."

### Year two with Baker

Head coach Kevin Baker made his first season at UTEP a memorable one. He more than doubled the team's overall win total from the previous campaign all on the way to becoming the most successful first-year head coach in program history. Baker's team finished with a 17-14 (7-9 C-USA). In addition, Baker became the first-year Miner head coach to taste victory at the

league tournament when his Miners' team made it to the quarterfinals in the 2018 C-USA Championships.

"It is an honor to be a head coach in women's collegiate basketball anywhere because women's college basketball has really hit an uprise," said head coach Kevin Baker. "It's an honor but it's even more so an honor to be the head coach here at UTEP because of the tradition that was laid before me and we just want to build upon that so you know it's amazing how far the game in 45 years has come."

Baker's team went through a roster overhaul, losing last season's leading rebounder, leading scorer and lone senior Tamara Seda. Furthermore, coach Baker lost last season's second-leading scorer in Najala Howell to a transfer. Currently, Baker is focusing on team rebounding and seeing if someone is willing to fill in the hole.

"We're trying to do it by committee, we're trying to do it by four, five players and trying to rebound the

basketball in that way and I hope that we just get better at it," Baker said. "Right now we're still trying to figure out our identity and when a player like Tamara leaves the program and leaves that hole there. We got to have some people fill it and so I'm looking forward to see who steps up and does that for us."

Baker's squad has four letter winners returning: senior guard Jordan Alexander, sophomore guard Jordan Jenkins, junior forward Zuzanna Puc and junior guard Katarina Zec. In addition, junior forward Ariona Gill and guard Neidy Ocuane are set to make their Miner debut this season after sitting out a year. There are six newcomers—sophomore guard Alexa Hoy, freshman guard Sabine Lipe, freshman forward Ariana Taylor, freshman guard Conchi Satorre and junior forward Jade Rochelle.

Baker envisioned this year's squad to play with an uptempo style and run the court, so far through two exhibitions games the Miners have not taken advantage of points in transition as much as Baker would like. But Baker acknowledged the need to emphasize to his players to run the court and is hopeful this team will play with that identity as the season progresses.

"We're not running the way we need to right now, we're not we're not scoring much in transition, Baker said. "I'd like to emphasize it more and push it more and really make it if we're going to be a running team we've really got to impress upon our players that's what we want to do and we're not anywhere near that yet, of course, it's early but hopefully we'll get better"

This upcoming season, that inaugural team will be honored when UTEP hosts NMSU in the First-Light Federal Credit Union Battle of I-10 game on Nov. 17. The Miners kick off the season at home Saturday, Nov. 10, against Alcorn State at the Don Haskins Center. Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m.

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## MEN'S BASKETBALL from page 5

to have tremendous effort on both ends of the floor, then we have to get the execution and fundamentals. It's a challenge."

Although next year looks bright for the Miners, with the likes of getting six transfers that had to sit out this season, Thomas has high expectations for his senior season.

"I feel good," he said. "The guys have been working hard, we've all been working hard at practice. The schedule we have is an exciting schedule and I'm looking forward to going out with a bang."

For Terry, he appreciates where his team stands going into the season and embraces the new challenge.

"I like it for our first year," Terry said. "We are starting from ground zero here, just like where we started in the first year at Fresno State. No knock against our youth or our players. We have done it differently than we did it at Fresno State. We had some junior college players come with us at Fresno State when we started, but they didn't really fit our culture, so I didn't want to make that same mistake here. We went the transfer route. We're going to sit some really good players out that will be good contributors here in the future. We're going to play with our young guys this year and this year will be very valuable to them."

The Miners will tip-off against UTPB at 7 p.m. Tuesday evening in the Don Haskins Center.

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## DeadBeach celebrates three years with Day of the DeadBeach



► 1



► 2



► 3



► 4



► 5



► 6

1. DeadBeach's specialty craft beers were for sale at DeadBeach Brewery for their 3rd anniversary block party. 2. Families attended to the Day of the DeadBeach Brewery on their 3rd anniversary block party. 3. Local artists paint murals at the Day of the DeadBeach Brewery on their 3rd anniversary block party. 4. DeadBeach Brewery had two different menus of drinks for inside and outside the bar. 5. Attendees dance to live music by local bands. 6. Local bands play live for the 3rd anniversary of DeadBeach Brewery.

CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ AND GABY VELASQUEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

## UTEP theater students set to present 'Stonewater Rapture'

BY CLAUDIA FLORES

The Prospector

As part of UTEP's theater department annual student show, senior theater performance student, Gabriel Franco Kull is ready to present "Stonewater Rapture," a play by the American playwright Doug Wright.

The play takes place on the porch of a Texas house and tells the story of two teenagers, Whitney and Carlyle, who go through a phase of discovery through religion and lust.

As a theater performance major, Kull has participated in different UTEP productions as an actor, but this time he decided to take on a different route by leaving the stage to become the director of this play.

"This is actually one of my favorite plays ever, I did a scene from it for my directing class

last year and there's usually a student show every year, and no one applied so I said 'ell, why not?," Kull said.

According to Kull, studio shows are student-driven, with a full cast, director, stage manager and a full production built by students.

"Stonewater Rapture" was not the only show for Kull and some of the participants, making this play an extra project to run with and some difficulties along the way.

"Time management was one of the greatest difficulties because this is technically an extra project, especially when a lot of the university stuff comes as a priority," Kull said. "When we started rehearsing, we were only rehearsing for an hour when normal rehearsals are usually from six to 10 or five to 10, but we were only able to rehearse from five to six or four to five.

So we had to get a lot done in a short amount of time."

Time management was not only of the adversities for putting this project together. For performing arts senior and lead character, Cristian Barrio, time was also a challenge for the preparation of his character Whitney.

"We have not had a lot of time, which is unfortunate, and I think I can speak for a lot of actors because we always want more time with a character and with the show. We just want to do the best we can, and, you know we feel like we've missed something, we want to keep figuring something out," Barrio said.

Throughout the play, Barrio's character goes through a self-discovering phase. Whitney, who is a 17-year-old, is still figuring out his sexuality and way in life, and for Barrio portraying his character with respect was one

of his main priorities as an actor.

"I want to make sure that I'm doing good to the character in transmitting how people feel to the way he feels because he struggled a lot with who he is, and you know, how he wants to be in his life," Barrio said. "Projecting how he identifies, is something I've been sensitive with because I don't want to be offensive."

"Stonewater Rapture" will run on Nov. 13 and 14, at 6 and 8 p.m. at the UTEP Basement Theater located in the Fox Fine Arts.

"I strongly encourage everyone to come watch it because you're going to connect on some human level," Barrio said. "It's only two people, but they're going through a lot and I guarantee you, you're going to be able to look out and see that you're not alone in this world."

Claudia Flores may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com.



# Opera UTEP debuts with their annual 'Fall Opera Showcase'



PRISCILLA GOMEZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

Opera UTEP will offer an additional show on Sunday Nov. 11 at 2:30 p.m. at the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall.

BY ASHLEY JOHNSON

The Prospector

Opera UTEP made their debut on Friday, Nov. 2, with their Fall Opera Showcase. The double casted performance included acts from composers Samuel Barber, Giacomo Puccini, Jorge Martin, and Gian-Carlo Menotti.

UTEP's Department of Music Vocal Area offers Opera UTEP for undergraduate and graduate ensemble credit. This Opera Workshop teaches students the fundamentals of

operatic performances.

Students meet four times a week for six hours all semester long. However, with the help and guidance of Opera UTEP director, Cherry Duke, students are able to put on successful shows for the community.

"Six hours is not nearly enough time to put on a show. The students have to come with their music learned, and we help them as much as we can but there's not a lot of time," said Duke. "Many of our students are brand new to acting or moving while they're singing, there's a lot of real teaching that

has to go on before they're able to do this, but I think you'll see we achieved a pretty good result."

They started the night off with Samuel Barber's 10-minute comic opera, "A Hand of Bridge." The act consisted of two unhappily married couples playing the card game Bridge. The act included performances from UTEP students Anibal Acevedo, Emilie Merritt, Antonio Motta, and Alejandra Sandoval.

Sandoval was one of many lead performers in Fridays show. She was able to show audience members her talent by performing as Sally in "A Hand of Bridge," as well as Suzuki in the three-act opera, "Madama Butterfly."

"Madama Butterfly," made its debut in 1904 in a northern Italian city called, Brescia. Therefore, she, as well as other performers, had to learn how to sing operatic songs in Italian.

"First you have to go translate that text because of course I did not know, and then we learn what's called 'IPA' which is the International Phonetic Alphabet, to be able to say it correctly," Sandoval said. "It's just really interesting and really challenging, but it's really awesome."

After cast members performed a few Giacomo Puccini pieces such as "La Bohème," "Suor Angelica," and "Madama Butterfly," they ended the night with Gian-Carlo Menotti's "The Telephone."

This 20-minute romp gave the audience a great laugh by focusing on how a giant telephone was a distraction in a couple's relationship. Though the opera was written in the 40s, it speaks to our battle with cell phones today.

“

Many of our students are brand new to acting or moving while they're singing...but I think you'll see we achieved a pretty good result.

”

- Cherry Duke,  
Opera UTEP director

An additional showcase is set for Sunday, Nov. 11, at 2:30 p.m., at the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall at UTEP.

Ashley Johnson may be reached at [theprospector1@gmail.com](mailto:theprospector1@gmail.com).

# Broadway in El Paso returns to celebrate its 15th anniversary

BY CATHERINE RAMIREZ

The Prospector

Live music and dancing comes right in time for the holidays as El Paso Electric presents Broadway in El Paso's 15th Anniversary with a total of six musicals for the 2018-2019 season.

El Paso Live will host the Broadway series in Downtown El Paso at the historical Plaza Theater, starting the season in November with award winning musicals.

"We have been getting good quality shows because the audience is responding and attending the shows brought here to the borderland," said Holly Fields event marketing manager of Destination El Paso. "The entire series is so magical, the theatre is so beautiful it's wonderful to see the shows in there."

For the upcoming 2018-19 season Fields says "there is something for everyone" this year, including kids.

To start the season the first show to run will

be Rodgers and Hammerstein's award winning musical "The Sound of Music" on Nov. 10 and Nov. 11.

"A lot of people are familiar with the film and that story, but this is a brand new production attempting to go into the original story (that people are not familiar with) of Maria and the von Trapp family," Fields said. "The songs are classics and just beautiful."

On Dec. 11 and Dec. 12, comes the heartwarming musical "Finding Neverland", based off of the character Peter Pan. This musical is about a playwright struggling to find inspiration when he meets four adventurous young brothers.

On Jan. 29 and Jan. 30, 2019 the true story of rock and roll hall of famers, The Four Seasons comes to the Broadway stage in "Jersey Boys" with feature songs like "Sherry" and "Oh What a Night".

On Feb. 9, 2019 the hot musical celebration of "Kinky Boots" takes the audience on trip from an average gentlemen's shoe factory

in Northampton to the chic catwalks of Milan to show "sometimes the best way to fit in is to stand out."

On March 9, 2019, Time Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical "Evita" comes to the stage to engages the audience with the story of the "rise and fall of one of the world's most glamorous first ladies."

"I have directed six different productions of "Evita" here at the UTEP Dinner Theatre with our last production being six years ago for our 30th Anniversary," said Greg Taylor, associate professor at the UTEP department of theatre and dance. "I am thrilled that Broadway in El Paso is presenting "Evita" and hope it is a big seller for them so more people can experience this amazing musical."

On April 2 and April 3, 2019, comes "Something Rotten" a musical comedy, set in 1595 during the time of Shakespeare, about two brothers' fight for success in the world of theater as they attempt to write a hit play while encountering bumps in the road.

On Dec. 8, a special holiday add-on of "Christmas Wonderland Holiday Spectacular" will dazzle the crowd as they enjoy classic holiday jingles.

Currently tickets are on sale for "The Sound of Music," "Finding Neverland" and "Christmas Wonderland Holiday Spectacular" and can be purchased online at [elpasolive.com/broadway](http://elpasolive.com/broadway) or on Ticketmaster.

For theatre lovers Broadway in El Paso is offering a six-show season package and a five-show season package that does not include "Jersey Boys". For more details about season packages and to purchase season packages visit [elpasolive.com/broadway](http://elpasolive.com/broadway) or Ticketmaster.

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## ACCURACY WATCH

The Prospector is committed to accuracy. If you think we have made an error of fact, e-mail the editor at [theprospector1@gmail.com](mailto:theprospector1@gmail.com)

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