In order to offer a better future to students, faculty and staff, UTEP has created new technology spaces that include three different 3D laboratories on campus.

Located in the Undergraduate Learning Center (UGLC) building, as well as the engineering and art departments, these labs can be used by faculty, staff and students.

**GAIA**

Located in room 202 at the UGLC, GAIA is a makerspace that started with a 3D-printing pilot program, where the main objective was to give access to any student to use the technology to create 3D projects and increase their comfort level using the machines.

“Everything just starts with a thought. You just imagine it, and then from that idea, you start creating, prototyping and … seeing if it is actually going to work,” said GAIA Manager Hector Lugo.

GAIA is open for faculty, staff and students. Users do not have to have any background knowledge in 3D technology or programming.

The lab helps faculty create lesson plans that need to apply the 3D-printing technique and offer advice on how this technique can be incorporated into the curriculum as a project for the students.

GAIA offers students access to services such as virtual reality, 3D scanning and computer programming. It provides teaching services for students who would like to learn how to program with XCODE or databases. The lab offers workshops on 3D design and printing, graphic design and video editing.

GAIA serves as an incubator space for students where they can develop their own projects. Whether it’s creating a movie or developing software or an application for a cellphone, GAIA is there to help.

Lugo said GAIA is about the experience of making your idea a reality. He observes successes of students who had an idea, faced challenges, succeeded and then went on to inspire others and provide feedback to the lab.

**KECK**

Located in the Engineering building in room 108 is the W.M. Keck Center for 3D Innovations, known as “KECK” for short.

KECK offers 3D printing and design services to create prototypes and produces manufactured pieces for a variety of industries.

Additive manufacturing is a type of 3D printing offered by KECK that uses a layering method to create 3D objects. It is provided as a service for industries with high-tech machinery. It has the capacity to transform the metal in a way that ordinary machinery cannot achieve. The benefit is that materials come out more perfectly designed, and it is a less expensive way to produce it.

The machinery in KECK can divide certain materials such as polymers and metals, and has the capacity to print plastic, ceramic, titanium, inconel and stainless steel.

One of the goals of this laboratory is to educate and train students in manufacturing, as well as to serve the needs of future inventors and entrepreneurs.

KECK is one of the largest manufacturing centers in the United States and collaborates on projects funded by the National Science Foundation.

**Ceramics Lab**

Located in room A252 at the Fox Fine Arts building, a 3D printer and its software were donated to the ceramics department by artists Ronald Rael and Virginia San Fratell. The artists are architects and co-founders of the San Francisco-based 3D architecture and building components company “Emerging Objects.”

The donation was part of their collaboration with the department’s most recent exhibition “Sections: New Cities, Future Ruins at the Border” that runs through April 6 at the Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center.

The 3D printer helps students give a modern spin to one of the most ancient forms of art known by civilization.

“The printer will benefit our students in a number of ways. On one hand, it’s another amazing tool, actually that the students can use to create art with,” said Vincent Burke, assistant professor in the ceramics department. “I also look at it as something that can spark their imagination and creativity and provides a different way for them to actually express their ideas.”

With this new type of technology, ceramic students will be able to experiment with different types of materials, shapes and structures when creating new ceramic pieces.

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If Trump’s smart, he’ll let it go

BY CATHERINE RAMIREZ
The Prospector

After a 35-day partial government shutdown, President Donald Trump agreed to reopen the government for three weeks until Feb. 15 and promised back pay to all employees who did not receive paychecks.

The partial shutdown has already cost the economy an estimated $11 billion and Trump said that another shutdown is still an option.

If he agrees to another shutdown, he must be mental. I understand holding your stance on something you want or believe in, but this is getting out of hand. Hundreds of thousands of government employees lost out on two paychecks just because he is not getting what he wants.

There was no need to put that many people out of work for that long just for a border wall that is not necessary. I would be more understand if we, as a nation, were being physically threatened, but we aren’t.

If he wants to keep people out of the U.S., he needs to bump up the budget for border security because the majority of people entering the U.S. are coming over legally.

Yes, there are people who cross over illegally and enter where there is no wall, but the majority of them are physically walking up to the border and claiming asylum.

Does he care to know this? No, because he refuses to back down from the rallying cry of the border and claiming asylum.

Every move he makes is fueled by a desire to show the world he holds power. He is constantly flaunting his power and abusing it in every way possible—like the shutdown.

Our president didn’t get what he wanted (the funding for his wall) and he threw a temper tantrum and shutdown the government, and it disrupted so many families lives financially. But they say a woman can’t be president because her emotions might start a war?

When the shutdown enters Trump’s mind, I’m sure all he thinks is “I’m standing up to the democrats and I’m not budging. I’m getting my wall.”

For the government employees who went without a paycheck and those who had to work and still not get paid, he probably thinks “What’s the big deal without a paycheck or two? They should all have savings.”

As leader of our nation, he fails to understand his citizens’ struggles and even fails to consider them as human beings, and he showed this by closing the government in a 35-day shutdown.

Sure, losing out on two paychecks doesn’t sound completely terrible, but for the majority of those who were out of work, it was financially damaging. Those living in the lower and middle class felt the result of losing out on two paychecks. Most feel the impact of one paycheck.

Many of those government employees did have to take out a loan to pay their bills, putting them even more in debt and experts say that many of their credit scores went down into the “poor credit” range.

Now, Trump has promised to pay back those hundreds of thousands of government employees, but has not stated when and continues to threaten with another possible government shutdown

As a daughter of a government employee, it was hard to watch, and even more frustrating, to hear Trump continue to threaten with another shutdown for something that is not necessary.

Trump needs to build his own wall and get over the fact that he is not going to win this war.

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UTEP doctoral student accepted to Stanford’s PRISM program

BY ASHLEY JOHNSON
The Prospector

UTEP doctoral student Dr. Francisco Morales-Acuña was chosen to participate in Stanford University’s PRISM program in February.

PRISM (Postdoctoral Recruitment Initiative in Sciences and Medicine) program gives graduate students an opportunity to see firsthand if a postdoctoral position at Stanford University would be right for them.

Morales-Acuña will travel to Stanford for three days, where he will tour the campus, go through a series of interviews and meet with faculty and current postdoctoral scholars.

“This is increasing my chances to pursue my personal goals of being with the top researchers of the world,” Morales-Acuña said.

The Chile native obtained a Master of Science in Sports Medicine from Mayor National University in Chile in 2013. He continued his sports medicine studies over the years in Spain and the U.S.

He started his doctorate degree at Indiana State University. Two years later, his mentor received a position at UTEP and asked Morales-Acuña to come with him. He is now a part of UTEP’s Interdisciplinary Health Science (IHS) program, and is a research assistant in UTEP’s Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program. His research focuses on the effects of exercise on the cardiovascular system and the pair is looking for ways to use exercise as a prescription.

UTEP played a tremendous part in Morales-Acuña receiving this opportunity to attend Stanford’s PRISM program.

UTEP sends its students emails regarding different career opportunities on a regular basis. One day, the university sent him an email regarding the program and according to Morales-Acuña it opened his eyes to a new opportunity.

“I wasn’t thinking about applying for a post-doc position, but Stanford is a great place to be,” Morales-Acuña said.

Morales-Acuña also works with former UTEP student, Francisco Javier Peña, who obtained a bachelor’s degree in rehabilitation science. As a lab assistant, Peña’s job is to assist Morales-Acuña in any research projects he conducts. Over the last year and a half, he has learned an abundance of information from Morales-Acuña.

“He is very knowledgeable. He’s taught me how to use the equipment, procedures and the meaning behind pretty much all of his research and how it benefits the community,” Peña said.

Even though Peña is a recent graduate, he wanted to stay in the lab to gain more experience and knowledge to prepare him for the next step in his career, which is going to physical therapy school.

Peña was also very excited to hear that his colleague was selected to be a part of the PRISM program.

“It’s something to look up to because not everybody can have a stance or a position like that. It’s pretty admirable,” Peña said.

Morales-Acuña has other options for post-doctoral positions in Spain and Chile, however, he is very excited to see if Stanford is a good match for him.

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“Patriots From the Barrio” author makes an appearance at Centennial Museum

BY ALEXIA NAVA
The Prospector

Author Dave Gutierrez, who wrote “Patriots from the Barrio,” gave a book talk Jan. 25 at Centennial Museum as part of its exhibition regarding World War II from an El Paso perspective.

“Patriots from the Barrio” talks about what Mexican-American soldiers went through in their journey during the war.

“I wanted the reader to understand what was happening to these men of our greatest generation who grew up during the Great Depression,” Gutierrez said. “I do give a little insight on the Great Depression, the Mexican repatriation when the United States government was sending Mexican-American citizens back to Mexico during the Great Depression. And a lot of people don’t know that. I wanted to make sure that the readers understand what was happening in Texas during this time, so that they get better understanding of what was happening to these men before they went off to war.”

According to Samantha Winer, curator of collections and exhibits at the Centennial Museum, Gutierrez was invited to give the book talk because most of the Mexican-American soldiers in Company E covered in his book came from Segundo Barrio, which gives the exhibition a stronger local focus.

“A lot of people know about World War II, the fighting, and a lot of people know about the home front, but not that many people know how El Paso was different and how it affected us here, locally,” Winer said.

Company E was a part of the 36th Division and 141st Infantry Regiment, the oldest one in Texas, dating back before the Alamo. It was also part of the worst battles through the Rapido River in Italy, where many either died or became war prisoners in the hands of the Germans.

The “Rations, Rights, and Rivets” exhibition, which has been in the Centennial Museum since Sept. 15, illustrates—through newspapers, posters, paintings, and excerpts—how World War II impacted El Paso. The exhibition starts with the newspapers talking about Pearl Harbor and how rationing was a part of war.

The exhibition also shows how UTEP, then the College of Mines, dealt with the war at the home front. There are excerpts from early articles written by The Prospector that published some propaganda and kept students up-to-date with the war.

The “Rations, Rights, and Rivets” exhibition runs through April 13. There will also be two book signing events by Gutierrez: 1-3 p.m. April 21 at Peppe’s Restaurant, 6761 Doniphan Drive, Canutillo, Texas; and 5:30-7 p.m. April 21 at Wine Attitude, 6404 N. Mesa St.

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PRISCILLA GOMEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Dave Gutierrez will be hosting a two part book signing event on April 21.
New Dean for the College of Business Administration to join in May

BY CLAUDIA FLORES
The Prospector

The university announced Jan. 24 that James Payne, Ph.D., will join The University of Texas at El Paso May 1, as the new dean for the College of Business Administration.

Payne, who currently serves as the provost and executive vice president for student affairs at Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois, has more than 30 years of experience in higher education.

“In my current role and having previously served as business dean, I hope to have the opportunity to not just understand the College of Business, but the other colleges as well,” Payne said. “Given that experience, I can try develop some relationships across colleges for the College of Business.”

With 16 years of experience in administration, Payne previously served as dean of the College of Business at Georgia College and State University, interim dean of the College of the Arts and Science at Illinois State University (ISU) and was chair for the economics department at ISU.

UTEP President Diana Natalicio expressed her excitement on receiving Payne as the new Dean for COBA.

“We welcome Dr. Payne to UTEP as dean of the College of Business Administration,” President Diana Natalicio said in a news release. “His extensive experience as an academic administrator and teacher-scholar promises to enhance the work of the college’s faculty, staff and students. We are very pleased that he will play a leadership role in COBA as it continues its mission of providing UTEP students world-class educational opportunities that ensure their competitiveness in a global marketplace.”

Along with his role of dean, Payne will hold the Paul L. Foster and Alejandra de la Vega Foster Distinguished Chair in International Business.

As Payne prepares to take on his role, he said it was refreshing to know the access and excellence that UTEP has — especially after reaching top-tier status.

“When I visited campus, it was clear that everybody was very passionate about the mission and really took the mission to heart,” Payne said. “It’s a credit to the faculty, staff and students in terms of actually living their mission in terms of their actions and so forth.”

Creating a connection with students around campus and members of the faculty and staff are among Payne’s goals once he becomes part of the UTEP community.

“I’m just really looking forward to settling in spending time meeting all the faculty and staff, having chats with them, to understand their desires and aspirations—as well as the students and the campus community,” Payne said. “But equally importantly is working with the advisory board for the college to start interacting with the business community.”

“...I hope to have the opportunity to not just understand the College of Business, but the other colleges as well.”

-JAMES PAYNE, PH.D.
Dean for the College of Business Administration

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Miners celebrate UTEP’s R1 status at Centennial Plaza

1) Students, faculty and staff celebrated UTEP reaching top-tier R1 designation Tuesday, Jan. 29. 2) President Natalicio joined the celebration on Tuesday at Centennial Plaza. 3) Students, faculty, and staff gathered in Centennial Plaza to celebrate with President Natalicio. 4) Paydirt Pete joined in the celebration at UTEP. 5) UTEP celebrated the reach of a prestigious milestone by becoming a tier-one research institution. 6) UTEP students, faculty, and staff celebrated UTEP reaching the designation from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. 7) President Diana Natalicio spoke about the distinction and what it means to UTEP. 8) Students celebrated the groundbreaking news for the university.

QOTW

What do you think about border art?

JAMES GUTIERREZ
Freshman, finance
“I feel we have a very unique sense of style that’s very particular to our region and the United States.”

SAMANTHA RESENDEZ
Freshman, international business
“I think it is a good combination of different cultures bringing one culture to life. The combination of Mexican and American culture make one, I don’t really want to say inspiring, but interesting. And I think it is something very specific to the city.”

ACCURACY WATCH

The Prospector is committed to accuracy. If you think we have made an error of fact, e-mail us at THEPROSPECTORDAILY.NEWS@UTEP.EDU.

The photo exhibition is being held in conjunction with “Rebirth of Duranguito,” an exhibition that showcases a video and stills from the community-based plan for El Paso’s historic neighborhood.

“I want people to be aware of our border culture. We have a very diverse culture,” said Patrick Donohue Craig, organizer of the exhibit. “Border towns have a very unique feel to them and I think it needs to be brought to light and exposed.”

Donohue, a UTEP alumnus and local photographer whose work is included in the Border Street project, was in charge of choosing the photographers for the exhibition.

Local photographers Manny Jay Loya, Anais Navarro and Christian Brito Rutiaga were invited by Donohue in order to display the various aspects of the border region through their photography.

“Our southern border is a major topic of discussion nationwide,” Donohue said. “Through photographs, I wanted to show its beauty, and more specifically, the beauty of the people along the Juárez/El Paso border. I also wanted to give exposure to photographers within the area that might not otherwise have an avenue to show their work. Perhaps through both of the above we can transcend some of the unfortunate political divides we’re experiencing in our current culture.”

Navarro suggests people explore West Texas and this exhibit helps showcase what it has to offer.

“There’s a lot more about this part of Texas than a lot of people give credit to. It was nice being able to show a little bit of that and, maybe, inspire people to get out there, drive a little bit to west Texas and see what you can find,” Navarro said.

In order to arrive at the room in which the “Border Street” and “Rebirth of Duranguito” exhibitions are found, visitors have to walk through an exhibition called “El Paso’s First Ward: Where the World Met the Border” in which the history of Duranguito is explored in detail.

“We’re creating what we’re calling an engagement space,” said Daniel Carey-Whalen, director of the Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens. “These two exhibits, we thought, would be a perfect way to kind of start it off. What we’re planning on doing now...is inviting faculty, staff, students into this space so that we can have conversations and talk about, for example, downtown El Paso, the future of El Paso.”

The Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens encourages the public to visit the exhibitions, which will be running until April 27, in order to learn about the past and the future of Duranguito and contemplate street photography taken in the border region.

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Happy Valentine’s Day

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EPIA unveils new STEM inspired mascot

BY OSCAR AVILA
The Prospector

The El Paso International Airport (EPIA) revealed its new mascot, Red T. Hawk, a female red-tailed hawk and former jet fighter pilot Jan. 22. The mascot is ambassador for EPIA and a role model for children that embodies strength, courage and honesty. Hawk will also promote STEM education for children, especially girls, to encourage interest in fields of science related to aviation.

Cassandra Davisson, EPIA’s marketing and customer relations coordinator, explained that the creation of the mascot was a collaboration between the airport staff and a local advertising agency Culturespan.

“We approached them requesting some ideas for a mascot because we wanted to enhance our outreach specifically for children,” Davisson said. “They brought forth some options and proposals, then we continued to work together to create her story and purpose.”

Monica Lombrana, accredited airport executive and managing director of aviation and international bridges said everyone is thrilled to have Red as part of the EPIA team, and she is personally looking forward to providing the community with an inspirational public figure.

“It is my hope that all children, especially young girls, can see themselves contributing to the aviation community later in life,” Lombrana said in a news release.

Additionally, Mayor Dee Margo was quoted in the news release welcoming the new mascot and wishing her well in her new role.

The EPIA wants to the public to know that aviation is vital for the community because they believe it impacts manufacturers, traveling agencies, and other commercial affairs.

In the news release, EPIA added the percentage of women in careers related to aviation has grown over time, however it still requires a steady increase.

Now that Red will be working towards this goal it is only a matter of time before more young women are in the air.

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‘Beanalog’: a new collective music workshop in Central El Paso

BY CATHERINE RAMIREZ

“Beanalog,” hosted by “Ask A Freak” and “Coffee Party,” is a new social gathering where members from the community gather to learn about instruments and jam out. Their meetings are held every third Wednesday of each month at from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Coffee Party, 3909 Montana Ave.

Local organizers of Beanalog created the musical hands-on workshop about three months ago to introduce new instruments and play collectively.

“We want to expose people to what’s out there,” said Ray Mendoza, organizer of Beanalog. “A lot of people that buy these instruments are hiding in their studio and don’t get a chance to come out too often and I think they would really appreciate it with something like this.”

Those who attend Beanalog workshops learn about a variety of instruments and end the night playing tunes with other Beanalog members, but the majority of those who attend the workshops go to interact with other musicians.

“It’s more for networking and a learning experience to be able to learn from each other, so everyone has a special learning experience,” said Organizer Luisa Navarro. “You never know what information you can get and a lot of the guys that attend are musicians and they always teach and even learn something.”

Although not required, organizers encourage those who own instruments and sound equipment to take and use them at Beanalog workshops.

“We have instruments available for the public,” Mendoza said. “We have a presentation for those who don’t have an instrument and they can always use what we have.”

A few pieces of equipment that can be taken to a Beanalog gathering include pedals, FX, synthesizer, drum machines and related instruments and equipment. Beanalog organizers provide a mixer to plug one-fourth instrument cables.

All Beanalog gatherings start at 6 p.m. where hosts, organizers and guests spend the first hour setting up instruments and connecting them to sound equipment.

“We settle in for the first hour, we formalize and discuss what instruments are hooked up and what instruments are coming in, for example, drums, a synthesizer,” Mendoza said.

After setting up equipment, guests can play instruments they are curious about and interact and learn from a variety of musicians.

“It becomes more of a workshop and a show-and-tell; everyone gets together to exchange knowledge on instruments how we use them and how we play them,” Navarro said. “Then there is a jam session at the end.”

All forms of instruments and music are encouraged and welcome at Beanalog workshops, although Mendoza said there is one common genre of music played at their gatherings.

“Electronic music in El Paso has been stigmatized to being played in nightclubs or something you do when your drinking and I think it’s a nice change of pace when its played earlier in the day and played in a family oriented atmosphere,” Mendoza said.

Although there is a handful of regulars who attend Beanalog workshops, organizers and the host of Coffee Party invites the El Paso community to attend and participate at all upcoming Beanalog workshops.

“We want to invite everyone out to come and learn,” Navarro said. “We are eager to teach.”

Coffee Party is a locally owned café that offers coffee, drinks and snacks that are made available for guests to purchase during Beanalog hours.

For information about Beanalog and upcoming events, visit Ask A Freak (@askafreak) and Coffee Party (@coffeeprty) on Facebook.

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Native El Pasoan becomes assistant curator at EPMA

BY JAQUELINE MARTINEZ

The El Paso Museum of Art’s newest assistant curator, Kevin Burns, was promoted in 2017 and has organized multiple exhibitions since he started. In his role as assistant curator, he will oversee the institution’s collections.

One exhibition organized by Burns is “Julie Speed: East of the Sun and West of the Moon,” which runs through April 7.

Burns is an El Paso native who received his degree in art history at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Before his promotion to assistant curator Burns was a curatorial intern as well as an associate for the education department at the El Paso Museum of Art.

“Kevin was here before I was here and I can’t say enough how lucky I am to work with (him), he is fantastic and I would’ve felt really proud to have hired him,” said Kate Green, senior curator for El Paso Museum of Art.

Green has a wide range of curatorial and educational experience working in museums in Portland and New York. She later directed a small museum in Marfa, Texas called Marfa Contemporary.

“That trajectory kind of tells you a lot about my interests and what brought me here, which is an opportunity to work with a wider collection that’s not just contemporary art and to think about the community here and what we can do through our exhibitions…” Green said. “How can we lead dialogue in this particular border plex, community? What kind of questions do we want to ask ourselves and what kinds of objects and programs do we want to offer audiences for generations to come?”

As assistant curator, Burns’ responsibilities include interpreting permanent collections, which is done through research, and spending time with the actual works of art on view and in storage.

“Another part of my duties are to also curate traveling exhibitions, like the one we are in right now,” Burns said of “Julie Speed.” “This is from a Marfa-based, contemporary artist and I worked on this show, met with the artist, selected the works that were going to be on the show — so it’s a little bit of everything.”

The El Paso Museum of Art aims to contribute to the community in sharing meaningful exhibitions and knowledge to the region by offering a wide range of works by artists from the region and contemporary works, such as past exhibitions that included artist Jose Guadalupe Posada.

“The exhibition that Kevin’s been working on right now opens next week, ‘Power and Piety: Spanish Colonial Art,’ so this is material that has probably never been seen here before and that we’re really looking forward to that exhibition,” Green said. “It’s fantastic. Kevin is doing an amazing job with that project.”

Residing in a border city, the curatorial department is focused on ways to add conversation about the kind of work that is happening now, between both sides of the border, through fresh voices.

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UTEP men’s basketball prepare for C-USA group play

BY DANIEL MENDEZ
The Prospector

The UTEP men’s basketball team returns to the Don Haskins Center for a two-game homestand against Conference-USA’s Sunshine State’s schools when they host Florida Atlantic (13-10, 4-6 C-USA) and Florida International University (14-9, 5-5 C-USA).

The Miners return home after two close contests against C-USA’s higher-seeded teams, the Marshall Thundering Herd and Western Kentucky. UTEP is now 0-8 on the road.

Last week, UTEP jumped two spots in the standings to the 12th position in C-USA. But after losing two straight games, the Miners have moved down a spot. The conference tournament will feature the 12 best teams out of 14 in C-USA. UTEP is currently ranked 13th in conference.

Last week against Marshall the UTEP freshman combined for a record of 63 points in a 91-86 defeat. Guards Nigel Hawkins and Jordan Lathon scored 22 and 15, respectively, while forwards Efe Odigie and Kaosi Ezeagu added 22 and four.

Both teams from the Sunshine State do a good job of scoring and defending the 3-point line, ranking in the top five of 3-point defense. Both are also in the top five for 3-point field goals, as both teams average nine 3s a game.

UTEP is the seventh best defense in conference when it comes to defending the 3-point line, holding opposing defenses to a 33.9 percent. The Miners are the top five in field goal percentage defenses with .420, ranking them fifth in C-USA. UTEP as a team is allowing opposing teams to score 69 points a game, notching them in seventh place of scoring defense in conference.

During the conference slate, Hawkins has been the leading scorer for the Miners averaging 15 points per game. Sophomore guard Evan Gilyard is the team’s second leading scorer averaging 13 points a game. During the two-game road trip, Gilyard came off the bench for the Miners. He suffered an injury scare against Western Kentucky Feb. 2. Gilyard needed to be carried away after sustaining a knee injury in the second half. The sophomore returned after the injury to score 16 points for the Miners.

Odigie is still C-USA’s second-leading rebounder; behind him is WKU freshman forward Charles Bassey, who recorded his 11th double-double of the season as he held Odigie to just eight points and four rebounds as the Miners lost to WKU by 17 points.

Florida Atlantic enters the Don losing their last game by two points against Southern Miss Feb. 2. FAU is dealing with injuries to their two main starters, junior forward Jailyn Ingram who was the team’s leading scorer averaging 19 points a game before he was ruled out for the remainder of the season with an ACL injury. The other starter out for FAU is graduate transfer Xavian Stapleton who is also dealing with a knee injury that could keep him out for the season as well. Stapleton is the team’s third-leading scorer despite the injury.

Stepping up to fill the scoring hole is the team’s second-leading scorer senior guard Anthony Adger. Adger is averaging nearly 17 points a game and has failed to score in double-digits just three times this season. The senior opened up conference play by burning Middle Tennessee for his season-high of 33 points Jan. 5.

FAU does a good job in attacking the glass whether that is on the offensive side or on the defensive side. FAU leads C-USA in total blocks on the season averaging three a game.

UTEP opens up the two-game homestand against FAU Thursday, Feb. 7. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. UTEP will continue the homestand against FIU Saturday, Feb. 9. Tipoff is also scheduled for 7 p.m. Student tickets are available at studenttickets.utep.edu.

In contrast, UTEP is ranked eighth averaging nearly 10 a game while UTEP is second to last in total rebounds with 763 averaging 36 a game.

FIU is the number one scoring offense in C-USA, averaging nearly 86 points a game. The downside is their defensive effort as they are near the bottom allowing opposing teams to score an average of 81 points per game. Four Panthers players average double-digit scoring: senior guard Brian Beard Jr. is averaging 18 points a game; junior forward Devin Andrews averages 14 points per game; junior guard Trejon Jacob, and senior guard Willy Nunez Jr. each average 11 points a game for the Panthers.

Beard Jr. not only leads the team in scoring but is C-USA’s second-leading point guard averaging nearly 10 a game while UTEP is second to last in total rebounds with 763 averaging 36 a game.

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With the spring season officially teed off for the UTEP men’s golf team, their sights are set on capping off the season with solid performances. At their first spring tournament of the 2018-2019 season, the Miners placed 12th (282-288-286-856) at the Arizona Intercollegiate Tournament. Several Miners chipped in key contributions during the fall season and that effort has carried over into the spring. Here are golfers to watch this spring season for the Miners.

Aaron Terrazas
Senior Aaron Terrazas is coming off an exceptional fall season for the Miners. Terrazas made a Red Hawk Golf Club record with a career-best score of 65 and earned his first outright collegiate victory at the Pepsi-Cola Classic Oct. 20-21. Terrazas was named the Steve Hoy Athlete of the Week for his performance at that classic. Terrazas won his first collegiate tournament after being honored as the co-champion at the Herb Wimberly Intercollegiate Tournament after shooting a 201 (69-65-67) while shooting a tournament-high 17 birdies. At the Arizona Intercollegiate, Terrazas was the top Miner and fired three-under par and placed 25th at the event while leading the Miners with 38 pars.

Oskar Ambrosius
Sophomore Oskar Ambrosius had a solid performance at the Pepsi-Cola Classic registering (74-67-70-211) and scratched out 14 birdies. Ambrosius placed 32nd (69-69-74-212) at Arizona Intercollegiate and tallied 13 birdies at the event. At the Paintbrush Invitational Tournament, Ambrosius placed 10th at the event (76-70-72-218). As a freshman Ambrosius shot a season-low 69 during two tournaments and finished 13th at the tournament, shooting seven-over par (77-77-69). Before arriving at UTEP Ambrosius was a member of the Danish national team and won the 2017 PGA Jyske Bank Championship shooting a personal best of 63.

Santiago Castilla
Sophomore Santiago Castilla finished and tied for 14th at the Herb Wimberly Intercollegiate during his freshman campaign after shooting a 216, three-over par (70-77-69) and finished with a season-best overall score of 216. Castilla also shot three-over par at three tournaments in his freshman season (National Invitational, Western Collegiate, Conference-USA Championship). At the Arizona Intercollegiate Tournament, Castilla placed 80th at the event but did eagle hole number eight (par five) in the second round.

The Miners will be in action again Feb. 21-23 at the John Burns Intercollegiate Tournament in Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii.
**THE PROSPECTOR**

**FEBRUARY 5, 2019 SPORTS | 15**

**THE PROSPECTOR
**

**BY DANIEL MENDEZ**

**The Prospector**

The UTEP football team will debut its latest recruiting class Wednesday, Feb. 6, on television, during the first-ever Miners All-Access signing day special hosted by KFOX14, channel 15 digital and 14 virtual.

The hour-long special will start at 11 a.m. and afterward Head Coach Dana Dimel will address the media.

Last season, Dimel and company were late to the recruiting party but they were able to land players that were able to come in and contribute to a struggling Miners squad.

Notable players from Dimel’s first recruiting class include senior quarterback Kai Locksley, graduate transfer C.J. Reese and sophomore guard Zuri Henry.

UTEP recently lost two valuable guys who were verbally committed to UTEP but decided to back out. Former Kansas State quarterback Alex Denton had announced he would transfer and join former offensive coordinator Dana Dimel but called an audible and decided to transfer to TCU. In addition, senior wide receiver Ajani Carter decided to reopen his recruiting process Jan. 22 and decided to join Utah State. Carter is most known for catching a 45-yard desperation pass to win the Texas Class 6A Division I State Championship game Dec. 22.

Players who have signed letters of intent include the lone offensive player three-star quarterback TJ Goodwin who hails from Houston, Texas. The other four that have signed are on the defensive side, with two-star outside linebacker Joe Jay Smith. The 6-foot-2 prospect hails from Garden City, Kansas. Defensive tackle Justin Mayers is a two-star prospect from Frisco, Texas. Cornerback Duron Lowe from Kansas and Miles Banks from Texas are two-star recruits.

Players who have committed to UTEP but have yet to sign their letters of intent is highlighted by El Paso’s very own Parkland High School running back Deion Hankins. Hankins is a three-star recruit who was gathering interest from all over the state of Texas. Hankins owns the record for most rushing yards in a season in El Paso. Along with Hankins, Jalen Rudolph, from Gardena, California, is a three-star defensive tackle prospect.

UTEP has 11 commits so far – five signed and the rest will sign Wednesday.

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**KATHRYN BALOGUN TAKES THE REINS FOR UTEP SOCCER**

**BY MICHAEL CUVIELLO**

The Prospector

Kathryn Balogun, UTEP Athletics’ newest hire, takes over the reins for longtime soccer coach Kevin Cross. Cross has been head soccer coach for the last 18 years and compiled a 211-127-27 record. Balogun comes from Texas Southern where, as head coach, she compiled a 46-52-11 record.

"It is obvious that the Miner community shares many of the same values I do and I look forward to bringing excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community to the Sun City," said Balogun in a news release.

Balogun was previously the assistant soccer coach at Southwestern Athletic Conference rival Alabama State for three seasons. She was a big part in turning around a team that was among the worst in their conference and the entire country, to a team that won 14 games during her last season there. Over the 2008 and 2009 seasons, Alabama State did not win a game and had 32 losses.

During her time at Texas Southern, Balogun helped to stress academics and her team’s grade point average increased more than a full point to a 3.3 average. One of the major issues facing Texas Southern was academics and its long history of cutting corners, which resulted in a five-year probationary period and sanctions. She took over at a university in turmoil and worked to set the standard and turn their soccer team into one of the better teams in the conference.

“I am extremely grateful for my time at Texas Southern and in the SWAC, and I believe it has prepared me well for success at UTEP,” Balogun said.

In 2016 and 2017, Balogun lost in the SWAC playoffs to her former school Alabama State and conference champion by a penalty kick both seasons.

For 2019, Balogun will have the majority of the team at her disposal including the top five scorers from last season, led by defender Lauren Crenshaw who logged seven goals last season while scoring 15 points. The Miners will be losing longtime goalkeeper Alyssa Palacios, who has been the primary goalie for the past four seasons, but have Caley Leask who started the final five games of last season and only gave up four goals in those matches.

Balogun was a four-year starter (2004-2008) and three-time captain at Campbell University in North Carolina where she garnered second-team All-Atlantic Sun Conference honors.

As a freshman, she was part of an 11-1-7 team that made the NCAA tournament losing in the first round to North Carolina. Balogun made Atlantic Sun All-Academic recognition each year she was there.

Michael Cuviello may be reached at theprospector1@gmail.com.

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