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The Prospector, September 17, 2019

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THE PROSPECTOR

ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

VOL. 105, NO. 4
SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

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Opinion: Don't blame mental illness

Mental illnesses do not equate to violence



Valerie Frederick
The Prospector

In the wake of the El Paso shooting, a lot of media attention has rightfully focused on the victims and coming together as a community to get through the tragedy.

There has also been much debate and talk, as there is after every mass shooting in the U.S., over what can be done to prevent them in the future.

Recently, while discussing possible solutions for one of the country's worst problems, there has been further stigmatization and marginalization of mentally ill people.

Almost immediately after the mass shooting that took place at El Paso's Cielo Vista Walmart, there were cries to ban video game sales at the department store because some theorize that video games contribute to mental illness and that the violence seemingly perpetrated through those games inspires would-be shooters to carry out horrific acts.

The White House has even weighed the option of monitoring the phones and watches of mentally ill people in a bid to predict and prevent future violence, according to The Hill.

"We must reform our mental health laws to better identify mentally disturbed individuals who may commit acts of violence and make sure those people not only get treatment but, when necessary, involuntary confinement," President Donald J. Trump said during a press conference in which he addressed the El Paso shooting. "Mental illness and hatred pulls the trigger, not the gun."

However, in an article for the Associated Press, Carla K. Johnson wrote about experts' response to these types of allegations, writing that "most people with mental illness are not violent, they are far more likely to be victims of violent crime than perpetrators."

Mentally ill people are in a state of extreme oppression at this very moment and fear for their lives more than ever before. The constant attacks on this community only lead to more internal problems for these individuals.

As a society, we must realize that mentally ill people are not the problem. Mentally ill people don't go around shooting people left and right.

The El Paso shooting was brought about because a male white supremacist used Texas' lax gun laws to wreak havoc on a specific minority community in this country: Mexicans, Hispanics, Latinos and immigrants.

He is evil, not mentally ill — there is a difference.

Several students with mental illnesses have sought the counseling services at UTEP and elsewhere recently to get a grip on the administration's comments regarding their conditions.

I was able to talk with several people who felt the administration's attack on people with mental illnesses on a personal level.

Some worried about the dangerous message that the White House is spreading, as if the country would be better off without them, while others wonder how someone could even think that mentally ill people would be capable of killing others when they have to take care of themselves.

I also asked these students what new UTEP President Heather Wilson could do to show support for students with mental illnesses. They hope that our university's president will stand up for them, even when other people are trying to put them down, silence their voice or diminish their importance.

Valerie Frederick may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



Daniel Rey Perez / The Prospector

The UTEP ROTC Color guard gets ready to present the nations colors at the annual 9/11 commemoration ceremony at the Centennial Plaza.

A yearly reminder of lives lost on 9/11

Daniel Rey Perez

The Prospector

The Military Student Success Center (MSSC) held a 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony at the Centennial Plaza in order to honor those who lost their lives in 2001 at the Pentagon, in the planes and at the World Trade Center after terrorists flew into the buildings. Nearly 3,000 people died in the attacks.

Nadia Muñoz, MSSC director, opened the ceremony by reflecting on those who died and introducing the different branches of service that were in attendance.

Branches of the military, fire department and police were thanked for their heroism. The ceremony also featured performances by the UTEP Chorale and Faculty Brass Quintet.

Army Major Nicolas Fiore spoke on how the first responders who were at Ground Zero during the attack inspired him to join the Army.

Fiore also urged the El Paso community to come together in the wake of a terrible mass shooting, adding that the strength that united

the U.S. after the 9/11 attack is the same one that should unite the border community.

More than 2,000 U.S. flags were planted on the Centennial Plaza to represent the lives that were lost, as well as a large one set to loom over the campus.

"It's sad," said Deputy Sheriff Erick Vargas. "This is a day that will never be forgotten, so it's good to take at least one minute out of every day to remember the fallen."

The attacks that occurred on 9/11 affected many Americans, including those who did not have a direct connection to it.

"At that point my brother joined (the military)," said UTEP student Jose Herrera. "I didn't know what was going to happen to him; I was still trying to figure out where I could do my part."

The MSSC hosts this event yearly, gaining the attention of service members and reminding UTEP to never forget.

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THE PROSPECTOR

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SPEAK YOUR MIND

Students highlight the benefits of interning

The best way for students to prepare as they enter a competitive job market

Sasha Minjarez

The Prospector

Internships are meant to prime students before entering the labor force and prepare them for a competitive job market.

Betsabe Castro-Duarte, director of the UTEP Career Center, believes internships are a crucial part of students' undergraduate careers.

"Internships are a great opportunity to identify if you are in the right career path," Castro-Duarte said. "Internships solidify your interest and expectations for the job, allow you to develop a professional network of contacts and (acquire) more experience, which is something you can use to negotiate a higher starting salary in the future."

Alyssa Martinez interned as an undergraduate for Priscilla Guevara, the program coordinator of Por Mi Familia, a UTEP program that provides services to pregnant and postpartum women who have had substance abuse problems and mental health disorders.

Martinez said she thought the internship gave her valuable experience and a better idea of what her future looked like.

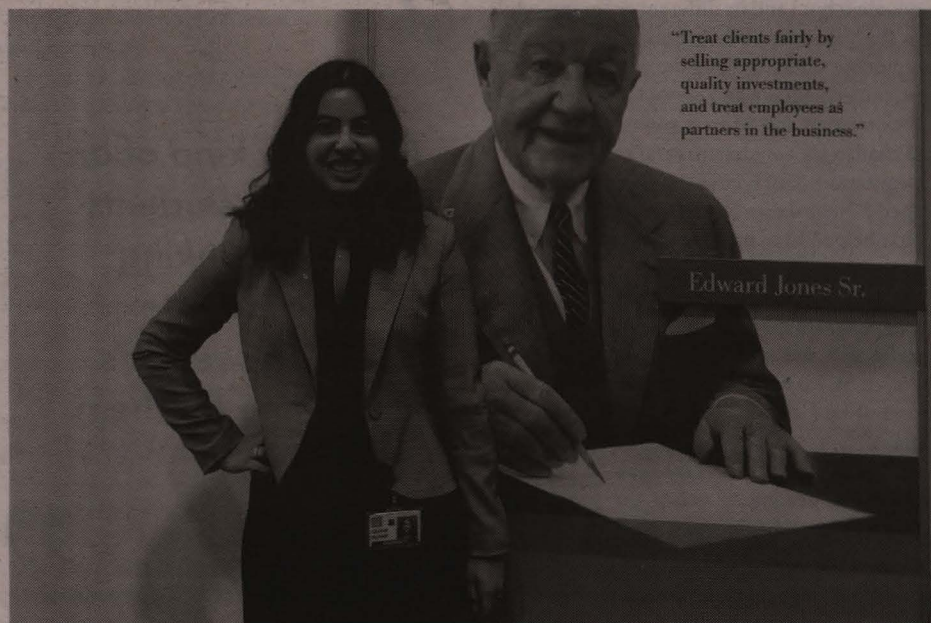
During her internship, Martinez promoted the program and created infographics while her training centered on evidence-based intervention and programs offered to clients as an additional service. Guevara said the purpose of the programs are to teach life skills and encourage, support and empower women. Martinez left with Guevara acting as her mentor.

Martinez advised undergraduate students to spend time on campus, work closely with faculty and get to know them. She graduated this past May with a degree in health promotion and, after her mentor's encouragement, is currently back at UTEP working toward her master's in public health.

Roxanne Arzola, graduated in 2014, recently embarked on an internship at Trinity Home-ward Bound, an addiction treatment center.

Trinity informed her they were not hiring when she first began due to their limited positions and resources. However, after seeing how receptive the patients were with Arzola, her exceptional attitude and work ethic shone through and Trinity hired her as a licensed chemical dependency counselor intern.

Arzola now oversees the intake of new patients preparing for the detoxification process through assessments and evaluation, leads psychological educational groups, and even offers counseling to patients on an individual basis.



Special to The Prospector

Olivia Olivas, junior, interned at the Tempe, Arizona headquarters of Edward Jones, an investment firm, throughout the summer.

She added that she was born into a lifestyle of addiction and now wants to prevent others from descending into that same lifestyle.

Daniela Quinones a junior, is currently majoring in rehabilitation sciences with a concentration in physical therapy and is working toward her goal. She participated in an internship at a Marquette University program in Milwaukee, Wisconsin last summer that provided room and board for her. She says the internship was intensive and forced her to learn about different things through participation.

Quinones dissected a human cadaver, participated in weekly clinics and observations and learned about taking "SOAP" notes, an acronym that stands for "Subjective," the patient's recounted reason behind the visit; "Objective," the physical therapist's observable, measurable gatherings; "Assessment," the analysis and arrival at a diagnosis; and "Plan," the proposal for treatment.

Olivia Olivas, junior, is a finance major who interned at the Tempe, Arizona headquarters of Edward Jones, an investment firm, this past summer as part of the operations division of the mutual fund trade's team.

Olivas got to network with associates in varying divisions, which is another reason why people say internships are essential. Meeting other people within the field can make transitioning out of college and into the workforce easier.

This internship also helped Olivas build on her communication skills and it allowed her to discern the type of company for which she'd like to work.

Olivas is currently a peer career advisor at UTEP's Career Center, helping students build their resumes, conducting mock interviews and assisting other students in career development.

The career center is an advantageous resource for students seeking internships. They verify the legitimacy of incoming internship opportuni-

“
Internships solidify
your interest and
expectations for the
job, allow you to de-
velop a professional
network of contacts
and (acquire) more
experience.”

— BETSABE CASTRO-DUARTE
UTEP Career Center director

ties, post them in Job Mine, purchase subscriptions to internships.com for students to access and provide feedback to help them prepare and polish their resumes.

For students interested in networking with recruiters, a career expo will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 19 and Sept. 20 at the Don Haskins Center.

Castro-Duarte said there is one thing she wants to stress to students: "It's never too early to start applying for these opportunities."

Sasha Minjarez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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Graduate students dish out experience

The benefits and struggles of pursuing a master's

Margaret Cataldi

The Prospector

The Student Engagement and Leadership Center hosted a Graduate Leadership Panel to answer students' questions on graduate school Wednesday at the Natural Gas Conference Center on Wiggins Drive.

The event took place as part of Leadership Week, a weeklong event to equip students with the resources they need to become empowered leaders.

"It's really kind of an insight for students who are thinking about graduate school to see if it's something for them," explained Jules Flores, UTEP coordinator for Leadership Functions. "For graduate students, it's an opportunity to contribute to the conversation and share their experiences so that they can encourage undergraduate students to pursue a graduate program."

The panel featured three students currently enrolled in different graduate programs at UTEP, including Karen Del Rio, who is pursuing a master's in leadership studies; Freddy Cabral, a teaching assistant and graduate student pursuing a master's in history with a borderlands concentration; and Yi-Yu Laio, a member of the Teacher Education Department who is pursuing a doctorate in teaching, learning and culture.

The three answered common questions about graduate school and its different programs while also sharing some of their personal experiences as graduate students along the way. This allowed both undergraduate and graduate students have a conversation and address some of the barriers and challenges a student may face along the way.

Sophomore Saul Fontes, 19, thought the panel helped him visualize his options for graduation, which helped him start building out a plan for his career.

"It was interesting to listen to their experiences and it sort of made (graduate school) feel like a more real and tangible option for me," Fontes said. "A master's degree is something to be proud of and an accomplishment I would like to have."

Although the idea of a master's or doctorate degree is appealing to many, the panel highlighted that it is important to consider one's motivations. Members of the panel advised that a person should only attend graduate school if they have a genuine drive to further their knowledge and experience in their field, not just to improve their salary.

The one thing that student Cabral wishes he knew before starting out his program is the intensity of the workload he would face.

"With undergrad, it's usually one chapter or one article at a time ... it's really simple," Cabral

“

It's really kind of an insight for students who are thinking about graduate school to see if it's something for them.

”

- JULES FLORES

UTEP coordinator for Leadership Functions

said, stressing the importance of mental and emotional preparation before starting school.

"I prepared myself in the summer (before starting graduate school) but it was not enough. Three months of preparation is not going to prepare you for three years of grad school," Cabral said.

Graduate school is no easy feat; the amount of research to conduct and material to read and review while trying to juggle a job, family or a social life can generate extreme stress or burnout.

This is why a strong support system is essential; having someone to lean on, whether it be a friend, family member or an advisor, will make the journey through graduate school more bearable.

The panel was one of the events available for students during Leadership Week. Programs like Leadership Week and UTEP Edge help students achieve their goals and strengthen their skills in preparation for life after graduation.

"A lot of times you won't get this information in a classroom," Flores said. "We're trying to bring these skill sets and experiences so that students can leave with this edge. That way, when they interview for the job, they can talk about, 'I went to this workshop and it taught me x, y and z.'"

Margaret Cataldi may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



Courtesy of University Communications
SGA received \$10,000 during a press conference Monday, Sept. 16.

UTEP SGA gets \$10,000 donation

Anahy Diaz

The Prospector

UTEP's Student Government Association received a \$10,000 donation from the University of Texas System Board of Regents Monday, Sept. 16 after the early August mass shooting that took place at the Cielo Vista Walmart.

"All of us in the Student Government Association have been moved by the hard work of our first responders — both on that day and throughout our community's recovery," said Jessica Martinez, SGA president, during Monday's press conference outside the patio of the UTEP dinner theatre.

SGA plans to use the money to host a first responder appreciation event that is open for the public. Although, the event is still in the early stages of organization, Martinez expects to hold it later this semester.

"The intention of the board is to acknowledge the tragic events that happened here in El Paso," said Student Regent Daniel Dominguez, who was present at the Sept. 12 SGA Senate meeting, where the news was first announced.

The Board of Regents, the governing body for the University of Texas System, granted the money to SGA for them to decide on the best way to help the El Paso and UTEP community cope with the recent tragedy that left 22 dead and many more injured.

"The board felt it was the least we could do to try to help recognize, not just the community of El Paso, but the UTEP community," Dominguez said. "There were several people from UTEP as first responders, the campus police were one of those. The board wants to recognize these efforts from the university community."

SGA also plans to donate the remaining funds to the El Paso Community Foundation and other local organizations.

"We are all El Paso Strong," said Martinez. "We are Texas Strong."

Anahy Diaz may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



Claudia Hernandez / The Prospector

The Student Engagement and Leadership Center held a Graduate Leadership Panel at the El Paso Gas Conference Center on Sept. 10, 2019.

'Sparkman' focuses on parking solutions

Paulina Spencer

The Prospector

A new research tool developed by a UTEP student and a faculty member might be the solution universities need to alleviate their parking problems.

After about two years of conducting research aimed at helping parking offices at universities across the country, doctoral civil engineering student Okan Gurbuz and professor Kelvin Cheu are ready to announce the results of their most recent study.

The project titled "Sparkman: A Smart Parking Management Tool for University Campuses" included a survey consisting of twelve questions to collect data and determine different parking patterns among students.

Students across UTEP are constantly facing a common struggle: finding parking before heading to class every day, even those who have purchased a parking permit. The hunt to find an available parking space can be a hassle.

Some students find themselves arriving at UTEP hours before their class begins, while others are forced to park illegally in order to make it on time.

"Sometimes I'm even late because the parking is so full, making me late to class, and (I constantly get) tickets because I've had to (park in odd places)," Jacqueline Cervantes, 23, said.

For Eduardo Ovalle, 24, the process of purchasing a parking permit was just as difficult as finding parking.

"It was somewhat confusing at first and I had to check the site several times," Ovalle said.

Gurbuz and Cheu's research began with the goal of developing a model that could be used to predict the number of students driving to campus and what the price of the parking permits should be. Although the math could be now be predicted, Gurbuz wanted to take the research a step further in order to generate even more precise information, so he decided to conduct a survey.

More than 1,000 UTEP students participated in the study, which Gurbuz conducted in the spring of this year. The study asked students everything from their classification, mode of transportation and their permit type to factors that influenced their permit purchase.

The study's data showed that, out of the 1,022 participants, only 533 are parking permit holders. Also, while 80% of participants drive to

school, 41% park in surrounding perimeters in and around campus.

As part of the survey, Gurbuz asked students what was the main factor in purchasing a parking permit and 40% of students said the cost of the permit the most important factor.

"That is a good indicator that, if you play with the cost, you can see the effects in demand easily because nearly half of the students said cost is really important," Gurbuz said.

The number one preferred demand for improvement made by students was to "make permit sales year-round and purchase as easy as buying concert tickets or booking a hotel online," according to Gurbuz and Cheu's research board.

Gurbuz is now using this model to create a generator that can be used by any university to predict the supply and demand of parking permits.

At a press conference earlier this semester, President Heather Wilson mentioned the construction of a new parking garage at UTEP.

Victor M. Pacheco, assistant vice president for administration, said the goal for the new parking garage is to alleviate the parking issues on campus.



Claudia Hernandez / The Prospector

UTEP students continue to struggle finding parking on campus.

"From the garage, they can access inner campus through Randolph Drive or the shuttle which will help alleviate the stress of finding parking," Pacheco said.

The parking garage is expected to be built near Kidd Field on the corner of Randolph Drive and Glory Road and will include 700 parking spaces. Construction of the garage is expected to begin in about three to five months and will take up to 18 months to complete.

"I'm hoping we will have it up and running sometime in the year 2021," Pacheco said.

The office of Administration and Oversight is aware of the investigation but is not planning on using the data for the construction of the new parking garage.

Paulina Spencer may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



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Cohort seeks to lessen students' textbook expenses

Alexia X. Nava Carmona, Anahy Diaz

The Prospector

Creative Studios and UTEP's library are working together in a faculty-led cohort to create educational resources that are cheaper than textbooks for students, following the passing of Texas Senate Bill 810.

"The ultimate goal, though, is to give students the opportunity to not have to pay for additional course materials or expensive textbooks within their classes," said Steven Varela, associate director of Creative Studios and Technology Support Services.

SB 810 which, Governor of Texas Greg Abbott, signed into law in June 2017, encourages colleges and universities to create Open Educational Resources (OER) to support students, according to Varela. He explained that the new initiative seeks to promote productivity when faculty develop their courses.

The lowered costs will likely benefit students greatly.

"Tuition is already expensive as it is, so to lower the cost of books would be really convenient," freshman Vanessa Najera said.

At a UTEP Student Government Association senator meeting, President Heather Wilson announced UTEP's initiative to work with staff to offer OER that would help lower the cost of education for students.

"We talk about access to education, which means a lot of things, but one of them is the cost of education," Wilson said. "We focus on tuition and fees and those things, but a textbook for a freshman physics class costs more than \$300; That's a lot of money."

Varela is working with Angela Lucero, a scholarly communication librarian who has done previous research on the matter.

In her research, Lucero found that people spent about \$1.3 million on textbooks alone from fall 2016 to fall 2018, according to UTEP University Communications.

"One of our focuses is affordability. We know how to explore library resources and how to use them within the 'fair use' of copyright so that people will not have to pay extra for them," Lucero told University Communications. "This is a big project and that's our role. We'll guide the professors through the process."



Carolina Alvarez / The Prospector

Steven Varela, the associate director of Creative Studios and Technology Support Services, is part of the team leading the effort to create educational resources that are more accessible for students than often expensive textbooks.

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As of now, the initiative is in the process of selecting 12 faculty members from the nearly 40 who applied for the cohort.

"We're very excited because many of the applicants are coming from departments, classes or colleges that have really expensive course materials," Varela said.

Once selected, the faculty and Creative Studios will start planning and getting the course materials needed for each of the classes and have a full calendar and syllabus ready by the end of this fall semester, Varela said.

Then, the faculty will create a total of 12 modules of course material in Blackboard during the spring and summer semesters to have the class ready by the fall 2020 semester.

"A fully ready-to-go class with course content and materials, without a textbook," Varela said, adding that students would not need to pay for any additional materials.

The course materials will be licensed through Creative Commons, then put in Digital Commons and the UTEP library for free use, along with other materials.

"Besides the direct class itself, we're also creating a repository of materials for them," Varela said.

This is not the first time Creative Studios created a cohort like this one.

There have been two cohorts in the past that focused on how to implement technology in the

classroom; this is the first time they're trying to bring a "centralized, formal way" to teach faculty how to use these resources, Varela said.

"There's different faculty from all across that have been doing some stuff over the years, but they've never told anyone or no one knows how they got their information," Varela said. "Part of what we're trying to do is bring everyone together so that we have a more comprehensive way of doing that."

Once the faculty is done with the material and launches it, Varela said they will share the information through presentations and workshops across campus.

"(The faculty) will start talking to the departments, they'll start providing workshops for other faculty across UTEP," Varela said. "Anyone who was selected agrees to provide presentations and workshops about what they've learned in their experience to the rest of the campus."

Overall, this is an opportunity to show how UTEP takes its students into consideration and is trying to improve the learning experience with innovative ideas, according to Varela.

"It's really an exciting opportunity for us and for the library to be working with faculty this way," Varela said. "I think the big thing that ... is really evident is that UTEP really cares about its students and how students learn."

Alexia X. Nava Carmona and Anahy Diaz may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

Student organizations promote career readiness

Bryan Mena

The Prospector

The UTEP College of Business Administration (COBA) hosted a student organization fair Wednesday, Sept. 11 in the lobby of the Business Administration building. The event hosted several Registered Student Organizations (RSO) pertaining to disciplines that fall under COBA, including accounting, marketing and entrepreneurship.

Throughout the event, these groups made their case to students as to why they should become members. Networking opportunities and career readiness were the two most common advantages that every RSO highlighted.

"These organizations allow students to grow their network of friends with common career goals, learn more about their fields of interest, build connections with corporate partners, and participate in activities that build leadership and business skills," said Sacnité Ramos, director of undergraduate programs at COBA.

According to Forbes, a diverse network is the strongest asset anyone can have in business, no matter the industry. Whether it is to land a job, pursue a new business venture or recruit prospective employees, strong connections continually prove to be key.

"Your network is your net worth," said Jorge Ruiz, vice-president of external affairs for the



Bryan Mena / The Prospector

The College of Business Administration hosted the Student Organization Fair Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019.

Financial Management Association chapter at UTEP.

For Hazel Pérez Pardo, president of the Women in Business Association chapter at UTEP, being involved in an RSO gave her more than just a network.

"I joined, I became secretary and now I'm president. I fell in love with this organization and I found my closest friends because of it," Pérez Pardo said.

Pérez Pardo also highlighted her organization's philanthropy, which focuses on promoting breast cancer awareness.

"During the month of October, we fundraise for local breast cancer associations. At one point, one of our members was diagnosed with

breast cancer, so we donated money to her," she said.

Aside from promoting networking and encouraging strong friendships, RSOs also champion career readiness.

"We aim to inspire students to act entrepreneurially during college and in their career path," said Frida De La Torre, a member of the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Association at UTEP. "It's a great organization. It gives you the courage to follow your dream for an idea. The skills you learn in the organization are pretty useful."

Genevieve Hernandez is a graduate student in UTEP's master of accountancy program. She is also the vice-president of the Internal Audit Student Association, an organization that

aims to spread awareness of the internal audit profession.

"With our curriculum in accounting we get exposed to auditing our last graduating semester, and internal audit is not mentioned at all," Hernandez said. "We decided to give UTEP students an opportunity to learn more about this other facet of accounting."

Hernandez also mentioned that her RSO has a close partnership with the El Paso chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors.

"They've helped us a lot with allowing our members to attend their professional development meetings free of charge for the first five that RSVP," Hernandez said.

According to Esteban Valencia, vice-president of the American Marketing Association, RSOs in and out of COBA also have a sense of synergy with each other.

"We're going to have our first roundtable meeting with SGA, so that we can integrate and work together to make their events better for students," Valencia said.

According to EdSurge, students who participate in clubs and activities forge deeper ties with their institutions. This increases the likelihood of student success and even career readiness down the road.

Students interested in joining an RSO can browse through the large and diverse variety on minetracker.utep.edu.

Bryan Mena can be reached at prospector@utep.edu

Local paranormal society hosts 'The Legend of La Llorona' event

Alejandra Molina

The Prospector

Lost El Paso Paranormal hosted a free event called "The Legend of La Llorona" Friday, Sept. 13 at the San Carlos Building in Downtown El Paso. The event featured local vendors, live music, poetry, performances, a costume contest, a traveling museum exhibit featuring folklore and paranormal themed pieces and an original ghost tour.

"What inspired us to do this event was my wife who is a published author. Back in 2004, she actually wrote a book called 'Weird Texas' and one of the stories in there is about La Llorona, 'cause she had an experience with La Llorona once when she was a little girl," said Dean Tarango, an event organizer.

The traveling museum featured several drawings of La Llorona and written accounts of sightings. Other folklore legends were also featured, such as letters from famous serial killer "The Night Stalker," a black mirror where spirits can be seen, and a Ouija board, among other things.

"I think it is a good idea, because when they tell us to come see La Llorona we don't know what to expect. We all know the story, but when you come to the event you see the other side of the story and you're like 'Wow!'," attendee Guadalupe Kendrick said.

There were several tents where local artisans and vendors displayed and sold items such as Lucha Libre masks, postcards that featured folklore legends, bracelets with crystals and flower crowns.

"I work with crystals, so I wanted to share with people my love of crystals," local artisan Janet Marin said. "I've learned to heal myself with them."

A costume contest was also hosted, where several girls and women from all ages dressed up as La Llorona and did their best impression of the wails that this legend is known for. There were some attendees dressed up in folklore costumes, such as a werewolf, since it was a full moon on

that same night. Other attendees cosplayed as Pennywise from Stephen King's novel and movie "IT."

The ghost tour was very popular with the people at the event.

"The tour that we did now, I did in character as La Llorona, just for a little bit of extra fun. We walked around and talked about some of the haunted hot spots here, some of the architecture of some of the buildings that have activity, and looked around some of the old original cemeteries of downtown," event host Heather Shade said.

Alejandra Molina may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



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Eco El Paso hosts first Drive Electric Festival

Margaret Cataldi

The Prospector

Eco El Paso, a local environmental organization, partnered with National Drive Electric Week to host the city's first-ever National Drive Electric Festival Saturday, Sept. 15 at the Sunland Park Mall's south parking lot.

National Drive Electric Week is a yearly nationwide celebration that seeks to bring public awareness to the widespread availability of plug-in vehicles and promote the assets of all-electric and plug-in hybrid electric cars, trucks, motorcycles and more.

The event was free to the public and featured a number of tents run by local sponsors such as El Paso Electric, Erus Energy and Solar Solutions, where people learned more about how to transform their home and lifestyle into one that is environmentally and economically friendly.

The event was mainly organized by Eco El Paso, a local nonprofit organization founded in 2009 with the purpose of promoting sustainability in construction practices and operations throughout the community. With the Drive Electric Festival, their goal was to spread awareness of electric vehicles in the city.

"We hope to get people to recognize that electric vehicles are more sustainable, and they're present; they're here, you know, and it's time for the community to start embracing it," said Robert Moss, Eco El Paso board member and assistant vice president of Environmental Health & Safety at UTEP.

"To any adult who's interested in moving on from fossil fuels, this is an opportunity to be



Margaret Cataldi / The Prospector

Eco El Paso hosted the city's first National Drive Electric Festival to bring awareness to vehicles that use alternative fuel Saturday, Sept. 15.

more sustainable and recognize that our community is suffering from climate change," Moss said.

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), 97 percent of climate scientists agree that global-warming trends over the past century can be linked to human activity. The traditional gasoline-powered vehicles that the majority of Americans use daily emit carbon-dioxide, which produces large amounts of greenhouse gas that can be responsible for increases in global temperatures.

Researchers at NASA's Kennedy Space Center have found that the average car emits close to

one pound of carbon dioxide per mile. Electric vehicles however, reduce this emission by up to three fifths.

"Climate change is affecting everybody. Our heat loads are growing every year," said Jesse Sanchez, Eco El Paso board member. "We're finding out that in some places, we are 50 years ahead of schedule of where researchers 20 years ago predicted we would be with climate change."

El Paso is of course no exception to the rise in temperature experienced across the board. Sanchez went on to recount the climate research that he conducted within the El Paso area 25 years ago. He stated that back then, tempera-

tures above 100 degrees were observed just 13 days out of the entire year. "Last year, we were at 47 days," Sanchez said.

"Unfortunately, my generation has spoiled the future for you," Moss said. "But it's not enough to blame the generation before you. It's really important to just get involved and start working towards a better future."

A huge way to get involved is by using your voice and becoming an advocate for change, which is exactly what the organization known as Sunrise El Paso aims to do.

The Sunrise Movement is a nationwide organization that pushes for government implementation of meaningful climate change policies, such as the proposed Green New Deal, to address the climate emergency. Miguel Escoto is a coordinator for the Sunrise El Paso branch and was present at the Drive Electric Festival to promote the organization and inform onlookers about the upcoming Climate Strike happening nationwide and at El Paso.

Sunrise El Paso will host a protest and demonstration at noon Friday, Sept. 20 at Memorial Park. They will also feature a series of speakers to discuss the different local environmental struggles such as pipeline leakage, factory pollution and more.

"Our city government should be doing a lot more than what we're doing right now," said Escoto. "So we're focusing on local environmental justice, and trying to create a momentum."

For more information about Sunrise El Paso and the upcoming Climate Strike, you can visit their Facebook page at SunriseElPaso.

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Post Malone's new album demonstrates artist's versatility

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

Released Sept. 6, Post Malone's third studio album has 17 tracks. "Hollywood's Bleeding" features several high-profile artists such as Travis Scott, DaBaby, Halsey, Future, Young Thug and rock legend Ozzy Osbourne.

The 24-year-old Texas native, who launched his career back in 2015 with the breakout hit "White Iverson," reflects on his musical journey and growing success with the track "Myself." Malone co-wrote the song with Josh Tillman who has worked with artists such as Beyoncé and Kid Cudi.

"It's what it is, it's how I live / All the places I've been / I wish I could've been there myself," is the embedded chorus integrated with the song's laid-back vibe.

"Cause they ain't ever seen me fold under pressure," Malone raps on the track "On the Road," featuring rappers Meek Mill and Lil Baby. That

line expresses the grit and resiliency of his rise to the top of the Billboard Charts.

One major takeaway from Malone's new album is his ability to adapt his voice to any genre while emitting different emotions such as resentment and excitement, all in one album. The four-time Grammy-nominated artist has a powerful yet soothing voice that allows him to divulge into these genres with ease.

Malone's ability to not only rap but also sing is evident in "Hollywood's Bleeding" with tracks such as "Allergic" and "Internet." The latter describes his resentment towards the toxicity of social media and it was co-written with Kayne West.

Malone has been known to incorporate diverse genres into his music like soft pop, rap and alternative rock. "Hollywood's Bleeding" is an example of this creative fusion of genres.

The heavy metal song "Take What You Want," featuring Osbourne and rap superstar Scott, captures the emotional stress of a broken relationship.

Coupled with rap songs such as "Enemies" featuring DaBaby, Malone solidifies himself as an ever-evolving artist with this album.

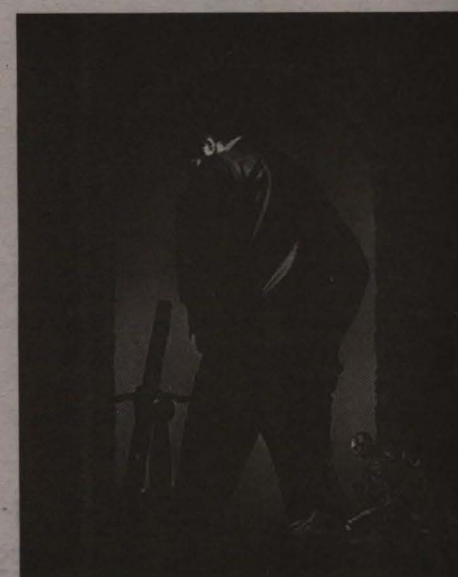
In the title track "Hollywood's Bleeding," Malone describes the negative aspects of living the "Hollywood" lifestyle and how it can make a person feel broken and emotionless.

"Everyone's gone, but no one's leavin' / Nobody left but us / Tryna chase a feelin', but we'll never feel it / Ridin' on the last train home"

The album includes the Billboard number one hit "Sunflower," featuring rapper Swae Lee, which was part of the "Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse" soundtrack and the Billboard top 10 hit "Wow" which released Dec. 24, 2018.

Malone's second studio album, "Beerbongs and Bentleys," is currently at number 14 in the Billboard Top 200 chart, but it debuted at number one after its initial release. "Hollywood's Bleeding" looks to follow suit as the album is projected to sell between 475,000 to 500,000 units according to Billboard.com.

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Courtesy of Pitchfork.

Post Malone shows versatility in his third studio album, "Hollywood's Bleeding," released on Sept. 6, 2019.

Excellence on field and beyond Gatewood strives for next level

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

UTEP football center Derron Gatewood is entering his sixth year as a Miner and as a key piece of the offensive line. Gatewood has not only had a successful career as a Miner, but plans to have one after he leaves El Paso.

The redshirt senior missed last season due to an ACL and MCL leg injury, but those unfortunate events led him to pursue a master's degree that he believes will be highly beneficial.

"Since I was here another year due to injury I had the option to either earn another bachelor's degree or earn my master's, and I decided to take it to another level and earn my master's because I believe it will help me in the long run," Gatewood said.

The Odessa, Texas native earned a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology in May 2018 and is currently pursuing his master's degree in Leadership Studies.

"With my master's degree I really want to coach specifically at the high school level and give back to all the high school kids and help them as much as I can," Gatewood said.

Gatewood's success on the field has translated into the classroom at UTEP, being named to the Conference-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll four times (2015, 2017, 2018, 2019).

The 6-foot 2, 300-pound senior was also named on the Rimington Trophy Watch List, which is awarded to the nation's top center.

"I was taken off the watch list in 2018 due to my injury and that hurt a little but it's great that I was put back on the list this year. It shows my hard work over the summer is being recognized," Gatewood said.

Before the start of the 2019 season Gatewood was also named to the preseason All-Conference USA first team.

Going through that injury was a troublesome time for the center who started all 12 games his



Priscilla Gomez / The Prospector

UTEP's football team plays against Houston Baptist.

“

**My number one goal
is to get drafted.
After the season I'm
off to train and get
ready for the NFL.**

”

- DERRON GATEWOOD
UTEP football center

sophomore year and missed just one game in his junior season.

"It was a tough tear in my ACL and MCL and it was hard getting my strength back to where it was. Once I started to get back on the field, it felt amazing to be back out there with my teammates. Now that I'm playing again it feels like I can finally see the light after the tough injury I went through," Gatewood said.

Along with his degree in leaderships studies, Gatewood is pursuing his dream to play in a league that features players from UTEP that Gatewood is very familiar with.

"I've been fortunate enough to play alongside Aaron Jones and Will Hernandez and I've been in contact with them, learning tips on what I need to work on to be successful in the league," Gatewood said.

Gatewood helped pave the way for former Miner and Green Bay Packer running back Aaron Jones to become UTEP's all-time leading rusher and played on the same offensive line as Will Hernandez who was a second-round draft pick for the New York Giants in the 2018 draft.

After the season has finishes for the Miners, Gatewood will work to strengthen his skillset to achieve the dream thousands of collegiate football players yearn for, which is playing in the NFL.

"My number one goal is to get drafted. After the season I'm off to train and get ready for the NFL and just improve and work hard and at the end of the day just shoot for the stars," Gatewood said.

Miner fans can catch the standout center this weekend as UTEP takes on Nevada at 6 p.m. Sept 21, at the Sun Bowl.

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Carolina Alvarez / The Prospector

Senior Winnie Koech wins her third Lori Fitzgerald memorial race with a career best time of 16:40 Sept. 13, 2019

UTEP Cross Country sweeps at Fitzgerald

Michael Cuvillo

The Prospector

The Miners' men and women's cross-country teams both won the team and individual events at the 35th annual Lori Fitzgerald Memorial at Chamizal National Memorial Park in El Paso Friday evening.

The women's team finished first in the overall team event with four participants placing in the top 10 for a team score of 35.

Senior Winnie Koech led from start to finish winning the 4.7 km race with a time of 16:40 earning the individual title. Koech earned her third straight Lori Fitzgerald win, besting her previous top time by over 30 seconds. A three-time all-conference honoree and 2017 All-American first-team member Koech ran strong from beginning to end.

The Miners also had junior Caroline Chepkosgei finish fourth (17:04), senior Linda Cheruiyot finish fifth (17:14), and sophomore Karoline Daland finish seventh (17:27).

UTEP is the reigning Conference USA champion after winning their first conference championship in school history last season and is the top-ranked Conference USA women's team this season.

The men's team had to overcome a scoring error to be crowned victorious at the meet. UTEP's Jesus Moreno was incorrectly assigned to El Paso Community College but was running unattached finishing seventh.

Once the scores were corrected, the men's team finished first in the event with 35 points with four runners finishing in the top 10 includ-

ing the winner sophomore Rogers Korir with a time of (19:29) in the 6.4 km race.

Korir finished last year's Lori Fitzgerald in second place and improved his time by two and a half minutes in this year's race.

A first-team all-conference member in 2018, Korir had previously finished second in the Lobo Invitational meet two weeks ago to teammate freshman Titus Cheruiyot.

Cheruiyot finished 18 seconds back in third place with a time of (19:47) with another strong performance.

Sophomore Boaz Ronoh finished eighth (20:44), and freshman Kenneth Talavera finished 10th with a time of (20:47).

"The team competed very well today - both men and women," UTEP head coach Paul Ereng said. "With this being our second meet, we're still working on where we want to be. We still have a couple of more races to get ready for conference."

Cross-country is scored by the finish placement of the top five runners for each team. The team with the combined lowest score of their top five runners wins the meet. Whatever position a runner finishes is the amount of points that is attributed to the team.

For example, if a runner places first in race then that is one point for his team and each subsequent finisher's points are added by placement in the competition.

UTEP will next compete Oct. 4 at the Joe Piane Notre Dame Invitational in South Bend, Indiana.

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Women's Golf finishes 2nd

Valeria Mendizabal wins individual title

Michael Cuvillo

The Prospector

In its first tournament of the season, the UTEP women's golf team tied for second against 12 teams competing in the Missouri State/Payne Stewart Memorial Golf Tournament in Springfield, Missouri.

After leading the tournament over the first two rounds by eight strokes, the Miners could not overcome a tournament best score of 276 by winner Oral Roberts University. Oral Roberts shot 16 strokes better than any team in the tournament over the third and final round, propelling them to victory.

"For this being our first tournament, I am pretty proud of the team and how they played to open the season," said Jere Pelletier, UTEP head coach.

Junior Valeria Mendizabal finished first, garnering her first individual title, with a two-stroke victory over Oral Roberts' Beatriz Garcia. Mendizabal finished one under par with a three-round total of 212, including a tournament best 68 on the final round.

Mendizabal was named Conference USA Co-Golfer of the week for her victory in the Payne Stewart Memorial.

Hailing from Guatemala City, Guatemala, Mendizabal not only won her first tournament as a Miner but shot a career low score of 68 at the college level. Previously, Mendizabal's best finish was second in last year's Wyoming Cowgirl Desert Intercollegiate tournament.

"I am proud of Valeria for winning the individual title," Pelletier said. "She has worked hard this entire summer and it paid off for her this week."

Mendizabal has won numerous tournaments prior to college, including the 2015 Guatemalan Junior Open Championship.

Junior Audrey Haddad finished sixth, nine shots behind her teammate with a 221 overall. Haddad led the tournament over the first two rounds, but a score of 80 on the final round took her out of contention for a top finish. A day-one score of 68 was a career best for Haddad.

The Miners next tournament will be Sept. 28-29 at the Wyoming Cowgirl Desert Intercollegiate in Palm Desert, California.

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Photo courtesy of Michael Weiss

Junior Valeria Mendizabal tees off at the Missouri State/Payne Stewart Memorial Golf tournament Sept. 10, 2019



Priscilla Gomez / The Prospector

Ritchie Rodriguez breaks a run during practice at Sun Bowl

Football looks to bounce back Nevada Wolfpack next on the horizon

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

After a tough 38-3 loss to Texas Tech the UTEP football team (1-1) looks to bounce back from the Sept. 7 defeat as they take on the Nevada Wolfpack (2-1) Saturday. The Miners have areas to improve upon, heading into this weekend's matchup against the Wolfpack.

These are the Miners matchups against Nevada heading into this battle.

Improve on defense

The Miners in the passing game allowed 260 yards, three touchdowns as well as 45 completions. Granted UTEP was facing Texas Tech quarterback Alan Bowman, one of the best signal-callers in the nation, but the Miners defense has struggled against limiting passing efficiency prior to their matchup against Tech.

UTEP allowed 300 passing yards against Houston Baptist and 11 yards per completion against the Huskies. The Miners must provide pressure against Nevada's redshirt freshman quarterback Carson Strong, who threw for a career high 299 yards.

Luckily for the Miners, Strong did have the turnover bug against Weber State throwing for two interceptions.

One bright spot in the Miners defense has been redshirt sophomore defensive back Justin Prince, who leads the team in tackles with 17 and 13 solo tackles. Prince's average of 8.5 tackles per game currently ranks him fifth best among Conference-USA players.

"We can learn a lot from how Weber St. played the Nevada offense," Dana Dimel said in this weeks' press conference.

The extra week of practice following the bye helped prepare the Miners for the Matt Mumme lead "Air Raid offense."

Feed the Hungry Hughes

Senior running back Treyvon Hughes had just 10 carries against Texas Tech as opposed to his 23 carries in the Miners season opener versus Houston Baptist.

Hughes has shown he can be productive when he gets fed the ball as he rushed for a career high 144 yards and two touchdowns against the Huskies. Hughes is the type of running back that gets better as he gets more carries and can build momentum from heavy usage.

If the Miners can implement the powerful running back into the rushing scheme effectively, that will open things up in the passing game. Hughes' average of 85 rushing yards per game ranks him fifth best amongst Conference-USA running backs.

Halt the run game

Toa Taua, sophomore running back and Mountain West Conference Freshman of the Year, has been a consistent playmaker for the Wolfpack, rushing for over 1,000 yards in his Nevada career.

Taua was placed on the preseason watchlists for the Doak Walker Award (nation's top running back) Maxwell Award (nation's best all-around player) and first team all Mountain West Conference. The California native rushed for a team high 872 yards last season and had 87 yards on the ground against Weber State this past weekend.

BOUNCE BACK from page 10

“

Brandon is going to start the game...both Qbs will play in the game versus Nevada

”

- DANA DIMEL
UTEP coach

Go back to the air

The Miners only had 54 passing yards in their last matchup against the Red Raiders with senior quarterbacks Brandon Jones and Kai Locksley. Granted UTEP did go up against significantly different defenses in Houston Baptist and Texas Tech.

Going forward Dana Dimel plans to use both quarter backs as starters in different game situations.

“Brandon is going to start this game but we plan to play both quarterbacks in this game versus Nevada,” Dimel said.

If the Miners can spread the ball amongst their talented group of receivers in sophomore Tre'shon Wolf, redshirt junior Devaughn Cooper and senior wide receiver Alan Busey the Miners will set up their running game.

Wolf leads the Miners in receiving yards with 104 and receptions with five.

The Miners play at home versus Nevada at 6 p.m. Sept. 21 in the Sun Bowl.

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Miners unbeaten streak ends at five Soccer loses to Utah Valley

Michael Cuiello

The Prospector

UTEP womens' soccer team (4-2-2) fell 2-1 to the Utah Valley University Wolverines (3-4) Sunday afternoon after giving up a late goal at the 87-minute mark of the second half.

Midfielder freshman Jackie Miller scored her first career goal as a Miner at the 28-minute mark of the first half to draw even with the Wolverines. Miller is an El Paso native and a graduate from Franklin High School.

The match was hard-fought with few shots on goal by either team, Utah Valley had a five to four advantage with goal shots. Overall, Utah Valley took five more shots than UTEP with

both teams having three saves apiece in goals. Freshman Emily Parrot recorded the saves for the Miners. Parrot has started seven of the eight games in goal for the Miners with 23 saves and a 3-2-2 record.

Earlier in the week, the Miners won a close double overtime game against the New Mexico State Aggies on the road.

Senior Lauren Crenshaw scored her third goal of the season with three minutes left in overtime lifting the Miners to a 2-1 victory. Crenshaw took five total shots, with two being on goal with one score.

Sophomore Jojo Ngongo scored her second goal of the year with an assist by junior Adriana Jimmerson and freshman Emerson Kidd

at the 74-minute mark of the match to tie the score.

Overall, UTEP outshot the Aggies by 11 shots with a 23-12 advantage but were unable to capitalize on this effort with only seven shots being on goal.

The Miners will look to rebound with back to back home games coming up this week.

At 7 p.m. Sept. 17 the team will play University of the Southwest (3-3) and at 11 a.m. Sept. 22 it will start conference play against Florida International University (2-5).

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Priscilla Gomez / The Prospector

UTEP sophomore forward Kam Fisher drives the ball past Abilene Christian, defender.

Miners Sports Schedule

Volleyball

Sept. 20-21 Red Raider Classic at Lubbock vs, Texas Tech, Houston and Incarnate Word.

Soccer

Sept. 17 at home University Field 7 p.m. vs, University of the Southwest (New Mexico)

Sept. 22 at home University Field 11 a.m. vs, Florida International University

Football

Sept. 21 at home Sun Bowl 6 p.m. vs, University of Nevada

Tennis

Sept. 20-22 New Mexico State Aggie Invitational all day at Las Cruces, New Mexico

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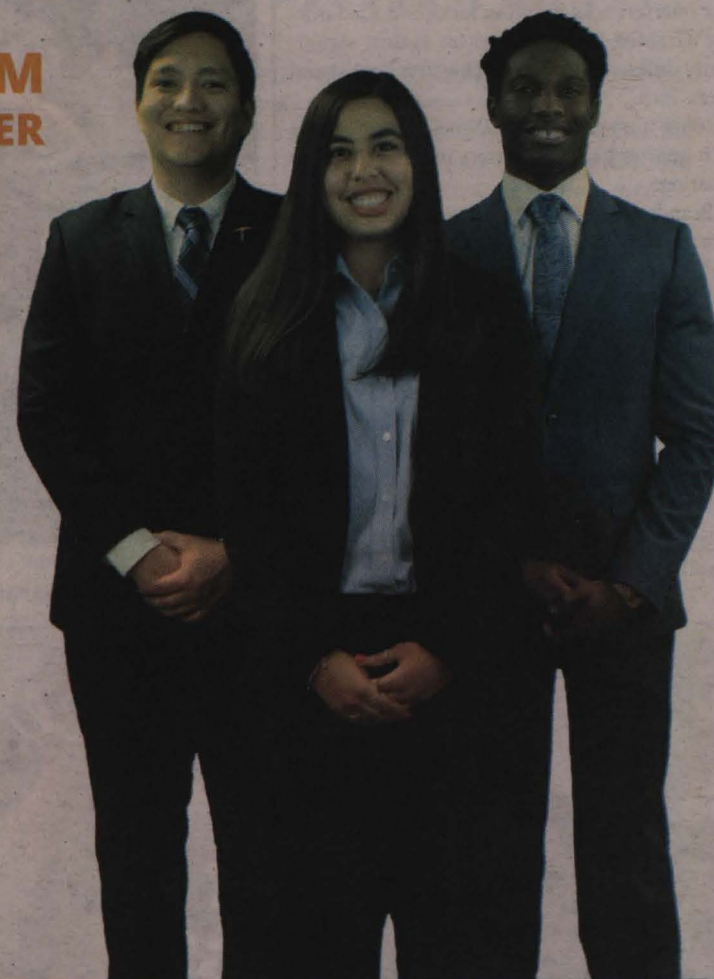


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