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THE PROSPECTOR

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
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Covering the border

Colorado-native journalist starts digital news platform

Paulina Spencer

The Prospector

Robert Moore began his journalistic career in 1983 at a local newspaper in his hometown in Colorado. Moore quickly discovered that he wanted to follow a path in journalism.

After working as an editor, obituary writer and other positions, Moore was offered a job at El Paso. During his first stint in El Paso, Moore went back to pursue his degree and attended UTEP. Since then, Moore has had major achievements in the field of journalism and news reporting.

"Probably the most notable thing I did early in my career was in 1998 when I got George W. Bush, who was then a governor of Texas, to agree to do his only re-election debate here in El Paso," Moore said. "I moderated that debate for a national audience."

Moore soon worked his way up the ranks and became executive editor at the El Paso Times. He was then offered the title of editor in his hometown's newspaper and moved back home to Colorado for six years.

In 2011, Moore moved back to the border and began his job as executive director. Six years later, the El Paso Times asked him to make a 25% deduction to his pay.

Moore ultimately gave up his position in order to help save jobs.

"I told them, 'Quite frankly, I probably have the largest salary. Let's eliminate my position,' and that saved a couple jobs for a few more months," Moore recalled.

After leaving his job as executive editor of the El Paso Times, Moore did some freelance work for newspapers like the Washington Post and the Houston Chronicle.

When the "border crisis" in El Paso erupted earlier last year, Moore knew there needed to be local coverage led by local journalists.

"I broke the story for the Washington Post that a 7-year-old girl had died in Border Patrol custody and died in a hospital here in El Paso and the Border Patrol was trying to keep it a secret," Moore said.

Moore quickly noticed a decline in local news coverage due to the lack of money available to produce and deliver news. He believes that the advertisement model that newspapers and television stations use "has shattered," therefore not providing enough money to sustain a full team.

"There's this huge stress in the local news environment which had led to development of



The Prospector file photo

The border fence separates the otherwise interconnected cities of El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juárez, México. Some of the University of Texas at El Paso's buildings are less than a mile away from the border. Robert Moore created El Paso Matters, a digital news platform that focuses on local news, in order to emphasize coverage on the border city.

nonprofit organizations funded by philanthropy and membership models," Moore said.

Following in the footsteps of other organizations, Moore created El Paso Matters, a nonprofit news organization that focuses on local news, of which he is the CEO.

El Paso Matters' website states that "El Paso and the Paso del Norte region need a nonprofit, member-supported, digital news organization that dives into the complex issues shaping our region and serves as a catalyst for solution-oriented conversations."

see EL PASO on page 4

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Forgiveness, the ultimate act of sincerity



Marisol Chávez
The Prospector

"If you truly are sorry ... I forgive you," Brandt Jean told his brother's killer. "I know if you go to God and ask Him, He will forgive you."

My heart sank the first time I watched Botham Jean's brother, Brandt, hug ex-police officer Amber Guyger. His words felt true; he was forgiving, and at the same time, I found myself empathizing with Guyger.

For a moment, I understood her reasoning, her pain and healing process.

Guyger shot Botham Jean inside his own apartment while he sat on his couch eating ice cream, after she mistook him for an intruder inside her apartment, which was one floor above Jean's.

It was when I watched Judge Tammy Kemp hug her too that reality hit me.

That moment was Brandt Jean's and Guyger's – not mine, not the judge's and not the rest of the world's. It happened so they could heal and move forward because the fact remains that Guyger killed his brother.

Their connection to this case is personal, for obvious reasons. It is a connection neither the judge nor I will ever have.

That's why we should continue being objective. It is not our duty to forgive Guyger and her actions regarding this specific case, but to look at the bigger picture: decades of profiling and police brutality that do not seem to stop.

"No police officer would ever want to hurt an innocent person," Guyger testified September during her trial in Dallas.

While I do not want to question the veracity of her statement, I do want to ask, then why does it keep happening?

According to Mapping Police Violence (mappingpoliceviolence.org), black people are three times more likely to be shot by police than white people and 21 percent of black victims are unarmed compared to 14 percent of white victims.

I don't even have to use statistics to be able to identify a problem in the system. I only have to compare two circumstances that involve two different crime suspects.

Last April, police shot at the car of a robbery suspect in Oklahoma and hit three of four children inside the vehicle. The suspect, a black man, was also injured, taken to the hospital and later released in police custody to be charged with aggravated robbery.

The man was guilty of robbing a Pizza Hut.

Last August, police caught a triple-murder suspect outside a church in Virginia. The suspect, a white man, was naked and began strangling a groundskeeper at the scene before his arrest.

In the video of the event, a policeman is seen using what seems like pepper spray and a baton to make him surrender, but never his gun. Even when it is clear he is carrying at least one.

Robbing and murder are both crimes and, if a saint were to commit either, they'd be a criminal under the law. However, some criminals are being treated less harshly than others and, whenever they are, it is rarely a black man.

"I was scared whoever was inside my apartment was going to kill me," Guyger said while giving her testimony back in September.

Fearing for one's life is something I do not wish upon anyone, especially since we live in a country that is proud of its freedom.

I hope every single person of color in the United States can someday experience real liberty, one where they do not have to fear that someone meant to protect them is going to kill them in their own country, or their own home.

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Alexia X. Nava Carmona
The Prospector

The BUILDing SCHOLARS program received a \$15.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to continue working as a research opportunity for students interested in biomedical research for five more years.

In 2014, the NIH founded BUILDing SCHOLARS program, which stands for the Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity: Southwest Consortium of Health-Oriented Education Leaders and Research Scholars.

The program at UTEP had its first cohort of students in 2015, according to Lourdes Echegoyen, director of the Campus Office of Undergraduate Research Initiatives (COURI).

"2014 was a ramp-up barrier to recruit all the students and get all of the project ready for the students to start," Echegoyen said.

To enter the program, students must have a minimum 3.3 GPA, an interest in biomedical research (no matter the major), complete 30 credit class hours per academic year, be a U.S. citizen or resident and have a recommendation from a professor. While the program accepts incoming freshmen, sophomores and juniors, freshmen interested in the program need to have a high standing in high school, Echegoyen said.

"It's a very well-detailed process of selection of the students, which operates pretty much the same way as a review panel for a federal agency," Echegoyen said. "We review the applications with very specific criteria and then, once we have a pre-selected group of students, we go for a personal interview and from that cohort we select the final set of students."

The students must last at least two years in the program "to have the right type of training," Echegoyen added.

The benefits it offers to students include a tuition stipend of about \$3,600 a semester and a living stipend of \$700 a month for freshmen and sophomores and \$1,000 a month for juniors

and seniors, according to the UTEP BUILDing SCHOLARS website. The program also offers hands-on experience and communication skills that will help students in the future.

"That gets students to get excited about their future because it's very hands on, they are practicing what they're going to be doing in the future. They (also) learn to communicate really well, because they need to do presentations at conferences," Echegoyen said. "Those are some of the things that employers and graduate schools want, for students to be able to do that. They learn all of these critical thinking skills and communication skills that are so important for students to succeed in the future."

Montserrat Carolina Garcia Arreguin, a 22-year-old UTEP senior majoring in cellular and molecular biochemistry has been a part of the BUILDing SCHOLARS program since the end of her high school senior year and has accumulated various research experiences, including publishing her work in the Journal of Neuropharmacology with UTEP professor Laura O'Dell, research teaching integration fellowships awards and teaching a graduate-level cancer biology class with the mentorship of Associate Professor of Biological Sciences Giulio Francia.

"I am just so grateful that there're professors that care so much about us and about getting minorities into science that they sit down and write these massive grants just to get us all funded and provide us all these multiple activities and help us grow," Garcia Arreguin said. "I know I've grown a lot ever since (high school) and now the idea of going away for grad school, because I do plan to go away from El Paso, doesn't scare me anymore. I know that it's been because of what I've been exposed to and learned."

The benefits also extend to faculty through the increase of their research productivity with available funding projects that they can get students involved in, Echegoyen said.

see GRANT on page 4

THE PROSPECTOR

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SPEAK YOUR MIND

Research on detention facility points to torture-like conditions

Marisol Chávez

The Prospector

As part of the 2019 Hispanic Heritage Celebration, the Chicano Studies Program at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) sponsored a presentation titled "Mental Torture Center: A case study of the Otero County Service Processing Center ICE detention facility" Monday, Oct. 7, at the university library's Blumberg Auditorium.

Anthropologists Margaret Brown de la Vega and Nathan Craig presented research on ICE detention facilities, which they argue should be abolished.

Using accounts by detainees and official government reports, they compared processing centers like the one in Otero, New Mexico, to prisons.

"Detention is unlike criminal incarceration, yet it can be seen as comparable," Craig said.

The Otero Processing Center is operated by a private institution called MTC, which stands for Management and Training Corporation. According to its website, MTC is headquartered in Utah and operates 64 facilities worldwide, including the one in Otero. Four are detention facilities.

MTC's website states that it is "making a difference in the lives of over 100,000 people" by offering rehabilitative programs, medical care and workforce training to those detained in their centers.

However, presenters Brown de la Vega and Craig referred to MTC as standing for "Mental



The Prospector file photo
There are multiple students and programs, such as the Chicano Studies, that revolve around, are interested in or delve into issues regarding the U.S.-Mexico border. UTEP's Chicano Studies Program sponsored a presentation titled "Mental Torture Center: A case study of the Otero County Service Processing Center ICE detention facility" Monday, Oct. 7, at the university Blumberg Auditorium.

Torture Center," in which those detained are kept under torture-like conditions.

"Those who've been in both prison and detention facilities will tell you immigration detention centers are worse," Craig said.

Some of the conditions Brown de la Vega and Craig said detainees were kept under were lack of food, inadequate medical care, sanitation issues, harassment by staff, labor exploitation, social isolation and mental anguish.

"[Otero Processing Center] has the capacity to hold 100 people at a time in solitary confinement," Brown de la Vega said. "That's probably bigger than their law library."

According to MTC's statement about their involvement with ICE, "all detainees ... have access to the medical, legal, and personal resources that they need, in addition to voluntary recreation and programming activities."

About the legal resources available, since immigration courts don't have public defenders, Brown de la Vega mentioned they are very limited because, "for anyone trying to navigate their legal case themselves, it's very difficult."

Translation services, needed in a lot of immigration cases, are not available for detainees, she said. Although proof of competence in the language is the only requirement to act as a translator in immigration hearings, it is still up to the defendant to find a translator themselves.

"It's sometimes being done telephonically ... and that affects translation enormously," said Josiah Heyman, director of the Center for Inter-American and Border Studies at UTEP.

Jennifer Apodaca, lecturer at UTEP's college of science, shared her perspective as a visitor to the detention centers.

Her participation shed light in the difficulty that finding translators is for some immigrants, stating she once met a French-speaking person from Africa who could not find a translator.

"I guarantee you the abuse is 10 times worse for them," Apodaca said.

Marisol Chávez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

The Prospector staff brings podcast back to life with impeachment proceedings

The Prospector staff

The Prospector

The Prospector's entertainment editor, Bryan Mena, kicks off the first episode of The Prospector's podcast by answering what the latest news on President Donald J. Trump's impeachment proceedings are all about.

The podcast features a Q&A with Todd Curry, an associate professor at UTEP's political science department and a political analyst who has appeared in interviews with local media outlets.

UTEP students also weighed in on the likelihood of impeachment and whether it's justified.

"The crimes that are alleged are on a monumentally different scale than other impeachment charges that have been brought against sitting presidents," said Curry about the severity of Trump's accusations.

Curry and Mena touch on the origins of the inquiry relating to Burisma Holdings, Hunter

Biden and Trump freezing \$400 million in U.S. aid for Ukraine.

Curry explains that the impeachment proceedings are a "political move" and that Republicans might only be protecting the party instead of Trump himself.

"If we look at the Republicans after Nixon resigned during the Watergate investigation, the Republican Party was punished for a significant number of years by the American electorate," Curry explained. "We would have to go all the way back to 1994 until the Republicans got a majority in the House of Representatives, almost 20 years."

The Prospector staff also interviewed students, among them being Luis Hinojos, a 19-year-old junior at UTEP majoring in economics and political science.

"I don't think that ... the president was engaged in any corruption," Hinojos said. "It was

more the fact that he was looking to see if there was corruption on Hunter Biden and Vice President Biden's part in dealing with Ukraine and the natural gas companies that Hunter Biden was engaged in as a board member."

The podcast will feature a wide variety of topics, personalities, interviews and news.

The Prospector's staff working on the podcasts has not committed to a single format, but will instead explore the different ways they can dive into topics through the audio format.

Every two weeks, a new podcast episode following a different story will be published Tuesday morning.

Staff working on the podcast encourages UTEP students, faculty and staff to send in and submit ideas or topics that interest them.

To listen to the podcast, visit The Prospector's website at theprospectordaily.com

The Prospector staff may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



THE PROSPECTOR

The Prospector

The Prospector's podcast will kick off Tuesday, Oct. 15.

EL PASO from front page

Moore said he felt frustrated with the lack of knowledge national journalists have about immigration and the Walmart shooting that took place last August.

"Having a strong local coverage covering these issues would be better," Moore said.

El Paso Matters will follow a membership model.

According to the El Paso Matters' website, there are four membership levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. The level depends on the amount of money donated, which runs from nearly \$250 to more than \$2,500.

Moore hopes to have El Paso Matters "up and running" by early 2020 and to have a staff by the end of this year.

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GRANT from page 2

The program has also offered faculty "summer sabbaticals" to "research partner institutions" with faculty mentoring them.

"That has allowed some of our faculty to increase their productivity and, when they increase their productivity, then the students benefit tremendously, as well the entire community of the university," Echegoyen said.

The NIH created the program to "increase the diversity of the biomedical research workforce" and chose 10 universities, including UTEP, to run an experiment and see which are the factors that increase "student success in achieving degrees in biomedical majors and continue on to getting degrees in biomedical research areas," Echegoyen explained.

"They want to increase the diversity to the point where it equals the diversity of the population," Echegoyen said. "In order to do that, they needed to see how they could help institutions that have a majority of minority students, like Hispanic students or African American students or students from other demographics and how could they help those institutions increase the number of students that go into biomedical research careers."

The recent grant is the last one the program will receive, since the experiment was set to last 10 years.

"There is now a lot of data being collected by 10 different institutions that are contributing to the knowledge of what needs to happen," Echegoyen said.

"There is institutionalization of all of these programs; the institution needs to absorb all the programs that were successful for their students and for their faculty as well," she added.

Even if the BUILDing SCHOLARS program ends, there are other NIH funded programs that COURI offers students.

"COURI has its own separate grants from NIH, from NSF (National Science Foundation), from the Department of Energy," Echegoyen said. "In a way, BUILD is so large that it has its own set of staff members that handle only BUILD and then COURI has its own set of staff members that handle the rest of the grants and the initiatives that we have."

"COURI will continue, regardless of whether BUILD continues or not, COURI should continue because the impact that it is having is very large," Echegoyen said.

For more information regarding the BUILDing SCHOLARS program, visit buildingscholars.utep.edu/web/building-scholars-scholarship. For more information regarding COURI and the other programs that it offers, visit its website at utep.edu/couri.

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




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TEDxEl Paso unites the community's brightest minds

Margaret Cataldi

The Prospector

"The New Now" was the theme of TEDxEl Paso's annual conference, where local speakers aimed to inspire people to "make a dent in the universe and leave (their) own unique footprint," said event curator Kassi Foster.

The conference was held Saturday, Oct. 12, at the El Paso Museum of Art.

With more than 300 in attendance, people from different areas of the city were brought together to make new connections and share ideas.

"We wanted to bring people together who basically may not have met otherwise," Foster said.

The event featured speakers primarily from the El Paso community. Among them was Ahsan Choudhuri, UTEP's associate vice president for strategic initiatives and a professor of mechanical engineering at UTEP, who presented his talk titled "Connecting Research Excellence with Student Success: A Quest to Eliminate Inequality in Higher Education."

In his talk, Choudhuri discussed the lack of jobs and opportunities that many STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) students face upon graduation.

"Most young people from our community, especially students with the STEM discipline, are



Margaret Cataldi / The Prospector

Ahsan Choudhuri, Ph. D., Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Professor of Mechanical Engineering at UTEP giving his talk, "Connecting Research Excellence with Student Success: A Quest to Eliminate Inequality in Higher Education."

not likely to stay in El Paso because they don't have jobs here," Choudhuri said.

He stressed the importance of expanding a pipeline of high-end jobs and opportunities in the city so graduates can remain in the community.

Another notable speaker was Cesar J. Blanco, state representative for Texas' house district 76, who gave a heartfelt talk on the El Paso Walmart mass shooting and advised how the community should act moving forward.

"I was looking forward to Cesar Blanco's talk," said attendee Victor Reta, an employee for the city of Socorro. "Since I work in municipal gov-

ernment and have worked at his office regularly, to hear his speech about 'El Paso Strong' and community initiatives on gun violence was really important."

Reta also expressed the ample amount of resources that TEDxEl Paso provides to someone in his field of work.

"Since I work for the community and for a government agency, we tend to go to community events like these to learn more about trending topics, community initiatives and campaigns and to also get inspiration for some of our events," Reta said.

Two young El Paso students were also given the opportunity to give a TED talk.

Mia Milliorn, a sixth grader at MacArthur Intermediate School, spoke about her experiences dealing with cerebral palsy in her talk "UFO-AFL."

Lajward Zahra, a ninth grader at the El Paso Independent School District's Young Women's STEAM Research & Preparatory Academy, gave an informative talk titled "Third Wave Feminism and Why It's Necessary."

Lauren Cason, Meow Wolf's creative director of interactive, spoke about the diversity of video games with her talk titled "Building Beautiful Worlds with Videogames."

"I wanted people to understand that video games can be beautiful things," Cason said. "They can be positive and impactful for so many people. I wanted to open people up to different views that they may not have seen before in this particular media."

Cason also shared how her experience giving a TED Talk furthered her journey of self-discovery.

"I think every time you speak, you have to come up with a hypothesis," Cason said. "Then you have to get behind it and you learn about yourself by coalescing your thoughts in that way."

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I Painted That! celebrates 'Tom Lea Month' with drinks and paint

Anahy Diaz

The Prospector

Members of the community recreated a painting from a well-known El Paso artist Thursday, Oct. 10 in the east El Paso location of "I Painted That!" a sip and paint studio.

Attendees of the session sipped on wine and took shots of alcohol as they tried to follow the instructions of studio manager, Ebonie Adame.

Adame led the class in trying to recreate "The River Li," a painting by the famous World War

II artist correspondent and native El Pasoan, Thomas C. Lea III.

"It's for people to come relax, have fun and learn something new," Adame said.

The event was a partnership between the Tom Lea Institute and I Painted That! to help celebrate "Tom Lea Month" and raise donations. All sales from the \$10 tickets were donated.

"Since Tom Lea was an artist, we wanted people to actually experience what it would be like to actually paint one of his paintings," said Christy Gonzalez, the marketing and events manager of the Tom Lea Institute. "It was a seamless pick to

team up with I Painted That! because they have the same vision that we do. There's not a whole lot of businesses that encourage art and creativity and give the ability for someone to express themselves."

This was just one of the many different events the art studio hosts. From family-friendly classes and open-studio sessions to bachelorette parties, the company offers a creative and fun space for anyone looking to have a good time.

To read the full story, visit our website at theprospectordaily.com.

Anahy Diaz may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



Anahy Diaz / The Prospector

Terry and Jessica Jackson pose with their final paintings at the I Painted That! Tom Lea session Thursday, Oct. 10.



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J Balvin talks mental health, the border and love at the Don Haskins

Anahy Diaz

The Prospect

Colombian reggaeton singer, J Balvin, garnered screams from the crowd with performances of his hit songs and talked about mental health, the border and love Friday, Oct. 11, at the Don Haskins Center.

El Paso marks the sixteenth city to have experienced the wild splash of color and energy the singer's North American "Arcoiris Tour" brings.

Before the concert, fans looked forward to the complexity Balvin would bring.

"I'm looking forward to the brightness of his mentality, his attitude and what he brings as a performer" said Angelica Reyes, a longtime fan and 34-year-old makeup artist.

The tour, which holds a partnership with the arts collective "FriendsWithYou," launched early September in Atlanta, Georgia, and has since toured in cities like Miami, New York and Orlando.

The Arcoiris Tour, meaning "rainbow tour" in Spanish, stayed true to its name as the Don Haskins was covered with neon lights, dancers in elaborate costumes and a backup Colombian singer that kept the energy high.

The night began with some of Balvin's top hits, including "Reggaeton," "Machika" and "Ahora," which instantly excited fans.

The singer was accompanied on stage, not only by longtime DJ David Rivera Mazo, but also by backup dancers dressed in costumes that ranged from walking clouds to mushrooms.

All the while, the performers were accompanied by a huge cloud-shaped screen that displayed colorful graphics throughout the night.

Balvin continued the night by performing more of his hit songs like "Bonita" and "Ginza," and iconic songs by fellow reggaeton singers, such as Wisin y Yandel's "Rakata" and Daddy Yankee's "Gasolina."

He later moved on to perform "La Canción," which is part of Balvin's collaborative album with Puerto Rican rapper Bad Bunny, titled "Oasis."

The singer then came to a halt to express three important messages.

He first spoke on the importance of addressing one's own mental health, encouraging people to not be ashamed of seeking professional help, and letting the audience know they are not alone.

"Las enfermedades de salud mental son una realidad. Yo he sufrido de depresión y he sufrido

de ansiedad, así que tengo que aceptarlo. Y eso me hace más humano, me hace entender que la vida tiene pruebas," Balvin said. "Pero si alguien está pasando una situación difícil, no están solos, siempre llega la luz. Tarde o temprano llega la luz."

"Mental health illnesses are a reality. I have suffered from depression and anxiety, so I have to accept it. And this makes me more human. It makes me understand that life has challenges," Balvin said in Spanish. "But if someone is going through a difficult time, they are not alone, light always comes. Sooner or later, the light comes."

The singer also addressed border issues, by sharing his own story. The singer explained that eight years ago he came illegally into the U.S. where he painted houses and fixed roofs.

"Vine con ese sueño de echar para adelante y seguí soñando. Después de pintar casas, pasé a pintar mis sueños."

"I came with a dream to move forward," Balvin said in Spanish. "I followed that dream and after painting houses, I started painting my dreams."

To read the full story, visit theprospectordaily.com.

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Anette Baca / The Prospect

J Balvin performing during his, "Arcoiris" North American Tour in El Paso's Don Haskins Center Friday, Oct. 11.

“

I came with a dream to move forward.

”

- J BALVIN
reggaeton singer

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Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

Lots of expectations were set for the 2019-2020 UTEP men's basketball team and Miner fans got an up-close look at these talented Miners, as UTEP defeated the 2019 national runner-up 70-60 in an exhibition game at the Don Haskins Center. The game's proceeds are to benefit the victims of the Walmart mass shooting.

"When you talk about elite level programs, you're talking about Texas Tech, those guys know how to win and compete," UTEP Head Coach Rodney Terry said.

In year two of the Terry era comes a plethora of Division I transfers, with many of them sitting out last season due to transfer rules. Those highly touted Miners showcased what they bring to the table against the Red Raiders.

Redshirt junior forward Bryson Williams started off the game with a monstrous and-one dunk for the Miners, which set the tone for an intense matchup between the Miners and Texas Tech. Williams was an athletic presence on both ends of the floor finishing the game with 19 points, nine rebounds and one block. The Fresno State transfer formed a solid tandem with LSU grad transfer and guard Daryl Edwards.

Edwards and Williams combined for 43 points, while Edwards was lights out from three-point land for the Miners shooting 6-of-8 from three and led all scorers with 24 points.

"I just wanted to win as a team and bring something great to the community and play

with one of my best friends right here in Bryson Williams," Edwards said.

It was not just the transfers for UTEP that shined against Texas Tech. A returner from last year's eight-win season, sophomore guard Jordan Lathon, was solid for the Miners.

Lathon contributed 16 points and eight rebounds in 34 minutes played as a big part of the UTEP starting lineup. A talented guard from last season's freshman core, Lathon made back-to-back three's in the second half which put the Miners up 61-53 with 3:51 remaining in the game.

UTEP, although the victor in this exhibition, had major issues with turnovers finishing with 22 for the game. Playing one of the best teams in the nation that stresses defense and the Miners having a vast group of new players learning to play with each other probably accounted for many of these issues.

"We had 13 turnovers in the first half and we have to do a better job of taking care of the basketball, and we finished with 22 but early in the year you kind of expect that with guys getting familiar with each other," Terry said.

Freshman guard and first-ever five-star recruit in program history Jahmi'Us Ramsey knocked down three treys, finishing the game with 12 points and three boards for the Red Raiders.

Texas Tech junior guard Davide Moretti who played significant minutes and was a playmaker for the Red Raiders in their deep NCAA tournament run last season, was held to eight points.

The Miners generated tons of defensive pressure in the exhibition game holding Texas Tech



Michael Cuvillo / The prospector

Junior guard Jordan Lathon pushes the ball downcourt versus Texas Tech Red Raiders Saturday, Oct. 12.

to 31.4 percent shooting from the field and 26.9 percent from the three.

"I give UTEP a lot of credit. They really guarded us, and we just couldn't get easy looks at the basket tonight. That was some of the best defense we've seen in quite a while," Texas Tech Head Coach Chris Beard said.

The 2019 Associated Press National Coach of the Year provided thoughtful and encouraging words to the city of El Paso following Saturday's game.

"I just want to tell everybody here in El Paso that everybody in Lubbock, our program, our University, our athletic department, our community, are praying for all the victims of the

tragedy that occurred here in El Paso," Beard said.

The atmosphere in the air was certainly electric and the 4,604 fans in attendance railed as a sixth man to this new-look Miner team, and UTEP nation, has a lot to look forward to this season.

"We just wanted us to play hard and give the fans something to look forward to this season," Williams said.

UTEP fans can catch this revitalized men's basketball squad in its season opener 7 p.m. Nov. 5 at the Don Haskins Center versus New Mexico Highlands.

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Hilltoppers top Miners for second straight soccer loss

Michael Cuvillo

The Prospector

The UTEP Miners (7-4-3, 2-2-1) lost in a defensive struggle against the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers (7-4-1, 3-2-2) Thursday night in a match that featured only one goal between both teams.

Defensively, other than the 6-1 loss to Middle Tennessee State, the Miners have played exceptionally this season. This swarming defense continued in the match with the Hilltoppers. Freshman goalkeeper Emily Parrot once again was solid in goal, allowing one score. Parrot has four shutouts on the season, which ranks her fourth in the conference.

The Miners once again had an issue getting solid shots and were unable to get an open look close to the opponent's goal. Finding an open teammate deep in Hilltopper territory was an arduous task for most of the match. Western Kentucky outshot UTEP by a 19 to 14 margin, but had one less shot on goal with six in the matchup.

Senior defender Lauren Crenshaw led the team with two shots on goal coming on four total shots. Crenshaw leads the team with five goals for the season, along with 41 shots for the year. No other player on the team has taken more than 24 shots; to score more points, the Miners must get more players involved in with better passing.

"I think, first off, we need to score more set-piece goals, we just need to finish our chances," UTEP Head Coach Katheryn Balogun said. "We're going to keep pushing and keep working because this is a good team."

The first and only score of the night did not happen until minute 52 of the game by WKU freshman Ansley Cate, scoring her fourth goal of the season resulting from a setup after a free kick.

Not long after the WKU score, the Miners turned away a three-shot onslaught at the 60-minute mark aided by the top crossbar of the goal, which had two shots bounce off keeping the Hilltoppers from scoring.

With five games left in the regular season, the Miners still have as many wins as they had

all last season and tied for eighth place in the conference with Alabama-Birmingham. The top eight teams in Conference USA advance to the postseason tournament. The Miners have not appeared in the conference tournament or had a winning record since 2016.

The Miners have one of the better teams in Conference USA coming to town; Louisiana Tech will be a robust test of UTEP's mettle to see if it is a tournament team.

The UTEP Miners have two more games remaining on their homestand. The Miners play Louisiana Tech (11-2-1, 3-2-1) Oct. 17, 7 p.m., and Southern Miss (6-7, 1-4) Oct. 20 at noon. Both Games are at University Field.

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Can Miners win on the road? FIU preview

Danny Lopez, Michael Cuvillo

The Prospector

The Miners take on the Florida International University Panthers Saturday searching for their second win of the season as UTEP now sits near the bottom of Conference USA's standings. The team is coming off a loss to the University of Texas at San Antonio Saturday night and is hoping to rebound.

UTEP is still trying to get consistency at quarterback with the rotation of seniors Kai Locksley and Brandon Jones. Between injury and poor play the offense has struggled at times, no matter the quarterback.

The Panthers come into this game scoring 30 points per contest with a balanced offense. The Panthers average 189 yards rushing and 207 yards passing per contest. The offense averaging 207 yards per game passing for FIU. The Panthers' defense allows 24 points per game and holds opponents to 181 rushing yards per game. Through the air, FIU is allowing 190 yards per game.

Having three running backs among the top 15 rushers in the conference, FIU has a very balanced rushing attack led by Anthony Jones (87-

414) and Napoleon Maxwell (61-346). The Panthers average 5 yards per carry on the ground.

James Morgan leads the Panthers at quarterback and the Bowling Green transfer has thrown seven touchdowns and two interceptions while completing 62 percent of his passes for the team.

The Panthers 48-23 victory over Charlotte Saturday brought FIU's record to 3-3 (1-2) and in the middle of Conference USA's East Division Standings. Holding a 2-1 series record versus UTEP, the Panthers have won the last two matchups, including a 52-12 blowout the last time they played in Miami in 2015.

The Miners' offense is ranked 123rd overall, averaging 157 yards passing and 140 yards rushing per game. Not a good start for a football team that is trying to get a second win to get to .500 for the season.

As for Miners' defense, it ranks 99th overall, allowing 187 yards rushing and 237 through the air. The Miners on paper seem to be over-matched going into this game versus FIU. It will take an effort from both sides of the ball to come out with a victory for the Miners.

Third-down efficiency is a significant Achilles' heel for the Miners as the team ranks dead last

in the entire NCAA in this category, only converting 21 percent.

The Miners must find ways to get the ball moving, or once again, will find itself on the losing end of a conference matchup. This game will be a barometer of the team's growth for the season so far.

"FIU is a team that has a lot of speed on offense and defense," Coach Dana Dimel said. "They are a really athletic team that had a good season last year and started off this year with some struggles early."

The Miners lone win last season was a road victory at Rice 34-26.




UTEP plays at FIU Saturday Oct. 19 5 p.m. in Miami.

Danny Lopez, Michael Cuvillo may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



Daniel Perez / The Prospector

Josh Fields grinds out a first down versus Nevada Sept. 21.






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