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THE PROSPECTOR

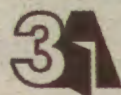
ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

VOL. 105, NO. 14
DECEMBER 3, 2019

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Photo illustration by Teddy Baylón



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It's time to say goodbye to The Prospector



Elliott Luna

The Prospector

I feel that time has gone by really quick. It is finally time to say goodbye and move on to what is next in line.

If someone would have told me that I would be working at the school's newspaper, I wouldn't have believed them. I did it and I don't regret it.

I remember the day The Prospector's former photo editor, Gabriela Velazquez, came to class and asked if someone would be interested in being a cartoonist for the newspaper. I was

studying graphic design; that was not on my radar, but it did pique my interest. To be honest, that was the day I even found out UTEP had a newspaper.

Time passed and, at the end of 2018, I started to wonder what I would do after I finished school.

I wanted to build my portfolio and I realized I needed to use my art skills outside of class. I needed to step out of my comfort zone into a more professional ground rather than just wait for the next class critique.

When I was ready to apply for the cartoonist position, I saw a hiring post looking for graphic designers for The Prospector on Facebook. That was it, I knew I had to take advantage of this opportunity. I saw it and immediately contacted the person who would soon become my boss.

Like the aliens from Toy Story say, "I am eternally grateful" to Veronica Gonzalez for giving me the opportunity to test my skills.

From the first day, I felt comfortable and supported with my creative approaches. I had experiences of real-life clients and situations that helped me grow as a professional. It helped me stay creative and think outside the box.

Now I am leaving as creative director and I am thankful for having the opportunity to be part of a great team.

Everyday walking in, it was inspiring to see all the staff working together and pull off deadlines for each paper.

Having also worked for Minero Magazine, I had the opportunity to work alongside great designers and editors. Brainstorming ideas

and considering each other's feedback, we managed to meet deadlines.

At the end of the day, seeing your work in its physical form and having people pick it up inspired me every day to keep inventing.

This journey is one that I will remember forever as the place where I started to unfold in my major.

I will be paraphrasing here, but I heard a thought somewhere that really stuck with me.

We might have a dream or a goal, but the things that really matter are the sidetracks and deviations along the way. The people you meet, the lessons you learn. Those things make you grow and let you build memories that, by taking a shortcut, you might have never been able to experience.

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

First-generation graduates and alumni pave the way for future generations

Margaret Cataldi

The Prospector

For second or third-generation students, going to college may not seem like a big deal. The expectation has already been set and they may be simply continuing down a path that has been paved for them.

But for families that haven't had access to higher education in the past, being the first to attend and graduate from a university is an enormous deal — one that comes with a very different set of expectations.

A first-generation college graduate is the first in their immediate or extended family to attend a university and graduate with a degree. The ability to navigate through the tertiary education system with no example to follow and little to no concept of how things work is no easy feat. It is an extraordinary accomplishment of which first-generation students have every reason to be proud.

"I think we forget how important it is," said first-gen UTEP student Paola Barrientos. "We are the first generation. We're starting anew and we're the first line to inspire future generations to come."

Education is a powerful tool; it allows individuals to grow their skillset and empowers them to make helpful contributions to society.

"To be educated is to be given the opportunity to be able to see the world differently," said Shafik Dharamsi, dean of the College of Health Sciences at UTEP. "When the world was thought to be flat, people sailed with a conception that they would fall over the edge and so on, but once you realized it was in fact around, you can never go back to seeing the world as flat again."

Dharamsi himself is a first-generation college student. Before immigrating to Canada from Tanzania at the age of 11, Dharamsi had received an education equivalent to that of a first-grade level.

"Somehow I made it through high school. At that time, the guidance counselor told me, 'Well, you know, university is really not for you,'" Dharamsi said. "That's the message that a lot of us who are first-generation students received."

Despite being underestimated, Dharamsi went on to earn three bachelor's degrees, a master's degree and a Ph.D.

Right out the gate, first-gen students are already at a disadvantage that takes shape as a lack of knowledge on how to apply for financial aid or scholarships, how to engage in extracurricular activities and an overall lack of understanding of the methods and practices necessary to succeed in the classroom.

Luckily, there are resources available to help first-gen students thrive.

"What helped me was being able to have open conversation with my instructors, with different faculty and with the counselors when I needed help," said Florina Barnett, first-gen UTEP

alumna and the university's director of human resources. "When I didn't understand an assignment, there were resources available at the library that were extremely, extremely important to me."

Barnett also stressed the importance of having a strong support system when going through college as a first-gen student.

"You have to let people in. Whether that means finding other first-generation students on campus, possibly in student life, you must have some type of support system," Barnett said.

Attending college is a tremendous accomplishment in and of itself. Being the first person in your family to do so can make it even more meaningful.

Breaking the mold and setting greater expectations for the generations that precede is a transcendent victory that will no doubt help shape a more progressive future.

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THE PROSPECTOR

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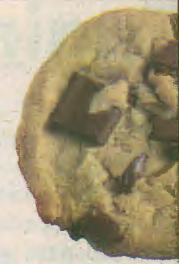
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What college experience do you regret not having?



"One thing I regret while in college is not moving out of my parents' house."

Kaelin Mercado, 22, psychology



"I'm going to miss ... stressing out and considering dropping out of school every time we had an exam."

Ashley Barajas, 22, mechanical engineering



"Not starting ... with the right major. I did it because I was afraid I couldn't find a job in the field of graphic design."

Charles Kolodgy, 27, graphic design

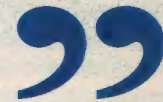


"I regret not coming to the school earlier in life. I'm too old to party nowadays. I have a bed time."

Leo Hapeman, 27, multidisciplinary studies



If we succeed as a university, then you will graduate, you will have become a better version of yourself. Higher education should do that.



- HEATHER WILSON
UTEP President



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Engineering major empowers women, crushes goals

Exodis Ward

The Prospector

Senior Aibhlin Esparza is blazing a trail for women in engineering.

"I'm one of the people where, if there's an opportunity in front of me, I'm gonna go ahead and take it. I'll work out the rest of the details later," she said. "I think it's important to show other people that you can accomplish all things. Being a woman in engineering, sometimes it is difficult, but I know that if I'm the first to do something, that'll start a ripple effect and more women will join the movement."

Esparza, who is majoring in mechanical engineering, has accomplished many things. During her past summers, Esparza tracked the brain's blood flow at UT Arlington, studied the progression of ALS in fruit flies at the University of Arizona, developed and monitored scaffolding for cancer cells at UTEP and also developed a new radar design for space and airborne systems at the Raytheon Company.

Her current project, a prosthetic liner that monitors humidity, temperature and alignment for amputees, is almost complete.

Esparza just came back from a two-week study abroad trip at Brazil designing carts to carry recyclables for the locals there.

None of this would have happened if Esparza hadn't attended a scholarship workshop back at her high school in 2016.

"I really didn't know that it was a scholarship workshop. I showed up with open ears and an open mind," Esparza said. "I stood there, I got the flyer, then a couple of weeks later, the deadline was coming up and I thought, 'Why not try?'"

Esparza was later granted two full-ride scholarships, one from the Gates Millennium



Exodis Ward / The Prospector

Graduating senior Aibhlin Esparza, who is majoring in mechanical engineering, hopes to inspire other women in engineering through her many accomplishments that she has garnered as an undergraduate.

Scholars Program and a second from the Terry Foundation.

"When I found out that I was a (Terry) finalist, everything kind of shifted. It wasn't a, 'Maybe I'll go to college, maybe I'll work, maybe I'll put it off for a couple of years.' It was like 'No, you're gonna go and you're gonna make a way for this to happen.' I think, from then on, I kind of developed this sense of ownership of my education. I think that has really driven me forward," Esparza said. "Having that flexibility and knowing that I have funding for graduate school is what really has me thinking 'Yes. I need to keep this at all costs.'"

Esparza is the first to go to college on both her mother's and father's side and it is something that fuels her.

"My parents really wanted me and my siblings to do the things that they couldn't do growing up. Education was not number one for them, they had to go straight into work," she said. "They had to postpone a lot of the goals and the things that they wanted to get around to doing."

Later, Esparza's engineering work led her to intern at Raytheon, a "technology and innovation leader specializing in defense, civil government and cyber-security solutions," according to its website.

The company's influence is large. It began in the 1920s when they created a piece that allowed radios and microwaves to be less expensive and more accessible to the public. The company also

created the computer that guided the Apollo 11 to the moon in the 1960s.

The company has already offered Esparza a position with them.

"They extended a full-time offer as a system engineer. I'm also applying to graduate school right now," Esparza said. "My goals at Raytheon are to become a program manager and a principal engineer. Hopefully, moving up the scale, I'd like to implement some biotechnology because there is a lot of clients that we work with that could use that. I'm hoping to kind of change what they're doing right now to something a lot bigger."

While working at Raytheon, Esparza hopes to continue her education at the University of Arizona.

"What I liked about that university was that they actually had a clinic where ALS patients go get different equipment and they also help with physical therapy," she said. "We were in the lab working on the molecular stuff and there's people out there working with patients. It's full circle."

While Esparza's time at UTEP is ending, she encourages other students to become active on campus.

"I think a lot of people go to class and they leave, but once you start getting involved in college, you learn that there is so much more college offers," she said. "I think the SELC is amazing ... Most importantly, I think it's your professors. Your professors are the ones who can guide you to specific labs to work in, student employment and maybe they have an opening for you to work in their lab or their office. That's one thing we really neglect as students. All you have to do is talk to them."

Exodis Ward may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



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UTEP DINING SERVICES

Hired at Microsoft, graduate advises to start early

Maria Salette Ontiveros

The Prospector

Transitions can be uneasy times. Sometimes, the path and goals we expect to meet are not the ones we ultimately achieve. That was the case for Hao Tien Moy Torres, graduating this December majoring in computer science.

Like many others at the border, Moy, a 21-year-old Chinese descendant, was born in El Paso and raised in Ciudad Juárez. He went to school for most of his life on the Mexican side of the border before transferring to the United States to study in a small, private high school.

"My father gave me that name just to keep with the tradition of naming your children with Chinese names," Moy said.

He grew up in a family where there was not a lot of money and his goal was always to come to the U.S. to study something related to engineering or law in order to eventually support his family.

"My mom has always been a hard worker. She is the one I've always looked up to the most when it comes to that," Moy said.

Growing up in a family where he was taught about hard work and dedication inspired him to pursue a computer science degree.

"Not only is she hardworking, but I've also benefited from her hard work. Nothing that I own or have or know today would be possible without her ... She has been my biggest influence in my life and it's just inspiring to me the lack of ego and the lack of self-benefit that she demonstrated when she was taking care of me."

His path in college started with a psychology major which, at the time, Moy thought would be the one that could get him to accomplish his goals.

"I was not to be a computer science major at first; I wanted to go into law. I was very interested in law school, so I made a little bit of research and I found out that psychologists and philosophers are usually the ones who score highest on the SAT, so I decided to start as a psychology major," Moy said. "After a semester, I was tired of it. Psychology was not my thing. I have always been attracted to engineering and, at the end of the semester, I changed my major and I fell in love with the craft of computer science."

Last summer, Moy had the opportunity to intern for Microsoft. It changed the course of his



Hao Tien Moy Torres

future and it became one of his biggest accomplishments.

"I guess my proudest accomplishment is my return offer with Microsoft. I plan to return with them after graduating," he

said. "It has always been my goal. I came to the U.S. with the plan of taking care of my mom and supporting my family and this opportunity is going to give me a chance to do that."

After looking back at his path in college, he regrets not starting off with a computer science major and not taking some of his classes more seriously.

He also mentioned that, after graduating, he would like to improve as a person and learn to be more flexible when it comes to changing his mind about things.

"A lot of engineers have a big ego," Moy said. "We feel like we can explain everything, or we know everything, and I think that is something I really need to improve on."

In the next 10 years, Moy plans to give it his all at Microsoft and, after gaining some years of experience, opening a business on his own related to computer science.

Moy said he is relieved to graduate, even though he knows that he is going to miss it in two years when reminiscing about being with friends and his time at UTEP.

For all those who are still in college and to those who are about to start, Moy recommends starting early.

"Whatever it is, just start early. Start looking for opportunities even if you think that you don't deserve them," Moy said. "Do I think that I deserve to be in Microsoft? Not entirely. When I was over there, I met a lot of brilliant people, but at the end of the day, they made me understand that I was there for a reason and the same thing goes to everyone who is seeking a job. You are seeking a job for a reason and you deserve it, so just start early and give it as much as you can."

Maria Salette Ontiveros may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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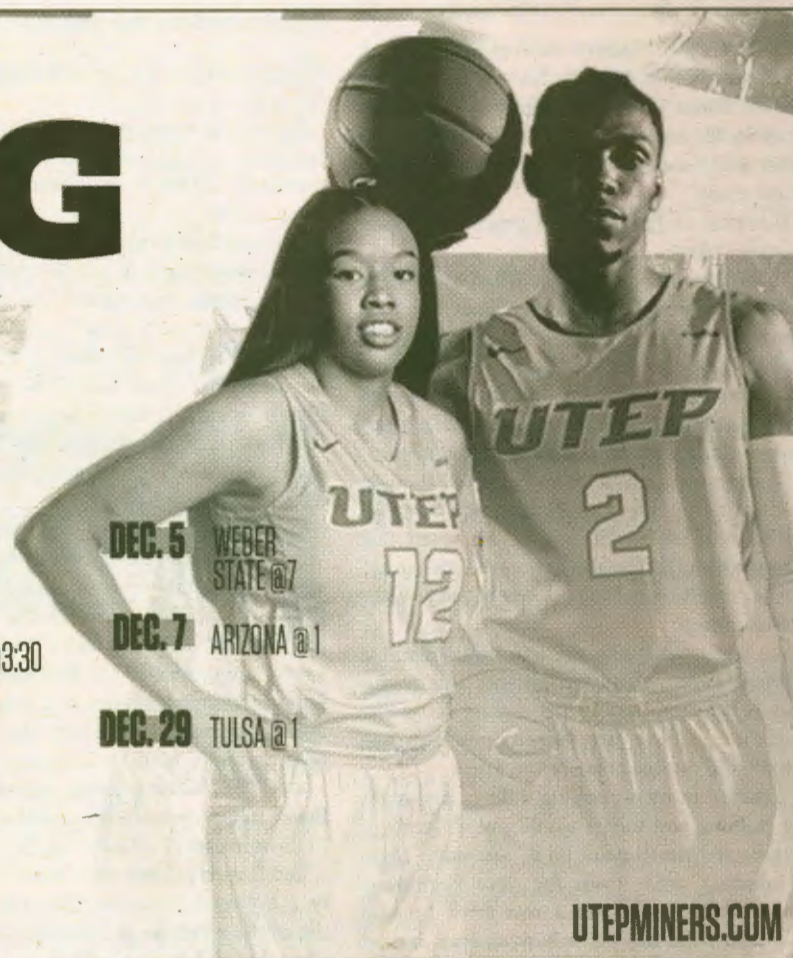
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Woman keeps a promise to herself, graduates after 52 years

Alexia X. Nava Carmona

The Prospector

When she was 19 years old, Carmen Navar entered art school wishing to become an artist, but it ultimately was a dream she did not achieve until 52 years later.

Navar describes her younger self as a spoiled girl who skipped class despite her desire to be an artist. She said back then she had a narrow definition of art.

"I had never developed the discipline of drawing, but I was raised in a very, very creative home, not appreciating that as art. It was like, we cook, we sew, we make all these cakes, we do all this creativity, but it's not art," Navar said. "I just thought that art was drawing and painting. That's it. Since I was not skilled in drawing, I didn't think I was an artist."

Growing up in the El Paso's Lower Valley, Navar was the eldest of eight children. Her father's family came to El Paso running away from Pancho Villa, where they united with her mother's family. Both were dairy families.

"I like to say (I grew up) amongst the rattlesnakes and the cows," Navar said.

Her mother never taught art to her children, but she gave them crayons and coloring books.

"We were given tons of coloring books. Thank God my mother kept us busy with coloring books," Navar said. "I'm extremely grateful to Crayola. It's interesting that I'm a mixed media artist and I use crayons in my work. I use wax in my work."

However, at 19, she didn't believe she could manage college.

"I was immature," she said. "I had no idea the great opportunity I had in my hands. Life took over."

Navar said she married at 19 years old to a man who taught her everything that she needed to change herself. The marriage lasted 22 years and they had three children before the divorce.

"It was very hard to let go because I thought that's what my role was," Navar said. "My role, really, is to be myself, and I discovered that through the arts. The arts have saved my sanity."

After the divorce, Navar slowly began to value herself more.

She began attending the Southwest Institute of Merchandising and Design and later graduated as valedictorian for her sewing skills. She used those skills to earn some money. However, she still did not see herself as an artist.

"I started using my sewing skills ... and making clothing and then I would put all kinds of buttons and throw paint on it," she said. "I was an abstract artist from the very beginning, not thinking that I was a real artist because I thought I did not know how to draw, but all



Alexia X. Nava Carmona / The Prospector

Graduating senior Carmen Navar is about to acquire her bachelor's degree of fine arts after 52 years, a dream she promised herself to accomplish since the age of 19.

along I could — I did — I just needed to awaken the skill."

Eventually, stress and food allergies sickened her. Navar turned to alternative medicine, which eventually led her to meet other artists who believed in her.

"I crossed over into alternative medicine and started searching and, lo and behold, I took one of my projects to a curator and she said, 'Carmen, go do more.' I said, 'You think this is art?' She said, 'Go do more.' That's how I teach today. Go do more," Navar said. "The path is beginning to open. The path is beginning to clear up. I did not know anything about the journey. I didn't know anything about anything other than it's what I wanted to do, but I did not think I could do it."

It was then, with Hal Marcus telling her that she might become an artist, that Navar decided to go back to school formally, after being in and out over the years. She had a total of 113 credits and only needed 32 to graduate. She entered multidisciplinary studies as a junior and took every drawing and art history class she could in order to understand the 21st century artist.

At UTEP, Navar received support from Terri Bauer, departmental advisor and senior lecturer in the university's art department.

"Art is used to heal; art is used to create beauty; art is used to restore. The arts are the healing of the emotion, of humanity, because that's what they did for me," Navar said. "Then Terri

Bauer, who was extremely instrumental in my training, kept asking me, 'Carmen, what are you interested in?' I had no clue, but she listened to me. I would talk and talk and talk ... She helped me through my father's death and my mother's death and she would listen to me and she would say, 'Carmen just draw from that place, just draw from that place.'"

Not only did Navar have to deal with her grief, but she also had to deal with skin cancer, specifically melanoma, basal cell and squamous cell cancer, for 10 years.

"It's been 10 years battling them one after the other after the other," she said. "But now, we're clear."

Navar had surgery for her squamous cell cancer last year and is now in remission.

However, her parents' deaths and cancer weren't the ones that stopped her from coming to school altogether.

Last semester, during a vacation in California for a car show, Navar tripped on the sidewalk and broke her arm. Because of this, she had to postpone her education for another semester.

When Navar returned to school, she was able to take a special topics class with Thomas Birkner that dealt with abstract art, along with a graphic design class that helped her with her computer skills.

"How could I have known that that there was going to be an abstract special topics class this semester? If I hadn't broken the arm, I wouldn't

be doing the abstract art ... or (have been) able to practice with such great painters."

Not only did she have the chance to take Birkner's class, but she also found out she had vertigo and needed to keep herself more hydrated because that condition had to do with a lack of potassium.

In 2014, Navar graduated with a bachelor of arts, but she still needed three credits to get the bachelor of fine arts and she wanted to fulfill her own promise of completing what she didn't when she was 19.

"That's why it's important, psychically and emotionally, that I did something to complete for me," Navar said. "It's like ... going into another chapter in my life."

Now, at a youthful 71 years old, after 23 years of marriage to Richard, she is finally getting her degree and is plans to build her portfolio, part of which was showcased in the LatinArte exposition earlier this year.

"(This) story is to inspire people, especially older women, who don't believe in themselves and have a dream," Navar said. "Dreams have to be watered because dreams are like seeds. If the seed is not watered, it's not going to grow. They have to put themselves in an environment where they can grow. I put myself in an environment where I was nurtured and supported."

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

Congratulations

class of

2019

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Doctoral/Graduate

College of Business Administration

Doctor of Philosophy

Jing Cheng

College of Engineering

Doctor of Philosophy

Xia Huang

College of Science

Doctor of Philosophy

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Dominic Louis DeSantis

Karla Parra

Paloma A. Valenzuela

Mariana Vargas Medrano

College of Liberal Arts

Doctor of Philosophy

Jennifer Margaret Blush

Rodolfo Jesus Flores Garcia

Karly Meilyn Schleicher

Engineering

Science/Interdisciplinary

Doctor of Philosophy

Ana C. Cram

Master's

College of Engineering

Master of Science

Carlos Felipe Acosta Carrasco

Michael Armendariz

Victor Ladd Avalos

Alejandro Balderrama

Roberto Becerra

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Brian Lee Lowe

Mariana Mercado Prieto

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Bryan Keith Stephens

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Justin Hunter Vanhoose

Josa L. Vazquez

Adrian Edward Veliz

Joey Vickers

Aldo Ivan Vidana

James Lee Watson

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Varinia Viridiana Felix Parra

Master of Science in Information Technology

Brian Daniel McMahon

College of Liberal Arts

Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies

Elsa Arias

Master of Arts

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Robert Richard DeBlois

Colin DeClark

Viridiana Edwards

Nicholas Daniel Evans

Rodolfo Gonzalez Garza

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College of Liberal Arts

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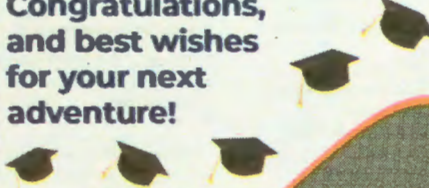
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Good luck on your future endeavors!

★  ★

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Congratulations, and best wishes for your next adventure!



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Поздравляю बधाई हो
ان يذات Félicitations
Congratulazioni Gratulacje

Congratulations

Hats off and picks up to our graduates for all that you have accomplished at and contributed to UTEP. We wish you the best as you continue your journey as global citizens.

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Congratulations on graduating, Miners!

We encourage you to continue mining for knowledge, think in terms of your community in your future successes, and DO NOT be afraid to RE-CREATE what the world needs.

We look forward to hearing about your accomplishments!



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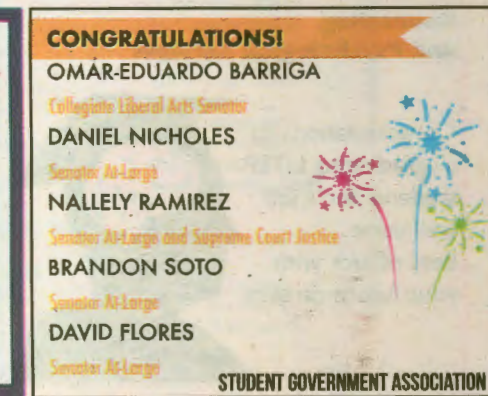
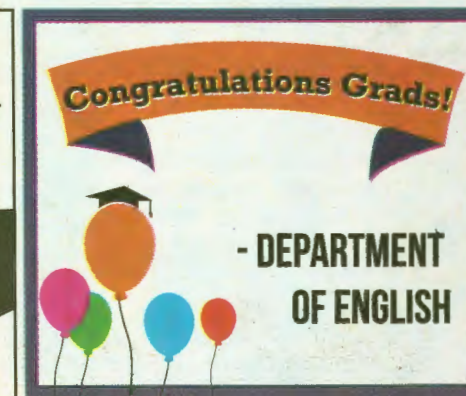
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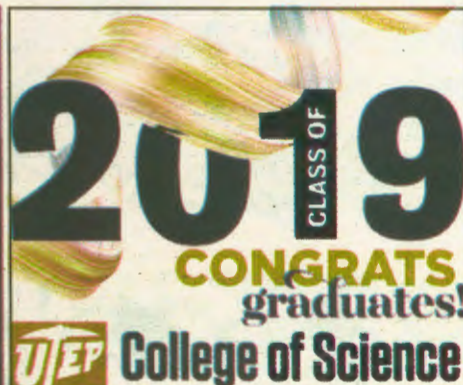
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Congratulations and
good luck to all of
our graduates!

The Graduate School

KEEP PROSPECTING
MINERS!

Department of Geological Sciences

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Thank you to my family & friends for the constant support & encouragement in this crazy chapter! A special thanks to my mom & -Karla J.

Thank you to my family for everything you have done for me to get here. I love you -Mikey M.

Thank you Mom, you are my inspiration! -Love, Karina

Thank you Mommy. I could not have done this without you. Thank you for everything. May God bless you always. xoxo Christy

Thank you to God, my family & friends for their support to let me give up. I love you all so much. -Ivanna R. Euterio

Thanks to UTEP faculty and my family. Love Erica G.

Thank you to all my family for always being there for me. Thank you to God for getting me through it all. -Mikel Nino

Thank you to my family and friends for supporting me through this chapter of my life! -Jasmine Ruiz

Legendary Orange County Andra! Congrats! It's been fun! -Cynthia

Thank you Mom for helping me reach for the stars and for never allowing me to give up! -Itzel M.

Thank you! -Stephanie
Thanks -Alan Zamarrin
We did it! -Adrian

Thank you to my family and friends for encouraging me and never letting me quit! I love you guys, this is for you mom & dad! -DeAndra Hernandez

Thank you to my family and friends for all of your support! Love, Ramona

Thank you to my whole family for supporting me while I finish my education. I love you all! This is for you mom & dad! -Cynthia

Thank you to my family and best friends for all the support! Especially mom! -Brooklyn

Thanks to all my family that supported me for a lot longer than I hoped they would have to!!!

Thank you to my family for supporting me through all of school. Love you guys! -Sam

Thank you to my family and my prof. for your continued support! -Kara

Thanks for always believing & supporting me! -Nancy

Thank you Mom and family for all your support! -Andrey

I can't believe it's here. Thanks for all the support dad -Janae

Happy to be the first graduate of the family! Thank you for all the support! -Juan D

Thank you family and friends for all the support! -Arturo C.

Thank you to my family, friends & professors that helped me throughout these 4 years! -Gabriela Gonzalez

To my family that never doubted me through the toughest times. All I can say is thank you. -Eduardo Sierra

Thank you Mom and Dad! We did it!! 60 MINERS! -Alejandro C.

Thank you for my family and friends for supporting me through thick and thin. I love you so much and I'm so grateful. -Andrea D.

Thank you family, friends and awesome teachers that got me to the point of graduating! -Gabriela Gonzalez

Congrat Class of

Thank you UTEP for all the memories & stress! -maria

Thank you to my grandparents, my mother and father and Alex who believed in me and made this possible! I love you. Ashley Whitley

F TEXAS AT EL PASO

Thanks for all my friends and family's support! I appreciate you all so much!
-Aracely Ford

Thanks To my family for all the support given
-Rolando Salgado

Thank you God for letting me finish. Thank you to my kids Ariana, Sarah, Jose your my reason. ~~Thank you to my family~~

To my husband & family thank you for all your support. This degree is a milestone I had not ~~love~~ ~~dreamed~~ ~~of~~ ~~before~~

To my family and GHS family thank you for making this possible! This degree is one of many milestones.
-Marina

To my friends and family for sticking with me
-Manuel C. Gracias to UTEP for allowing me to read one of my dreams.

To my family I finally did it. Thanks to my family's support and love.

Thank you to everyone that was on my side & love you all! ~~Thanks to my family and friends~~

Thank you to my mom and the KTC family for all the love and support. I love you
-Jasmin Nunez

Thank you Mom & Dad! I did it!
-Samantha Romero

Thank you to my family for believing in me! ~~Love~~
-Selena Hernandez

To my parents thank you for supporting me. To my girlfriend, Irma, thank you for not giving up on me!

relations 2019!

Gracias a mi familia por todo -Mate

To my family, thank you for being proud of me! Thank UTEP!

Thanks to God for the strength, my parents for their support and my friends for the memories.

TO MY FRIENDS & FAMILY, THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENDLESS SUPPORT & LOVE you all
-Raelyn

Thank you to my Parents family and friends for helping make my College experience a Success!

We Made it!! UTEP Nixers Thank you for the year!

Thank you UTEP for all I want thank my family without them it wouldn't be possible
-Robert C

Many thanks towards my lovely family & friends
-Claudia Nichole

Thanks to my parents who always pushed me, Tami who helped me with stress, Pablo helping me pass math. Love you all. I'm graduating!

Gracias a Dios y a mi familia. Los Amo! Thanks Mom & Dad for your support! ~~Love~~

Thank you FOR EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED ME!!!
-Daniel Garcia

Thanks to my family! I did it! -marina. Thank you to all my family my wife

Thank you for everything Mum and Dad. I love you so much. Love Lily Dxx

Thank you mom & dad for your unconditional love & support! ~~Love~~
-Jacelyne Gonzalez

This degree is for my parents & Thank you for everything.
-Victoria Rosas

I Spent too much money here - Joey Finally Did it! - Greg D. I did it! -Woohee -Bob

Thanks Mom, Dad, Cynthia, 73 Amu/27 Schms And those I struggled with #TeamOffPower 25000 TC the school

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Luis Carlos Delfin Manriquez
Christopher Israel Favila
John E. Gamboa
Diana Gandara
Daniel Elias Garcia
Mikael Andrew Garcia
Patrick James Garfield
Guillermo Gaxiola
Austin Alexander Gonzalez
Luis Gustavo Gonzalez Vazquez
Jonathan Arturo Guerrero
Sergio Alfredo Gutierrez
Andres Eduardo Gutierrez Hernandez
Alexis M. Harrington
Paola Abril Jimenez
Nathaniel Ian Jurado
Patricia M. Laney
Robert Lars Larson
Jayred Vinco Loyda
Andres Maldonado Murillo
Elizabeth Martinez
Jesus Javier Mata

Luis F. Meza
Heriberto Molina
Alan David Munoz
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Andres Alejandro Munoz Saloiz
Andres Nevarez
Carlo Oros
Jose Emmanuel Orozco Casillas
Michael Yuanhui Pang
Victoria I. Reyes
Manuel Alan Rocha Jr.
Alejandro Ruiz
Eduardo Andres Sierra
Raelynn Soto
Ian Matthew Turner
Steven Valenzuela
Victor Alejandro Valero
Hector Alejandro Vazquez Jr.
Ashley Anne Whitley
Ryan Joseph Ybarra
Alan Caleb Zamarripa

Bachelor of Science
in Metallurgical &
Materials Engineering

Clarissa Aguirre
Nina Alanis
Timothy J. Bumgardner
Paulina Chinolla
Seo Hyeok Choi
Saul Armando Cuervo
Dominic George Dieguez
Ariel Alejandro Gamon
Hae Won Jeong
Ye Jin Ji
June Ho Jung
Hyun Jin Kim
Soo Min Kim
Youngmin Kim
Gwon Koh
SeonAh Lee
Yujin Lee
Jorge Isaac Merino Gomez
Iris A. Montes
Othman Palma Duque
Jeong Su Shin
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Johana Valencia
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College of Liberal Arts

Bachelor of Arts

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Naomi Renee Aguirre
Jhair P. Ajtun
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Mariana Alarcon
Guadalupe Ivonne Alcaraz
Adriana Guadalupe Aleman
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Leah Rae Alonzo
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Aide Giovanna Argueta
Fahad Armani Shahin
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Jason Carrillo
Josue Antonio Carrillo
Jared L. Carver
Paul Jacob Castellanos
Alexis Castro
Casondra C. Castro
Itzel C. Castro
Natalie Castro
Nicole Cebak
Fatima Alejandra Ceniceros
Lizette Cereceres
Mario A. Cervantes
Alexi Jonathon Chairez
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Adriana Chavez De La Rosa Jr.
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Martha Cleofas Chavira
Ayde Cisneros
Joanna Marie Cisneros
Jesus Cobos
Constance M. Collins
Pedro Gabriel Colon
Kyra D. Compton
Gabriela Corral
Ricardo Covarrubias
Andrea V. Cruz Hernandez
Michael I. Cueva

Vanessa Yvette Cuevas
Daniela De Anda
Brianna Rae De La Cruz
Jacqueline De La Mora
Juan Carlos Delgado
Kristina Dalia Maria Desantiago
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Valerie Duran
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Brianna Leigh Elmgren
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Diana Esparza
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Samantha Lechuga
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Jose Antonio Ramirez Jr.
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Selena Ramos
Vanessa Ramos
Amanda Regalado
Natividad Reveles
Jennifer Dee Riley
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Samantha Rae Rivera
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Eduardo Rodriguez
Juan Salvador Rodriguez
Karla M. Rodriguez
Lesley Vanessa Rodriguez

Congratulations, graduating
Class of 2019!

May you keep reaching your
goals as you embark on the next
journey in your life.



from the
Student Engagement
and Leadership Center

UTEP Athletics would like to congratulate our
December 2019 graduating student-athletes!

Thank you for choosing to be a Miner and best
wishes in all your future endeavors.



The Division of Student Affairs
congratulates each of you on
your achievement.

Go Miners!



Congratulations to
all the graduates
and much success
in the future.

Office of the Dean of Students



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Enrique Romero
Pedro David Romero
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Sofia Vega
Emanuel Justin Venegas
Kevin Venegas
Pablo Villa Jr.
Stephanie Villanueva
Mariana Isobe Villeda
Lisa Ann Walker
Quincy Xavier Walter

Timothy Paul Wilkerson
Treavon Wilkins
Marké Cierro Wrisbarne
Jasmine Alexis Yereño
Priscilla Zamora
Abigail Zuniga

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Sarah Isela Aguilar
Johnathan D. Cantrell
Tuscani Lauren Carzoli
Ricardo Cisneros
Anasazi Escarrega
Teresita de Jesus Esqueda-Chairez
Jasmine Delilah Flores
Robert Jonathan Florido
Annette Garcia
Nicole Isabella Jacqueline Harrison
Elliott Luna
Danielle A. Martinez
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Deena Lee Mustin
Juan Rene Ontiveros
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Miguel Quintana
Walter Ulises Quintana
Mariana Ramirez
Jessica Marie Rodriguez
Carlos Antonio Sanchez
Michael G. Wasicki

Bachelor of
Multidisciplinary Studies

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Kassandra Baker
Raymond Banuelos
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Nicole Alene Beaman
Desmond Jermaine Brown
Raquel Brown
Humberto Jaime Carbajal Jr.
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Miriam Chavez
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Estefania Alene Corral
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Flor Donacio
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Aleasha Denise Edwards
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Isabel M. Escoto
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Roxanna Ferando
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Dallas Bernett Kyle
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Elizabeth Lopez
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Mariann Ortiz
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Ricardo Vojarano
Maria D. Valazquez
Angela Villalobos
Tisha Villalva
Charles Kline Walker
Sharhonda Deandrey Ware
Victoria L. White
Joquima Wilkins
Julia Wright

Bachelor of Music

Caesar Eduardo Concha
Javier Alberto Hernandez

Cristina Melendez Rascon
Matthew Isaac Pena
Alejandro Perez
Mario H. Portillo Jr.
David Rodriguez-Aguilera
Jesus Salgado Saenz Arreola
Toni Marie Torres
Rene Varela Torres

Bachelor of Science

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Kevin B. Bautista
Ariela Patricia Gomez
Babie Hope Guerro
Alexander Ho
Yessenia Huerta
Michelle E. Jurado
Lilliana Joy Khoury
Danielle Lee
Tomas Martinez
Shannon L. Mcmillan
Alen Ortiz
Alejandra Perez
Aaron Pina
Daniela Sarai Ramos
Alec Dillon Reed
Stephanie Rodriguez
Martha Leticia Romero
Ashley Britania Soto
Jessica Nicol Vasquez
Brittney M. Wilkerson

College of Science

Bachelor of Arts

Jessica Nicole Garcia
Andrews Segura Correa

Bachelor of Science

Kathryn Ashley Abrahamson
Ezequiel Acevedo
Janeth Leticia Acevedo
Michael Acosta
Christy Janice Adame
Angela N. Aguilar
Ingrid Janeth Aguilar
Kassandra D. Aguilar
Abdullah Muwafaq Al Jaafari
Juan Roberto Aldana
Chelsie D. Allen
Michaela Jo Allen
Idhali Alonzo
Ricardo Alvarez
Olek Danie Amador
Vastian Danie Amador
Paulina Alejandra Ambert
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David Andrew Armendariz
Paulina Arroniz
Jazmyne Victor Arroyo
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Mariah Nichole Arroyos

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Miroslava Avila
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Destiny Danielle Bauman
Natalia Estefonia Becerra
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Nina Marie Beltran
Madison Christina Berger
Allannah Michele Blair
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Michael Abraham Brissette
Naomi Cadena-Mitchell
Rachel Candelaria
Alanis C. Carreon
Alexis Christine Carreon
Diana Patricia Carrillo
Ginelle J. Cayme
Yahaira Jacqueline Cervantes
Carlos Gabriel Chavez
Evelyn Sofia Chavez
Andrea Marian Clement
Kylie Renee Cole
Denisse Corona
Andres Ivin Correa
Ulises Miguel Cosio
Adrian Wayne Cox
Mario Eduardo Davila
Kareth Yolanda Delgado
Eileen Claudio Diaz
Nikki T. Donegan
Andrea Enriquez
Rocio Estrada
Ivette M. Falcon
Katlyn Ashley Feick
Adolfo Flores
Chason Marcus Fralick
Tylor Alexa Fraser
Gerardo Andres Galvan
Aimee Viviana Garcia
Montserrat C. Garcia Arreguin
Jennifer Garcia Rodriguez
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Gabriela Gomez
Veronica Gomez
Vivian E. Gomez
Abygale Sheeba Gonzalez
Jacelyne Andrea Gonzalez Orta
Abigail Lynne Guerra
Astrid Kenya Hernandez
Heidi V. Hernandez
Leslie Hernandez
Valerie Hernandez
Alice Nicole Herrera
Marcelo Carolina Herrera Alvarez
Genesis Nicol Hinojos
Gabriela Hurtado
Stephanie Ibaven
Lanaiah Miliana Ieremia
Mais M. Ismael
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Karina Jasso
Desiree Marie Jimenez
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Viviana Lopez
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College of Education

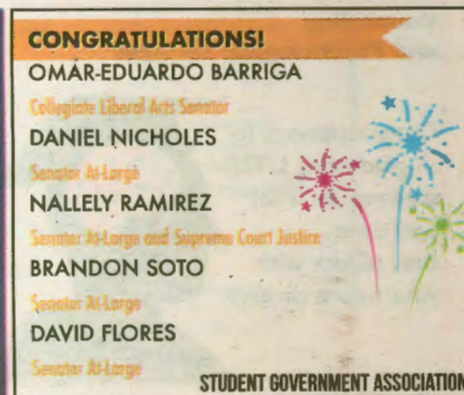
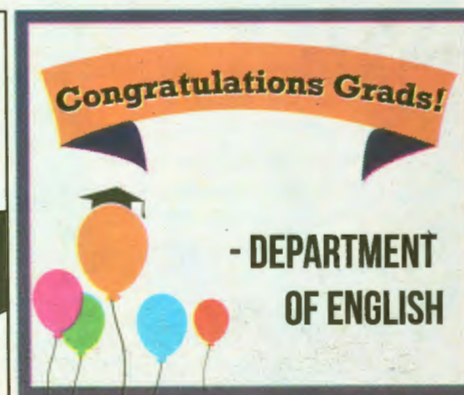
Bachelor of Arts

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Rosario Salis
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Bachelor of
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Valeria M. Vizcarra

**College of
Business Administration**

Bachelor of Arts

Daniel W. Nicholas Jr.

**Bachelor of
Business Administration**

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Gabriel Aguilar Anaya
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Octavio Espinoza
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Edgard Estrada
Karen Michelle Favela Escobar
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Iyari Sinahi Fierro
David Arturo Flores Sorvin
Mariana Frias
Valeria Frias
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Erik Sebastian Gallardo
Oscar Luis Gama
Aaron Garcia
Alan Roberto Garcia
Edgar Garcia
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Manuel Christopher Garcia
Hector Noel Garcia Davila
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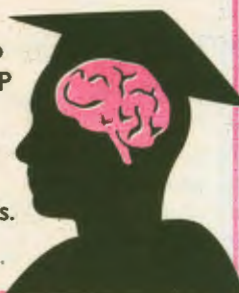
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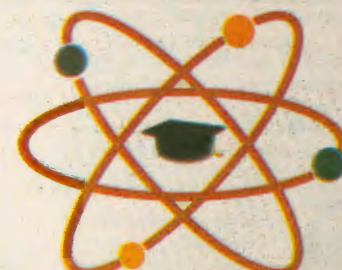
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The border community mends its wounds

El Paso heals from mass shooting through artistic expression

Anahy Diaz

The Prospector

More than three months since the deadliest attack against Latinos took place at the City of El Paso on Aug. 3, the community continues to find solace, strength and recovery through creativity and expression.

Time and time again, El Pasoans have selflessly shown support for the victims and their families in countless ways, proving to the rest of the world that "El Paso Strong" is not just a hashtag, but rather a sense of love toward the city and its people.

That fateful day when the news broke and the world stood still, it was only a matter of hours until hundreds of people began to line up to donate blood while others gathered around the Cielo Vista Walmart bringing along flowers, candles, stuffed animals, signs and prayers. By the end of the night, the hashtag #ElPasoStrong had been spread all around the world.

R&B singer Khalid began to heal with the community through a benefit concert. All proceeds went to the victims and their families.

"I have been rocked to the core by the horrific act of gun violence that came to El Paso and by the continued acts of senseless violence that our country faces daily," Khalid tweeted back in August. "I want to give back to my community of El Paso, the city of the 915, who has given



Claudia Hernandez / The Prospector

El Pasoans gathered together and created a memorial outside of the Cielo Vista Walmart, which included wooden crosses for the 22 victims.

so much to me. Please come out and let's heal together through music while raising money to help those who need it."

The sold-out concert, which included special guests like Beto O'Rourke, Matthew McConaughey and SZA, raised half a million dollars.

Some businesses offered safe spaces for people to come together and enjoy a day away from the tragedy, like Wet N' Wild, which offered a free wellness day at its water park for families and their loved ones looking to "decompress."

Even Turkish Mediterranean restaurants hosted an El Paso Strong Turkish Food & Crafts Festival, which featured samples of Mediterranean cuisine, with all profits supporting the shooting victims.

Others showed support through performing arts. An evening of El Paso Strong Short Play Readings was presented by the Dramatists

Guild and the UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance. The event consisted of plays aimed to interpret the day of the shooting in El Paso.

"These words. These pages. This is so powerful," wrote Georgina Escobar on Facebook, one of the featured playwrights of the event. "I don't know what else to say. 'Thank you' falls short... but I think it's all in this name, this 'tagline' this identity that is running through our veins right now: El Paso Strong. So, so, so, so strong."

More recently, Walmart unveiled a memorial to honor the victims and their families Nov. 23. Walmart officials and El Paso Mayor Dee Margo presented a 30-foot tall structure to the community dubbed the "Great Candela," made up of 22 individually perforated aluminum arcs that emit light into the sky, each arc representing a victim of the attack.

"Our community, our region, has experienced much pain this year," Margo said. "But we've

also seen how remarkably resilient we are. The El Paso-Juárez region is special and unique. Those who perished and their families, will not be forgotten. With this candela memorial, we will always honor your memory."

Among the audience at the unveiling of the memorial were Irma Gallegos and her elderly mother, who were inside the store the day of the attack. Gallegos and her mother had to climb the hill on the side of the store in order to search for shelter, an experience Gallegos described as traumatic. Since then, she has received counseling.

"It brought us closure," said Irma Gallegos about the memorial. "I actually feel peace today because we've been feeling a lot of anxiety and emotions, but being here today, I think it helped. It's a beautiful memorial. I know for us it brought peace to our hearts."

The structure is located just feet away from the Cielo Vista Walmart, where a sign with the hashtag "#ElPasoStrong," hangs at the top of the store's building, visible to everyone passing by.

"I think that's the message the whole world needed to see," Gallegos said. "The support, I think, has helped the healing process, everyone coming together. It's just been amazing, and I think it's just what we all needed. To help with the pain and continue to move on."

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This year's music releases by female and LGBTQ artists

Margaret Cataldi

The Prospector

In 2019, we saw yet another year of musical talent either blossoming for the first time or blooming for the tenth spring. From established artists like Lana Del Rey to newcomers like Lil Nas X, the year gave birth to iconic sounds from brilliant albums and hard-hitting singles. Here are five noteworthy female and LGBTQ artists that commanded attention with their releases this year.

1. FKA Twigs

FKA Twigs recently reached the top spot on Billboard's Dance/Electronic Albums chart with her new album "Magdalene," released in early November. The music video for "Cellophane" of her new album has been nominated for Best Music Video at the 2020 Grammy Awards.

2. Grimes

The electro-pop singer arguably stumbled into mainstream view after her relationship with Tesla CEO Elon Musk debuted at the Met Gala in May 2018. After releasing three singles earlier this year with relatively good reception, including "We Appreciate Power," "Violence" and "So Heavy I Fell Through The Earth," her new album titled "Miss Anthropocene" is slated to release in late February of next year.

3. Lil Nas X

The LGBTQ singer and rapper undoubtedly blew up this year with his hit song "Old Town Road" featuring Billy Ray Cyrus. The song eventually made history by becoming the longest running number one song in Billboard's Hot 100 chart with a whopping 17-week streak, breaking the previous 16-week record set by "One Sweet Day" by Mariah Carey and Boyz II Men and



Photo courtesy of Flickr.

Lizzo is an American singer, rapper and songwriter.

"Despacito" by Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee, including Justin Bieber. Amidst the height of his song's popularity, the singer surprised millions by coming out as gay on Twitter.

Lil Nas X has recently been nominated for five Grammy awards this year.

4. Lizzo

The pop singer and rapper was another artist that dominated the charts this year. Her song

"Truth Hurts" sat at number one in the Billboard Hot 100 for seven weeks, tying the record set in 2014 by Iggy Azalea and Charli XCX's summer-time hit "Fancy" for the longest running female rap song at number one.

Lizzo has also been nominated for seven Grammy awards this year.

5. Lana Del Rey

Released late August, the sadcore superstar's sixth studio album "Norman Fucking Rockwell" was described as "Lana at her deepest" by Pitchfork, "iconic before it was even released" by Rolling Stone and as if Del Rey "was definitely reading our minds," according to Consequence of Sound. The album featured 14 tracks of silky vocals, vintage melodies and poetic lyrics, packaged as a treasure trove for the hopeless romantic.

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Reporting from the crowd

The Prospector covers talent visiting El Paso

The Prospector file photos

1) Colombian reggaeton singer J Balvin giving a colorful and dynamic performance during the El Paso stop of his "Arcoiris" North American tour Oct. 11 at UTEP's Don Haskins Center.

2) Ivan Moody, lead vocalist of Five Finger Death Punch, performs during the El Paso showcase Nov. 7 at UTEP's Don Haskins Center.

3) Natalia Lafourcade sings during her "Musas: Un Homenaje al Folclore Latinoamericano en Manos de los Macorinos Vol. 2" tour Oct. 3 at the Downtown El Paso Plaza Theatre.

4) Colombian singer and songwriter Maluma performs before a roaring audience in neon clothes during the El Paso stop of his world wide tour Sept. 22 at UTEP's Don Haskins Center.



1

2



3



4



The state of Miner Football

Year two of the Dana Dimel era

Michael Cuvillo

The Prospector

Year two of the Dana Dimel era ended Saturday much as it began with another loss and a second consecutive one-win season falling to the Rice Owls 30-16. The Miners started the year with a close win against lower-division Houston Baptist then suffered through 11 straight losses.

It was an injury-plagued season for the Miners as the rotating quarterbacks took turns getting knocked out of the game until senior Brandon Jones sustained a significant concussion at the midpoint of the season. Senior Kai Locksley ended up leading the team in passing and receiving for the year. Locksley showed improvement as the year went on, but the offense struggled to run the ball when needed.

Slight improvement running the ball from the previous year, averaging 15 more yards a game, and a better average was a positive. There was also an improvement of a few yards a game passing. Interceptions were cut over half from the previous year, 19 to eight. Fumbles went down from nine to six and overall, the team committed far fewer turnovers in Dimel's second year. Fewer sacks were given up by the line but the number was still an outrageous 35 compared to 42 in 2018.

Both starting quarterbacks will be gone, and it seems like it will be a battle between transfer Gavin Hardison and one of last year's biggest recruits TJ Goodwin for next year.

The running game will miss the athletic Locksley and the bruising senior Treyvon Hughes but has highly regarded Deion Hankins in the wings as well as another year from senior Quadraz Wadley after sitting out due to injury.

The line will lose its most consistent member in senior Derron Gatewood but will return all other key players.

At receiver the team will return its most intriguing and talented unit on the team. Freshman Jacob Cowing led the team in yards with 550 while junior Justin Garret led the team in receptions with 40. Sophomore Treyshon Wolf was second on the team with 34 receptions after having 10 as a freshman.

Tight end, while not a big part of the offense is already a huge question mark for next season; hopefully junior Trent Thompson can provide an answer.

Defensively, the team was worse this season, giving up three more points a game than the



Junior wide receiver Justin Garret makes a leaping catch versus Rice University in 30-16 loss Saturday, Nov. 30.

Daniel Rey Perez / The Prospector

previous year while getting almost half of the sacks it did the last year with 12. The defense also gave up 30 more yards a game and had one less turnover caused with 10.

No pressure on quarterback usually equates to fewer mistakes by opponents, which creates more opportunities to lose games. With only one victory the Miners were the rare team that did not turn the ball over a lot and while still losing game after game.

On the defensive line the Miners will lose starters Chris Richardson and Denzel Chukwukelu, the latter tying for the team lead in sacks. Freshman and co-sack leader Praise Amaewhule will return as the leader of the defensive line along with sophomore Dedrick Simpson. Overall the line did not live up to expectations on the season, so it will be interesting to see who steps up next season.

At linebacker, the Miners will lose only one starter and that will be senior Dylan Parsee, who was third among linebackers in tackles. This is a position that could use a major speed upgrade for the team as well as a playmaker. The team sorely missed A.J. Hotckins and never came close to having anyone fill that type of role this year.

In the secondary the team will lose the top three tacklers on the team in seniors Justin Rogers, Michael Lewis and Adrian Hynson. The two top returning players will be juniors Duron Lowe and Josh Caldwell, who started most of

the season along with sophomore Justin Prince returning from injury. On this side of the ball this is the biggest hole by far to be filled and by the end of next season the cupboard could be quite bare.

Both kickers return for the next season, so special teams should remain consistent.

It is now the pivotal offseason for the Miners and Dimel is working hard at bringing in recruits. This recruiting class will be his most critical to date because there must be improvement in year three.

Taking over a winless team devoid of much talent, fans knew that it would not be an instant fix no matter who was the coach.

Fans calling for a change after two seasons are not being realistic in their expectations and financially it is not going to happen regardless. UTEP is not going to buy out a coach at over 2 million dollars with three years remaining on his contract. If there is no noticeable improvement in the product on the field after next season, then there will be pressure make a change for the Miners.

If we are to assign a grade to the season, we need to go back into the elementary school grading system and assign a "NI" - needs improvement. Dimel is confident in his process, so all we can do is be patient and see what he changes or improves in the offseason.

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UTEP succumbs to Rice 30-16

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

The UTEP season finale looked promising leading 16-14 at the half. In the end, the Miners fell to Rice (3-9, 3-5) 30-16 on a windy afternoon finishing the year 1-11 and winless in Conference-USA.

Rice took the lead after a rough punt by the Miners that put the Owls in UTEP territory. Rice quarterback Tom Stewart connected with receiver Austin Trammell on a three-yard touchdown reception to take the lead.

UTEP bounced right back with solid defense forcing Rice within their three-yard line as Miner redshirt freshman defensive end Praise Amaewhule recovered a fumble by Stewart in the end zone for a touchdown. The PAT was no good by redshirt senior kicker Brady Viles.

Rice scored again in the first quarter off a 30-yard rushing touchdown by graduate transfer Aston Walter with two seconds remaining in the quarter as the Owls took a 14-6 lead. Walter finished with a game and career-high 149 rushing yards and averaged 9.3 yards per carry.

Rice finished the matchup with 256 rushing yards to the Miners 99.

The Miners scored 10 points in the second quarter. UTEP senior quarterback Kai Locksley linked up with redshirt junior wide receiver Justin Garret for a 12-yard touchdown reception. Locksley went down with a hand injury in the first half and did not return.

Sophomore kicker Gavin Baechele converted a 45-yard field goal to give the Miners the half-time lead 16-14.

The Owls held the Miners scoreless in the second half as UTEP sophomore quarterback Gavin Hardison struggled passing, going 1-5 for 9 yards but finished with 123 passing yards on 11-24 on attempts.

Rice sophomore quarterback JoVoni Johnson tacked on two rushing touchdowns Johnson finished the game with 62 rushing yards.

The Miners struggled to find any kind of momentum in the second half offensively, at one point in the third quarter, Rice had 156 yards of total offense as UTEP had -3 yards of offense.

"I thought in a lot of ways we improved, and I thought we were a better football team than last year by all means and I feel we got ourselves in situations where we could've won four or five ballgames this year," Dimel said. "The team played extremely hard and made some strides, and every coach in the conference would tell you how hard we played."

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Women's basketball sweeps Thanksgiving Classic

Michael CuvIELLO

The Prospector

The UTEP Miners finished off its second game of the Thanksgiving Classic with a down to the wire 71-69 win over the Georgia State Panthers. This victory was a strong follow up to the victory the previous day over the Western Michigan Broncos 76-46.

Winning a third straight game now brings the Miners to a record of 6-1, the best under Head Coach Kevin Baker to date. Starting three freshmen due to an injury to the Miners best rebounder senior Ariana Gill, Baker showed high confidence in his younger players. All three first-year players rewarded that confidence scoring in double digits.

First year swingman Arina Khlopkova led the team in scoring with 20 points to go along with five rebounds. Fellow freshman guard Katia Gallegos ended up leading the team in rebounds with eight to go along with her 11 points and four assists. Rounding out the trio of freshmen starters was guard Avery Crouse scoring 13 points along with two steals.

UTEP overcame a sloppy first quarter, which they trailed most of the way, only trailing by a single point. The Miners took control in the second quarter taking advantage of Panther turnovers and converting them into baskets. Khlopkova ended the first half with 12 points. The Panthers finished the first half with 10 turnovers and ended up with 20 for the game.

Leading by eight at the half, the Miners started getting beat on the boards in the third quarter.

The Panther's Taylor Hosendove began to take over the game dominating the boards with 19 rebounds, including seven offensive. Hosendove also scored 21 points and had 10 turnovers to complete a slightly dubious triple-double.

The score tightened with the Miners being held to only two points through the first four minutes of the third quarter. Going into the fourth quarter the Miners only led by a couple of points 57-55.

After four minutes of play in the fourth quarter, the Panthers retook the lead with both teams going back and forth. At the 1:46 mark, Hosendove notched two free throws to tie it once again at 68. Gallegos then sprinted downcourt to score



Michael CuvIELLO / The Prospector

Freshman guard Avery Crouse drives to the basket in 71-68 win versus the Georgia State Panthers Saturday, Nov. 30.

on a fastbreak to regain the lead for the Miners. Khlopkova then proceeded to make her most significant play of the night and draw a charging call on Hosendove while already having four fouls. This foul was Hosendove's fifth and final, which resulted in her ejection from the game. Adding one more point at the foul line, Khlopkova would close it out for the Miners 71-68.

Coach Baker played his whole available bench in the game, substituting and experimenting with different lineups all night.

"They gave us a heck of a game out there. I'm really proud the way that we gutted out the win," Baker said. "Our young kids really stepped up.

They did fantastic. I'm not surprised. They're all very talented. Tonight's win showed we have the grit to be champions. This group showed today they can go that extra to get that win."

Khlopkova led the team in scoring in both matchups of the Thanksgiving Classic after having 14 off the bench on Friday to go with the game versus Georgia State. Leading rebounder senior forward Ariana Gill had to sit out the game due to her recurring injury to her ankle and is considered day to day.

The Miners will take on Weber State at 7 p.m. Dec. 5 at the Don Haskins Center.

Michael CuvIELLO may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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RUBIN CENTER

Treyvon Hughes completes a well-rounded career at UTEP

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

The collegiate career of UTEP senior running back Treyvon Hughes involved a change in position, a season-ending injury and only 11 wins during his career, but the tough Carrollton, Texas native ended his last season and career as one of the most versatile and determined players to come through the UTEP program.

"It meant a lot to play here, and I'm thankful that the coaches gave me the opportunity because I played linebacker and running back here, so it meant a lot just to go out there and play," Hughes said.

Hughes capped off his senior season with exceptional statistics across the board rushing for 682 yards, 12 touchdowns and 56 yards rushing per game, which were all team highs. The 6-foot-1, 235-pound bruising running back's 12 touchdowns ranked him second in Conference-USA and tied for 18th in the nation.

"I think what helps me a lot is just my physicality. I'm bigger than everybody so I could easily just run them over, and plus, our lineman played a big part in opening up holes for me," Hughes said.

The senior back scored a touchdown in all but four games this season, scoring three against North Texas and recorded a career-high 144 rushing yards in the season-opening win versus Houston Baptist.



Daniel Rey Perez / The Prospector

Senior runningback Treyvon Hughes breaks tackle in backfield versus the Rice Owls in his last game as a Miner.

Coming out of Hebron High School, Hughes earned a three-star ranking by ESPN.com and was ranked 81st on the 2014 ESPN 300 Top Running Back List.

In his freshman season for UTEP, he began to scratch the surface of his undeniable potential playing in nine games as a true freshman rushing for 67 yards on the year.

The 2016 season involved a season-ending injury for Hughes. The injury was a severe setback but it provided him with a different mindset and a new position on the gridiron.

"Honestly, I hated going through that injury because it's hard going out there and not playing while everybody is. Mentally it was tough one to go through," Hughes said. "That was the year I wanted to switch to linebacker because I felt that would benefit me more and help my knee out."

That switch did prove to be beneficial as Hughes played in all 12 games in the 2017 season, making six starts recording 40 tackles, with three of them versus Oklahoma, University of Texas at San Antonio and Louisiana Tech each and 11 versus Rice.

"The transition switching positions wasn't too bad I just had to learn the plays and my assignments. I played linebacker back in high school, a little bit in my sophomore year, so that helped," Hughes said.

Multiple doors are open for Hughes's career post-UTEP and the future may involve a professional football career, or possibly a job in the management field, as the 2019 Conference-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll selection graduates this December with a master's in leadership studies.

"First off, I'll want to do Pro Day, after that it's up for grabs. I want to work in any college athletic department or get a job in management," Hughes said. "If I get a call from a team after Pro Day and they really want me, then I'll go there and give it my all."

Although his senior campaign included only one win, Hughes is appreciative of not only his senior season but his time spent here in El Paso and the time he spent with his teammates.

"This season wasn't as good as I wanted it to be but, honestly, I love this team and I think we meshed together really well. I made a lot of brothers and lifelong friends and I'm thankful for that," Hughes said. "I loved my time here in El Paso the people here are really friendly, and they welcomed me with open arms."

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2019



The Prospector file photos

Top left: UTEP senior defender Kori Lewis keeps ball away from defender versus Abilene Christian Aug. 25, 2019.

Bottom left: Freshman Amoret McCartney zeroes in on her target during a practice session for the UTEP Rifle team.

Above: UTEP Head Coach Rodney Terry, far left joins assistant coaches in reacting to Miners versus New Mexico State Nov. 12, 2019.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

WINTER COMMENCEMENT

CLASS OF 2019

SATURDAY, DEC. 14

DON HASKINS CENTER

Morning Ceremony - 9 a.m.*

College of Liberal Arts

Afternoon Ceremony - 2 p.m.*

College of Business Administration

College of Education

Evening Ceremony - 7 p.m.*

College of Health Sciences

School of Nursing

School of Pharmacy

SUNDAY, DEC. 15

DON HASKINS CENTER

Afternoon Ceremony - 2 p.m.*

College of Engineering

College of Science



For general information visit www.utep.edu/commencement

*All ceremonies include undergraduate and graduate degrees corresponding to these colleges.