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It's time to say goodbye to The Prospector

Margaret Cofield
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, 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 is not an 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 Paula Barrientos. “We are the first generation. We’re starting anew and we’re the first line to inspire future generations to come.”

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

“We must be educated 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 off the edge and so on, but once you realized it was in fact round, 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 conversations with my instructors, with different faculty and with the counselors. It really helped,” said Flóra 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 mould and setting greater expectations for the generations that precede us is a transcendent victory that we will doubt help shape a more progressive future.


SPEAK YOUR MIND

Submit a letter to the editor! Letters will be edited for clarity and brevity. Letters over 250 words are subject to editing. No more than two per week. Submit a letter to: prospector@utep.edu

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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

"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, 23, mechanical engineering

"I'm going to miss... stressing out and considering dropping out of school every time we had an exam."
Ashley Barajas, 23, mechanical engineering

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

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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 undergrad.

"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 postpone a lot of the goals and the things that they wanted to get around to doing."

"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 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 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."
Hired at Microsoft, graduate advises to start early

Maria Salote 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 Juarez. 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 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 Salote Ontiveros may be reached at prospector@utep.edu
Woman keeps a promise to herself, graduates after 52 years

Carmen Navar

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

Navar describes her younger self as a spoiled girl who slacked off 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 crayons 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 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."

"I crossed over into alternative medicine and started searching and, to an 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 115 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.

"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 go 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 those 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 in 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."
Congratulations  
class of  
2019

The University of Texas at El Paso
Congratulations!
Good luck on your future endeavors!

OFFICE OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Accounting and Information Systems Department

Class of 2019

Congratulations, and best wishes for your next adventure!

Pongezi
Felicidades
Félicitations

Congratulations
Hats off and pick up to our graduates for all that you have accomplished and contributed to UTDF! We wish you the best as you continue your journey as successful professionals.

Office of International Programs and Study Abroad

Congratulations on graduating, Miners!

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

We look forward to hearing about your accomplishments.
Congratulations, Graduates!

Congratulations, Graduates!

From the staff in the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Omar Eduardo Barría

Daniel Nicholas

Nallely Ramírez

Open Educational Resources Team

Brandon Soto

David Flores

Student Affairs

CONGRATULATIONS!

Omar Eduardo Barría

Daniel Nicholas

Nallely Ramírez

Open Educational Resources Team

Brandon Soto

David Flores

Student Affairs
Congratulations and good luck to all of our graduates!
Thank you to all my family and friends for supporting me, especially mom, dad, and my grandparents. Thank you for all your love and encouragement.

- Ashley W.
Thank you for everything Mum and Dad! I love you so much.
- Love Lily Dxx

Thank you to my family, friends, and for all the support. This has been a long time but I did it!!!
- Jan C Gallegos

Thank you for the support. This degree is for me.
- Alexa Bernal

Thank you for all your support. This degree is for you.
- Yessica Ochoa

Thank you to my family for believing in me!!
- Glenda Hernandez

To my husband and family, thank you for all your support. This degree is for you.
- Gerald. M.

Thank you for being my support.
- Jessica Loza

Thank you for everything.
- Victoria Loza

Thank you for everything.
- Marlee M.

Thank you for helping me finish.
- Emily M.

Thank you for all your support.
- Maria P.

Thank you to my family for helping me finish.
- Elena M.

Thank you for helping me finish.
- Emily M.

Thank you for everything.
- Adrian J.

Thank you for being there for me.
- Anthony J.

Thank you for everything.
- Samuel P.

Thank you for helping me finish.
- Emily M.

Thank you for being there for me.
- Anthony J.

Thank you for being there for me.
- Emily M.

Thank you for everything.
- Adrian J.

Thank you for everything.
- Samuel P.

Thank you for being there for me.
- Anthony J.

Thank you for everything.
- Emily M.

Thank you for being there for me.
- Anthony J.

Thank you for everything.
- Emily M.
Counseling and Psychological Services

Congratulations to all graduating UTEP students: for a job well done.
Best of luck with your future careers.

We hope you do well in your professional endeavors and we urge you to do good for your community!

- College of Business Administration -
The border community mends its wounds

El Paso heals from mass shooting through artistic expression

More than three months since the deadliest shooting 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 Pasosans 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 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. It 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 endured 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 Irmis 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."

Anahy Diaz may be reached at prospectar@utep.edu

This year’s music releases by female and LGBTQ artists

Margaret Cataldi

In 2019, we saw yet another year of musical talent either blossoming for the first time or talent either blossoming for the first time or gracefully expanding for those who have been winning the mainstream spotlight for years. From established artists like Lana Del Rey to newcomers like Lil Nas X, the year gave birth to iconic sounds from all corners of the world, commanding attention with their releases.

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 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 "Neon Appropriate 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 on 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 "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.

4. Lizzo

"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 summertime 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 singer-songwriter'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 filled with silky vocals, vintage melodies and poetic lyrics, packaged as a treasure trove for the hopeless romantic.

Margaret Cataldi may be reached at prospectar@utep.edu
Reporting from the crowd
The Prospector covers talent visiting El Paso


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


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.
The state of Miner Football

Year two of the Dana Dimel era

Michael Cuviello
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 but suffered through 11 straight losses. It was an injury-plagued season for the Miners as the starting quarterbacks took turns getting knocked out of the game until senior Brandon Jones remained a significant concussion at the midpoint of the season. Senior Kai Lockley ended up leading the team in passing and receiving for the year. Lockley 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 in passing. Intercceptions 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. Sacks were given up by the line but the number was still an outrageous 35 compared to 43 in 2018.

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

The running game will miss the athletic Lockley and the bruising senior Treyvon Hughes but has highly regarded Deion Hankins in the wings as well as another year from senior-Quade Walker after sitting out due to injury. The line will lose its most consistent member in senior Derek Gateswood and will return with other key players.

At receiver the team will return its most integral and talented unit of the team. Freshman Jacob Cavgal led the team in yardage with 550 while junior Justin Garrett led the team in receptions with 40. Sophomore Trephon Mohan was second on the team with 34 receptions after having 10 as a freshman.

Tight end, while not a big part of the offense, Michael Lewis and Adrian Hynson. The two top returning players will be juniors Daron Lowe and Josh Caldwell, who started most of the season along with senior Trent Thompson in the offense.

Defensively, the team was worse this season, giving up more points a game than the 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 opponent 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 Chubwokwe, the former tying for the team lead in sacks. Freshman and co-sack leader Prajze Anawuwhle will return as the leader of the defensive line along with sophomore Derick 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 sophomore and co-sack leader Praise Amaewhule will return as the leader of the defensive line along with, of course, senior Justin Rogers. This is a position that could use a major speed upgrade for the team as a whole. The Miners sorely missed A.J. Hotckiss and never came close to having anyone fill that type of role this year.

In the secondary the team will lose the top two tacklers on the team in seniors Justin Rogers, Michael Lewis and Adrian Hynson. The two top returning players will be juniors Daron Lowe and Josh Caldwell, who started most of the season along with senior Trent Thompson in the offense.

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

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

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

UDEF 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 hot on the boards in the third quarter. The Miners' Taylor Hossendove began to take over the game dominating the boards with 19 rebounds, including seven offensive. Hossendove 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, Hossendove notched two free throws to tie it once again at 68. Gallegos then sprinted downcourt to score 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 Hossendove while already having four fouls. This foul was Hossendove'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."

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
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 linemen 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 recording a career-high 144 rushing yards in the season-opening win versus Houston Baptist.

"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."

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

Daniel Rey Perez / The Prospector

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.

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.

"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.
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.