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The Prospector, September 22, 2020

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THE PROSPECTOR

www.theprospectordaily.com

VOL. 106, NO. 3

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

Volunteer work continues remotely amid pandemic

Isaiah Ramirez
The Prospector

In the era of COVID-19, volunteer work has been largely stifled by safety restrictions meant to curb the spread of the virus, but UTEP's Center for Community Engagement (CCE) has adjusted to these times to allow Miners to continue to give back to the community.

Before the pandemic, volunteering within the CCE consisted of many face-to-face

activities throughout the city at places like nursing homes and animal shelters. The students who volunteer through CCE usually do it as a requirement for academic-based community engagement courses they've enrolled in, but things are now being done a little differently.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identify the elderly as a high-risk population when it comes to the novel coronavirus and in El Paso, 401 of the 487 COVID deaths were individuals over the age 60 as of Sept. 19, according to El Paso's COVID-19 data source.

Because of this, volunteers no longer do community service hours at nursing homes.

"Typically in the fall and spring semesters, faculty will connect with us about their students participating in a service activity with a nonprofit organization for 15 to 20 hours throughout the semester," said Jennifer Lujan, assistant director of CCE.

See Volunteer page 3



Average UTEP graduate is more than \$23K in debt, report shows

Isaiah Ramirez
The Prospector

Oscar Gomez, a UTEP alumnus, said he had to take out the maximum amount of student loans each semester while he attended UTEP because he had so many things to pay for.

"I had already exhausted my Pell Grant and I had to start getting student loans to pay for tuition and books," Gomez said. "I was a secondary education minor, so in addition to tuition and books, I had to cover living expenses."

Gomez also did an internship during college that didn't even pay him.

He is just one of many people across the country who have had to take out student loans, leaving many paying off a hefty amount of debt.

An annual report published by LendEDU, an online marketplace for financial products, reveals that the average UTEP graduate has \$23,632 in student debt, ranking the university at 91 out of 475 colleges and universities in the United States



Illustration by Claudia Hernandez/The Prospector

According to LendEDU the average borrower from the class of 2019 left campus with \$29,076 in student loan debt which is an increase from a borrower from the class of 2018 that left with \$28,565.

for average student loan debt.

The loan amounts are ranked from lowest to highest average debt with UTEP ranking ninth in Texas.

The Student Loan Debt by

School by State Report compiled by LendEDU analyzes the most recent student loan debt figures for college graduates. LendEDU is a financial website that helps consumers

learn about and compare financial products, including student loans. This report was based on data gathered by Peterson's, a company that creates educational products.

The data is compiled of self-reported student debt numbers and other financial aid figures released from the extensive number of four-year public and private higher education institutions who complete a voluntary survey from Peterson's.

"We license the data from Peterson's and Peterson's collects their data from a voluntary financial aid survey that each college and university fills out," said Mike Brown, LendEDU's director of communications. "We pay for the data and publish the stats straight as we receive it. The statewide trends and nationwide trends, we calculate ourselves."

According to LendEDU, the average borrower in the nation from the class of 2019 left campus with \$29,076 in student debt which is an increase from the year prior that had an average of \$28,565 in debt.

In Texas, 51% of college graduates

accumulated debt during their college career; as Texas ranked tenth in the lowest amount of student loan debt by state with an average debt of \$24,655.

Utah and Connecticut ranked the lowest and highest for the average amount of student debt in the nation with \$16,633 and \$41,579, respectively.

For the 2019-2020 school year, the cost to attend UTEP for in-state tuition was \$9,161 a year, while out-of-state cost of tuition was more than double that amount at \$24,524.

UTEP's average student debt of \$23,692 ranks lower than other institutions within the University of Texas System (UT) like the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) at \$24,214 and the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) at \$24,244, according to the LendEDU report.

UT Austin's average in-state tuition tallies at \$10,824 a year, with out-of-state tuition costing \$38,326, while UTSA's in-state tuition costs

See Debt page 3

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OPINION

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

EDITOR BRYAN MENA, 747-5161

Las diferencias entre dos países en tiempos de COVID-19

Daniela Salas Molina

The Prospector

Vivir en la frontera de Ciudad Juárez y El Paso nos da la oportunidad de (literalmente) ver dos países al mismo tiempo; conocer y comparar sus culturas, su gente, sus costumbres y sus tradiciones.

Sin embargo, también se vuelve sencillo percibir las diferencias entre el sistema político, educativo y de salud entre México y Estados Unidos.

El COVID-19 ha evidenciado las deficiencias y las diferencias positivas y negativas entre los países. Hemos podido ver cómo gobiernos sumamente eficientes se han recuperado rápido de esta crisis, teniendo como prioridad la salud de su gente y cuidando al mismo tiempo a su economía. También hemos visto el otro lado de la moneda: países cuya salud va en declive con casos de COVID-19 en aumento, su economía cuesta abajo y sus ciudadanos desesperados por volver a la normalidad.

Hablando específicamente de México y Estados Unidos, ambos países están atravesando la crisis con diferencias muy evidentes.

En el mes de mayo, Eric London escribía en su artículo titulado



Illustration by Hugo Hinojosa/ The Prospector

El COVID-19 ha evidenciado las deficiencias y las diferencias positivas y negativas entre dos países. Daniela Salas Molina es una estudiante en UTEP que esta estudiando sociología y periodismo.

“Hundreds of Mexican maquiladora workers dying after back-to-work orders take effect” que, como consecuencia de la instrucción del gobierno de Estados Unidos de reactivar la economía, el norte de México tuvo que reabrir las maquiladoras, a pesar de encontrarse en un momento crítico de contagios,

por lo que en Ciudad Juárez los contagios se dispararon.

Esto comprobó la falta de autonomía del gobierno mexicano y evidenció la dependencia económica que tiene hacia el gobierno estadounidense, pues a pesar de saber que los casos se dispararían y que el país no cuenta con un sistema

de salud pública eficiente, tuvieron que abrir las empresas.

El día de hoy, mientras acudía a UTEP a realizarme la prueba gratuita de COVID-19, me di cuenta que México no tiene las mismas posibilidades. Actualmente, cinco meses después del primer caso en el país, realizarse una prueba gratuita

de COVID-19 es únicamente posible para las personas enfermas de gravedad que llegan a los hospitales públicos.

Realizarse una prueba privada cuesta aproximadamente cuatro mil pesos mexicanos (ciento ochenta dólares), algo que no está al alcance de todos y, como consecuencia, hay contagiados asintomáticos esparciendo el virus. Mientras tanto, en el estado de Texas, la prueba es gratuita para cualquier ciudadano.

Con esta comparación no intento responsabilizar a ningún gobierno, pues para salir de esta crisis la responsabilidad es colectiva. Sin embargo, sí busco comparar las posibilidades y las diferencias que hay entre dos ciudades que son vecinas y en las que algunos vamos y venimos como si fueran una sola; sin pensar que no solo hay diferencias en su cultura y tradiciones, también las hay en algo tan básico como la salud pública en tiempos de COVID-19.

No todos tienen el privilegio de acudir a hacerse una prueba gratuita. Tener la oportunidad de estar en dos países diariamente, nos debe hacer más sensibles a las problemáticas y desigualdades que hay en cada uno.

Daniela Salas Molina may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

News

Professor researches past trauma on Hispanic nursing students

Sven Kline

The Prospector

Dr. Karen Fowler, assistant professor of nursing at UTEP, is researching the effects of childhood trauma on Hispanic nursing students during their years of study with the help of a \$5,000 grant she received this year. Funding from the grant began in early August and will continue until the end of July 2021.

Fowler said the purpose of the study is to understand if teachings should be better tailored to meet Hispanic students' needs by examining the correlation between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and its possible impediment on nursing education.

Inspired by a conference that discussed traumatic childhood events, Fowler found interest due to the events of the Aug. 3 mass shooting that took place at the Cielo Vista Walmart in 2019.

“The event that occurred in August last year emphasizes that our students have already been exposed to violence and other traumatic stresses,” Fowler said. “In addition, students who cross the border to attend UTEP have also witnessed unique stressful events.

It has been proven that students who have experienced trauma have adaptive processes that are different from traditional college students. Educators can mitigate factors that may lead to re-traumatization of these students and optimize the student's adaptive skills, thus promoting success in a high-stress career such as nursing.”

With a focus on ACE and the stress it hampers upon students, especially nursing students, Fowler said this research hopes to find a correlation between the two factors as “no research on ACE has been conducted on this specific population.”

Although Hispanics make up just a fraction of the health care workforce in the United States, according to the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, Fowler said the population of Hispanic nurses is expected to grow in years to come.

She notes that ACE not only affects the development of nursing students, but also for students of all majors, but Fowler said the stress nursing students typically face is already significant in and of itself, so traumatic experiences can potentially

make the education experience even more difficult.

Fowler stated that “exposure to child abuse, family violence, sexual trauma, or alcoholism as a child has been linked to unfavorable physical and social outcomes as an adult.”

She added that “much research exists that indicates children who are exposed to trauma do not do well in school and how trauma continues to inform their life is an area of concern for faculty in higher education.”

With that being said, Fowler said the research can be especially useful for nursing professors at UTEP given the uniqueness of El Paso's border region and it being predominantly Hispanic, also taking into consideration the fact that many students crossed the border every day to attend UTEP before the pandemic.

The study aims to benefit such students if whether teaching strategies can be tailored in way that can help Hispanic nursing students become successful.

“Baseline ACE scores have been determined for college students in prior research,” Fowler said, “However, we postulate that our student population, based border location and unique experiences, may have elevated trauma exposures.

This can highlight then need for changes or modification of teaching/ learning strategies.”

Fowler spoke on some of the goals she has for this study, the first being to find correlations if any and the frequencies of such among the Hispanic population which can be used to inform other nursing communities.

Another goal Fowler mentioned is increase in patient care performance which can provide “evidence that lends insights to ensure the success of the Hispanic nursing student will ultimately benefit nursing as a whole and consequently, patient care.”

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Illustration by Hugo Hinojosa/ The Prospector

Professor said the stress nursing students typically face is already significant, so traumatic experiences can potentially make education even more difficult.

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Volunteer from cover page

The courses in which students can earn college credit through CCE dwindled from about 50 courses to about six, Lujan said. The CCE has adjusted to virtual methods to allow students to continue volunteer work which was critical for the University 1301 class, a core curriculum course at UTEP designed in part to increase volunteer engagement.

“We have adapted our programming to go remotely in many cases, other opportunities made available for volunteering purposes in person are minimal and we have also shifted some programming this year towards civic engagement and the elections,” said Azuri Gonzalez, the CCE’s director. “We have come up with a neat website with voter information and it’s an activity for students to go through to and pledge.”

An already implemented website prior to the pandemic called The Cue is an interactive website in which agencies post their specific needs and students can contact the agency to start their volunteer projects.

Recently posted volunteer opportunities include communication intern for the Boy Scouts of America and a marketing/social media assistant for Sun City Development Corporation.

“It’s kind of like a dating website but for volunteers where the agency will set up a profile and they will post their different service needs and the students can go on there and see what volunteer opportunities are available and what they require,” Lujan explained.

Volunteer work through virtual outlets consists of task and

“It’s kind of like a dating website but for volunteers...”

-Jennifer Lujan,
assistant director of CCE

project-based activities that can be completed online with organizations like Mothers Against Drunk Driving, or MADD, where students research crash reports for the agency and put together data.

“A lot of agency’s also need help promoting services to the community and with students being tech savvy they can create social media posts while helping through service learning,” Lujan who has been working at the CCE for 16 years, said.

Certain classes are designated as Community Engagement and Leadership (CEL) courses offered through UTEP’s College of Liberal Arts, fostering community engagement through connections with the community — what Lujan refers to as “service learning.”

UTEP’s CCE is also increasing its social media presence and has created a LinkedIn account and YouTube videos and is striving to connect with UTEP students.

“We have been posting a lot on social media to increase more membership and so the students know our services and what programs we have available,” Lujan said.

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Debt from cover page

\$8,262 a year and out-of-state costs \$20,263.

In November 2019, the UT System Board of Regents unanimously voted for a 2.6% tuition increase for every student enrolled in a UT school that went into effect this fall semester.

The UT regents review each UT school’s tuition rates every two years. For the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years, UTEP’s tuition was raised by 5%. It is unclear whether UTEP’s tuition will decrease for subsequent school years because of the pandemic’s economic ruin, but pressure has been mounting.

With students throughout the country mostly taking online classes, many have filed class-action lawsuits against universities for “tuition-related grievances” since students cannot enjoy on-campus perks that tuition and fees pay for due to previous bond issuances and other mandatory costs. There are at least 5 lawsuits filed by students in Texas.

In New York, graduates from New York School of Interior Design, a private institution, had the highest average student loan debt in the nation for the 2019-2020 academic year, according to the LendEDU report, with an average debt of \$65,401.

The school has an acceptance rate of 22% with out-of-state tuition costing \$54,880.

According to The Century Foundation, a research firm, student debt at for-profit colleges in the United States spiked by 7% for the 2019-2020 academic year “for the first time in a decade,” while the percentage of borrowing at non-profit and public institutions

decreased that same year.

El Paso is home to for-profit colleges such as Southwest Career College that has an average tuition price tag of \$15,500 a year, according to collegesimply.com, and International Business College that has an average tuition of \$18,572 a year, according to niche.com.

However, many for-profit colleges like Grand Canyon University push for enrollment in online courses, so they recruit prospective students from everywhere, even in El Paso.

Student loans are a source of financial aid in students’ award packages as there are options as to what types of loans an individual chooses from federally insured loans, such as unsubsidized and subsidized loans.

Financial aid in the form of grants are beneficial in that it is “free money” that does not have to be repaid, but grants are based on financial need which is calculated by the difference of cost of attendance and estimated family contribution, according to Federal Student Aid.

Pell grants are one example of grants that can dwindle over time based on financial need and can change yearly.

Loans offer a backbone in circumstantial cases, as the money used from a loan may be used to pay expenses during a college student’s career that would be considered difficult without the loan.

“I had a coworker of mine that led me to options on how to pay off my loans and one of those was the income based repayment plan which is basically whatever your salary income is that determines your loan monthly payment,” said Leonard Erickson, UTEP graduate and head

coach of Milwaukee Area Technical College women’s basketball.

According to the Federal Student Aid website, most federal student loans are eligible for at least one income-driven repayment plan and if one’s income is low enough, their payment could be as low as \$0 per month.

“I was in a situation where my first coaching job out of college didn’t pay much and I was literally not having to pay anything a month for student loans,” Erickson said. “Now that’s a good thing in that regard, but obviously with student loans you’re still accumulating interest.”

LendEDU provides tips on useful repayment options for college graduates with featured routes such as paying more than the minimum, paying off high-interest loans first, and working for an employer with repayment assistance. These tips could be a resource for not only recent UTEP graduates but those looking to start their student loan repayment process.

Editor’s note: LendEDU was at the center of a controversy in 2018 for pushing out its reports through the pseudonym “Drew Cloud,” who was found to not be an actual person. Mike Brown, director of communications for LendEDU, said the marketplace’s student debt report is “verifiable and accurate” because it is solely based on data gathered by Peterson’s, a reputable company. The Prospector verified the report’s numbers with other sources and the numbers were similar.

Isaiah Ramirez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu @_IsaiahRamirez1 on Twitter.

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Enrollment slightly down, retention rate up

Wilson said students likely delayed enrolling in classes because of COVID

Anahy Diaz
The Prospector

UTEP is reporting an enrollment of 24,879 students for the Fall 2020 semester which is a 1.2% decrease in head-count enrollment from Fall 2019, but the university is also reporting an increase in its retention rate.

According to a news release, the institution's overall semester credit hour production is up 2,185 credit hours, a 0.4% increase from Fall 2019's count of 263,739 credit hours. The university saw an increase of 3.9% in enrollment among sophomores, a 3.3% increase among juniors and an increase of 3.4% among seniors.

"We were pleased to see record-high retention and an increase in semester credit hours," UTEP

President Heather Wilson said in the news release. "The growth in these areas demonstrates that our students are working hard to earn their degrees. We're proud of these talented, resilient Miners."

The news comes a few weeks after UTEP's Summer 2020 semester came to an end, where the university reported a historic 15% increase in head-count enrollment. According to a public statement from the university, 12,981 students enrolled in both Summer I and Summer II terms, for a total of 87,365 semester credit hours being taken by students remotely.

"I want to commend our students for being dedicated to reaching their educational goals, and thank our faculty and staff for their tireless work in helping them stay on track to earn their degrees," said Gary Edens,

vice president for student affairs at UTEP.

Although this semester's credit hours are up slightly, head-count enrollment is down from the 25,177 figure for Fall 2019. Wilson said in a news release that this is entirely due to students who graduated from high school, applied to college, but are

delaying their freshman year due to the pandemic.

"We know who these students are," said Wilson, as UTEP also saw a decrease in first-time transfer students. "And we will focus specifically on that cohort of about 450 students who should have started college this month and have not

done so because of the pandemic. As a community, we cannot afford to leave them behind. They will need a meaningful post-secondary credential to make a better life for themselves and their families."

Anahy Diaz may be reached at prospector@utep.edu or @by_anahydiaz on Twitter.



Photograph by Claudia Hernandez/ The Prospector

The university saw an increase of 3.9% in enrollment among sophomores, a 3.3% increase among juniors and an increase of 3.4% among seniors.

"I want to commend our students for being dedicated to reaching their educational goals, and thank our faculty and staff for their tireless work in helping them stay on track to earn their degrees."

-Gary Edens, vice president for student affairs



Online Portal

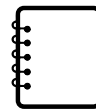
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FACULTY PORTAL

The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) is the department at UTEP that helps students with a disability or a temporary disability get accommodations to help them be successful at UTEP.

CASS's online portal called AIM. AIM is an online software that we utilize as a way to process a 3 question application for students with disabilities or temporary disabilities. CASS will then meet with students virtually to discuss their case and determine what accommodations the student is eligible for.

AIM allows students to access or request services online from the safety and comfort of their home 24/7.

The system will allow you to log on with your single sign on UTEP credentials, so there will be no new passwords or usernames to memorize.

Log on at: cassportal.utep.edu



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ENTERTAINMENT

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

EDITOR PAULINA ASTRID SPENCER, 747-5161

El Paso artist unveils art paying homage

Sofia B. Vargas

The Prospector

El Paso artist, Jesus "CIMI" Alvarado, revealed his mural of local artist Patrick Gabaldon, an activist and human rights advocate, as part of an art contest led by Mexican beer company Estrella Jalisco to bring color to the Southwest.

CIMI is an El Paso graffiti artist best known for using his art to share and pay homage to the Latino culture by leveraging political and social messages in his craft. He recently took part in Estrella Jalisco's art contest that is bringing color to local neighborhoods by inviting artists to spread the pride of Latino innovation to California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas communities.

"Each piece of art will visually reflect Estrella Jalisco's vibrant, colorful heritage and have a special connection to its neighborhood by featuring a Local Star, a person who is making a positive impact in their own unique way," Estrella Jalisco said in a statement, following the company's pledge of \$1 million to bring colorful art to neighborhoods.

CIMI chose to honor Gabaldon, a local Borderland artist, who was chosen as the subject of Estrella Jalisco's Artist in Residence program. The program features a collective of nine artists who are making a difference in their communities.

"Estrella Jalisco came and offered something like this, you know it's great they're supporting the arts," said CIMI, whose murals can be found across Downtown El Paso. "Especially through this whole pandemic, a lot of people are suffering without work."

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has brought more time



Photograph by Claudia Hernandez/ The Prospector

Patrick Gabaldon, local El Paso artist, was chosen as the subject for the Estrella Jalisco's Artist in Residence program.

for artists like CIMI to create the uncertainty, finding a stable job has been a growing concern.

"Since the beginning we were locked up, in our houses, so it gave us more time to create, to think creatively. So, it wasn't difficult in the beginning," CIMI said. "But as we kept going, we didn't know the extent of the situation, if more jobs were

going to be lost or if we'd encounter people exposed to COVID. It definitely became more stressful."

CIMI works to support new artists and encourage young people to embrace their own lineage through Kalavera Culture Shop, a local art supply shop he is co-founder of.

"We've got to keep working. We've got to keep paying the bills," CIMI

said, recognizing but not promoting normalizing the current situation the world is experiencing.

CIMI's mural, like most of his work, is a colorful piece that not only showcases Gabaldon at work, but also includes symbolic pieces of El Paso, like the star on the mountain and its Texas sky.

CIMI said working with Gabaldon

and witnessing his reaction to the mural created in his honor, was "a great feeling."

CIMI's mural can be found at the corner of Texas and Brown Street, adding another speckle of Latino joy and color to the world.

Sofia Vargas may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

Take advantage of your student status and save money

Alyson Rodriguez

The Prospector

Attending university is a great experience for many young adults. From homecoming football games, to joining clubs and organizations, a college student has access to various opportunities and life experiences. However, college students often find money to be an impediment to all of this. Here are some ways college and university students can stretch their money and save.

There are so many expenses that students must pay for college, like tuition, books, meal plans, just to

name a few. Since students' expenses are high, many are left with little to no money for personal expenses. Thankfully there are locally owned and national chains that offer student discounts.

Along with saving, who doesn't love pizza? Ardivino's Pizza and The Pizza Joint offer student discounts in the El Paso area.

At Ardivino's Pizza, they offer all-day student specials for dine-in and take-out. You can enjoy a single traditional small topping pizza for \$5, plus four mini calzones. This is valid with a current student ID and is limited to one customer per visit.

The Pizza Joint offers a 10% discount on any order if you show a valid student ID. There's a wide variety of delicious food to choose from, including pizza, wings, salads and desserts.

Many large corporations offer deals for university students. These deals include discounts on purchases or free products, that can help college students across the country save lots of money. Some of these companies include Best Buy, Walmart, Apple, and Amazon.

At Best Buy students can save money on laptops, appliances, phones and more, after creating a Best Buy account and signing up for student deals. Some perks are one-hour curb side pickup, free next day delivery on an assortment of items, and flexible financing options.

Walmart offers multiple products for students at discounted prices, such as school supplies, electronics and appliances. There's an entire section dedicated to college savings on the Walmart website, where prices can range from \$15 to \$250. There are also coupons that can be applied to purchases.

On Amazon you can get six months of free two-day shipping, free photo storage, and unlimited instant movie and music streaming.

After the six-month trial you can upgrade to Amazon Prime for 50% off. Kindle unlimited for two months is offered as well at \$20, all one must do is make an account using their university email.

Apple offers students' \$200 off new Mac laptops and \$20 off new iPads. Customers can also get a free pair of Air Pods with their purchase of a Mac or iPad and save 20% on Apple care, but the student must first show proof of enrollment.

There are some clothing stores that offer a student discount as well. These stores include Banana Republic, Dickies, Goodwill and Vineyard Vines.

merchandise, when they show a student ID. Dickies offers 10% off the total purchase when one creates an account with their university email. Every Thursday at Goodwill, with a student ID, students can get a 10%off discount. Vineyard Vines offers college and graduate students 15% off when they register with their student email.

There are all sorts of deals out there to help college students make expenses more barrable and make a student's dollar stretch a mile. All the deals and discounts mentioned will help make your student dollar stretch a mile.

Alyson Rodriguez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



Illustration by Hugo Hinojosa/ The Prospector

Coupons

Ardivino's Pizza

Twitter:

Amazon:

Apple:

Spotify Premium:

Banana Republic

The Art Center

\$5 small pizza with valid student ID

10% off with valid student ID

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15% off with valid student ID

10% off with valid student ID

Making the world greener, one item of clothing at a time

Alyson Rodriguez

The Prospector

Ever since the COVID-19 pandemic struck the country, thousands of businesses lost revenue and filed for bankruptcy. Even large retail corporations closed their doors.

However, the ones who have suffered the most during these hard and unexpected times are small businesses. Despite the adversities, two brave young ladies are determined to succeed despite COVID-19.

Best friends, Anette Baca a junior majoring in advertising at the University of Texas at Austin and Ana Montiel a junior majoring in marketing at UTEP combined their last names this summer to create Moba, their own clothing business. They have a passion for fashion and decided to utilize their sewing skills to make clothes at affordable prices.

The duo sells their creations on their Instagram page @moba where they showcase their various designs.

Sleek, trendy, and stylish are some of the words that may come to mind when you look at Moba Clothing's Instagram page. Moba Clothing makes handmade sustainable clothing for all sizes.

What makes Moba Clothing stand out is that they don't waste fabric.



Photo courtesy of Anette Baca

Anette Baca and Ana Montiel are the creators of Moba Clothing.

"We promote 'consume less, create more' as an alternative to purchasing from fast fashion," Baca said.

Fast fashion is inexpensive clothing often produced rapidly by mass-market retailers in response to the latest trends. According to Business Insider, the clothing industry is the second-highest polluter of clean water, produces 10% of the world's carbon emissions, and it also pollutes various natural water sources with microplastics. Producers of fast fashion dump their toxic chemicals into clean water

supplies, and this is because clothing production is a land and water concentrated business. The fashion industry can reduce their pollution by using sustainable fabrics which are made from ecofriendly resources and by not wasting any of their materials.

Moba Clothing uses dead stock fabric from fabric stores, which is the material that stores over produce.

The fashion boutique is trying to reduce waste by only purchasing the necessary fabric that will be used

"We promote 'consume less, create more' as an alternative to purchasing from fast fashion."

-Anette Baca, junior majoring in advertising

and making scrunchies out of the remaining fabric. The scrunchies are then included with each order as a special surprise. On Moba Clothing, there is a wide selection to choose from. The selection includes styles of blouses, skirts, tank tops, and other items of clothing.

The business' Instagram page features many unique outfits which range from charming red and beige plaid skirts that reach mid-thigh length, to darling crop tank tops made in different colors such as blue and red.

Montiel says their clothing line does not have a particular style and can make any article of clothing personalized to the customer. The product the creators are most proud of is their nude colored back-less tank top with a draw string tied at the bottom.

Moba Clothing is accommodating to everyone's budget. Prices range

from \$10 to \$20 depending on the item.

Baca and Montiel would like to expand their boutique by opening a store in El Paso and other parts of Texas.

"We would like to expand our boutique and one day open a store in Austin," Montiel said.

With a goal of spreading awareness on how fast fashion is destroying the ecosystem, and persuading customers to buy more eco-friendly clothing, Moba Clothing wants to make the world a greener place one clothing item at a time.

To find out more about Moba Clothing or to check out its clothing designs, visit its Instagram page at @moba.clothing.

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Disney's 2020 'Mulan': Female empowerment and self-acceptance

Exodis Ward

The Prospector

When I initially heard about a live-action "Mulan", I was hyped since I'm a long-time fan. I belt out "Be a Man" and quote Mushu often. My favorite trait of Mulan is that she isn't feeble. Mulan taught young Exodis that she could be her own hero and I think that's something girls could use more of.

When I heard the film wasn't going to have any of the iconic songs or my beloved Mushu, I was bummed and honestly didn't care to see it anymore. I don't want to say the music made the movie but how can I "be a man" if there's no musical number for me to train to? How will I know the agony of not being the perfect bride if there's no song? I felt that all the best bits of the film got cut.

This summer, Disney announced that Mulan would not make it to the big screen due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Instead, the movie would be available to stream for \$30. This decision caused some

raucous among fans of the movie, who thought the film was overpriced.

The director, Niki Caro, explained that she wanted to maintain realism which is why certain things were removed. When I got some free time, I sat down and watched the film, and the following are my thoughts on it. For reference, I'll be comparing the live-action movie to the animated one. Also, spoilers below.

The film

Overall, the main plot and themes of the film didn't change, which was good.

Mulan is still uniquely herself: Intelligent, thoughtful and imperfect. She's defying the idea that a woman should be seen and not heard. When messengers from the Imperial city request one man from every family to join the Chinese military, Mulan is distraught. Her father has no sons, which means he's the only one who can go. Though he fought bravely in the last war, he was wounded and his return to the battlefield is a death sentence. Despite knowing the consequences, she takes his place.

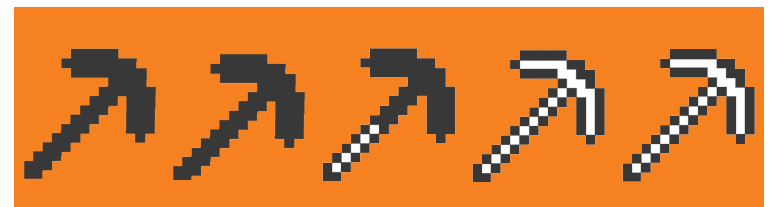
Training is rough for Mulan, but she eventually finds her inner strength. She single-handedly saves her troop in a clash with the enemy. Soon after, Mulan's identity is discovered, and she is exiled. This doesn't stop her from being the persistent hero she is. Mulan saves the emperor and is welcomed back into society.

Adaptations

One of the biggest differences between films is Mulan's name. In the animated version, her name is Fa Mulan. In this version, her name is Hua Mulan. This decision brought her name closer to the one in the original story and doesn't affect much.

The movie omitted some characters and introduced new ones. Mushu, Mulan's grandmother, General Li-Shang, and Advisor Chi-Fu were removed. The film recasts Cricket as a person named Cri-kee and substitutes Mulan's dog, Little Brother, for Mulan's sister, Hua Xiu.

New characters included the Witch, Xia Lang, fellow recruit Yoson An, a new enemy, the Rourans and



the honorable Phoenix.

I found Disney's inclusion of the Phoenix interesting. The Phoenix doesn't speak and is a swap for Mushu as Mulan's advisor. Her father's prayers sent the phoenix to guide Mulan and lead her to the training camp. It also represented the changes she'd go through in the film: finding her new "self" as Hua Jun, the "death" of Hua Jun and her "rebirth" as Mulan.

The Witch, was an interesting mirror for Mulan. She represented what Mulan could've been if she went against her father's wishes and focused on her Chi. She would've become a villain for pursuing her own goals which reflect society's idea of a free-thinking woman. Ultimately, Lang chooses to do good with her Chi and helps Mulan save the Emperor, breaking the cycle of female-oppression.

Though the film didn't have flashy musical numbers, I appreciate that Caro included instrumental versions of the songs in the film. It was a nice detail that helped make pivotal moments more impactful.

What it boils down to

While the first film is more light-hearted, the live-action version is much more serious. The themes of self-acceptance and female empowerment are very much present. In my opinion, I think the live-action version does it better because it is more focused on Mulan's journey.

At the end of the day, the two films are two separate films. If you're the type of person who doesn't go for musicals, you'll probably appreciate the live-action version more.

Whatever you prefer, go into the film with an open mind and you'll enjoy it a lot more.

I'm not sure it's worth spending \$30 on. I'd recommend you wait until December 4th, when it comes to Disney Plus for free. I rate this movie 2.5 stars out of 5.

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Photo courtesy of fontmeme

To save her ailing father from serving in the Imperial Army, a fearless young woman disguises herself as a man to battle northern invaders in China.

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'Career Fair Plus' app helps UTEP students find jobs during COVID-19 pandemic

Minerpalooza dazzles viewers from home, Jon Pardi performs

SPORTS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

EDITOR MICHAEL CUVIELLO, 747-5161

Football team survives tough Wildcat challenge at home

Michael CuvIELLO
The Prospector

Winning its second game of the young season, the Miners reached a win total that has not been achieved since 2016 with a 17-13 victory over the Abilene Christian University (ACU) Wildcats.

The Miners offense struggled most of the game, being outgained 308-293 by the FCS (Football Championship Subdivision) Wildcats. Neither team was able to build a consistent running attack with both teams averaging 2.9 yards per carry on the ground.

Abilene Christian scored on its second possession after fumbling on its first drive. Going 56 yards on six plays, the Wildcats scored on a Jeremiah Dobbins 2-yard run to take a 7-0 lead early in the first quarter.

For the whole first quarter, the Miners had 13 yards and one first down on three possessions totaling a little over three minutes of offense. Trailing 7-0, the Miners defense had given up 159 yards to the Wildcats after one quarter with ACU deep in UTEP territory.

Starting the second quarter at the 34-yard line of the Miners, Abilene Christian was looking to go up by two scores. On this drive, the Miner defense started to come alive, forcing the Wildcats to punt. The Wildcats then failed on a fake field goal attempt that fooled no one on the UTEP defense.

Taking over on its own 32, the Miners had its first sustained drive of the game. Sophomore Gavin Hardison, who started the game with only one completion in his first five attempts along with a sack, began to find his rhythm for the game. On a second and 10, Hardison hit junior tight end Trent Thompson, on a 20-yard gain for his first reception of the year. Hardison followed that up with a 14-yard scramble and a 14-yard pass to senior Justin Garret to get the Miners inside the Wildcats 20-yard line. This play set up the first Miner



Photo courtesy of Ruben Ramirez

UTEP senior cornerback, Josh Caldwell, tries to bring down opposing player versus Abilene Christian Saturday, Sept. 19.

score of the game, a 27-yard field goal by junior Gavin Baechle to make the score 7-3.

The Wildcats promptly struck back with a 49-yard pass from quarterback Pete Mansell to wide receiver Taelyn Williams that put the team at the Miner 35-yard line. Two plays later, Mansell fumbled the ball that was recovered by UTEP junior corner Dennis Barnes to stop the drive. This fumble was the second of the game for the Wildcats.

Sophomore Jacob Cowing then made the biggest offensive play of the game for the Miners with a 51-yard reception that set up a 5-yard touchdown by senior running back Josh Fields. Although outplayed for most of the first half, this gave the Miners a 10-7 halftime lead over the Wildcats.

On its first possession of the second half, the Wildcats had driven deep into Miner territory after a 35-yard pass from Mansell to tight end Remington Lutz. Junior safety Justin Prince made a key play with a tackle

of Wildcat running back Tyrese White on third down and 4 yards to go. This play forced a 29-yard field goal by the Wildcats Blair Zepeda to tie the score at 10.

With about five minutes to go in the third quarter, the Miners would go on its longest drive of the game. Early in the drive, Hardison made crucial play on fourth and one that seemed to be aided by a favorable spot. A touchdown would cap off the 13 play 75-yard drive from junior Ronald Awatt, his first as a Miner to make the score 17-10.

After one of its best defensive series of the night forcing ACU to go three downs and out, the Miners started driving downfield once again. The Miners were quickly into Wildcat territory before stalling 1 yard short of a first down. UTEP Head Coach Dana Dimel decided to go for it on fourth and 1 yard to go for the second time in the game. Initially, the Hardison dive up the middle was ruled a first down.

After chains were brought out for

the measurement after well over a minute, the play ended up almost a full yard short of the first down turning the ball back over to the Wildcats.

Wildcat quarterback Mansell once again made a big play on the UTEP secondary with a 43-yard pass to I. Lionel McConnel setting Abilene Christian up at the Miner 17-yard line. A critical sack by UTEP sophomore defensive end Praise Amaewhule and a Wildcat penalty stalled the offensive drive. Zepeda once again connected on a field goal for the visiting Wildcats from 39 yards to tighten the score to 17-13.

We have been making great game day adjustments, said Dimel. "If teams hurt us early, they don't come back and hurt us the same way. That's a sign of a big improvement defensively

With about five minutes left in the game, Fields took over with three key runs over 9 yards apiece to help run out the clock. On the drive, Fields ran six times for 44 yards, ending

the game with 75 yards on 17 carries for his most productive game since his freshman season. Fields started the game and took the majority of the carries with freshman sensation Deion Hankins sitting out due to injury.

"As a running back, that's what you are in for," Fields said. "Five minutes, you have to eat the clock and gain yards. Fourth quarter, that's where games are won."

For the first time this season, the Miners did not sustain a turnover and the line gave good protection to its young quarterback. After having only one completion in his first seven passes, Hardison hit on 14 of his next 18 passes to finish 15 of 25 for 196 yards in the air.

"Guys made some plays when they had to make plays," Dimel said. "Once Gavin got on track started throwing the ball after the first quarter. What a great fourth quarter of football that was for the Miners."

Cowing ended the game with eight receptions for 110 yards, which is a career-high for catches. With his second 100-yard receiving game of the season, Cowing now has 19 receptions for 275 yards. At this pace, Cowing may become the seventh Miner to surpass 1000 yards receiving.

In the second quarter, UTEP senior linebacker sustained an injury that had him taken to the locker room returning in the second half with crutches in hand. Senior starting defensive tackle Josh Ortega did not dress for the game due to undisclosed reasons.

Abilene Christian wide receiver Kobe Clark who set a school season record for receptions last season, was also held out of the game for undisclosed reasons.

UTEP 2-1 goes on the road to Louisiana Monroe to play next week. Not since 2014 have the Miners started with two wins in its first three games

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El Paso Locomotive seals fifth win in a row

Heriberto Perez
The Prospector

El Paso (EP) Locomotive (8-2-3) won its latest match of the 2020 season against the defending USL Champion, the Real Monarchs SLC (3-9-). The Locos had an intense game even though El Paso dominated most of the game and the stat line, but had problems scoring against the visiting team.

The game's first significant action came at the 15th minute of the match when defender Zack Farnsworth from the Real Monarchs with a volley sent the ball to the goal's side net. Six minutes later, a great cross from Locos forward Omar Salgado found forward Aaron Gomez's left foot just missing a goal.

At the 37-minute mark, Locos defender Andrew Fox left the game due to an injury that had plagued him since the first minutes of the game; he was substituted with former FC Juarez player defender Eder Borelli.

Borelli's substitution changed the game entirely for the Locomotive. It was at the 47th-minute mark when

midfielder Memo Diaz crossed the ball to the very inside of the box and found Borelli's header for the first score of the game to make it 1-0.

After that, the game reverted to a ball possession game, in which the Locos averaged 58% and the visitors a 42%. It was not until the 79th minute of the game that the Locos had another scoring chance after a dangerous cross by Borelli. The goalkeeper managed to reject the ball but was left in front of the goal and a shot by midfielder Richie Ryan sent it out to the stands.

The match was sealed with Borelli's spectacular goal before the end of the first half, with 13 shots for the Locos for the game, one on target, nine off-target, and three blocked by the Monarchs' goalkeeper. Monarchs had five shots, with no shots on target, four shots off target, and only one blocked shot by Logan Ketterer.

"I am proud of the guys in the end, I was a little disappointed at the halftime, I felt we weren't doing our best," said Locomotive Head Coach Mark Lowry.

"I'm really happy with how

professional the guys have gone about their work the last few weeks; not just what you see on a Saturday but on the Monday to Friday that you don't see, the training environment and the way they come in every morning, there is a real vibe through the group right now that there's something special there. We know we have to keep taking care of business on the field, and we have to keep getting wins, but in general, the feeling in the group has been really good, like some real high-level pressure, and I think that has helped us get through a tough patch and win these games."

The Locos are in the Conference quarterfinals positions, looking to stay there at the end of the season and have an opportunity to secure home matches during the playoffs. Locomotive's next game will be 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, against second-place New Mexico United (7-4-2) next week at Southwest University Park.

The Locomotive will go on the road after that for two matches for the final games of the regular season against the Colorado Springs



Photo by Salette Ontiveros/ The Prospector

Omar Salgado passes the ball downfield versus San Antonio Sept 12.

Switchbacks FC and the Real Monarchs SLC. Some potential candidates to face the Locomotive at the quarterfinals can be San Diego

Loyal SC, Los Angeles Galaxy II, Orange County SC and FC Tulsa.

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UTEP Miners go on road versus Warhawks

Michael Cuvillo

The Prospector

Coming off its 17-13 win over Abilene Christian, the Miners take to the road in an effort to get its first win over an NCAA Division 1 team versus the University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM) Warhawks.

The Miners are now 3-1 on the season, while the Warhawks have lost its first two games of the year by double digits in each matchup. Louisiana Monroe opened the season with a 37-7 defeat on the road to Army and lost 38-17 at home versus Texas State this weekend.

ULM is coming off a 5-7 season just missing out on bowl eligibility with a heartbreaking season-ending loss to in-state rival Ragin Cajuns of the University of Louisiana 31-30.

The Warhawks will have to replace its second all-time leading passer and starter for the past three seasons Caleb Evans at quarterback. Evans threw for over 9500 yards in his time as a quarterback and finished as the team's seventh all-time leading rusher with over 2000 yards on the ground.

Sophomore Colby Suits has taken over as the starting signal-caller for the Warhawks. Suits is more a traditional quarterback and does not offer much in the run game. So far, on the season, Suits has completed 66% of his passes for three touchdowns and one interception. In the last game versus Texas State, Suits passed for 377 yards.

Returning at running back is preseason all-conference running back Josh Johnson, coming off a



Photo courtesy of Ruben Ramirez

UTEP sophomore quarterback Gavin Hardison takes snap versus Abilene Christian Saturday, Sept. 19.

1,298-yard season including 11 touchdowns. After averaging over 6 yards a carry last season, Johnson has struggled through two games with a little over 3 yards per carry. Keeping the Warhawk run game in check will be a major key for the Miner defense.

At wide receiver, the Warhawks lose its top receiver from last year but have some young talent at the position with junior Perry Carter and sophomore Jaquan Bloomfield, who has averaged 18 yards a reception so far this season.

Senior tight end Josh Pederson is easily the most dangerous receiver on the team, leading the team with nine receptions for 94 yards on the young season. Pederson was first team all-conference last season with nine touchdowns. At 6-5 235 pounds, Pederson makes for a tough matchup for the Miner secondary.

The offensive line returns all five starters on a very experienced

offensive line with three seniors as key pieces of the line. Junior guard T.J. Fiailoa is the top returning starter and is considered a potential all-conference player. ULM's experience on offensive line should be an area where UTEP should be able to evaluate how far the defensive line has come this season in terms of development.

On defense, the Warhawks have seen its share of turmoil, losing its defensive coordinator Mike Collins 10 days before the season opener versus Army. Replacing Collins will be a familiar face for the Miners with former defensive coordinator Scott Stoker taking over the reins. Stoker was a coordinator from 2013 to 2015 for the Miners under former coach Sean Kugler.

Louisiana Monroe returns eight starters on defense. While experience wise this may be a good thing, the defensive unit was ranked the third-

worst in the nation in 2019. Allowing 484 yards and 38 points a game last season, the Warhawks are on a similar path with 431 yards and 37 points a game this season.

Stopping the run has been a huge issue thus far for the Warhawks, giving up 289 yards a game on the ground. UTEP's depth at running back should be ripe for exploiting this weakness. The Warhawk defensive line is neither good against the run or adept at pressuring the passer.

With its leading tackler, Cortez Cisco, now departed along with his 114 total stops, the Warhawks will be even more undersized at linebacker with 205-pound senior Traevon Webster manning his old position. Webster currently leads the team in tackles with 19. Inside, 226-pound KeyShawn Johnson will cover the middle linebacker position.

The Warhawks, much like the

Miners defensive strength, is its veteran secondary returning all five starters from last season. This remarkably busy tacking unit is led by senior Cory slaughter, who had five interceptions last season. So far this season, the Warhawks have not recorded an interception.

Now in his fifth season with the Warhawks, Matt Viator sits with a 19-31 record as a coach at ULM. Previously Viator produced a consistent winner at McNeese State, compiling a 78-33 record.

On paper, the Warhawks are a good matchup for the offense of the Miners. It should be an excellent matchup to get the UTEP running game going. Both team's secondaries spend an overwhelming majority of the game making tackles on runners downfield and are very experienced.

The defense of the Warhawks should be a boon to the confidence of the young sophomore quarterback Gavin Hardison and his stable of running backs featuring Deion Hankins and Josh Fields.

For the game, I expect a lack of defense from both teams with the experience of the UTEP offensive line being the difference for a close victory on the road.

The game starts at 1:30, Sept. 26 at Malone Stadium in Monroe Louisiana and will be televised on ESPN2.

Prediction; UTEP 34 ULM 31
UTEP is 0-4 in the state of Louisiana since its last 44-7 victory over Tulane in 2014. This game will be the first ever matchup versus ULM in UTEP football history.

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