

11-2020

The Prospector, November 25, 2020

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Assayer of student opinion

THE PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 106, NO. 7

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

NOVEMBER 25, 2020

ANOTHER GRADUATION LOST TO COVID-19



Photograph by Claudia Hernández/The Prospector

Despite pandemic, graduating senior determined to begin career

Alyson Rodriguez
The Prospector

What should have been a time to celebrate graduation and start a lifelong career instead turned into another tradition lost to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hundreds of seniors at UTEP will once again not experience their graduation in person because of COVID-19's tight grip on reality. One of those graduating seniors is Brianna Perez who's graduating with a bachelor's degree in multimedia journalism with a minor in marketing.

Despite not being able to celebrate such an important milestone, Perez said she's just glad she discovered her passion during college.

"Starting at the university I was very indecisive about what I wanted to major in," Perez said. "Throughout all my years at Parkland High School, I was a part of the T-STEM program, so when I began attending UTEP, I was originally going to pursue a degree in civil engineering. But quickly found that I was not fit for that field, so I switched to my true passion which is journalism and never looked back."

Perez, 22, was born in Los Angeles and was raised here in El Paso. She began her classes at UTEP in the fall of 2016, deciding to attend UTEP to stay close to her family.



Courtesy of Brianna Perez

Graduating senior Brianna Perez hopes to break into the tumultuous journalism industry as the pandemic continues to grip the economy.

Her four years flew by as a full-time student with a part-time job. Although she didn't participate in any clubs during her time at UTEP, she did intern for local television station KVIA-TV and the Sun Bowl Association.

When asked how she felt about graduating during a pandemic, Perez described it as definitely not being ideal because like many students, she had been waiting four years to graduate. She said it is upsetting having her graduation overshadowed by such a catastrophic time.

"Graduating this December is so surreal; I did not expect my final

classes to be moved entirely online. I almost feel as if I didn't attend UTEP at all this semester. It is a bit saddening to think I will not see my professors or classmates who I've shared these last four years with again," Perez said. "But, under the circumstances, it is understandable. Overall, receiving my undergrad is probably the best thing that has happened to me all year, at least now I can say that I graduated during a pandemic."

Perez is currently looking for a job in the field of broadcast journalism

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COVID-19 at UTEP
Fall 2020 (Aug. 24 - Nov. 15)

800
cases through UTEP's testing program

211
cases were self-reported

Source: utep.edu/resuming-campus-operations/dashboard/

OPINION

NOVEMBER 25, 2020

EDITOR BRYAN MENA, 747-5161

Claudia Hernández leaves behind legacy at The Prospector

Claudia Hernández

The Prospector

I never thought I'd graduate from college during a pandemic but here I am.

Both of my siblings graduated from UTEP a while ago and when I went to their ceremonies, I always told myself that would be me in a few years — standing there with my cap decorated and my parents struggling to find me because there would be so many other students graduating. I told my parents I would wear a very noticeable cap so they could easily find me. I wanted to have a huge party where all my loved ones could be there with me after accomplishing something I put so much time and effort in.

But things didn't go as planned. This year definitely didn't go as planned for anyone.

I honestly don't feel like I am graduating, but I am and I am very excited.

Of course, I have days where I am terrified of what my future holds, but I'm mostly excited because I have many plans on my agenda. If I learned anything about this year,



Courtesy of Claudia Hernández

Claudia Hernández double majored in multimedia journalism and digital media production at UTEP.

it'd be that I am now more prepared and capable than ever before to chase my dreams. Having passion reassures me that everything will somehow be okay. I spent my whole life wondering what my passion was, jealous of people who knew what they wanted to be since they were kids.

Even when I began college, I never knew what I really liked. After I applied to The Prospector and eventually got in, I slowly began to realize what I wanted to be. At first, I was so intimidated and

overwhelmed, and it took me a few semesters to realize I really liked where my career was taking me.

If I could advise anyone who's starting a new chapter in their life, not just college, I'd tell them to set their priorities straight and really pay attention to detail. A professor I admire a lot once told me that the difference between a mediocre and a good job is the attention to detail. I truly believe that is the key in standing out and growing as a person.

I always said "yes" to every

opportunity I encountered at UTEP which was overwhelming at times. I never saw any results until now. I guess all those efforts from years ago were seeds and my perseverance was the water. Now, I am finally blossoming.

I want to thank everyone at The Prospector who helped and encouraged me, but especially who became my friends. Thank you, Michaela, for hiring me when I was 18 and didn't really know anything about journalism. Thank you, Gaby, for teaching me about photography

so patiently.

Thank you, Vero, for being the greatest boss and friend. Thank you, Tracy, Gigi, Brianna, Valeria, Vicky, Glenda, Anahy and Paulina for making this job so much fun. I really enjoyed talking to you and learning from you. Thank you, Marisol and Landy for being one of my first best friends at UTEP.

Thank you professors Kate Gannon, and Dino Chiecchi for believing in me and granting me so many opportunities. Thank you, Humberto, for always being my plus two at every event I had to cover. And of course, thank you to my parents, Ana Larisa and Fabian, for making this possible and constantly listening to me talking about my dreams.

I am so happy to have built these relationships. I want you all to know that you have a friend in me.

As for now, I will celebrate at home with the hopes that I can celebrate with all of you when this is all over.

Claudia Hernández may be reached on Twitter @itsclaudiah

Business

El Paso's Black-owned businesses get a boost in 2020

Daniela Ramos

The Prospector

El Paso is a predominantly Hispanic city, but Black entrepreneurs are still leaving their mark here through various industries like food and beverage and real estate. However, they still face challenges unique to Black business owners.

"I just knew that I had the opportunity to sell shaved ice, and as for the means to get there, you just have to set them in motion," Kenneth Broomfield of Blue-Collar Ice said during a webinar hosted by the El Paso Chamber of Commerce and the El Paso Young Black Leaders (EPYBL).

Blue Collar Ice, a mobile food truck selling shaved ice and waffles to El Paso and surrounding areas, came to life after Broomfield decided to chase his dream.

"I've always kept a day job in which I use my profession, graphic design, so you have to use your job sometimes to build your dreams," Broomfield said. "What it actually comes down to is execution."

According to Kellie Evans of JS House of Fashion during the webinar, trial and error tends to be

the most common method when building a business but having someone to help and guide you through it all is essential.

"We had to do trial and error because we didn't get any help. That's why I wanted to put myself in this position to help others because sometimes you want to get started but you don't know how and it's frustrating. It can deter you from what you really want to achieve," said Evans, whose clothing line offers the customization of different garments and accessories, as well as her original and unique fashion designs.

The webinar was dubbed "Black Wall Street Showcase" and the first one was held in the last week of August, mostly based on entrepreneurial experience of Black El Pasoans, according to Dr. Richard Pineda, chair of the department of communication at UTEP and moderator of the event.

"As part of the initiatives that the El Paso Chamber has launched over the course of two years, small business has remained a primary focus," Pineda said. "For this, the chamber has partnered with different organizations in an attempt to reach out to new businesses here in El Paso

and explain what they have done to be successful."

According to EPYBL's Facebook page, the organization has been calling attention to the unexpected opportunities available to people looking to embark on a new business venture amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

While one of the focuses of the August webinar was to discuss start-up capital and business ideas, it also aimed at elaborating on the business environment new Black business owners might experience in El Paso.

"We also want to talk about the opportunities and challenges that are unique to El Paso," Pineda said. "What complications or opportunities exist by being a minority business owner, in this particular case, being a Black owner, especially since some may not be originally from El Paso."

Evans told The Prospector she has been supported by the El Paso community for the two years she's been involved with the city.

"However, I think Black people aren't taken as seriously as white entrepreneurs," Evans said. "They don't think we can be professional, so that's part of what we want — to



Courtesy of Confidence via Adobe Stock

El Paso Chamber of Commerce held its second "Black Wall Street Showcase" in October.

show that we can display decorum, morale, excellent customer service and that we can be professionals too."

Being a female entrepreneur has also presented problems for Evans and JS House of Fashion, co-owned by her husband.

"Being a woman has absolutely been a problem," Evans said. "I have to rise higher to the occasion; I have to be more assertive or aggressive to

get my point across."

When doing business, Evans said there is a notable bias in how people judge a business if it's run by a woman rather than a man.

"You don't want people to see you because of how you look or how you present yourself, instead you want them to see what you can bring to

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the table,” Evans said. “In the past, most of the business was directly referred to my husband even though I was also a co-owner.”

Evans advises all young entrepreneurs considering or planning to start a business to trademark their logo.

“Invest in social media, you have to market to stay visible, but don’t rely on it. Instead, get involved in your community, serve in different locations and announce yourself,” Evans said.

“There’s really no specific guide on how to do it. You can do it on your own and it’ll be a challenge, but it will also be one of the best you’ll ever have.”

Efforts have also been made by the El Paso community to bring attention to local Black-owned businesses earlier in the year.

On Juneteenth, a historic date marking the effective end of slavery in Texas and the United States, the El Paso Black Pages relaunched its directory online to promote Black business owners. Curtis Smith, director of El Paso Black Pages, told KVIA-TV this was also done with the intent to challenge young Black entrepreneurs to start their own businesses.

However, Smith said some Black business owners do not wish to be promoted on the online directory, as they fear they might lose customers.

External factors like the summer’s racial equality protests have also worked to bring awareness among the general population of the presence of local Black entrepreneurs.

Evans said the George Floyd

protests helped put EPYBL on the spotlight.

“Events like these bring awareness of the Black community and what it goes through,” Evans said.

An article published by KFOX14 in June reported an increase in Black-owned business sales, during and after the protests.

“It’s picked up, I would say almost a 50% increase previous to what I was doing before all of this occurred,” said Ken Johnson, owner of Hawaii Kravings.

Due to the sudden rise in sales, according to the article, Black-owned business owners mentioned they could both feel and see the strong support from the El Paso community.

“I feel like the situation that’s going on in the world is causing people to see the value in other people’s lives and bringing unity to the community,” Joseph Snell, CEO of Zion’s Bow Ties, told KFOX14.

Though Evans also saw an increase in sales during the nationwide protests, she admits she hopes the attention the Black community has gotten recently isn’t ephemeral.

“Hopefully it sticks, all the new money coming into Black owned business, and that it wasn’t a seasonal thing, or just because it was a trend,” Evans said. “These showcases aren’t only shedding light on black entrepreneurs in El Paso, but through them we’re also creating a networking system, not just within, but outside of our community as well.”

Daniela Ramos may be reached at prospector@utep.edu @TheDaniRamos on Twitter

Small businesses brace for the worst

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

Yesenia Vega, owner of Scenic’s Bar N Kitchen, said she shed tears and called her father when El Paso County shut down all nonessential businesses in the spring.

“There’s a lot of money that goes into a restaurant. From trying to get people through the door to marinating the food, I had no idea what I was going to do,” Vega said. “I remember crying the night that I let everybody go and it was just me here. It’s just really hard because I am the sole owner and I had to figure out a strategy to keep money coming in.”

Vega’s testimony is just one of many from people who own a small business in the Sun City, now known as a COVID-19 hot spot. The spring was tough, but El Paso’s COVID-19 crisis has some business owners bracing for the worst, not just for themselves, but for their own families.

“I was trying to find more options to work at other places for more money for my household,” Ulises Rodriguez, manager and co-owner of Sand Dust Coffee, said. Rodriguez’s coffee shop offers unique specialty coffee beans and is family owned. It has ventured into takeout options to facilitate revenue in the company such as Uber Eats and Favor.

Several restaurants and businesses have had to permanently close their doors due to a loss in revenue attributed to closures caused by COVID-19 restrictions.

Adapting to the restrictions set



Photograph by Maria Salette Ontiveros/The Prospector

Joe Vinny & Bronsons, a restaurant in central, has safety precautions in place.

in place just to simply survive and get by is what many local businesses have been doing.

“I had to figure out just like every other restaurant here in El Paso a strategy of how to keep money coming in,” Vega said. “I haven’t been in quarantine. I was in quarantine here,”

In Vega’s case, she was fortunate to have received assistance from her boyfriend and newly hired bartenders to help her business navigate through the pandemic, working 12 hours a day herself to keep the business going.

El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego ordered a two-week shutdown of all non-essential services Oct. 29, which was met with opposition from El Paso Mayor

Dee Margo and the Texas Attorney General.

Texas’ 34th District Court Judge William Moody ruled that Samaniego’s ruling will remain in place and local law enforcement will enforce the shutdown. The attorney general for the State of Texas Ken Paxton and a coalition of businesses filed their notice of appeal, according to El Paso City Attorney Karla Nieman, the El Paso Times reported.

A daily 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew was also ordered by Samaniego to be in effect for two weeks Oct. 25 in an effort to slow the COVID-19 crisis in El Paso, The Prospector reported.

“I feel like if there’s going to be a shut down it needs to be done

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right and I am feeling like they are shutting down some businesses but not others,” Hive Java Lounge co-owner Zoraida Dobard said. “You have stores open like Hobby Lobby and I love Hobby Lobby, but yet little businesses have to close.”

Dobard’s local East El Paso coffee shop location opened in 2017 and is located right next door to Glitch Gaming Center, which is co-owned by her husband Nick Dobard. The coffee shop and the gaming center essentially complement each other. While Glitch has struggled due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Hive Java Lounge has managed to maintain a steady stream of revenue that’s been keeping it alive.

“Glitch has been impacted and we haven’t had much going on here, so we are a little bit worried about Glitch,” Zoraida Dobard said. “We had a lot of events planned prior to COVID-19 and this year would’ve been a really big year for Glitch.”

Precautionary measures have been heeded by many local businesses since the March shutdown like Joe Vinny & Bronsons Bohemian Café owner Christina Estrada.

She implemented several safety measures at her business such as switching from silverware to disposable utensils, which she implemented even before the shutdown.

“Once the shutdown came in full fledge, I voluntarily decided to shut down for a month because we are a small business,” Estrada said. “Once we came back, we did just delivery and takeout which was a challenge. Immediately, we saw at least a 50 percent drop in revenue, so it was all about adapting.”

Keeping employees healthy throughout a pandemic is a challenge for these local businesses because COVID-19 is a silent menace and it can strike at any moment

To read the rest of Ramirez’s story, please visit theprospectordaily.com.

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Senior from cover page

but she said she’s finding it a bit challenging since many companies are currently not hiring due to the pandemic. In the meantime, she is looking into going to graduate school to receive her master’s degree.

Perez is determined to break into a tumultuous field. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 11% decline of broadcast journalism jobs from 2019 to 2029 because of the Internet’s ongoing disruption of the media industry. Overall, newsroom employment according to pewresearch.org has begun to decrease even more ever since the pandemic. Layoffs, pay cuts and buyouts have rattled the industry for decades, but it’s only gotten worse.

“I chose to go into broadcast journalism because I love storytelling. If the pandemic has taught us anything, it’s how essential journalists are. We are at the front lines of all major events, getting all the facts and sharing it with the viewers who are unaware of the magnitude of the situation at hand and are too afraid to go out at this time,” Perez said. “I find the work that journalists do to be very courageous and rewarding to see it make a difference in the community during great times of need.”

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Venturing into an unpredictable field

Graduating senior aspires to be a journalist

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

Sarah Franco began her college career with a passion for journalism, which led her to valuable internships and opportunities. Fast forward four years, her passion continues, but the landscape of journalism, as well as the world around her, is changing and evolving in various facets.

Franco will be graduating from UTEP in December with a major in multimedia journalism and a minor in film. Her work as a student journalist has been published in Borderzine, an online magazine at UTEP that bridges the classroom and the newsroom.

“I love writing and that is what got me into journalism,” Franco said. “I love connecting with people. Anything having to do with person-to-person connection is what I want to do in the future.”

The journalism department at UTEP is home to professors like Dino Chiecchi, a multimedia journalist whose career has taken him to many places from Austin, Texas to Hong Kong. Chiecchi also served as the adviser to UTEP’s National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) student chapter.

Franco recalls traveling alongside Chiecchi to Houston, Texas for a journalism print convention. The convention helped expand her opportunities in the field of journalism outside of a conventional classroom setting, also helping structure her writing as an emerging professional journalist.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a large majority of courses have



Courtesy of Sarah Franco

Franco will be graduating from UTEP in December with a major in multimedia journalism and a minor in film.

transitioned to strictly online, forcing students in the journalism department, like Franco, to adapt to covering stories in different ways. Virtual interviews have replaced face-to-face interaction, as remote methods have overtaken the field.

“There have been a lot of limitations and you are not able to go out as freely,” Franco said. “I think what has been great is everyone has been working well with each other and understanding that we are very limited.”

Franco believes the current pandemic has shed light on the importance of journalism relating to concrete facts and accurate reporting.

However, like many aspects of the work force, the pandemic has

also led to numerous layoffs within the already scarce employment field that is journalism. According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median pay for reporters, correspondents and broadcast news analysts in 2019 was \$46,270 with an average hourly pay of \$22.25.

“I think I have always thought about the salary and job outlook within journalism and during this pandemic you have to find reporters that really understand and want the truth,” Franco said.

In preparation of life after graduation, Franco took part in various internships and academic experiences including working for a local nonprofit, serving as a senior ambassador during her study abroad

program and being a part of NAHJ.

“In the beginning of freshman orientation, this woman had told me that when you graduate you should have two internships, at best four, which I keep at the back of my mind,” Franco said.

Through her internships, Franco strengthened her public speaking skills and is more comfortable conducting interviews.

She hopes to continue strengthening her skills by pursuing a master’s degree in writing. Franco hopes to go as far as becoming a journalist in a foreign country.

“I knew that graduating in the fall, you either jump right into the work field in the spring or you take your time getting into the field and I wouldn’t mind a little break to not over exhaust myself,” Franco said.

“I really love learning and traveling. Unfortunately, I cannot do that due to the pandemic, but by spring I will know exactly where I want to be.”

A key piece of advice Franco has for fellow student journalists is to take advantage of the many opportunities college has to offer and always put generosity first.

“The best advice I can give is making the person you are interviewing comfortable and try to be as sincere as possible,” Franco said. “People have a specific idea of how journalists act. Acting in a generous and nice way will help.”

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Midwives: Home births, complications have increased

‘... they’re reporting more and more complications during birth,’ one midwife said

Daniela Ramos

The Prospector

There are nearly 36,000 active COVID-19 infections in El Paso County as of Monday, Nov. 23 and El Paso County Judge Ricardo Samaniego said during a virtual news conference in late October that many local hospitals have already reached full capacity.

Despite the grim realities of the pandemic, many still need to regularly see a doctor, especially pregnant women.

“Mothers are afraid,” said Marivette Torres, clinic and admissions director at Maternidad La Luz birth center. “They don’t want to go to hospitals and expose themselves and their babies to anyone that could possibly have COVID-19.”

Torres said there’s been a huge decrease in the number of mothers asking to be transferred to hospitals for pain management while experiencing strong contractions or even during the time of the actual birth.

“There was a single woman who asked to be taken to a hospital for pain management in the past month, while in the past there would normally be about twenty women requesting to be transferred,” Torres said. “People are just very afraid of exposure.”

Due to this, some women in El Paso have begun to place their trust on midwife services, rather than hospitals. This has also led to a skyrocketing increase in home birth

services, Torres said.

Midwives are individuals who are professionally trained to facilitate childbirth. They can be both men and women and are usually not medical specialists.

Midwife centers are businesses that provide expecting mothers a licensed midwife whenever needed along with guidance on prenatal care and testing necessary to keep the mother healthy before and after delivering their baby.

Midwife services can be provided through a clinic or birth center or midwives can go to the mothers themselves for at-home services.

As a clinical midwife service,

Maternidad La Luz’s usual process involves people simply walking in and filling out an application to give birth at the clinic in due time. Afterwards, the mothers would go through a series of tests to confirm that they are experiencing a low-risk pregnancy.

“We are a birth center, so for people to give birth here they have to be low risk, since it’s considered an out-of-hospital birth,” Torres explained. “The woman has to be in good health, no preexisting medical conditions, and their blood pressure has to be within normal limits.”

As a precaution, Maternidad La Luz also conducts tests for

gestational diabetes, for which insulin would have to be provided.

“It’s a pretty straightforward process: they contact us and, if they’re in good health, then we welcome them into our care previous to the birth and up to six weeks after it as well,” Torres said.

Nevertheless, the imposed measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 made their previous system impossible to continue with.

“Before the pandemic, our services were an ‘open clinic,’” Torres said. “We had walk-in checkups and sign-ins; people could come for their prenatal visits at any time of day. There were no set times or schedules, so our waiting areas used to be packed during the day.”

Because of this, Maternidad La Luz had to divert their methods to alternatives safer for their patients.

“Now, we have appointments, take the temperatures of both our patients and staff at the entrance and have them wash their hands for twenty seconds or longer,” Torres said. “We also highly recommend that people don’t bring their children with them.”

Likewise, the Luna Tierra Birth Center would ensure that each mother that contacted them would have a normal pregnancy, give prenatal care and schedule regular appointments for checkups and the usual testing.

“Now, besides our regular testing we have to do screening tests for COVID-19 since we can’t really treat or care for a mother that has



Graphic by Hugo Hinojosa/The Prospector

Maternidad La Luz and Luna Tierra are two birth centers in El Paso.

See Midwives page 5

Experts explain the different kinds of COVID-19 tests

RT-PCR, antibody and antigen tests are the main COVID-19 tests available

Maria Salette Ontiveros

The Prospector

El Paso has been the focus of national media attention because of the staggering amount of new COVID-19 cases these past few weeks and it's not letting up. The county reported more than 1,000 hospitalizations Nov. 24.

With the disease still spreading like a wildfire, experts say it's important to be educated on what kinds of COVID-19 tests are out there.

Currently, there are three different types of tests available in the region: The RT-PCR test, antibody test, and antigen test.

"The RT-PCR test detects directly the virus and is the most specific and sensitive test. It is the best. We call it the gold standard," said Dr. Delfina Dominguez, clinical laboratory science professor at UTEP.

According to Dominguez, the PCR test detects even the smallest amounts of the virus because it's the most sensitive.

"The antibody (test) just tells you if you have been infected or not... If the result is negative, it means that you have not developed antibodies in your body yet," said Dr. Joel Hendryx, the chief medical officer at the University's Medical Center of El Paso.

Hendryx explained there are times when people test positive for COVID-19 through both the antibody and RT-PCR tests without actually being infected. According to Hendryx, the person may have parts of the virus' RNA still floating around in their nasal area, which can be picked up after the fact because the PCR test is so sensitive.

He said that when this happens, a person has already had an immune response to the disease.

On the other hand, the antigen



Courtesy of Pixabay

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, you should self-quarantine/isolate at home if you have pending test results while following the advice of your health care provider or a public health professional.

test looks for proteins from the virus.

"This antigen test is new and is being introduced very quickly, several laboratories have been approved by the FDA," Dominguez said. "It is excellent in a way that is very specific, however, if the patient has low amounts of the virus, then they might be not detected either."

According to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) website, unlike previous rapid antibody tests, which have led to negative results during early stages of infection, this test is more accurate in determining if someone is infected.

"Sometimes people want to know as soon as possible. The antigen test takes 30 minutes and it is very fast, like I said, It's very specific, but not that sensitive, in other words, the test can give you very good results if the patient contains high amount of the virus," Dominguez said. "The antibody test is also very quick, but you can't be certain if you are developing the antibodies which usually develop after two weeks of the infection."

The RT-PCR test takes three to five days to obtain results, the antibody test takes from 12 to 24 hours, while the antigen test takes half an hour, Dominguez explained. However, experts say the most efficient test people should take is the RT-PCR test.

The antibody test can be taken at any local clinic and the antigen test can be taken at any local laboratory.

There are currently four state testing sites in El Paso, open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The sites offer the RT-PCR test at no cost for anyone five years and older with or without symptoms. No appointments are needed, but once the daily capacity is met, the site will close for the day.

The UTEP testing program is free and available to UTEP staff, faculty and students who will be on campus during the semester. No appointments are necessary. The testing site offers the RT-PCR test.

Maria Salette Ontiveros may be reached at prospector@utep.edu @sallette2098 on Twitter.

Testing sites

- » El Paso Community College Valle Verde Campus, 919 Hunter Dr., El Paso, Texas
- » Nation Tobin Recreation Center, 8831 Railroad Dr., El Paso, Texas
- » SISD Student Activities Complex, 1300 Joe Battle Blvd., El Paso, Texas
- » UTEP Schuster 1 Parking Lot (Schuster Avenue and Spur 1966 Roundabout, on the south side of the complex), El Paso, Texas
- » Ascarate Park, 6800 Delta, El Paso, Texas

UTEP's drive thru testing site helps county track COVID-19 spread

Noelia Gonzalez

The Prospector

The spread of COVID-19 in El Paso has continued to rise, with the current number of active cases topping 35,900 as of Monday, Nov. 23. In order to keep up with the infection rate, UTEP and the City of El Paso have partnered to help the community get tested for COVID-19.

"Testing is free to the public. All you have to do is come with your ID, identify yourself and take the test," said Edgar Lopez, regional director of El Paso testing sites.

UTEP began hosting a drive thru testing site Oct. 21, located at its Schuster 1 parking lot on Schuster Avenue and the Spur 1966 roundabout. Testing is open to the general public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Sunday.

"There is an increase in individuals coming but that's what we want them to do," Lopez said. "We want individuals in Texas and in El Paso to come and get tested."

Lopez explained regular testing is key in preventing the spread of the virus, as it can help an individual determine whether they should isolate themselves to not infect people.

"This is one way we can fight the virus; by people realizing if they have it or don't have it, and if they do have it, to isolate themselves," Lopez said.

UTEP also negotiated a separate drive thru testing site for UTEP employees, students and their family members at the Schuster 3 parking lot, which opened Oct. 27. This line is only available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Individuals must show their minor gold card for access.

"For the most part, it was pretty safe. They somewhat disinfected the cars and they made us put the windows up just as a precautionary measure," UTEP student, Iliana Dominguez, said.

According to UTEP officials, the purpose of the designated UTEP line is to provide a faster line than the general public to students, faculty, staff and their family members.

"It was actually pretty fast compared to the first time I did it," Dominguez said. "It took me 30 minutes or an hour at the most."

Noelia Gonzalez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu @OfficialNoeliaG on Twitter.

Letters to the editor

"I am a 2017 Terry Scholar and master's student in the public health and biology program, and I will be graduating this fall semester. I came to graduate with my bachelor's and master's degrees within just three years after high school. The fast-track program played a key factor in allowing me to get ahead in my master's degree during my undergraduate studies. Additionally, the Terry Foundation, that gave me a scholarship, was critical for me to maintain a laser focus on my studies without having to worry about tuition or housing."

- **Adriana Mares,**
Graduating senior

Midwives from page 4

COVID," said Ruth Kauffman, a midwife at Luna Tierra birth center. "We have seen an increase in our clientele from the El Paso area, but we also take care of people from Juárez and that number has decreased because of the politics of the border," Kauffman said.

Both Maternidad La Luz's and Luna Tierra's patients were mostly from Juárez, so the start of the pandemic marked a low point for these clinics.

"With such strict border restrictions, we saw a very significant decrease in patients at the start of COVID-19, since most of our clients couldn't cross over," Torres said.

Despite losing many of their patients, Torres believes the clinic has finally returned to its normal number of clients due to more and more women choosing to give birth in a birth center rather than in a hospital.

"I don't think there was an increase in regular demand, but rather in women that wouldn't normally consider midwife services previous to the pandemic," Torres said.

On the other hand, home birth services, that used to have only a few patients, have been booming since the start of the pandemic, Torres said.

This type of midwife service involves much less outside contact and allows women to give birth in the comfort and safety of their own home, thus explaining why women would rather go for this method of child birth.

Although more and more mothers have opted for home birth services, even before the pandemic, Kauffman also said more mothers have been experiencing birth complications.

"Midwives across the country aren't reporting an increase in demand, rather they're reporting more and more complications during birth," Kauffman explained. "Not because of anyone having COVID, but because of the stress, insecurity, and difficulties of the time."

Nevertheless, through any one of these processes, women don't have to feel concerned about giving birth in hospitals where many active cases of COVID-19 are still being reported.

With the percentages of positive cases rising, most pregnant women are more afraid than ever to expose themselves to dangerous, highly contagious environments, as hospitals are perceived to be.

However, thinking that hospital facilities are unfit to accommodate women in labor and ensure they do not come in contact with the virus would be quite erroneous, according to both Torres and Kauffman.

"We still do transfers to hospitals if the mother's condition turns into high-risk, so I know that hospitals are being very cautious and are taking all necessary measures," Torres explained. "We trust that hospitals are doing the best to decrease exposure, but it's the general population that is just afraid."

Similarly, Kauffman mentioned that hospitals were overwhelmed at the start of the pandemic, but soon learned how to manage and contain exposure.

"Their testing has gotten much better, now they can test any woman that comes in for labor to see if they're positive," Kauffman said.

Daniela Ramos may be reached at prospector@utep.edu @TheDaniRamos on Twitter

UTEP expands manufacturing, aerospace research

Collaboration with Youngstown State University aims sustaining country's defense

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

UTEP's W.M. Keck Center for 3D Innovation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration MIRO Center for Space Exploration and Technology Research (cSETR) have announced plans to open a research unit in Youngstown, Ohio with Youngstown State University (YSU). The collaboration will focus on advanced manufacturing, aerospace and defense technologies.

This announcement is monumental for UTEP because it will expand its research opportunities into another manufacturing nucleus being Youngstown which is the home of America Makes, "the nation's leading and collaborative partner in additive manufacturing (AM)/3D printing (3DP) technology and workforce development," according to the organization's website.

The collaboration between UTEP and YSU is a part of America Makes' newly established Advanced Manufacturing and Applied Research Innovation Institute.

America Makes was established in 2012 and is the flagship institute for Manufacturing USA, the nation's leading and collaborative partner in AM and 3DP technology research, discovery, creation, and innovation.

The organization is also managed and operated by the National Center for Defense Manufacturing and Machining.

"The presence of Youngstown State University and America Makes in Youngstown presents a tremendous opportunity for us to collaborate with world-class additive manufacturing experts," said Dr. Ryan Wicker, professor and director

"I believe the El Paso and Youngstown areas are poised to become leaders in hypersonic technologies."

-Dr. Ahsan Choudhuri,
Associate vice President
of aerospace center

of UTEP's Keck Center, in a news release.

The main goal or vision with the opening of the new center in Youngstown is to create a bridge between two of the nation's largest and most significant manufacturing hubs — El Paso and Youngstown, Ohio.

"I believe the El Paso and Youngstown areas are poised to become leaders in hypersonic technologies, and we are very enthusiastic about establishing a footprint in Youngstown to work jointly on hypersonic-enabling technologies with YSU and local advanced manufacturing businesses," said Dr. Ahsan Choudhuri, associate vice president for aerospace center and founding director of cSETR, in a news release. "We are very excited about this opportunity and commit to bringing our extensive network of aerospace and defense industry partners to this relationship."

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



Courtesy of UTEP

UTEP is expanding its research operations into Ohio through the W.M. Keck Center for 3D Innovation and the NASA MIRO Center for Space Exploration and Technology Research, or cSETR.



Courtesy of UTEP

Research at UTEP facilities has continued despite the pandemic but with many safety precautions in place like the use of masks, practicing social distancing and other measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Professor researches Mexico's immigration rules

Andrea Valdez-Rivas

The Prospector

Jeremy Slack, associate professor of geography at UTEP, was awarded a \$39,500 grant this past summer by Mexico's Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT) and the University of Texas System for research on Mexico's immigration enforcement.

Slack's project was one of the few social science projects that got funded this year. His research primarily focuses on analyzing Mexico's immigration enforcement practices, in order to understand how the country's government is stopping people from coming through the country and how it relates to people wanting to stay in Mexico or not.

A caravan of Central American migrants has been making its way through Mexico to reach the United States. According to BBC News, in late 2018 the Enrique Peña Nieto administration offered temporary work permits to migrants who registered for asylum. But to qualify, migrants were required to stay in Mexico's southern states of Oaxaca and Chiapas.

Andrés Manuel López Obrador, Mexico's incumbent president, has also encouraged migrants to seek work visas and stay in Mexico.

"We wanted to really figure out if people are actually going to do that and what would be barriers to that," Slack told The Prospector.

According to Slack, his research



Photograph by Marisol Chávez/The Prospector

Jeremy Slack, associate professor of geography, giving a presentation over one of his books about immigration in front of students in September 2019 at UTEP.

is not centered on trying to push migrants to stay or live in Mexico, but to understand the reasons they would or would not want to do so.

Some of the grant's money has been allocated to building infrastructure in migrant shelters in Mexico to conduct remote interviews with subjects. Slack and his collaborators have installed Wi-Fi in the Leona Vicario shelter in Ciudad Juárez.

Having internet access means migrants can communicate with the outside world, as oftentimes,

migrants run out of money or prepaid cellphone minutes.

"A Wi-Fi connection can be a big lifesaver for talking to lawyers, talking to families, making arrangements," Slack said.

Research aside, one of Slack's primary goals is to make sure the process is beneficial to the community. The COVID-19 pandemic also adds an additional factor of research, and that is to understand what it's like to cross borders "in a time of complete immobilization."

At UTEP, Slack's research is focused on migration, borders, Latin America — especially Mexico and Brazil — drugs and drug trafficking, among other related topics. In his most recent book, "Deported to Death: How Drug Violence Has Reshaped Migration on the U.S.-Mexico Border," Slack looks at how the drug war has impacted migrants who are stranded in unfamiliar cities after being deported and how they have been targeted by drug cartels.

Slack interviewed migrants in shelters about their experience crossing illegally and being deported. This included a young man, Juanito, who was kidnapped by Los Zetas, one of the most dangerous drug cartels in Mexico.

When Slack started this kind of work, he was a graduate student at the University of Arizona. Although, violence was starting to rise in Cd. Juárez, it had not reached Sonora, the Mexican state which borders Arizona. It didn't take long, however, for crime and violence to rise in Sonora.

"We started to hear a lot of stories about kidnapping and drugs, and it kind of boiled up around us," Slack said.

This inspired Slack to take his research south of the border and get a closer look at the kind of mobility that takes place to cross to the U.S., including the dangers migrants face when they cross drug cartels. In his book "Deported to Death," Slack said most of Mexico's dangerous cities have been among the largest sites the

U.S. government deports migrants.

From 2011 to 2013, Slack traveled to his regular spots in Mexico for a couple of weeks at a time to interview migrants build rapport with them.

When he started doing more fieldwork, he would cross the border, daily, for six months. Even though he didn't pose a threat to cartels, he recalls being careful and always telling the truth about what he was doing. He even had to be careful with who he spoke to.

"It's not to demonize people who are deported or migrants, but there is a lot of infiltration in that flow of people. You don't know who everyone is," Slack said.

"So I would always approach people with kind of honesty, but also really aware that they might have ulterior motives for talking."

Slack refers to migrants who are detained by the U.S. government, are deported to a Mexican city and often become kidnapping targets for drug cartels.

In addition to his current project, Slack is conducting research on displaced Mexican families fleeing violence. Another grant will also give Slack and Josiah Heyman, director of UTEP's Center for Interamerican and Border Studies, the opportunity to research the Remain in Mexico program.

Andrea Valdez-Rivas may be reached at prospector@utep.edu
@AndreaVRNews on Twitter



Here's to surviving one wild year.

-Valeria Olivares



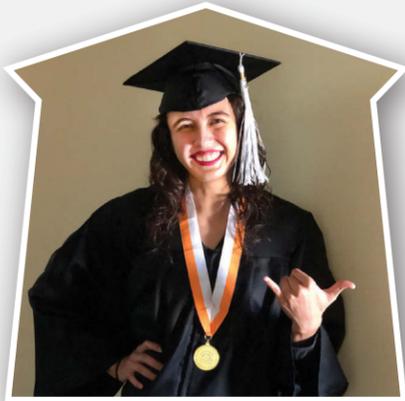
Goodbye UTEP, don't cry! I won't!

- Paulina Sosa



We are a body in movement, we constantly grow and learn all the way to our inner world to the outer. Keep moving, keep growing! Continue your journey through all the experiences of the life.

-André



I am so thankful with God and my family for supporting me in pursuing my dreams. Thanks to my professors for being such great professors and for teaching me not just academically but for life.

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream"

-Cinthia Maria Torres Quevedo



Miguel Agustin Carrillo Jr. would like to thank his family, faculty & staff at UTEP. Special thanks to Professor(s) Sarah Robertson, Sean Ihorn, Dr. Rebeca Perez, Dr. Giorgio Gotti, Patrice Hills, John Romero, & Cerjio Martinez, for all their guidance and support.

-Miguel Agustin Carrillo Jr.



Work hard. Have fun. There is always someone here to help you.

-Zachary Chanoi





Thank you to my parents, sister, and brother for encouraging me to keep moving forward. These past years have been a difficult journey, but I've learned to grow from my mistakes and failures. There will always be challenges, but there will always be hope too.

-Daniela Morales



UTEP has served me well but I cannot wait to start my future. The four years flew by and we're definitely accompanied with a whirlwind of emotions and experiences. This year of 2020 has been challenging, but WE DID IT! GO MINERS!

- Rachel Contreras-Rosales



I want to thank my amazing husband for all the late nights and early morning runs at 7am to print things out. Your love and support got me through stressful times. I love you so much.

Forever a UTEP Miner! We did it!

-Madeline Danielle Hernandez



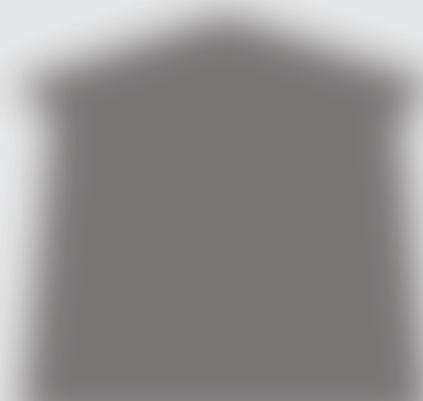
I am forever grateful for the infinite love support from my wonderful husband and my amazing family during my graduate career at UTEP. I share this tremendous accomplishment with you. Carlos, Mom, Dad, Saul, Vero, Maria, Dennis, Saulito, Miguel, and Marco, I love you! Master's Degree DONE!

-Sandra I. Morales



"I am graduating" Can't believe this dream came true after all these years of working hard its finally here. I want to thank God, my family and my fiancé that has support me throughout these years.

- Elizabeth Hernandez



Lieutenant Mario A. Velazquez graduated from Gadsden High School in 2006, graduated from the University of Phoenix in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration with a Concentration in Management and began UTEP graduate school with the College of Engineering while fulfilling his Military Science ROTC obligations and completed his Master of Science in Construction Management on December 2020.





Congratulations Class of 2020!
Thank you to my partner and daughter who supported my journey. Virtual hugs to my parents, professors, family members, friends and co-workers who supported me throughout my doctoral journey. Congratulations to my brother Robert who is graduating as a PE Coach in the COE!

-Angela Owens



I'm never going to be able to put into words the amount of appreciation, respect and love I have for my mother's endless amount of support she's given me throughout my bachelors degree. Any accomplishments I've ever and will ever make I dedicate them to my Mom. I love you!

-Bianca Garcia



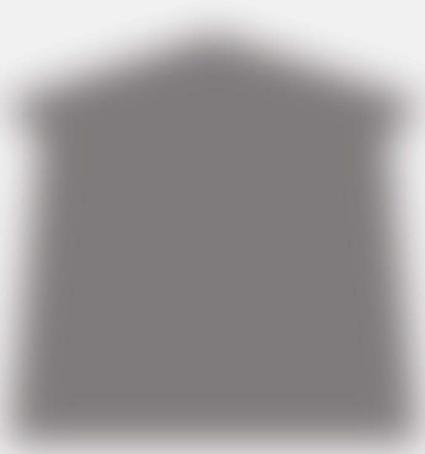
Although this is a time for saying goodbye to the Miner community, I will be a Miner forever. I will forever cherish the memories and bonds I have made with friends and professors and have pride in being a Miner and contribution to the treasures of tomorrow.

-Miguel Archuleta



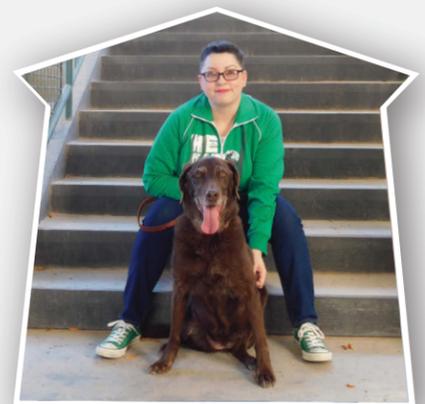
Your life is your story, and the adventures are your journey. Try not to compare it to anyone else. Everyone has their own purpose in life it is important and it counts. Grateful for the people who believed in me and kept pushing me in this journey..

-Sandra Flores



I just want to say I am very thankful for my family for standing by me as I moved through so many colleges. I also want to thank my family for supporting always!

-Sarah L. Baker



If anyone had told me I would be graduating I never would have believed them. I am here by the grace of God and the loyal support of my amazing family and friends. Thank you, UTEP, for my time here and for the lessons learned. This is for you, Brown.

-Monica M. Dell





My name is Fabian Aguirre, this is the best day of my life, I want to thank my family, parents, brothers and people who always helped me to make this possible. All dreams come true, you only have to trust in yourself. VIVA UTEP Y VIVA LA FAMILIA!! GRACIAS.

-Fabian Aguirre



We've accomplished so much in our 12 years of friendship. This was by far the toughest two years, but as with everything we've faced together, we freakin' did it. Oh, the places we'll go...together! #BLTgraduated

**-Brenda M. Robles, MBA (right)
-Leslie M. Ross, MBA (left)**



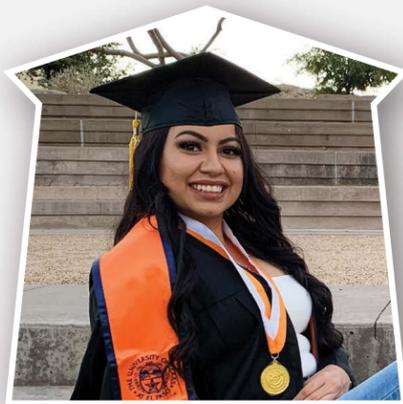
I want to thank City Council Representative Cissy Lizarraga and U.S. Army Major (Ret) Marty Graham for their letters of recommendation to UTEP, my coworker Darby, and supervisor, Olivia, for the flexibility to continue my education. A special thanks to my mom, Elva, and my husband, Jason, for their support.

-Melissa Harcrow



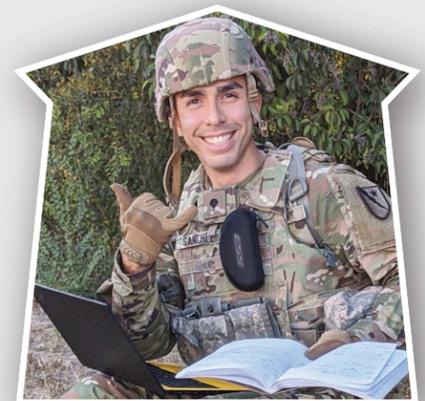
I want to give thanks to my parents, Jose Luis Flores and Herlinda Leal, they have always supported every decision and idea that pops into my head. To my family for always pushing me towards accomplishing my dreams. Thank you for always being there for me, I love you.

-Irma Yamileth Leal



"We do not need magic to change the world, we can carry all the power we need inside ourselves already." – JK Rowling

-Julissa Mata



I submitted this unconventional photo because I was activated for service this semester in response to both the pandemic and the political climate. I feel like it represents my final semester at UTEP most accurately. Go Miners!

- Andres Sanchez



SUMMER 2020

Graduate

College of Engineering

Doctor of Philosophy

Luis Angel Chavez Atayde
Shahrouz Jafarzade Ghadimi
Joanne Michelle Moyer
Reina Trevino
Adrian Edward Veliz
Yuxin Wen

Master of Engineering in Civil & Environmental Engineering

David Meza

Master of Science

Gary Lee Adams Jr
Mahdokht Michelle Afravi
Enrique Anguiano Chavez
Collin Antos
Evren Atli
Gary Brian Galindo
Luisa Fernanda Garcia
Alicia Grabiec
Araceli Guerra
Omar Hernandez Rodriguez
Jacob Edward Herrera
James Bradley Hix
Md Abir Hossain
Sorour Hosseini
Olden Jordan
Pedro Alejandro Marquez
Julianne Mason
Brady Melde
Christopher Jasiel Minjares
Rene Miranda
Cynthia Morales
Luisa Alejandra Morales
Luis Daniel Osegueda
Morakinyo Anthony Oyewole
Severo Alejandro Palacios
Norma Alicia Perea
Frank A. Perez
Stefani Perez Torres
Mohan Raj Rajkumar
Mirka Ramirez
Jesus Reyes
Md Moinuddin Shuvo
Gilberto Silva Jr
Neale Alan Smith
Berenice Torres Covarrubias
Nikolai Travis
Cesar Enrique Valenzuela Jr
Jesus Heriberto Valenzuela
Ramon Elias Victoriano
Zachary Adrian Welsh
Scott Thomas Wilkins

Master of Science in Environmental Engineering

Yohtaro Christopher Kobayashi

College of Liberal Arts

Doctor of Philosophy

Elvira Carrizal-Dukes

Master in Public Administration

Bryan Matthew Monroe
Alfonso Pacheco
Reginald David Quinn

Master of Arts

Ligia Atzimba Arguilez
Israel Garcia Carachure
Matthew Desiderio Minnich
Samantha Romero

Master of Defense & Strategic Studies

Prince Adu
Guillermo Alcala
Elizabeth Andrade
Steven Anthony Aponte
Travis Lamont Autry

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Class of 2020

John Michael Briskin
Austin Fairbairn
Nancy Marilyn Kaufman
Kathleen Anne O'Connor
Diana Leticia Padilla
Leslie Rodriguez
Edward Andrew Sena
Jaime Elmido Soria
Shaundria Woodard

Master of Music

Andres Anibal Acevedo
Preston Eugene Griffith

Master of Science

Danielle Janine Almodovar
Adriana Soltero

College of Science

Doctor of Philosophy

Luis Alfonso Barrera
Eduardo Peru
Yi Wang

Master of Arts in Teaching

Evelyn Maldonado
Erika Mercado
Nadia Catalina Rocha
Clarissa Francisca Rosa
Mahmut Yenilmez

Master of Science

Gilbert Danso Acheampong
Richard Owusu Adansi
Md Shamsul Alam
Afua Kwakyewaa Amoako Dadey
James Ernest Ekow Arthur
Francis Biney
Derrick Kwesi Bonney
Reaghan Kofi Doughan
Angela Marisol Encerrado Manriquez
Christopher Alexis Ibarra
Ogochukwu Nneka Ifeacho
Francis Abeiku Kwofie
Alejandro Lara
Grecia Daniela Medina
Vanessa Inez Navarro
Prince Opoku
Guadalupe Pena Contreras
Mandela Bright Quashie
Selim Sabag Romero Gonzalez
Jose Armando Terrazas

College of Education

Master of Education

Nancy Luna Barraza
Janeth Cristina Barrera
Anna Olaya Bejarano
Sunshine Faye Castro
Sara Eunice Chavez
Steven Cordero
Claudia Cortez
Monica D. Cortez
Debbie Duffus
Andrea Esnayra Alba
Judith Flores
Patricia Flores
Julia Gillett
Jessica Michelle Gonzalez
Jennifer Elizabeth Harrell
Angela Poleth Hinojosa-Campos
Bethany Llamas
Sara M. Lopez
Cecilia Martinez
Emily Mozzelle Martinez Oneill
Stephanie Crystal Montes
Ana Moriel
Lorena Patterson
Julienne H. Payan
Claudia Alejandra Ruiz
Jordan E. Sonora
Loghan Melony Thomas
Elizabeth Torres
Erica Jasmine Villanueva
Natalia Yanez

Master of Science

Karen Ileana Barraza
Sandra Lucia Del Campo
Jessica Delrio
Claudia Cristina Escajeda
Ashley Paige Hassinger
Latina Mercherson
Erika Monique Montoya
Jose Luis Paez
Maria Pangborn
Raquel Arroyo Payan
Neftali Nathanael Ramirez
Kelsey Janika Spence
Angela Ramona Vera

College of Business Administration

Master of Accountancy

Jesus Aguilar-Arroyo
Amy Cristina Espinola
Kimberly Guzman
Rebecca Hernandez
Maria Elena Martinez
David Christopher Ortega
Christian M. Prawel
Horacio Rios Vega
Brenda Rivera
Matthew Ruffcorn
Maribel Gabriela Ruiz

Master of Business Administration

Guillermo Jose Alvarez
Carlos Adrian Ayala
Juanita Maria Barraza
Jessica Rose Bedwell
Julian Beltran
Richard Angel Blancas
Diego Fernando Casillas Braun
Manuel Armando Chavez Jr.
Francisco J. Duran
Ricardo Faudoa
Roger Wilhelm Fritsch
Diana Galaviz Valles
Charles Glen Garber
Michael Granados
Victor Guerrero Jr
Viviana Patricia Hernandez
Guillermo Lopez Ramirez
Yesenia Lugo Saldivar
George Anthony Marquez
Karina Marta-Bueno
Troy Anthony McGarity
Bryan Anthony Monje
Marina Michelle Monsivais
Paloma Jasmine Munoz
Carlos A. Ortiz
Nydia Pages
Truc Thanh Pham
Laura D. Prine
Raymundo Resendez
Jesus Martin Rosales
Dominic Michael Scotto
Brian Sifuentes
Travis Joel Smith
Sakino Tanahara
Josh Tarango
Adrian Leon Tercero
Nancy Trevizo
Manuel Roberto Urias
Yadira Socorro Vitela

College of Health Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy

Juan Antonio Aguilera Mendoza

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Mark Ikechukwu Agholor
Michael Brandon Durling
Christian Ibe
Kalynn McKee
Jesus Javier Medrano

Master of Public Health

Crystal Costa
Dennis Ogeto Nyachoti

Alexander Boakye Obeng

Master of Rehabilitation Counseling

Ivonne H. Alvarado
Maria G. Chavarria
Adriana Olivas Cordero
Abril Anahi Smart

Master of Science

Emily Ann Chavez
Michael James Sanchez
Colton Henry Tune

School of Nursing

Master of Science in Nursing

Joelle Nicole Aguilar
Sophia Lynn Bond
Chadwick Bush
Angelica Nicole Castaneda
Jorge Castanon Jr
June Fisher Childress
Francella Crespo
Kimberly Marie Diaz
Marla Marie Dumoulin
Jennifer Enriquez
Dena Fuller
Kristina Gomez
Natalie Michelle Gonzalez
Angela Juliana Guerrero
Berenice Hernandez
Monica Gabriela Iniguez
Valerie Marie Mangiero
Dina Marie Mejia
Koby And'e Mitchell
Sharlae Erin Potter
Irene R. Rios
Kathleen Mary Howland Romero
Celeste Elise Schmid
Christopher Franklin Thomas
Katherine Anne Williams

Engineering Science/ Interdisciplinary Doctor of Philosophy

Na Gong

SUMMER 2020 CANDIDATES

Undergraduate

College of Engineering

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering

Mosaab Meshal Alkhalidi
Bader S Th A A Alotaibi
Arturo Chavez del Bosque
Jeremiah Rolando Llanes
Nancy Idaly Lopez
Modesto Villalobos

Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering & Management

Raul Alberto Esparza

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering

Ahmad F A A A Abdurraheem
Humberto Alfonso Bolanos
Alex Ismael Gallegos Berumen
Mario Alfonso Guerra
Hussain E H A Hasan
Joseph Mitchell Jones
Jesus Alberto Ochoa Arreola
Alberto Olivares
Diego Olivares
Giovanni Andres Santiago
Oscar Santos

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Valente Arellano
Gerardo Ivan Armenta
Aleksandr Samuel Diamond
Hector Gamboa Jr.
Scott Anthony Honaker
Jorge Huerta Huerta
Eduardo Arturo Lara
Angelica Marquez
Ricardo A. Sanchez
Adrian Sosa
Ana L. Zepeda

Bachelor of Science in Industrial & Systems Engineering

Salem N S M Th J Alajmi
Ahmad Alenezi
Mohammad Dh Alenezi
Marwa M H Z H Alfaji
Smyer Kh M H B Alhajri
Abdullah Gh A Gh H Alotaibi
Mohammad M. Alqahtani
Hamad Alsharqawi
Eduardo Angulo Jr
Leonardo Foligne Crespio de Pinho
Johanna L. Flores
Braulio Eduardo Reyes

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

Ali Alsaihati
Luis Camacho
Carlos Alfredo Castaneda
Cesar E. Chavez
Alexander Scott Hillstrom
Cory Marquez
Alberto Meza
Luis Alejandro Nunez
Hector Eric Parra Robles
Daniel E. Peña
Andrea Romo
Yaneli Rubio
Miguel Fernando Sama Aguirre
Steven Yu Sun
Briana Alyssa Ugarte
Jesus Santiago Valenciana

Bachelor of Science in Metallurgical & Materials Engineering

Elizabeth Irene Reza

College of Liberal Arts

Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science

Valerie Monique Lee
Krystle Nicole Vizcaya

Bachelor of Arts

Abraham Issac Abner
Derick J. Aguirre
Jackeline Aguirre
Ricardo Alanis Jr.
Sandra M. Alba-Jimenez
Shedrick Michael Seth De Lorenzo Allen
Alan A. Arroyo
Amaya Ashley Baptiste
Evelyn Mariana Barraza
Kaila Leslie Berg
Christian Alejandro Betancourt
Yazmin Bueno
Elena Jacqueline Calzadillas Montes
Jesus Carreon
Paola Joana Carrera
Valeria Carrillo Acosta
Alyssa Rae Chacon
William Cole Chapa
Cierra Monea Chenault
Maliyah A. Comer
Laura J. Contreras
Sergio Cortez
Katrina Justine Crouch
Jose Gilberto Cuevas
Brianna Rae De La Cruz
Juan Gerardo De La Paz
Alejandra Leticia De Matias
Joshua Lee Deerinwater
Jorge Angel Diaz
Lorena Dominguez
Vincent Izuchukw Eddi
Daniela Esparza
Daniella Espinoza
Jesus D. Espinoza

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Class of 2020

Emily Estrada
Henry Bo Burr Etheridge
Marisol Fernandez
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College of Health Sciences

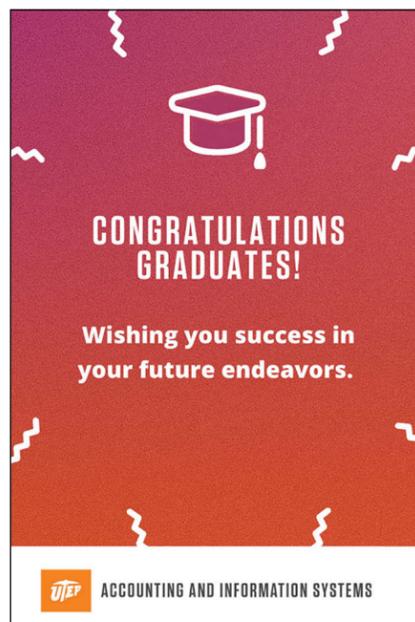
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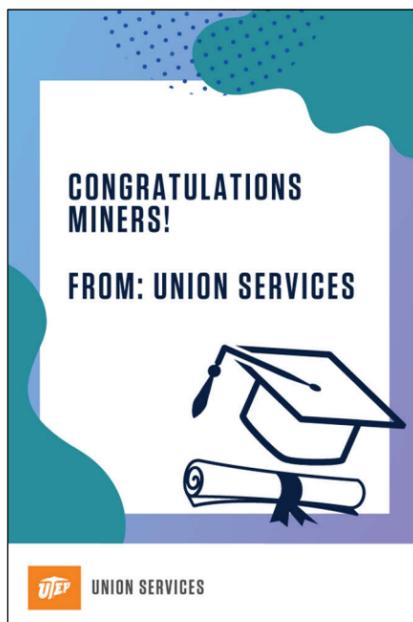
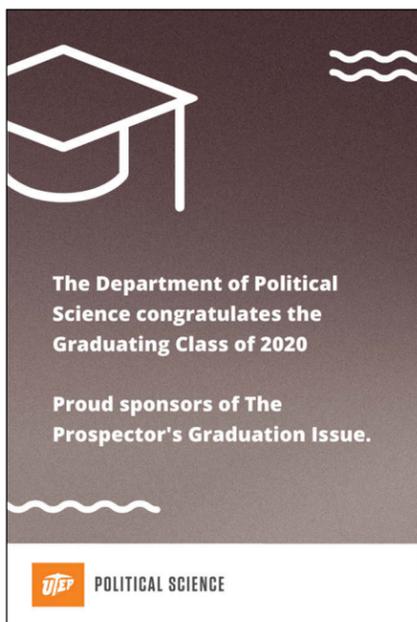
Chelsea Elizabeth Lucas

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Engineering Science /Interdisciplinary

Doctor of Philosophy

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Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering

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Bachelor of Science in Industrial & Systems Engineering

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 Fasil Aladwani
 Abdulaziz B M R Alazemi
 Abdulaziz M Sh Sh Alazemi
 Fawaz A N M Alazemi
 Mohammad S S A J Alazmi
 Badr Dahal Alharbi
 Abdullah Hashem Almahmeed
 Majed Sh Alotaibi
 Dhari Alsaeedi
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 Khaled A M M Alwasmi
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 Husain F H M N Alajmi
 Talal Aldhafiri
 Mehana A M Gh M Alfadhli
 Abdullah Abdulsalam Alroumi
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College of Liberal Arts

Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science

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May you always remember the Obligation of the Engineer as you serve the public with integrity, fairness, tolerance and respect.



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COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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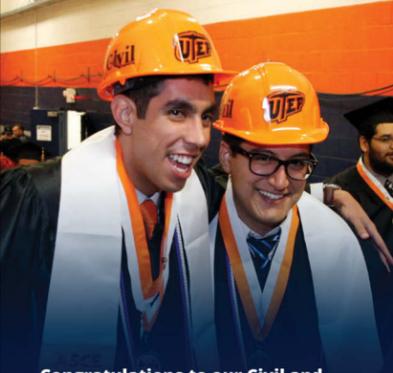


A special congratulations to Luis Reynoso, Student Assistant, for accomplishing this milestone.

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Monica Figueroa
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Manuel Antonio Renteria
Guillermo Reyes
Manuel A. Robles
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Devonier Lee Rodriguez Tankersley
Manuel Saucedo Cano
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Bachelor of Science

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College of Science

Bachelor of Arts

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Bachelor of Science

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We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

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Thank you to my parents and my family for their endless support and love throughout my educational journey. The memories I have made during my time at UTEP mean more to me than I can put into words. The next step is just the beginning!

-Leslie Martinez



None of this was possible without Faith, Family, & Prayer. Thank you to my family for never giving up on me no matter the obstacle. God tests us to bring the best in us, and make us believe. I'll remember all who helped me when I needed it most.

-Luis Juarez



As a young Mexican farmer, the dream of coming to the US to get an engineering degree seemed impossible. But even with all the challenges that come with being an international student, I have persevered. Thank you, UTEP, my parents, and my very missed brother; we made it.

-Dante Gutierrez Palma



UTEP,
You primmed and polished me, to give me this version of myself today. Thank you for being there through my tears, laughter, stress and achievements. I will always hold UTEP dearest to my heart as I take on the road ahead of me. Farewell UTEP!

-Noor Ali



No matter which road you choose,
No matter how long it may seem,
No matter the detours, the road blocks or dark nights,
Continue your heart's desire.
You are the light of a new day,
Shine for all to see.
Volando alto sin olvidar de dónde vengo.
Gracias mamá y papá

-Rosa E. Lopez

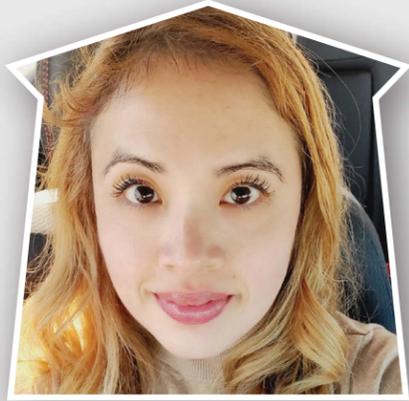


"Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead" - Nora Ephron

-Lizveth Morales



CLASS
2020



Dedication, defiance, and determination have pushed me to pick myself up from ever fall and accomplish my goals. I want to thank my mom and dad for always supporting me and all my dreams. They are my motivators and inspiration.

Thank you,

-Nancy Romero
MA Latin American Border Studies



"Reach for the stars so if you fall you land on a cloud" -Kanye West
#PicksUp

-Desiree A. Rodriguez



I am thankful to my University that allowed me to continue my education as an International student. UTEP had to give me all the tools and opportunities to become a well-prepared Industrial Engineer. During these four years, I had the opportunity to study abroad, to become an officer from engineering associations, and to serve as a collegiate senator to represent students from the college of engineering. I can't wait to graduate this December 2020; I know it won't be a conventional ceremony, but I am anxious to when we can all celebrate all of our accomplishments together. This is not a goodbye, but a see you later UTEP I plan to continue with my masters in the nearest future.

Thank you very much for all

-Karen Munoz



I always had such a great passion to help others, and UTEP and the College of Education faculty helped me find and practice my passion through pursuing a School Counseling degree. Now I get to encourage future students to find, and live, their passion too. Thank you UTEP!

-Brittnay Carreon



Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you've imagined.

-Brandi Carrillo





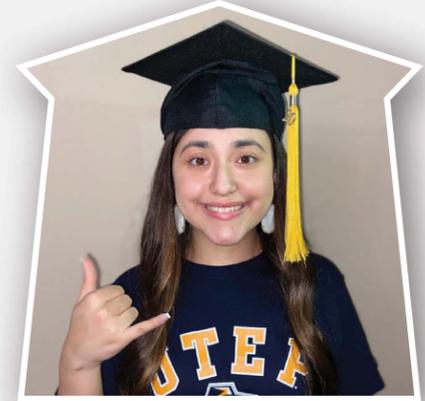
I dedicate my accomplishments to my parents that have supported and given me the motivation to be the best I can be, personally and professionally. UTEP was amazing to me and I will miss the unique emotions that it brought me, but I move on as a Miner with pride.

-Luisa Fernanda Duenas



I now realize going to college is not only about learning, but also about building relationships that will help you shape your future. Now that I am graduating, I feel so empowered and proud to have gotten my BA at UTEP. I'm so excited for what the future holds. Go Miners!

-Claudia Hernandez



I am forever grateful for my college journey because it has brought me both challenges and opportunities. I would like to thank my momma and my family for always sharing their pride in my achievements and fostering confidence and passion in me to pursue my dreams. I love you all!

-Marlina A. Novoa



Thank you to those who have supported me all the way to this moment. I could not have done it without the help and support of my family, friends, and mentors. I wish luck to all who are graduating on their future endeavors. Go Miners!

-Karla Corral



"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." - Eleanor Roosevelt.

Thank you to my family and friends for believing in me and supporting me.

-Jackeline Salazar



The years I spent at UTEP were nothing short, of the adventure of a lifetime. If I could bottle the experience, I would share it with any incoming freshmen. I went away to college to get an education, and ended up gaining a whole additional family. I fell in love with the people here and the city I now consider my home. So here is to you class of 2020 it's been a heck of a ride.

- Jennifer O'Malley



CLASS
2020



Rigorous readings, wondrous writing, & novel notes exploring the world in 2020 while trying to keep afloat as another captivating chapter comes to a close. May 2021 continue our academic & personal growth!

-Clarissa Marquez



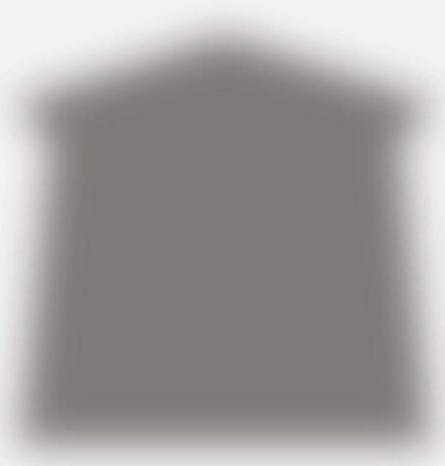
I am very happy that I will graduate from the University of Texas at El Paso. The reason for my reaching this stage of education is my parents who have supported me throughout my academic career and I would like to thank them a lot.

- Fasil Aladwani



My name is Esmeralda J Dominguez. I am a first-generation student to attend college and mom of four children, I am proud and thankful to be a UTEP miner. Determination, perseverance, and tenacity help me accomplish my dream; I DID IT!!

-Esmeralda J Dominguez



I would like to thank God in the first place, my parents, my family, my friends, those who believed in me since the beginning and even to those who did not, to my teachers, to my TA's, to my fellow classmates. This is a dream come true and I would not have done it without those whom I mentioned. This is not a farewell but the start of new dreams and hopes, the start of a new life. Thank you again to all and for those who are in the journey of accomplishing their dreams; never quit, never stop working and dream big.

Best Regards:

-Alfonso Guaderrama
-Ελθέτω ή Βασιλεία σου-



It's been real, it's been fun... but it hasn't been real fun.

-Henry D. Phan



ENTERTAINMENT

NOVEMBER 25, 2020

EDITOR PAULINA ASTRID SPENCER, 747-5161

Counseling and Psychological Services *Helping students cope with stress amid pandemic*

Sasha Minjarez

The Prospector

The Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) program at UTEP has adapted and expanded its services to include “CAPS to Go,” a virtual resource aimed to better help students cope in these tumultuous times.

Since the early emergence of the pandemic, CAPS has been working to introduce changes that include a rework of the format in which it delivers its services to students through a comprehensive selection of virtual workshops.

CAPS to Go is a relatively new assistance resource presented as a series of workshops being offered on the department’s website to promote mental health and self-care during the pandemic. According to Ana Laura James, licensed psychologist and outreach coordinator at CAPS, the series is designed to be delivered in a concise manner for easy access and with the intent of imparting brief segments of knowledge and counsel to be consumed safely from home.

“It’s very convenient for people whether they’re taking a class or working. We keep in mind that we have students and staff who are also parents. They can connect with us briefly and learn about things like stress management and then go back to what they’re working on,” James said. “It’s an easy way to engage



Illustration by Maria Salette Ontiveros/The Prospector

CAPS to Go is a relatively new assistance resource presented as a series of workshops being offered on the department’s website to promote mental health and self-care during the pandemic.

in what they need to, while also still allowing for the improvement of their mental health. That is the purpose of CAPS to Go.” The sessions are cataloged and presented in an engaging layout that takes on a restaurant-like mental health menu, complete with bilingual options, which navigates with ease to satisfy every palate.

The “Appetizers” section features a prerecorded series of five to ten-minute videos on recognizing one’s

emotions, meditation exercises, relaxation techniques, and the maintenance of social connectivity in an age of social distancing.

The “Entrée” section offers a sequence of 20 to 45-minute videos with topics ranging from seven tips to manage COVID-19 related stress and rebuilding daily structure at home to maximizing homework output and preparing for finals.

The “Specialties” menu is made up of scheduled live wellness workshops

lasting 45 minutes to one hour. Some of the workshops available for registration include “mindfulness-based stress reduction,” “the path to self-compassion” and a self-care 101 overview.

To top off the nourishing mental meal, the “Dessert” menu serves up an array of leisurely activities to partake in while staying safe at home, such as a selection of coloring pages and music, various virtual museum tours, a live look at animal antics from the El Paso Zoo’s very own exhibit camera footage, and even a happiness class.

Aside from transitioning to online operations, CAPS has also gone from offering their services to students, to extending them to the entire UTEP community including faculty and staff. ‘Identifying and Working with Students in Distress’ is one workshop being offered particularly to faculty and staff. It focuses on ways they can help students transition to online learning, by being understanding and recognizing the stresses coupled with the pandemic. CAPS is also placing an essential emphasis on the mental health of staff.

“Often we forget faculty and staff are facing the same struggles during this pandemic. They’re also having to learn new programs and platforms and are having to transition all their classes to online instruction,” James said. “So, part of this training also focuses on strategies to help them

try and take care of themselves while they take care of their own students.”

In addition to this, the ‘Online Learning in Times of COVID’ workshop discusses some of the challenges the rapid transition to online learning has presented and offers solutions to them.

CAPS will be offering a final exam preparation workshop one week before class finals. It will accommodate students with 15-minute stress buster session” where they can call the office during business hours and speak with a staff member live who will advise each individual student on stress management.

The CAPS hotline can be accessed by dialing (915) 747-5302 where mental health professionals are available 24 hours a day Monday through Sunday. . Suicide prevention programs and outreach has expanded significantly within the department as well, with over 200 members of faculty and staff expertly trained in suicide prevention.

“Something that is important to remember right now is to be aware of yourself and your own feelings,” James said “Whenever you find yourself struggling with the current situation just remember that you are not alone. You can always give us a call; we are here for you all.”

Sasha Minjarez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu @SashEm_ on Twitter.

Becoming a writer during COVID-19

Sven Kline

The Prospector

Among the many students graduating through perhaps the toughest year for college students around the country and the globe is Alejandro Esparza, a creative writing major and women studies minor.

Journaling since before high school at the age of thirteen, Esparza found himself inspired to write while listening to an epilogue on Taylor Swift’s 2010 album *Speak Now* that said, “The words you stop yourself from saying are the ones that will haunt you the longest. So, say it to them. Or say it to yourself in the mirror. Say it in a letter you’ll never send, or in a book, millions might read someday.”

“I read the entire epilogue over and over while I listened to the album,” Esparza said. “I wanted my words to matter and to give people the same exact feeling the lyrics from these songs gave me.”

Accrediting inspiration from nineteen year old Swift and her workmanship in producing the album all by herself, Esparza took his journaling seriously and claimed to have filled up three journals before entering high school with an overlying premise.

“I began writing the stories that I was never really given,” Esparza said. “My goal became and continues to be writing as many LGBTQ+ stories as I can so that young kids, teens, etc.

have what I didn’t growing up.”

Like many students who meet their collegiate journey’s end, Esparza shares the same mood and sentiment of uncertainty that arises before graduation during a pandemic.

“A mix of sad, nervous, disappointment and excitement,” Esparza said. “I have looked forward to getting to graduate college and being able to decorate my cap. I know it is silly but receiving your degree and wearing a cap and gown after studying for years non-stop was something I was excited for.”

Esparza expressed his relief in being able to walk next year when the pandemic hopefully ceases and it’s a safer environment to celebrate in.

Writing, much like any other discipline, is a job that is never done, there is always something else to write about.

“At the moment there aren’t any specific jobs lined up my way. I have, however, been offered options that might allow me to step foot into the field and that is a bit comforting to know,” Esparza explained about his future endeavors after graduation. “I am always writing. My head is constantly filled with something to write down on and thankfully phones come with a notes app and that has allowed me to store around eight-hundred short poems, story ideas, actual stories.”

With so many prompts and ideas

Esparza is trying to get his literary works published. “I have also been working on what I hope will be my first young adult novel for maybe, two years, and I have to thank one of my professors here at UTEP, Sylvia Aguilar-Zéleny, for being the person who helped me begin.” Esparza noted.

For any current or future students Esparza advises to take care of themselves during these difficult times.

“Take as much time you need to care for your mental health,” Esparza said. “Taking breaks and distracting yourself as much as you can is crucial, but also to be responsible in which ways you choose to distract yourself.”

“Something that has helped me a lot, considering I have always been easily overwhelmed, is to go outside of the house and allow the sun to hit you a bit,” Esparza continued. “Listen to your favorite songs and dance in the dark alone in your room.”

Esparza is setting out on to the next chapter of his life after many years of learning, ready to create and produce his work into the world.

“I have been in school for the past seventeen years of my life. Without it I feel strange, but I also feel excited.”

Sven Kline can be reached at prospector@utep.edu @SvenKline on Twitter.

Senior aims to earn her place in the editorial world

Daniela Ramos

The Prospector

Naomi Valenzuela, 20, is a creative writing major with a minor in English and American literature at UTEP graduating at the end of the fall 2020.

Starting off in an early college in Fabens during high school, allowed Valenzuela to explore her interests, goals, and abilities.

“I believe I started with theater, then I switched to communications because I thought that would help me get a better job; in the meantime, I started taking more English classes as electives and, after talking to some

advisors and professors, I came to see that that’s what I liked the best,” Valenzuela said.

As an outstanding student in high school, Valenzuela applied for and was awarded the UTEP excellency scholarship, as it was called when it was awarded to her.

With reading and writing as her two true passions, and creative writing her main interest, Valenzuela’s choice in degrees match her talents and fascinations. However, her initial chosen career was surprisingly different.

“I started out in technical writing,

See Editorial World page 24



Courtesy of Naomi Valenzuela

Naomi Valenzuela, 21, is a creative writing major with a minor in English and American literature at UTEP, graduating at the end of the fall 2020 term.

In review: 'The Queen's Gambit' provides a good binge for stressful finals week

Exodis Ward

The Prospector

The Queen's Gambit is a Netflix series about an orphan who discovers she has a talent for playing chess. It's based off the novel by the same name written by Walter Tevis. The series was directed by Scott Frank and stars Anya Taylor-Joy of Split and Glass. It was released Oct. 23 and is relatively short; seven episodes that are about an hour each. Beware of spoilers below.

The show takes place in the 1950's when viewers meet Elizabeth "Beth" Harmon as a young child, recently orphaned in a tragic accident that killed her mother. On her first day in the orphanage, Beth is stripped of everything that reminds her of home. Her hair is cut short, her dress burned and replaced with a uniform. Soon after, she's introduced to "vitamins" which are tranquilizers used to make the girls more docile.

The show follows Beth as she grows to be a world-renowned Chess player, traveling the world and highlighting her struggle with addiction.

I know nothing about chess, so the show was interesting if nothing else. Beth is unique choice for a main character because she's not like other main characters; she's bland. She often seems disconnected because she's the type to observe rather



Courtesy of IMDb

The Queen's Gambit, a Netflix series based off the novel of the same name, is about an orphan with a passion for chess.

than participate. She's obsessive to a fault. Beth is cleverly written from a writer's point of view. Despite being awkward, she can be charming. Viewers will immediately root for her, wanting her to win at something because of the amount loss she's suffered. You want her to win at whatever cost, even if the cost is drugs.

I enjoyed watching Beth's slow decline. Before I realized that drugs would become a problem for her, I winced at the thought of drugging children. The series really shows

the vulnerability of children in a space like an orphanage. I could tell off the bat that with Beth being an intelligent child, drugs were not something she needed to be introduced to. I found myself shaking my head at the lengths she would go to find a new high or beat a new component. She's always been

talented, but she felt that the pills were the reason for her brilliance. That couldn't be further from the truth.

Though I admire most of the way events were written in the series, I wish it wouldn't have ended on such a cheery note. The overall mood of the show was dark and disjointed, so the last thing I expected was for her to overcome her addiction. A chain of events caused her sobriety, but the way things were going, I literally thought she was going to overdose, and I would've been fine with that. In fact, it seemed more feasible. By the end of the series, things were packed into a box and neatly tied in a bow. It didn't really fit the overall tone. Maybe it was because of how short the series was.

If you want a full story and don't really have the time to invest, this series is a gem. You can take a weekend and binge it. The story is a complete hero's journey packed into seven episodes, which is an accomplishment: and it's done well.

I rate the series four out of five picks.

Exodis Ward may be reached at prospector@utep.edu or [@alexodislee](https://twitter.com/alexodislee) on Twitter.



Music Review: Guide of music to last an eternity

Memorable rap, hip hop, and pop artists of the generation

Sven Kline

The Prospector

Whether the occasion a celebration or even just a car ride, music has been at the center of people's daily lives for the power it has to put our feelings into rhythms and words.

What music in today's generations will stand the test of time?

Covering three main and basic genres of this past decade, rap, hip hop and pop, here are the artists and tracks I think will remain consistent throughout the next years and possibly even when I'm long gone.

Rap/Hip Hop

Though I cannot say I am an avid fan of the genre, there are individuals that catch my attention such as Kendrick Lamar, Travis Scott, Cardi B, Childish Gambino, Doja Cat, Lizzo, Tyler the Creator and The Weeknd.

Collectively these artists have made mile deep impressions upon the world with their iconic tracks with some and have remained idols, sponsors and celebrities to this very day.

Kendrick Lamar

Growing up in Compton California, Lamar wrote poetry and lyrics which would spur his career with his first mixtape. His work was noticed by Top Dawg Entertainment, sparking his fortuitous career in the music industry.

Today, Lamar has nine albums with popular tracks such as "HUMBLE," "King Kunta," and "Money Trees," which have solidified his fame into the world. Seeing how Rap is a consistently listened genre, Lamar has become a staple and is

an artist that future generations will come across.

Childish Gambino

Though unfamiliar with his musical works, I am more than familiar with the quirky fun-loving individual Donald Glover, and the hit show he starred in, "Community."

Glover first began his acting career while attending New York University. He wrote in a sketch comedy group, which led him to be recruited by none other than comedian, actress and producer, Tina Fey, who invited him to write for the NBC hit show "Thirty Rock." Three years later Glover began his work as part of "Community" in L.A.

On the same day as the premier of "Community," Glover released his second mixtape, "Poindexter." His first two mixtapes would define his "quirky" rapping to change into a more serious approach.

In 2018, Glover released his hit viral song and music video "This Is America" that not only spurred controversy around the issues surrounding the United States but became a fast trend on social media. Glover is a major title in the rap genre, political world, and dare I say even a subject for history books later in the century, as an artist who mixed creativity, art and comedy to make truth.

Cardi B

One of the first female Dominican rappers to become popular in American mainstream media, Belcalis Almanzar, better known as, Cardi B, ravaged the music scene like a shockwave. Like an air raid siren, her debut was all people talked about when she initially entered the scene with her single "Bodak Yellow." The

single was featured in her Grammy award winning album, "Invasion of Privacy," in 2018. -Cardi B was an immediate hit among audiences and could be found everywhere in collaborations such as "I Like It," with singers Bad Bunny and J Balvin or distinguished "WAP" hit with Megan Thee Stallion.

Ever since the beginning of her career, Cardi B has had quite the extraordinary success, making her one of the decade's top-grossing artists and a landmark in the genre. As Dr. Tyrell of the Bladerunner film says, "the light that burns twice as bright burns half as long — and you have burned so very, very brightly."

Travis Scott

With the recent fad of going to your local McDonald's and ordering the Travis Scott Meal, this artist will be remembered not just for his music but the shenanigans that follow suit.

The prominence of Scott is colossal, appearing and collaborating with some of the media's biggest names, it's almost impossible to find someone who doesn't know the name.

In 2018, Scott released "Astroworld," an album that would bring the flaming heat of "SICKO MODE," a popular track with iconic rhythmic melody.

Pop

As I reflect on society's mainstream musical interest, the Pop genre remains timeless. But in this past decade, Pop has taken inspiration by elements of the Rap and Hip Hop genre to showcase some legendary songs that are sure to stick around for quite some time.

From figures like Beyonce, Bruno Mars, Taylor Swift, Adele, Lady Gaga

and Katy Perry to Ariana Grande, Rihanna, Kesha, Harry Styles, Billie Eilish and Drake, these pop artists bring elements from different genres to create another level of music.

Billie Eilish

With such a fast-paced arrival to success, Eilish first hit the scene, appearing in SoundCloud with her debut "EP Don't Smile at Me" in 2017. The EP hit top fifteen in the U.S., United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia, leading her into booming territory two years later with "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" with her number one track "Bad Guy." The album won her five Grammy's, including the Best New Artist, Album of the Year and Song of the Year awards.

With her debut success Eilish would go on to further her fame and appear in numerous media, such as shows like 13 Reasons Why, HBO's Euphoria, and even perform on NBC's SNL.

It's without a doubt Eilish's productions will live on for years to come and may even be pronounced a significant historical musical figure. Afterall, she dethroned Lorde as the youngest artist to have a number one single and be nominated for several awards.

Bruno Mars

With early beginnings in the musical world, such as being raised in a musically inclined family of six and later producing in L.A. Bruno Mars is not a stranger to the industry. Mars and his band, The Hooligans, reached fame in 2010 with the hit

To read the rest of this story visit www.theprospector.com

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and I realized that wasn't what I wanted to do, and even though I was scared of going into creative writing, I still went for it because I really enjoyed it," Valenzuela said.

Technical writing is about a specific subject or topic that involving to the presence of instructions or explaining. For example, user manuals, software installation guides, legal disclaimers, company documents, annual reports, or help files.

Though she didn't know what to expect from her creative writing classes, Valenzuela said it was all made easier by the professors she had along the way, as well as the great and helpful courses that UTEP offers.

Despite being awarded other scholarships to make up for the excellency scholarship that vanished, the requirements to continue receiving money remained the same throughout Valenzuela's years at UTEP, as did her 'excelling' academic performance.

"The requirements are to keep my GPA above a 2.5, and amount a total of 30 credit hours per year; they actually just changed my scholarship again and I basically got it for being salutatorian," Valenzuela said.

The young writer's drive, work ethics and academic achievements did not go unnoticed and Valenzuela was given the opportunity to intern at Catalyst Press, a publishing company founded in 2017 that brings voices from around the globe to readers everywhere, according to its website.

"I worked with Ashawnta [marketing manager] on the publicity side of the business; the company focuses on publishing books in the United States that were originally published in Africa," Valenzuela said. "I also wrote blog posts on literary news and soon after the start of the pandemic I was working on creating online packets for people who would want to look into the books."

The internship took place at the start of Spring 2020, but unfortunately ended early due to issues at home, Valenzuela said.

However, her time as intern served as a learning experience; Valenzuela was able to see what it really takes to be a writer and the process of releasing your work to the public.

"I want to eventually work in publishing, so this showed me what goes on behind the scenes and you have to be organized. I was allowed to see what an author has to go through to publish their work," Valenzuela said.

As for her next steps after graduation, Valenzuela said she wishes to take some time off, a well-deserved break from school, which will hopefully allow her to get some writing done and build a professional portfolio.

For Valenzuela, the main goal is to become an editor at a publishing company, for which she intends to get a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in creative writing at UTEP and take up teaching, while she finds the right opportunities that will guide her toward realizing her dreams.

As a final note, Valenzuela gave her advice to those still in the process of obtaining their degree and any upcoming college students.

"Study what you like, don't feel pressured by family or relatives to study for money or success. In order to get involved in school and get ahead you need to study what you love, what you're passionate about," Valenzuela said.

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SPORTS

NOVEMBER 25, 2020

EDITOR MICHAEL CUVIELLO, 747-5161

Men's basketball set to tip-off season with big changes

Michael CuvIELLO

The Prospector

Coming off a disappointing 17-15 season, Head Coach Rodney Terry and the UTEP Miner basketball team have retooled and are chomping at the bit to start the 2020-21 basketball season. Most basketball outlets have UTEP as a mid-tier team in the conference for the coming season, but this is a talented team nonetheless.

Starting the offseason on a high note, the Miners beat the championship runner-up Texas Tech in a charity game 70-60, showing that the team had the ability to play with the top teams in the nation. Starting out 5-0, UTEP beat I-10 rival New Mexico State and New Mexico to start the season.

A road rematch to New Mexico State was the first defeat for the Miners as UTEP would go on to win its next three games including the WESTAR Classic at the Don Haskins. Unfortunately, the Miners would struggle as the team left the friendly confines of El Paso losing five of its next six games.

UTEP would end up going 17-15 and struggling in conference as the Miners got bounced in the first round of the C-USA tournament. Not one UTEP player was named all-conference although current senior Bryson Williams averaged 17 points and seven rebounds and established himself as one of the best in conference.

Gone from the team are Jordan Lathon, Kaden Archie, Nigel Hawkins, Anthony Tarke and Deon Stroud. All players but Tarke were contributors during the season. Last season was plagued by internal strife with Lathon leaving the team just before the start of the new year then later returning. The top graduating player was Darryl Edwards who averaged 12.5 points a game.

Chemistry which was supposed to be a strong point for the team, never produced a winning result and was clearly not at the level many predicted it would be. The team is hoping that the newcomers are a better fit for Terry's style of play.

Among the returning players Williams will be the key to how good the Miners will be this season. Williams is a preseason all-conference choice who has a top level inside outside game. For the players returning Williams has the best three-point percentage with 35.6% and is a 50% shot from the field. Williams is a solid defender whose biggest weakness is his tendency to get in foul trouble which plagued him last season. The offense flows through Williams and the Miners are different team without him on the floor.

Junior Souley Boum emerged as an playmaker last season with



Courtesy of UTEP

UTEP guard Souley Boum stretches a shot to the rim versus Southern Mississippi, 2020.

his drives and outside shooting. Physically Boum was able to play long stretches of minutes without fouling out. Down the stretch Boum played the entire game four times and averaged over 32 minutes a game over the last none games of the season. Boum averaged 12.9 points a game but his shooting was erratic at only 36% from the field and under 30% from the three-point line. He is a strong free throw shooter and a high energy player. One key factor that will help him this season is that UTEP has added a true point guard.

Junior Efe Odigie will return as the fourth leading scorer from last season with only six points a game and four rebounds a game. He only played half as many minutes as he did as a freshman and his scoring and rebounding were about half of what he contributed as a freshman. Odigie is a talented big man that did not seem to have a role last season and was very inconsistent on the floor.

After starting 12 games last season junior Tydus Verhoeven has been getting rave reviews for his offseason work to make himself better and likely has entrenched himself as one of the five starters.

Verhoeven is strong around the basket and a stout defender. His height and frame are a force inside the paint but he showed no range last season on his shot. Verhoeven struggled at the line shooting 40%. Terry has remarked that he has worked on his offense tirelessly in the

offseason and noted him as one of the pleasant surprises of camp.

The last returning player that logged minutes last season is the much-maligned senior Eric Vila. At the beginning of the season Vila was a starter but moved in and out of the doghouse as the season progressed. Vila is 6'11" with a versatile set of skills but his defense and shot were major weaknesses last season. Vila shot 28% from the field and 21% on three pointers.

To fill out the roster with the five losses to the transfer portal, Terry brought in multiple transfers to offset the depleted roster.

At the top of the list for transfers for UTEP is former Oklahoma point guard Jamal Bienemy who at 6'5" brings a physical presence and natural playmaking ability that was missing from the team last season. Bienemy was a starter for a good Oklahoma team that struggled with his shot at 34% shooting and only 25% from the three-point line. Bienemy will be counted on for his leadership and experience this season for the Miners.

"Being somebody who has played in big games at Oklahoma, some of the guys on our team will be looking for leadership," Bienemy said in a UTEP media release. "I want to be that person to show that leadership. I'm going to be somebody who is there every day and someone my teammates can count on. Whether I'm having a bad day or good day, my teammates can count on me to be a

leader and help win games."

UTEP again went to a Power Five conference for gain another transfer in sophomore Kristian Sjoland who was also a teammate of Bienemy at Tompkins high school. Sjoland a forward from Georgia Tech got caught in a roster crunch at the Atlantic coast Conference School. After playing in 21 games as a freshman Sjoland did not play a game in the last season for Georgia Tech. Sjoland only played about nine minutes a game but showed solid three-point range with 33%. Improving his body composition from his freshman season may pay dividends for the Miners but his defense and rebounding are suspect at this point.

"They want me to be a versatile player, being able to shoot from the three-point line, and obviously being able to spread the floor," Sjoland explained. "I can come off a screen, and I'll provide more options for the team to drive and kick, as well as other situations where it's a challenge for the opponents to guard."

The Miners once again went to the Tompkins High well brining in a third teammate in Coastal Bend College's Emmanuel White a sophomore guard that stands 6'5." He averaged 13 points a game while shooting 35% from the floor while showing a good three-point shot.

For outside shooting the Miners brought in sophomore Adam Hess a 6'5" shooting guard that shot 43% from the arch. For the season Hess

averaged 7.5 points a game and 43% from the field. UTEP was near the bottom in three-point shooting in conference last season and the lack of efficiency cost the team in many close games.

No matter what the talent level is with the team, I can play with anybody because I fit in," Hess said. "My role, I can do whatever you ask me to do. I think we have a lot of talent and I think with me being able to shoot like I can, I'll be able to spread the floor and create space for a lot of the other guys. I think I'll be able to compliment what we have."

UTEP also returns last season's Xavier University transfer guard Keonte Kennedy who played 12 minutes per game at Xavier while averaging two points a game. Kennedy has been talked up as a player that could contribute greatly this season and has a year in the UTEP system.

"Redshirting is beneficial, especially if you use it the right way," Kennedy said. "I spent a lot of time in the weight room to get bigger and stronger. I had a full year to learn the playbook, and adjusting to a whole new system. Sitting out is a good thing if you take the right steps like watching a lot of film. It helps if you want to be great."

International 6'4" Serbian point guard prospect Vuk Vulikic brings in tons of experience in Europe. Vulikic was a member of the youth Serbian National Basketball team as well. Vulikic won a gold medal at the 2017 FIBA Under 18 championship averaging 6 points 3 rebounds and five assists per game in tournament. UTEP was able to beat out some Power Five teams for Vulikic.

Still awaiting word on North Alabama transfer guard Christian Agnew's eligibility for the season that is a few days away, so its unlikely he starts the season being able to play.

Compared to last season UTEP has less overall talent but the pieces in place may be a better fit for a winning team. Terry's offense involves a lot of outside shooting and outside of Edwards nobody that has departed from the team had that skillset.

If the new players buy into Terry's system UTEP could be a dangerous team in conference this season. I do not think they are ready to challenge for a conference championship but the Miners have the ability to be in the top four of the conference if all pieces fall into place.

UTEP opens the season at home 5 p.m. Wednesday Nov. 25. at the Don Haskins Center against the University of Texas at Permian Basin. The game will have limited attendance and is considered sold out.

Michael CuvIELLO may be reached at prospect@utep.edu

2020-21 Men's Basketball Schedule

Nov. 25 — UTEP vs. UT Permian Basin in El Paso, Texas
 Nov. 29 — UTEP vs. University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona
 Dec. 3 — UTEP vs. Sul Ross State University in El Paso, Texas
 Dec. 8 — UTEP vs. Saint Mary's College in

Moraga, California
 Jan. 1 — UTEP vs. University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi
 Jan. 2 — UTEP vs. University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi
 Jan. 8 — UTEP vs. Rice University in El Paso, Texas

Jan. 9 — UTEP vs. Rice University in El Paso, Texas
 Jan. 15 — UTEP vs. University of North Texas in Denton, Texas
 Jan. 16 — UTEP vs. University of North Texas in Denton, Texas
 Jan. 22 — UTEP vs. Louisiana Tech

University in El Paso, Texas
 Jan. 23 — UTEP vs. Louisiana Tech University in El Paso, Texas
 Jan. 28 — UTEP vs. UT San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas
 See the rest of the schedule at utepminers.com/sports/mens-basketball/schedule

Football seeks first conference win

Miners hit the road to go against the Rice Owls

Michael CuvIELLO

The Prospector

The UTEP Miner football team (3-4) will go on the road to face the Rice Owls (1-2) in Houston Saturday in a matchup of perennial Conference USA (C-USA) bottom dwellers. Neither team has finished with a winning record in conference since 2014 when both teams finished above .500.

After jumping out to a 3-1 start including two wins over NCAA sub division schools, the Miners have lost their last three games along with four games either being postponed or canceled. In its last game, the Miners started out playing close for a half with the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) before getting blown out in the second half en route to a 52-21 loss.

With seven games canceled and postponed, Rice has had a tumultuous season which has only resulted in them playing three games. Rice's first five games were canceled due to COVID-19 and weather concerns. The Owls did not play its first game until Oct. 24 against Middle Tennessee State which resulted in an overtime loss.

Rice will play only its second home game this season this weekend against UTEP. Its only win of the season was on the road at Southern Mississippi in which Rice won 30-6. The Owls are coming off a 27-17 loss to the North Texas Mean Green on the road.

For Rice, the key will be getting its passing game going versus the Miners and controlling UTEP's running game.

Senior Mike Collins has played almost turnover free football for the Owls with 10 touchdown passes and only one interception. The TCU transfer has completed 56% of his passes for 1059 yards. Collins has gone two games without a turnover and offered little so far in the run game.

The main target for Collins in the passing game has been senior wide receiver Austin Trammel who leads the team with 15 receptions for 335 yards with six touchdowns. Before the season Trammel only had seven touchdowns in his college career, having averaged 61 catches a season the past two years.



Courtesy of UTEP

UTEP junior defensive back Dennis Barnes celebrates after a big play versus Abilene Christian, Sept. 20.

With last year's top receiver Brady Rozier opting out due to surgery concerns, Rice has used a committee approach for its second receiver with sophomore Jake Baily stepping up with nine receptions and two touchdowns. Tight end Jordan Meyers has taken on an increased role in the passing game with 14 catches in three games which is already at his average for the three previous full seasons.

Gaining yardage on the ground has been an issue all season for the owls with its worst rushing per attempt since the 2009 season with 3.1 per carry. The one bright spot has been sophomore Juma Otoviano who did not play versus North Texas but was dressed on sidelines. In two games Octoviano has 194 yards on the ground with a solid 4.3 average. Freshman Khaleen Griffin has struggled with consistency this season averaging 3.9 yards per carry.

Overall, the offensive line has struggled protecting the passer giving up 10 sacks in three games. The lack of punch in the run game has also been a downfall of the line.

Coming into the season Rice was considered to have one of the best

defenses in the conference finishing 52nd in the NCAA in scoring defense while holding the top teams in conference to 20 points or under in its matchups. So far this season it has been a mixed bag. One game the defense held Southern Miss to a touchdown but in the other matchups the team gave up 27 and 40 points respectively.

Defensively the team is led by senior linebacker Blaze Aldridge who paces the team with 32 tackles and one sack. Last season Aldridge had over 100 tackles and four sacks and made all conference first team. Aldridge was second overall in the NCAA last season with 26.5 tackles for loss. Antonio Montero and Treshawn Chamberlin complete a solid core of linebackers that are among the most talented in conference.

On the defensive line the Owls have struggled against the run and have not gotten pressure on opposing quarterbacks. The defensive line has only two sacks in three games. Sophomore defensive end Ikeena Enechukwu was supposed to be a standout this season after a strong offseason but is still struggling to

make an impact in the pass rush.

"I worked on a lot of moves and I know what my bread and butter is and at this point, I know exactly how I can get (to the backfield)," Enechukwu said in an article for SB Nation. "My teammates can get more sacks too if I draw more attention to myself."

In the secondary the Owls have been without a pair of hard-hitting safeties in George Nyakwoi and Naeem Smith who were fourth and fifth on the team in tackles last season. Freshman safety Chike Anigbogu has been forced to step into a much bigger role than expected and has shown some promise. Junior Cornerback Miles McCord has the only interception for the Owls this season.

Last season Rice came to El Paso and won 30-16. Rice is 15-8 all time versus UTEP including seven out the last 10 games.

Through five of its first six games UTEP's defense had shown significant improvement. The only bump in the road was against Big-12 powerhouse the University of Texas 59-3. In its last game versus UTSA the Miners defense was only able

to force one punt while giving up 600 total yards. The defense was not effective versus the run or the pass.

Offensively in its last matchup the Miners only managed 246 yards of total offense. Sophomore quarterback Gavin Hardison has been inconsistent this season completing 54% of his passes with five touchdowns and five interceptions.

On the ground the Miners have been led by freshman Deion Hankins who has led the team with 493 yards rushing and seven touchdowns in seven games. Hankins and junior Ronald Awatt should be an effective one two punch against the rice defensive front.

Sophomore Jacob Cowing leads the Miners in receiving yards with 573 yards and caught his first touchdown last game. Both Cowing and senior Justin Garret have 36 receptions on the season.

Defensively the improved pass rush was not able to make an impact against UTSA. Sophomore Praise Amawhule is currently ranked fifth in sacks nationally with seven total. Senior linebacker Stephen Forrester leads the team in tackles and transfer sophomore Tyrice Knight is second on the team in with 23 tackles.

The keys to the game for UTEP will be establishing the run to set up the pass. If Hankins can get positive yardage early and the Miners can dictate the pace of the game putting less pressure on the passing game. UTEP still struggles to get the running backs and tight ends involved but this would be a good week to improve on that.

Defensively the Miners need to get quarterback pressure up front while disguising blitzes. Collins does not make many bad throws so turnovers could be at a premium for the Miners.

Overall, the Miners have the advantage of being able to have played 7 games while Rice is only on its fourth game of the year. If the Miners can minimize mistakes UTEP should produce a victory.

Prediction: UTEP 27 Rice 24
UTEP's kickoff versus Rice will be at 11. a.m. Saturday Nov. 28 in Houston and will be televised on ESPN.

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Basketball starting off the season without fans

Heriberto Perez

The Prospector

UTEP President Heather Wilson and the Director of UTEP Athletics Jim Senter announced Nov. 23 that basketball games at the Don Haskins Center will be played with no fans in attendance to start the season due to the current COVID-19 conditions in El Paso.

Previously, the university had decided to play basketball games in front of a limited capacity of fans. Still, with El Paso currently leading the state with COVID-19 active cases, UTEP decided to prohibit fan attendance for now to reduce the risk of community spread.

"We know of no spread of the disease at UTEP and have maintained safe campus operations throughout the semester," Wilson said in a news release.

"While we test everyone in athletics and are confident in the safety of our campus, we are cognizant of the disease levels in the community around us. Decisions on fan attendance for future games will be evaluated on a week-to-week basis."

The Miners start the 2020-2021 season with the women hosting NM State noon, Nov. 25 and later that day the men hosting the University of Texas at Permian Basin at 5 p.m. The next women's game will be at noon Nov. 28 against Incarnate Word.

"While the COVID numbers in our community have started to improve, we want to encourage all El Pasoans to continue to stay home, stay safe, and cheer on the Miners remotely in an effort to continue to improve the health conditions in our region," Senter said.

For these three games, only

student-athletes, coaches, support staff, medical personnel, and media with a working function will be allowed to be inside of the Don Haskins.

UTEP's box office will contact season ticket holders regarding refund situations.

Fans can follow these three games on C-USA TV on conferenceusa.com/watch or by listening live on 600 ESPN El Paso.

While not having fans at the games might help, there will still be some risks. The New York Post reports that "college basketball has an advantage over college football: Fewer players, coaches and staff. But it is played indoors, which is a disadvantage because the virus is known to spread more inside. Senter said in a university-wide email.

Heriberto Perez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu
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Courtesy of UTEP

Williams UTEP forward Bryson Williams pushes off defender as he looks for the score versus Marshall Feb. 15.

UTEP women's basketball looks to take the next step with rising stars

Michael Cuvillo

The Prospector

The UTEP women's basketball team is coming off a surprisingly successful 2019 season with the Miners finishing in seventh place in Conference USA with a 16-15 overall record. Unfortunately, the season ended after advancing to the quarterfinals of the tournament due to the COVID-10 outbreak.

Winning its first five games and nine out of its first 10 games, the Miners were able to work some highly touted first-year players into the mix with very experienced leadership that exceeded expectations. When the season began, UTEP was ranked near the conference's bottom in most prognostications following a 9-22 injury decimated season.

Departing the Miners are its two best players from last season in four-year starter Katerina Zec and hardnosed and skilled frontcourt player Ariona Gill. Zec and Gill were the only Miner players to finish in double figures scoring last season. Both players' size and toughness will be missed.

Zec led the team in scoring with 13.9 points a game and 3-point percentage last season. Ending her career as UTEP's all-time leading free-throw percentage shooter at 81% and third all-time in games started with 110. Zec also ranked in the top 10 in multiple categories, with her deft shooting culminating in making C-USA all-conference second team as a senior.

Gill, a two-year starter as a community college transfer who had

a promising first season get derailed by a leg injury after starting the first 12 games of her junior season, of which she averaged 11 points a game. Gill began the season wearing a constant leg brace for much of the early season but still started 29 games and averaged 12.9 points a game scoring. She would also finish seventh in the conference in rebounding with 8.5, continually facing much bigger lineups through the season.

Taking the reins as the unquestioned leader for UTEP will be Franklin High graduate and all C-USA freshman team member Katia Gallegos. Setting a UTEP all-time freshman record for assists with 102, Gallegos also led the conference in assists per game with 5.7. Gallegos was fourth in the conference in steals per game with 1.7 and averaged 9.6 per games scoring. Although Gallegos was left off the preseason all-conference team, she is a favorite to achieve conference honors at the end of the season.

Fellow sophomore Avery Crouse started 29 games last season opposite Gallegos and averaged 8 points a game on 42% shooting from the field and 33% from beyond the arc. With her solid all-around play, Crouse contributed in all areas of her game and improved as the season went on. She finished five of her final six games in double figures and will be a candidate to lead the team in scoring this season.

Another of the trio of top freshmen from last season was Arina Khlopkova, who started four games while appearing in every game as she averaged 4 points a game.

Khlopkova averaged 14 minutes a game last season and is sure to play a more significant role this season. She had a career-high 20 points and five rebounds versus Georgia state.

Junior forward Ariana Taylor improved in every statistical category while playing slightly less time on the floor last season. Taylor also improved her defense by getting in better shape in the prior offseason and gave the Miners toughness inside as she reduced getting in foul trouble. The previous season she had fouled out three times and could not foul out once the entire season.

Senior Michelle Pruitt struggled with conditioning last season but has been lauded by head coach Kevin Baker for her hard work this offseason. Pruitt played in 29 games and started eight while averaging 12 minutes a game as she led the team in field goal percentage with 54%. Last season, you could see the talent there so Pruitt in better shape should impact her challenging inside play.

Junior guard Sabine Lipe came off an injury-plagued season to appear in all 30 games giving a spark off the bench with her energetic and unselfish play. She averaged 4.7 points and two rebounds a game while averaging 16 minutes a game. If fully healthy, Lipe can continue to be a spark off the bench with her hard charging play.

Seniors Dejanae Roebuck and Tia Bradshaw, both transfers from Hutchinson Community College, showed a brief glimpse of talent but could not get consistent minutes last season. Roebuck had a career-high of 14 versus Florida Atlantic during the regular season. Roebuck also had 13 points in 12 minutes versus Florida Atlantic in the first round of the conference tournament. In limited shooting, Roebuck shot 53% from the floor and 40% from the 3-point line. After a year in the system, both players should be more comfortable and be valuable contributors.

Sophomore Tatyana Modowar was unable to get much playing time as a freshman but as the tallest member of the team, she should get more chances this season to see the floor. In her short time, Modowar showed she was an active player that shot very well from the charity stripe. Her best game of last season was the opener versus Western New Mexico, where Modowar had 15 points and five rebounds in 13 minutes. Hitting on half of her six 3-point shots shows that she has the range to her shot that could get her more playing time, especially with her size.

To fill out the rest of the UTEP roster, Baker brought two transfer guards, junior Destiny Thurman and sophomore Isis Lopes.

Thurman was a two-time junior college All-American at Collin County Community College located in McKinney, Texas. As a sophomore, Thurman was named conference player of the year and



Photograph by Michael Cuvillo/The Prospector

UTEP guard Avery Crouse pushes past defenders for a layup versus Old Dominion Feb. 8

averaged 17 points, 4.3 rebounds and 4.1 assists per game. Shooting 37% from 3-point range, Thurman adds needed outside shooting that will be lost with Zec's departure. She is also a top-level free throw shooter shooting 80% for her career.

Lopes is a 5'11" transfer from the Power Five's Clemson Tigers that appeared in 13 games while being limited with injuries. Baker lauded the addition of Lopes and said she would have quite an impact on the team. Lopes is just another in the line of UTEP players with international ties being from Australia.

UTEP added three more international freshmen with forwards Dagne Apsite of Latvia, Elina Arike of Finland and Brenda Fontana of Argentina to bring a total of six foreign-born players on the roster. The Miners have consistently made international recruiting a priority and this year was no different. All three players bring in extensive experience playing with their national teams, Arike is a high percentage shooter from the field and from the line shooting 46% and 83%, respectively. Fontana is considered a good rebounder, a skill that UTEP will be missing with Gill's departure. Apsite adds needed size and is the seventh Latvian player to suit up for the Miners.

Baker lauded Apsite and Arike for their ability to handle the ball like guards but have the size and shooting ability to stretch the floor. Fontana

was praised for her ability to defend and should be used as a stretch four. The international experience that all these players bring to the table should help as they play teams with more size within the conference.

In early season rankings, the Miners are expected to be middle of the conference after last season's surprising showing. This will be the most talented and deep team that Baker has had on the floor in his four years as UTEP head coach. The Miners are a very young team that will be led by second year sensation Gallegos. Three sophomores that played major minutes will now be looked take the next step. UTEP will go as far as Gallegos and the young guns take them with their leadership.

Rebounding and defense will be big question marks for a team that lost its two best players on the boards. Defensively the Miners were 13th out of 14 conference teams last season. To reach the upper tier of the conference, UTEP's defense will need to be significantly improved. With its young core and added size and shooting the Miners should exceed conference expectations and be a top-four team within C-USA.

The Miners open the season noon Wednesday, Nov. 25, against I-10 rival New Mexico State at the Don Haskins Center.

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Photograph by Michael Cuvillo/The Prospector

Two defenders, the other players is kind of in distance.

2020-21 Women's Basketball Schedule

Nov. 25 — UTEP vs. New Mexico State University in El Paso, Texas
 Nov. 28 — UTEP vs. University of The Incarnate Word in El Paso, Texas
 Dec. 2 — UTEP vs. New Mexico State University in El Paso, Texas
 Dec. 5 — UTEP vs. Sam Houston State

University in El Paso, Texas
 Dec. 13 — UTEP vs. Utah State University in Logan, Utah
 Dec. 17 — UTEP vs. Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona
 Jan. 1 — UTEP vs. University of Southern Mississippi in El Paso, Texas

Jan. 2 — UTEP vs. University of Southern Mississippi in El Paso, Texas
 Jan. 8 — UTEP vs. Rice University in Houston, Texas
 Jan. 9 — UTEP vs. Rice University in Houston, Texas
 Jan. 15 — UTEP vs. University of North

Texas in El Paso, Texas
 Jan. 16 — UTEP vs. University of North Texas in El Paso, Texas
 Jan. 22 — UTEP vs. Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana

See the rest of the schedule at utepminers.com/sports/womens-basketball/schedule/2020-21.

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