**The Liquid Gates of Time**

**New exhibition at the Rubin Center**

Alyson Rodriguez  
*The Prospector*

The Rubin Center held a virtual opening on Jan. 28 for its new exhibition, “Liquid Gates of Time,” created by the artist XX. The event was hosted by Josiah Heyman, UTEP professor of anthropology and director of UTEP’s Center for Interamerican and Border Studies, and guest curator from the Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson, Kate Green.

In this ethnographic exposition of the taxonomy in the El Paso

"Liquid Gates of Time" is available for the public to see through Rubin Center’s virtual tours, created by R. Eric Bowers of Eyefisher.

---

**Casa Ortiz builds artistic community**

Nicole Lopez  
*The Prospector*

Casa Ortiz Gallery, a start-up entertainment venue that began operating in October 2020, is providing El Paso with a spark of artistic life. Lying in the heart of Socorro, Texas, one of El Paso’s most historical districts, Casa Ortiz Gallery is based in an infrastructure from the 1800s. Carefully crafted out of adobe, the building has several rooms available for artists to rent out. In each of these rooms, El Pamos can get a closer look at the artists’ work and what it has to say about them.

---

**UTEP Dinner Theatre’s performance undergoes changes amid COVID-19**

Sven Kline  
*The Prospector*

With the coronavirus pandemic stretching into 2021 and school continuing to be affected by social distancing regulations, UTEP’s Dinner Theatre students and staff returned to the stage with various health regulations in place. The department’s “Broadway in Concert” was its first 2021 live, online performance.

However, with the risk of spreading COVID-19, the production had to adjust to wearing masks and performing at a distance. “Coming back to rehearsals while in a pandemic has been interesting, since we all have to be separated by six feet and wearing masks,” said Rebecca Quevedo, a freshman and musical theatre major, who debuted on Feb. 6’s performance. “I feel like we can’t interact with each other as well as we could have if we weren’t in this situation. In the early rehearsal stages we had to get new equipment to be able to rehearse virtually.”

Aside from bringing in new equipment for its performances, the production’s typically crowded ballroom also experienced some changes. According to Zachary Spencer Weigart, a cast member and undergraduate assistant for the theatre, during rehearsals the room was cleared for more open space and doors were left open for air to flow in.

“Teatro is persistent; theatre will always be around,” Weigart said. “The general mood is excitement overall; I think we at the Dinner Theatre have something special and are so lucky to have the space and opportunities.”

The stage floor was also marked with six-feet apart indicators, so performers maintained a safe social distance while on stage. This also included instrument players, with the drummer having an acrylic shield.

Backstage, performing students were required to remain distant and wait in the lobby before entering the stage, to ensure no crowds were formed. Every rehearsal, the staff would also disinfect chairs, props or stands before and after people touched them, as an extra safety precaution.

“I’m sure everyone wants to go back to live performance, because it isn’t quite the same,” Weigart said. “I think throughout this semester there will be many live streamed forms of theatre, so we can only hope and look forward to live performances again.”

"Broadway in Concert" was a compiled performance of different Broadway shows like “Chicago,” “The Lion King,” and “Wicked.” The strain of breathing through masks during choreography, was a challenging aspect of rehearsing amid the
Black coaches still lack fair opportunities

NEWS

Michael Cuviello

Black Student Union

Some can argue the impact of institutional racism has on advancements and industries may have been somewhat diminished. Nonetheless, the stark discrepancy of opportunities for advancement by people of color illuminate itself as sport does.

An example is the Super Bowl victory by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers over the Kansas City Chiefs, one could not help but notice that the vast majority of people who played in the game were Black. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Chiefs were both teams with a majority of people who played in the game were Black. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Chiefs were both teams with a majority of people who played in the game were Black.

The Buccaneers and Chiefs were an anomaly in the NFL as they were the only two teams out of 32 in the NFL with a Black executive coordinator. Eric Bienemy and Byron Leftwich both led two of the top ten offenses in the league, yet neither was offered a head coaching job.

According to the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sports, 70% of all NFL players are Black. According to the same source, 53% of all college football players are Black and about 60% are minorities.

So speak as football, one would assume that Black players down the line will turn into coaches since their experience on the field would give them greater knowledge of the game they play. Unfortunately that is not the case at the pro or college level. In the NFL, there are only ten Black head coaches out of 32 positions. The college ranks fare no better in the top division. At the end of the 2020 football season, 12 Black head coaches were left standing out of 130 Division I programs, which amounts to 9% of all head coaches.

College football has no requirement for its institutions to interview a minority candidate for open jobs and do not even have to disclose who they interviewed for the jobs publicly. The vast majority of college presidents are white, as are the vast majority of athletic directors. Conference USA- (C-USA) has one Black athletic director in its league of 14 teams. Two of the 14 head coaches in C-USA are Black.

Among coordinators, the disparities are equally alarming across the entire NCAA. Of the 64 head coordinators across these 15 conferences, there were five Black offensive coordinators and six defensive coordinators. Within C-USA and the minor conferences, the numbers are somewhat better. C-USA currently has two teams with Black defensive coordinators and five with offensive coordinators.

It all starts at the top, where mostly white boards choose mostly white college presidents and, in turn, continue the cycle with their athletic directors. The overwhelming majority of hiring decisions are white by these same people who build mostly white staffs.

Even worse, when a Black head coach gets hired, they are also less likely to get hired to their white counterparts for another head coaching job. The coaching progression for all coaches is supposed to work your way up to coordinator and get a chance at a lower-tier school to prove yourself for a major college job opportunity. Unfortunately, even getting the coordinator jobs can be almost impossible and it seems that programs still do whatever they like when it comes to hiring coaches regardless of experience.

Mike Huff was the only Black college head coach to have a head coaching opening in the NCAA Division I. Apparently, the NCAA coaches decided that only one Black coach was good enough to get an opportunity to be a head coach in a sport that is represented on the field by majority-minority athletes. This whole process and idea is mindbogglingly flawed and has no oversight for hires.

We as fans and members of these colleges should demand more from these schools that make money on these minority athletes’ backs while holding little regard for coaches of color. The NCAA and the universities within them should have a clear-cut plan to address these discrepancies that should be made public.

UTEP has hired 23 coaches in their history and not one was a minority. Neither recent coach hire was Black and the university has no record of hiring a black coordinator. One of its few minority hires as a coordinator, Mike Canales, was let go after three seasons.

Overall, there are 11 Black college coaches to date who have filled head coaching positions that should be made public.

Michael Cuviello is not a student at UTEP. The Prospector is not responsible for claims made by advertisers. Additional policy text is on page 3 of this issue.

\[\text{The Prospector is published by the Student Media and Publications Board, 105 Union East, 500 W. University Ave. El Paso, Texas, 79968. The Prospector appears in print once a week on Tuesdays during the fall and spring semesters. The newspaper is not printed during holidays and when classes are not in session. The Prospector does not claim to be a newspaper. The Prospector does not comply with the Code of Ethics of the Newspaper Guild, Capital News Service. The Prospector is not responsible for claims made by advertisers. Additional policy text is on page 3 of this issue.}\]

Submit a letter to the editor! Letters will be edited for clarity and brevity. Letters over 250 words are subject to editing to fit available space. Please include full name, street address and telephone number and e-mail address, major, classification and/or title if applicable. Address and phone number will be used for verification only. Write to 105 E. Union, prospector@utep.edu, call 747-516 or fax 747-8301

The Prospector is published by the Student Media and Publications Board, 105 Union East, 500 W. University Ave. El Paso, Texas, 79968. The Prospector appears in print once a week on Tuesdays during the fall and spring semesters. The newspaper is not printed during holidays and when classes are not in session. The Prospector does not claim to be a newspaper. The Prospector does not comply with the Code of Ethics of the Newspaper Guild, Capital News Service. The Prospector is not responsible for claims made by advertisers. Additional policy text is on page 3 of this issue. The Prospector is not printed nor is any attempt made to change the print date. Address and phone number will be used for verification only. Write to 105 E. Union, prospector@utep.edu, call 747-516, or fax 747-8301.

Black coaches still lack fair opportunities

The Prospector's Opinion section is open to all students. All students are encouraged to submit columns to The Prospector. The Prospector's editor-in-chief is Anany Diaz. Additional policy text is on page 3 of this issue.
El Paso reacts to Biden's reversal on transgender military ban

Victoria Rivers
The Prospector

On Monday, Jan. 25, President Joe Biden signed an executive order overturning a ban set by former President Donald Trump that restricted service by transgender personnel from joining the military. It’s simple: America is safer when everyone qualified to serve can do so openly and with pride,” Biden wrote on Twitter.

This executive order protects transgender soldiers from being removed from the military. This order will allow recruits to serve as their self-identified gender and ensure the military will pay for their gender transition medical procedures. “President Joe Biden’s collective decision to overturn the LGBTQ+ military ban is long overdue,” said Vic Duster, a therapist at the Borderland Rainbow Center in El Paso. “A person’s ability to serve their country, should not be in question because of their gender identity. The military is a diverse workforce.”

Trump’s ban was a reversal of President Barack Obama’s announced policy to allow transgender Americans to serve openly in the military starting July 2016. In 2017, Trump announced his administration would not allow the group to serve openly in the military, claiming it was a cause of “tremendous medical costs.”

Transgender people who were already serving in the military could continue to do so, but the new soldiers who identified as transgender would have to serve as their assigned sex at birth. In 2019, the Defense Department finalized the policy.

People like Xochitl Colmenero Martinez, 21, talbing and event coordinator of the Queer Student Alliance (QSA) at UTEP hopes Biden’s administration will be fair for transgender individuals. “President Biden overturned a ban that should have never existed in the first place,” Martinez said. “The ban imposed by Trump during his time in office was discriminatory and reserved advancement made for the LGBTQ+, especially transgender individuals who wished to join the U.S. military.”

In a statement, the White House said America is stronger at home and around the world, when it is inclusive, with the military being no exception. “This executive order will benefit local transgender individuals greatly,” Martinez said. “El Paso houses such a large military base in the U.S. and is a great place for those looking for a career in the military to get started.”

On his first day in office, Biden signed an executive order that expands anti-discrimination
Our nation’s diversity is one of our greatest strengths and leveraging this strength by broadening participation in the (United States) S&E enterprise will be crucial to individual opportunity and a thriving economy.

-Victor McCravy, Vice Chair of National Science Board

Transgender from page 3 protections to LGBTQ Americans. The act directs federal agencies with authority to address discrimination based on sex to interpret those statutes to protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Voting for the bill allows identifying people have been waiting for this moment, as the time that passed, where the previous administration’s transgender ban was in place, has been far too long.” Docter said. “This is another step towards equity.”

Docter Martinez from cover the space, for sure, but I feel like it’s a collaborative effort as well.”

Martinez and other artists at Casa Ortiz are drawn to the beauty of the missions of Socorro being to the artistic community of El Paso. “I feel like El Paso already had this avant-garde art district on the mission trail, so we’re just adding our own edition to the continuation of that idea,” Martinez said.

When Martinez started contributing at Casa Ortiz, it was only a matter of time before other artists would come in and display their creations. Nico Arzuaga Cooper, alongside Martinez, helped get the word out about Casa Ortiz. Cooper has a studio of his own at Casa Ortiz, where he plans to include more variations of his work. “Sheng and Martinez have too much history has a big effect on my art,” Cooper said. “It’s kind of making me have more connections to the roots of this area and the roots of who I am, and I am very grateful to be here.”

Casa Ortiz is a stepping stone in providing local artists with a more legitimate space to display their art and network with other artists. “With Casa Ortiz, there’s more official events that are staying around longer,” Cooper said. “It legitimates the gallery even more if the public comes out and sees it as more legitimate as well.”

One of the many featured artists, Gabriel Marquez, has been able to reach his goals thanks to the support that comes from the community at Casa Ortiz. “I’m here to make my work public. I took the opportunity to make myself known,” Marquez said. “What better way to do it than in a beautiful adobe house from the 1800’s.”

The 2012 UTEP graphic design graduate, explores symbolic features of desert animals and mystic creature through progressive contour lines. Aside from Casa Ortiz, his art can be found in local places like Savage Goods, Mas Y Menos, and Golds Gymn Trwood location. In addition to creating a creative space and a historical site, the architectural features of the building have drawn in more people. Marquez said people driving by find themselves curious, deciding to make a quick stop to see what the gallery is all about.

“The gallery is a place where everyone is welcome and the space is designed to accommodate all types of art. Through the use of different mediums, the artists aim to explore various themes and ideas in their works,” Marquez said.

“Make no mistake, it’s everyone’s story. It’s not just the NSF’s vision, this is not just the civil vision, it’s everyone’s vision.”

“For (UTEP) you (UTEP) are already thinking outside the box, and many athletes spoke to the department director about wanting to use their platform to speak about its significance. “I feel like this is a very powerful thing that we started here,” Howard said. “I feel it’s very important for the incoming students and athletes to really understand the significance behind it and what it’s about.”

Darley noted the importance accountability and recognizing racial injustice is key to finding a solution. “Racism has negatively impacted the lives of many Black people,” Darley said. “If you don’t speak on racism it’s the same as saying racial injustice doesn’t exist.”

As support for the initiative, the photo project, which SGA board has already begun making an impact on his viewers. Hugo Dominguez, a senior in computer science, stated “I know it can be very scary, but please, don’t let that hold you back from doing the right thing,” Dominguez said. “I learned in recent years that taking the first step forward and making myself uncomfortable is in the end what’s going to make me more comfortable with helping others.”

UTEP Volleyball student athletes, Kelly Howard and Alianna Darley reflected on the creation of the TWC initiative in the athletics department and what it means for them and the University. Howard said TWC was born out of the public outcry following the death of George Floyd at the hands of police, and many athletes spoke to the department director about wanting to use their platform to speak about its significance.

“Y ou (UTEP) are already thinking outside the box, and many athletes spoke to the department director about wanting to use their platform to speak about its significance.”

McCray moved forward to NSB’s plans of achieving these goals by developing STEM talent, delivering benefits from research, expanding the geography of innovation and fostering a global S&E community. Bringing attention to these goals and the need to be technologically advanced in order to not be surpassed by another nation, McCray expressed his approval of President Joe Biden’s newest executive order to rein the Paris Accord so the U.S. can reach global achievements.

“UTEP are already thinking or doing many of the things board members believe we need to achieve the vision,” McCravy said. “This is not just the NSF’s vision, this is not just the civil vision, it’s everyone’s vision.”
El Paso announces new public art plan

Noelia Gonzalez

The Prospector

City Council met on Jan. 21 to discuss the adoption of the Public Art Plan for 2021. The Public Art Plan will update completed projects and break down those scheduled for this year. Any projects that were postponed last year because of the pandemic are also included in this schedule. The 2021 Public Art Plan includes $1,430,000 for new projects and $10,475,000 for previously approved projects, $1,995,000 in total.

“We have a couple of projects for library renovations and also a new facility that would be part of the Eastern Regional Command Center for the Police Department.”

This program was adopted by City Council in an effort to integrate public artworks throughout El Paso. Since 2006, the City’s Public Art Program has completed 72 projects with 24 in progress. 168 artists have worked with the program, 80% of whom are local artists. One project planned for this year will be a permanent memorial at Ponder Park for the victims of the Cielo Vista Walmart shooting.

“The one we currently have is a temporary memorial,” Garcia said. “The panels for people to hang their stuff, that’s where it will be.”

Since 2006, the City’s Public Art Program has completed 72 projects with 24 in progress. 168 artists have worked with the program, 80% of whom are local artists. One project planned for this year will be a permanent memorial at Ponder Park for the victims of the Cielo Vista Walmart shooting. “The one we currently have is a temporary memorial,” Garcia said. “The panels for people to hang their stuff, that’s where it will be.”

The department is building a public collection of artworks created by El Paso artists to recognize the artistic talent and cultural diversity of the city. The Art Purchase program is only available for local artists. “Last year we had funds left and we spent about $88,000 in purchasing art from the local artists to help the community and the artist community to do better during the pandemic,” Garcia said.

Other projects in progress include artwork at the Joey Barraza and Vino Memorial Park in Northeast El Paso, new neighborhood waterparks in District 2 and District 7, and two mural replacements. One replacement is the Geronimo mural located across from the Costco at Greenville Dr., a 1999 piece of the El Paso Millennium Community Celebration depicting the Union Station and parts of military equipment that represent the city’s relation to the army.

The mural, El Paso Port-All, was created by Jari “WERC” Alvarez in 2012. Representing new and old icons in new ways giving the viewer multiple experiences, Stanton Port of Entry is one of three area bridges that connect the United States.

The mural, El Paso Port-All, was created by Jari "WERC" Alvarez in 2012. Representing new and old icons in new ways giving the viewer multiple experiences, Stanton Port of Entry is one of three area bridges that connect the United States.

El Paso Port-All, created by Jari "WERC" Alvarez in 2012. Representing new and old icons in new ways giving the viewer multiple experiences, Stanton Port of Entry is one of three area bridges that connect the United States.

Must-see films for Black History Month

Michael Cordova

The Prospector

In the midst of Black History Month, it is an excellent time to reflect on Black filmmakers’ contributions to cinema. Since the beginning of the film era, Black filmmakers have given their unique perspective in films despite the limited opportunities in the industry.

The Academy Awards have never honored a Black filmmaker with the best director award since its creation in 1929. For two years before a Black director was nominated for the award. Up to today, the Oscars have nominated six Black directors for the award. The Academy has awarded the best picture envelope to a film by a Black director twice.

Below are 11 films I recommend to show the makers’ craft and diligence and give them the recognition they deserve. These films are not a definitive list of the best by Black filmmakers and is not meant to diminish films that are not mentioned.

12 Years a Slave (2013) directed by Steve McQueen

This 2013 biographical drama was the first film to win an Academy Award for Best Picture that a Black filmmaker made. British-born Steve McQueen, brought his adaptation of Solomon Northup’s memoir about a free Black man kidnapped and sold into slavery to the screen with an unflinching view into the horrors of the colonial slave trade. Great performances from Chiwetel Ejiofor as the title character and Lupita Nyong’o are real highlights of the film.

Boys in the Hood (1991) directed by John Singleton

John Singleton was the first Black filmmaker nominated for best director in 1991. For this coming­of-age drama that starred Cuba Gooding Jr., Larry Fishburne and Ice Cube in his film debut. The story of a young man sent to live with his father in South Central Los Angeles is a well-acted depiction of the African American experience. It has a level of authenticity that adds power and nuance to its storytelling, making it rise above what could have been a basic exploitation piece with a lesser filmmaker. A compelling and influential film that was also nominated for Best Screenplay.

Moonlight (2016) directed by Barry Jenkins

In one of the biggest Oscar upsets of all time, this Barry Jenkins drama became the second film by a Black director to win an Academy Award for Best Picture. Even in winning, it became a part of one of the strangest moments in Oscar history when the presenters named the wrong film after being given the incorrect envelope. This story is about a young man who grapples with his sexuality and identity growing up in Miami projects. Depicting its character in three stages of developing manhood, the film is groundbreaking for its rarely shown story of a Black LGBTQ character’s journey. Mahershala Ali won a Best Supporting Actor award for his unforgettable portrayal of a father figure to the main character.

Selma (2014) directed by Ava DuVernay

As rare as it is for a black director to get any award recognition for their movie nominated for a Best Picture award. There has been no Black woman ever nominated for Best Director. However, it’s entirely possible that the 2021 Awards may finally break that glass ceiling with some strong contenders. Selma is a powerful retelling of the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, led by Martin Luther King and other activists to secure voting rights for Black people in the state. Only one removed from the 1964 Voting Rights Act, states like Alabama were still ignoring the federal government and doing everything they could to deny people of color the right to vote. While MLK is a significant part of the story, the film gives a broader perspective that the movement was not just about a few individuals as it remakes these iconic events.

Blackkklansman (2018) directed by Spike Lee

Based on the 2014 memoir by Austin High School Graduate Ron Stallworth, about his experience as the first Black Colorado Springs police officer. While assigned to the intelligence section of the department, Stallworth then is able to infiltrate the Ku Klux Klan and expose its great reach. The film stars John David Washington as the Black Klansman.

 communities.

The location of this mural is significant because the Stanton Port of Entry is one out of three bridges that connect the United States with Mexico in El Paso. This artwork represents a bi-national and bi-cultural relationship with the neighboring city of Cd. Juarez.

One significant project is the Remembrance-Crime Victims Memorial, created in 2009. The Memorial is dedicated to those who have died from acts of violence in the city. The sculptural pavilion is located in the Lower Valley and looks like an abstract window to represent transformation and taking flight. There are four black polished granite discs, each eight feet in diameter, that hold the engraved names of the deceased.

In 2020, the memorial added seven names, as part of the annual Public Art Plan.

Another program the department has is the Allied Artist Program which commissions experienced artists to create projects of $125,000 or more. The goal is to gain the technical and administrative expertise needed to compete within the field of public art. These opportunities are all available due to the annual Public Art Plan. The Museums and Cultural Affairs Department present to City Council every year.

The memorial includes a show streaming exclusively on Disney+. ‘WandaVision’ is a show streaming exclusively on Disney+. Creatively, the show does wonders for the MCU as the first Marvel Disney+ show and introduces a new fascinating feel. The series began Feb. 1 and remains one mainstay from every Friday. Currently, there are six episodes all directed by Matt Shakman, who has also directed episodes of “Game of Thrones” for HBO. Another program the department has is the Allied Artist Program which commissions experienced artists to create projects of $125,000 or more. The goal is to gain the technical and administrative expertise needed to compete within the field of public art. These opportunities are all available due to the annual Public Art Plan. The Museums and Cultural Affairs Department present to City Council every year.

The mural, El Paso Port-All, was created by Jari "WERC" Alvarez in 2012. Representing new and old icons in new ways giving the viewer multiple experiences, Stanton Port of Entry is one of three area bridges that connect the United States.

WandaVision’ brings an exciting new feel to the Marvel Cinematic Universe

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

Phase four of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) film series kicked off with “WandaVision” a show streaming exclusively on Disney+. Creatively, the show does wonders for the MCU as the first Marvel Disney+ show and introduces a new fascinating feel. The series began Feb. 1 and remains one mainstay from every Friday. Currently, there are six episodes all directed by Matt Shakman, who has also directed episodes of “Game of Thrones” for HBO.

‘WandaVision’ brings an exciting new feel to the Marvel Cinematic Universe

Editor: Exodis Ward, 747-5161

ENTERTAINMENT

FEBRUARY 16, 2021

Selma (2014) directed by Ava DuVernay

As rare as it is for a black director to get any award recognition for their movie nominated for a Best Picture award. There has been no Black woman ever nominated for Best Director. However, it’s entirely possible that the 2021 Awards may finally break that glass ceiling with some strong contenders. Selma is a powerful retelling of the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, led by Martin Luther King and other activists to secure voting rights for Black people in the state. Only one removed from the 1964 Voting Rights Act, states like Alabama were still ignoring the federal government and doing everything they could to deny people of color the right to vote. While MLK is a significant part of the story, the film gives a broader perspective that the movement was not just about a few individuals as it remakes these iconic events.

Blackkklansman (2018) directed by Spike Lee

Based on the 2014 memoir by Austin High School Graduate Ron Stallworth, about his experience as the first Black Colorado Springs police officer. While assigned to the intelligence section of the department, Stallworth then is able to infiltrate the Ku Klux Klan and expose its great reach. The film stars John David Washington as the Black Klansman.

Lee Blanchard

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

Phase four of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) film series kicked off with “WandaVision” a show streaming exclusively on Disney+. Creatively, the show does wonders for the MCU as the first Marvel Disney+ show and introduces a new fascinating feel. The series began Feb. 1 and remains one mainstay from every Friday. Currently, there are six episodes all directed by Matt Shakman, who has also directed episodes of “Game of Thrones” for HBO.

‘WandaVision’ brings an exciting new feel to the Marvel Cinematic Universe

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

Phase four of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) film series kicked off with “WandaVision” a show streaming exclusively on Disney+. Creatively, the show does wonders for the MCU as the first Marvel Disney+ show and introduces a new fascinating feel. The series began Feb. 1 and remains one mainstay from every Friday. Currently, there are six episodes all directed by Matt Shakman, who has also directed episodes of “Game of Thrones” for HBO.
WandaVision

The Prospector

Two UTEP creative writing professors have been selected by the American Academy of Poets (AAP) as guest editors for the 2021 Poem-A-Day series. Rosa Alcalá and Sasha Pimentel will curate poetry for their respective months. Poems-A-Day is a daily digital poetry series launched in 2006 by the AAP that delivers new and unpublished poetry directly to users via email, social media, or mobile email subscription. Each month, a designated editor curates a selection of poems to be featured on the weekdays, with some poems featuring exclusive commentary by the poets.

Alcalá, who is a professor of English and creative writing, describes the previous Marvel TV series such as “Jessica Jones” and “Avengers: Endgame” as a monumental series finale that does not fit the mold. A pragmatic approach to storytelling, Alcalá says that the show’s ability to pay exceptional homage to past sitcoms makes it stand out.

“WandaVision” is a series that is an extraordinary idea brought to life, according to Alcalá, who notes that Marvel’s MCU characters are intertwined in a fashion that is full of different emotions. The show’s ability to pay exceptional homage to past sitcoms makes this stand out.

In contrast, Sasha Pimentel describes “WandaVision” as a visually engaging series that is a metaphor for identity and existence while writing fiction. Pimentel also described the influence of Alcalá’s work as a transnational writer, showing her ability to encompass the vast scope of identity and existence while writing in a reliable and intimate form.

“Multiple things can exist in one, and I want to bring in writers who know that fluidity and multiplicity of existence beyond how we are often made more linear, or singular, or small,” Pimentel said.

Pimentel also described the influence of Alcalá’s work as a transnational writer, showing her ability to encompass the vast scope of identity and existence while writing in a reliable and intimate form.

One Night in Miami (2020) directed by Regina King

In the Academy Awards history, this year marked the first time in history that color nominated for Best Director and only five women have been nominated for the prestigious award, while the lone woman director to win the prestigious award for the Hurt Locker. In her directing debut, King is praised as a favorite to become the first nominated Black female director. One Night in Miami is a fictional account of a meeting that took place in a hotel in Miami in 1962. In his directing debut, King is said to have a powerful and captivating story to tell. The film has received critical acclaim for its portrayal of the civil rights leader and brings to life the most meaningful conversations that took place on African American experience. “The Autobiography of Malcolm X.” Lee’s film is an ambitious undertaking of this novel. Originally a white director was in place to make the film, but public outcry and script problems had Norman Jewison step away from the project. Once named new director, Lee made substantive changes to the screenplay. Denzel Washington is seen in the film as one of his best performances with a complex portrayal of the ever-evolving figure. Washington was nominated for Best Actor but did not win.

“The movie’s depiction of the initial contrast in how the new and the older generations perceive to deal with the transgressions is on full fascinating display. From bystander to protest to the courtroom, the film is a well-told testament of the communal bonds that bind a community.

Malcolm X (1992) directed by Spike Lee

A list such as this could be almost solely populated with Lee films. “Do the Right Thing” is a seminal film and may be Lee’s best work as regarded by many. I would tend to agree and see it as one of the best movies ever made by any director regardless of color. For this list, I have included Malcolm X, for its portrayal of the civil rights leader and bringing to life one of the most iconic figures on African American experience. “The Autobiography of Malcolm X.” Lee’s film is an ambitious undertaking of this novel. Originally a white director was in place to make the film, but public outcry and script problems had Norman Jewison step away from the project. Once named new director, Lee made substantive changes to the screenplay. Denzel Washington is seen in the film as one of his best performances with a complex portrayal of the ever-evolving figure. Washington was nominated for Best Actor but did not win.

Mangrove (2020) directed by Steve McQueen

McQueen makes my list a second time this year with his 2011 film, the first 1991 trial of the Mangrove Nine. It is a story about a West Indian restaurant owner in the Notting Hill district of West London, England, that is entangled in racist discrimination from the local police continually harassing the community. Initially, the woman resists efforts to get involved politically but realizes that he is involved no matter if he chooses to be. The movie’s depiction of the initial contrast in how the new and the older generations perceive to deal with the transgressions is on full fascinating display. From bystander to protest to the courtroom, the film is a well-told testament of the communal bonds that bind a community.

The prospector@utep.edu
The Prospector
Michael Cuviello, Danny Lopez

Men’s basketball gets first sweep of year UTEP Softball struggles

The UTEP Miners scored the last 7 points of the quarter. UTEP went into the final period with a 58-47 lead. The Panthers would get no closer to 8 points in the quarter even with the extraordinary effort from junior guard Jazzy Ebbitt who had 13 points in the quarter. UTEP closed out the game 76-64. UTEP shot a red-hot 58% from the 3-point line and a 41-32 lead. At the start of the second half, junior guard Eric Lovett of FIU knocked down a 3-point shot to bring the lead down to 41-35. Room responded with a 3-point shot of his own to put the Miners at 44-35 lead. UTEP later exploded to take a 52-27 lead keyed by holding FIU scoreless for five minutes. From this point on, the Panthers would get no closer than 13 points as the Miners prevailed in a dominating fashion 75-69.

Our defense was incredible to hold them to seven points in the third quarter, and about the same in the fourth quarter until they got a few late. Our defense was really, really good and we executed down the stretch to pull away late.

Senior Michelle Pruitt led four Miners in double figures with 18 points. Pruitt, who had 17 points, seven assists and five rebounds. Senior Dejanar Roebuck had 17 points, seven assists and five rebounds. Senior Dejanar Roebuck had 17 points, seven assists and five rebounds.

The Miners shot 50% from the field for the game and an even better 54% from the 3-point line. Defensively the Miners only allowed six field goals in the second half to the Panthers and forced 20 turnovers while only making 10. For the season, the Miners have been strong on the boards and over the last nine games, have not been outrebounded by an opponent.

"You’re always concerned when you go on the road, how tough you have to be mentally," Baker said. "The scoreboard looks like it was an easy win, but this was a win that really, really impressed our team of their grit and their toughness."

The Miners have now won nine straight games, have now won nine straight games, and have extended their win streak to nine straight games. To win nine straight is a milestone for his career with his 12th win in the tournament going 29-5. Head Coach Kevin Baker didn’t want to even mention the streak as he said, "I’m just looking for the next one.

Men’s basketball gets first sweep of year UTEP women extend win streak to 9

The Miners continued its strong defense in the third quarter, only allowing 7 points for the rest of the quarter. It would become the Gallegos and Bradshaw show for the remainder of the scoring in the quarter as both players would score 4 points apiece to give the Miners the halftime lead 42-39.

The Miners continued its aggressive defense in the third quarter, only allowing 7 points for the rest of the quarter. It would become the Gallegos and Bradshaw show for the remainder of the scoring in the quarter as both players would score 4 points apiece to give the Miners the halftime lead 42-39.

The Miners continued its aggressive defense in the third quarter, only allowing 7 points for the rest of the quarter. It would become the Gallegos and Bradshaw show for the remainder of the scoring in the quarter as both players would score 4 points apiece to give the Miners the halftime lead 42-39.

Baker said, "It’s hard to win in college basketball. To win nine straight is incredible," Baker said.

Women’s basketball UTEP senior center Michelle Pruitt drives hard to the basket versus the University of Alabama at Birmingham Feb. 5.

The Miners kept it close through the first few minutes of the game, the Miners led 31-21 at the eight-minute mark. Before the half, junior guard Jamil Bieniemy knocked down a 3-point shot to give the Miners a 41-29 lead. The Miners closed out the half with a 41-32 lead. At the start of the second half, junior guard Eric Lovett of FIU knocked down a 3-point shot to bring the lead down to 41-35. Room responded with a 3-point shot of his own to put the Miners at 44-35 lead.

The Miners continued to hold the Owls to 2 of 12 shooting. After the extraordinary effort from junior shots from the arc. Sophomore guard Jazzy Ebbitt knocked down a 3-pointer on three straight trips down the court as she ended the quarter with 12 points giving FIU a 22-18 first quarter lead.

At the four-minute mark of the second quarter, the Miners trailed by 5 points. The Miners then continued to roll, getting 16 points in the quarter and would go 3-of-3 from the 3-point line. Destiny Thurman and Avery Crouse both had 13 points apiece, while Alina Erke had 10 points and led the team in rebounding with five, along with Michelle Pruitt. Sophomore guard Kaito Gallegos had a quiet scoring night and had seven turnovers.

The Panthers, it was a one-woman show, with Thomas scoring 27 points on 10 of 15-shooting. She was also pulled down eight rebounds. Both teams had turnovers issues but the Panthers won that dubious award with 21 compared to the Miners 17. Both teams ended up with 32 rebounds. In game two of the ConferenceUSA matchup, the Panther started strong, shooting just over 54% from the field in the first quarter, while the Miners kept pace, shooting just over 54%. Sophomore guard Fajuu Nimmo paced the Panthers by hitting a 3-pointer on three straight trips down the court as she ended the quarter with 12 points giving FIU a 22-18 first quarter leader.

The Miners kept it close through the first few minutes of the game, the Miners led 31-21 at the eight-minute mark. Before the half, junior guard Jamil Bieniemy knocked down a 3-point shot to give the Miners a 41-29 lead. The Miners closed out the half with a 41-32 lead. At the start of the second half, junior guard Eric Lovett of FIU knocked down a 3-point shot to bring the lead down to 41-35. Room responded with a 3-point shot of his own to put the Miners at 44-35 lead.

The Miners continued to hold the Owls to 2 of 12 shooting. After the extraordinary effort from junior shots from the arc. Sophomore guard Jazzy Ebbitt knocked down a 3-pointer on three straight trips down the court as she ended the quarter with 12 points giving FIU a 22-18 first quarter lead.

At the four-minute mark of the second quarter, the Miners trailed by 5 points. The Miners then continued to roll, getting 16 points in the quarter and would go 3-of-3 from the 3-point line. Destiny Thurman and Avery Crouse both had 13 points apiece, while Alina Erke had 10 points and led the team in rebounding with five, along with Michelle Pruitt. Sophomore guard Kaito Gallegos had a quiet scoring night and had seven turnovers.

The Panthers, it was a one-woman show, with Thomas scoring 27 points on 10 of 15-shooting. She was also pulled down eight rebounds. Both teams had turnovers issues but the Panthers won that dubious award with 21 compared to the Miners 17. Both teams ended up with 32 rebounds. In game two of the Conference USA matchup, the Panther started strong, shooting just over 54% from the field in the first quarter, while the Miners kept pace, shooting just over 54%. Sophomore guard Fajuu Nimmo paced the Panthers by hitting a 3-pointer on three straight trips down the court as she ended the quarter with 12 points giving FIU a 22-18 first quarter leader.

At the four-minute mark of the second quarter, the Miners trailed by 5 points. The Miners then continued to roll, getting 16 points in the quarter and would go 3-of-3 from the 3-point line. Destiny Thurman and Avery Crouse both had 13 points apiece, while Alina Erke had 10 points and led the team in rebounding with five, along with Michelle Pruitt. Sophomore guard Kaito Gallegos had a quiet scoring night and had seven turnovers.

The Panthers, it was a one-woman show, with Thomas scoring 27 points on 10 of 15-shooting. She was also pulled down eight rebounds. Both teams had turnovers issues but the Panthers won that dubious award with 21 compared to the Miners 17. Both teams ended up with 32 rebounds. In game two of the Conference USA matchup, the Panther started strong, shooting just over 54% from the field in the first quarter, while the Miners kept pace, shooting just over 54%. Sophomore guard Fajuu Nimmo paced the Panthers by hitting a 3-pointer on three straight trips down the court as she ended the quarter with 12 points giving FIU a 22-18 first quarter leader.

The Miners kept it close through the first few minutes of the game, the Miners led 31-21 at the eight-minute mark. Before the half, junior guard Jamil Bieniemy knocked down a 3-point shot to give the Miners a 41-29 lead. The Miners closed out the half with a 41-32 lead. At the start of the second half, junior guard Eric Lovett of FIU knocked down a 3-point shot to bring the lead down to 41-35. Room responded with a 3-point shot of his own to put the Miners at 44-35 lead. UTEP later exploded to take a 52-27 lead keyed by holding FIU scoreless for five minutes. From this point on, the Panthers would get no closer than 13 points as the Miners prevailed in a dominating fashion 75-69.

Our defense was incredible to hold them to seven points in the third quarter, and about the same in the fourth quarter until they got a few late. Our defense was really, really good and we executed down the stretch to pull away late.

Senior Michelle Pruitt led four Miners in double figures with 18 points. Pruitt, who had 17 points, seven assists and five rebounds. Senior Dejanar Roebuck had 17 points, seven assists and five rebounds.

The Miners shot 50% from the field for the game and an even better 54% from the 3-point line. Defensively the Miners only allowed six field goals in the second half to the Panthers and forced 20 turnovers while only making 10. For the season, the Miners have been strong on the boards and over the last nine games, have not been outrebounded by an opponent.

"You’re always concerned when you go on the road, how tough you have to be mentally," Baker said. "The scoreboard looks like it was an easy win, but this was a win that really, really impressed our team of their grit and their toughness."

The Miners have now won nine straight games, have now won nine straight games, and have extended their win streak to nine straight games. To win nine straight is a milestone for his career with his 12th win in the tournament going 29-5. Head Coach Kevin Baker didn’t want to even mention the streak as he said, "I’m just looking for the next one.

Men’s basketball gets first sweep of year UTEP women extend win streak to 9

The Miners kept it close through the first few minutes of the game, the Miners led 31-21 at the eight-minute mark. Before the half, junior guard Jamil Bieniemy knocked down a 3-point shot to give the Miners a 41-29 lead. The Miners closed out the half with a 41-32 lead. At the start of the second half, junior guard Eric Lovett of FIU knocked down a 3-point shot to bring the lead down to 41-35. Room responded with a 3-point shot of his own to put the Miners at 44-35 lead. UTEP later exploded to take a 52-27 lead keyed by holding FIU scoreless for five minutes. From this point on, the Panthers would get no closer than 13 points as the Miners prevailed in a dominating fashion 75-69.
At its first home game of the season, the Miners (1-2-1) got its season’s first victory over New Mexico State in a 6-3 win. The three goals from the Miners came in the first half of the game. A few weeks ago, NM State defeated UTEP in the first exhibition game of the season. UTEP fell to Utah Valley Saturday after a two-over-time half, but both teams ended with a scoreless tie.

On Thursday, the Aggies controlled the first few minutes of the game, but the Miners got on the scoreboard at the eighth minute of the match, Jackie Soto scored her fifth goal of the season with assist by Jojo Nengo. At the 26-minute mark came the second score for the Miners, a sophomore Tessa Carlin, with a point kick, placed the ball in the top left corner of the goal. NM State led UTEP 4-0, Nengo assisted Makenna Gottschalk who failed to reach the shot.

Six minutes later, at the 32’, the Miners scored again to make it 3-0. Jojo Nengo scored her eighth career goal in the 32nd minute mark. “We had to finish our opportunities, which we did in the first half,” said Head Coach Kathyrn Balogun. “We didn’t do as well in the second half with the ball, we need to be able to finish a full game with that sort of thing. But in terms of not allowing them to capitalize on our mistakes, we did a much better job this game.”

The Aggies only score was at the 61-minute mark when Megan Ormon scored with Emma Smith’s assist. NMSU had control almost all the second half, but it wasn’t enough to score more goals; in the first half, the Aggies had 17 shots on target to seven for UTEP.

Emily Parrott, UTEP’s starting goalkeeper, had two crucial saves in the match. The Aggies came close to score their second goal, but Parrott had a key save 20 minutes before the game ended.

“The major thing we had to do was a better job of the transition moments and taking care of the ball in our own half,” Balogun said. “We want to possess; we want to build and do those things, but (NMSU) capitalized really well on our mistakes in the first game. We knew we had to do a better job there.”

On Saturday night, the Miners were held to a scoreless draw against the Utah Valley Wolverines. The Miners had just two shots on target and a pair of corner kicks; the key performance the defense stepping up to fight off 11 shots on goal and six corner kicks by the visitors. Another outstanding performance was from UTEP’s goalkeeper Parrott, who recorded nine saves in all the matches at University Field UTEP is now 6-4-1 against the current Wolverines defensive battle against Utah Valley Feb. 13.

Men’s Basketball from page 7

We challenged the guys to come out with unbelievable energy, activity and having fun,” said UTEP Head Coach Rodney Terry. “You have to have that in playing against a powerhouse team that will really push the ball in transition and communicate getting back with guys on defense. We came out really good energy on both ends of the floor.”

Boum led all Miners in scoring once again with 22 points on 8-of-16 shooting from the field and 5-of-7 from the free-throw line. Agnew had 12 points while shooting 3-of-6 from the field and 3-of-4 from the three-point area. Boum and Agnew combined to give the team the lead 54-51 with 7:38 remaining in the game.

The Miners then took control of the game, drawing fouls that would lead to multiple scoring opportunities at the free-throw line. Over the next two minutes, the Miners shut down the Panthers’ shooters and went to the foul line for eight straight points giving the team a 59-54 lead. UTEP would score 18 points in the final eight minutes off 20 free throw attempts. Three points, the Panthers in the bonus so early in the half. The Miners went on to a 77–68 victory over the Panthers by making the sweep.

“None of us played great in the first half,” Terry said. “We had 11 turnovers; that was a big part of that. I thought we came out in the second half and put it on our defense. We’re going to have to guard and work the ball up and that’s what we talked about that. We did a much better job attacking and advancing the ball up the floor.”

Neither team shot very well on the night, with UTEP shooting 40% and FIU shooting 41% overall. The game’s real difference was the Miners’ ability to get to the free-throw line, with UTEP getting there 39 times on the night. This is the most times the Miners have made it to the foul line since the season. We opened three seasons ago versus the University of Texas at Permian–Basin.

Boum made a living at the free-throw line with 15 made shots on 17 attempts. On the night, Boum led the team with 27 points, five assists and three steals while playing the whole game. Agnew came off the bench to have another strong game with 17 points while shooting 8-10 from the free-throw line.

UTEP goes on the road to take on the Florida Atlantic Owls (6-9, 3-5) next weekend in Miami for a back-to-back series.

Softball from page 7

muster one more run while the Wildcats were able to score seven more on a 3-16 victory. For the game, Flores would go 3 for 4 at the plate and Illena Santos and Mendes would add more two hits each. The loss. The pitching struggled once again to keep batters off the bases giving up 18 hits on 37 at-bats. Day two of the tournament saw the Miners open against the Wildcats in a game that featured only two innings of scoring. The Miners gave up five runs in the second to an ACU that spurred by a walk and a wild pitch that preceded a grand slam home run from Wildcat Callie Burriss that broke the score open with a 5-0 lead.

From this point on, the Miners could not get on top of offense with four hits on the day. The Wildcats scored one more run in the sixth inning to make the final margin 6-0. Junior Pate Cathey had two of the four hits for the Miners and sophomore Zaylie Calderon pitched a strong four innings for the Miners in the loss.

In the tournament’s final game for the Miners, it once again faced off with the Oklahoma Sooners and its murderer’s row of hitters. The Sooners had scored 49 runs through its first three games while winning three of four in a row. Sooners pitching had been dominant, only giving up four hits in three games.

UTEP quickly fell behind the Sooners on a three-run home run in the first inning, while the Miners could only get a base runner on walk to start its initial at-bats. The Sooners added another two runs in the second after a walk and a batter hit by a pitch put runners in scoring position for Oklahoma.

Mender, who broke up the perfect game the previous day and in the second for another hit versus Oklahoma. UTEP advanced the runners on a sacrifice bunt with sophomore catcher Karina Somoza hitting a two-out-two-run single to put up the weekend’s first score for any team against Oklahoma. After two innings, the Miners were only down 5-2. The Miners held firm in the third inning, holding Oklahoma to only one run. Unfortunately, the Miners could not add any offense as two strikeouts and a groundout ended the inning three up three down.

In the fourth and fifth innings was when Oklahoma was able to take advantage of the young Miners. Three straight home runs by the Sooners in the top of the fourth helped spur an eight-run inning. The Sooners added seven more runs in the fifth and final inning to crush UTEP 21-2 in the last game of the day.

While the score was lopsided, the Miners actually got more hits than the Sooners against than Oklahoma had given up in the three previous games combined. While the results did not look good on the field those were akin to exhibition games for an already highly young team that has not faced live competition since last season.

“Our younger kids learned what it takes to compete at this level;” UTEP coach TJ Hubbard said. “This helped the kids see what they need to work on. We got to get the kids out on the field and see them from an evaluation standpoint. Overall half of the roster are either freshmen or sophomores. Getting playing time for our young kids was the key thing.”

This biggest thing to me was our offense was really good. We’re going to get punched in the mouth, we’re going to get kicked and we have to fight through it.”

UTEP hosts the Northern Colorado Bears for a four-game series 4 p.m. Feb. 19 and 20 at Helen Troy Stadium in El Paso. The Bears have yet to play a game this season.

Softball Freshman pitcher Victoria Salazar throws the first pitch of the season for the UTEP Miners in a matchup with fourth-ranked Oklahoma Feb. 11. Photograph by Michael Cuviello

Softball from page 7

After two innings, the Miners were only down 5-2. The Miners held firm in the third inning, holding Oklahoma to only one run. Unfortunately, the Miners could not add any offense as two strikeouts and a groundout ended the inning three up three down.

In the fourth and fifth innings was when Oklahoma was able to take advantage of the young Miners. Three straight home runs by the Sooners in the top of the fourth helped spur an eight-run inning. The Sooners added seven more runs in the fifth and final inning to crush UTEP 21-2 in the last game of the day.

While the score was lopsided, the Miners actually got more hits than the Sooners against than Oklahoma had given up in the three previous games combined. While the results did not look good on the field those were akin to exhibition games for an already highly young team that has not faced live competition since last season.

“Our younger kids learned what it takes to compete at this level;” UTEP coach TJ Hubbard said. “This helped the kids see what they need to work on. We got to get the kids out on the field and see them from an evaluation standpoint. Overall half of the roster are either freshmen or sophomores. Getting playing time for our young kids was the key thing.”

This biggest thing to me was our offense was really good. We’re going to get punched in the mouth, we’re going to get kicked and we have to fight through it.”

UTEP hosts the Northern Colorado Bears for a four-game series 4 p.m. Feb. 19 and 20 at Helen Troy Stadium in El Paso. The Bears have yet to play a game this season.

Softball Freshman pitcher Victoria Salazar throws the first pitch of the season for the UTEP Miners in a matchup with fourth-ranked Oklahoma Feb. 11. Photograph by Michael Cuviello