The Prospector, May 4, 2021

UTEP Student Publications

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Opportunity builds a top ten senior

Andrea Danielle Mata, a senior in sociology at UTEP, has been selected as a Top Ten Senior for the graduating class of 2021. Born in McAllen, Texas, Mata moved to El Paso to help build a community around herself, peers, professors, and administration at UTEP. "I was really alone, I didn't have a lot of community, so I had to build one," Mata said. "That was a staple of my character. I persevere and thrive."

Coming from a family of modest means, Mata dedicated her time to excelling in her academic career and proved all concerns of financial support when she received the UTEP BUILDing Scholars undergraduate scholarship, a research-intensive program that offered her a full ride scholarship. "I was happy that I was able to afford my college education."

Mata accumulated numerous prestigious awards and participated in multiple research groups throughout her years at UTEP. In addition to the BUILDing Scholars program, Mata participated in the UTEP Minority Health International Research Training Program (MHIRT), a program that connects students with participating research universities internationally to address health disparities, predominantly in the Hispanic community. She conducted research at partner Arizona State University and had her findings published in 2018.

At UTEP she conducted research concerning pre-imposed natal immigrant women with Carina Heckert, Ph.D., assistant professor of anthropology and sociology at UTEP. Her involvement in MHIRT gave her the opportunity to perform research in Panama City, Panama. Despite an internship opportunity being disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Mata participated in the Law School Preparatory Institute (L SPI) at UTEP, which prepares students for legal education through critical and analytical thinking and writing skills.

This summer, Mata will be conducting research concerning asylum seekers with Jeremy Black, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology and anthropology. After graduation, Mata will head to Michigan to begin her Ph.D. program in special education after having received another full ride scholarship for a five-year program in the college of education.

"There were a lot of surreal moments in these past few years. After getting a full ride for my Ph.D. program, my mentor said, ‘I worked for 10 years and have never seen that scholarship be awarded.’" Mata said. I am learing with an incredible GPA, graduating Suma Cum Laude and will be the banner bearer for the College of Liberal Arts.

Some of Mata’s most memorable experiences at the University include being in attendance at the announcement of UTEP as an R1 Research Institute. Additionally, this year at the university the top ten are about to graduate.

See Top Ten page 6
Graduation, seven years in the making

Paulina Astrid Spencer

Graduating during a pandemic is something I never imagined would happen to me. But here we are, one year and a half into a pandemic that shook the entire world, achieving a goal I didn’t believe I could achieve.

It somehow feels like a year was stolen from me, and I know I am not the only one in this position. This past year and a half has been a rollercoaster ride for everyone, and I know I am not the only one to miss the normalcy of college.

I still have the memories of college letting me grow and always making me a better person every day. I am grateful for the memories and the hopefulness for the future. Thank you, UTEP.

Paulina Astrid Spencer

The Prospector, a second home

Isaiah Ramirez

Throughout the course of my life, I have been grateful for the amazing opportunities and blessings that have shaped the person I am today. At The Prospector, I have friendships and memories I will appreciate for the rest of my life. I worked at this distinguished publication for three years, and it is a surreal feeling looking back on it now.

I knew that I wanted to study journalism when I entered UTEP, since writing and reading stories is an interest of mine. It was a happy accident as to how I began working at The Prospector.

I wanted to get my foot in the door in the world of journalism, so I applied to Minero Magazine, but on the application paper there was another section with job descriptions regarding The Prospector, which I knew nothing about, so I checked the contributor position but thinking nothing of it. After being hired to write for Minero Magazine, Jeremy Cameron, who was the sports editor at the time, approached me and asked about my interests in journalism to which I replied “sports”. He gave me an impromptu interview, I became a contributor for The Prospector.

Fast forward two years and here I am writing a farewell column. Although it feels like yesterday I was walking into the Prospy office for the first time (with a perm on my head that I regret to this day).

Right off the bat I began covering numerous sporting events across El Paso, and the experience and knowledge to what it takes to be a journalist.

For students looking to become sports journalists or journalists in general, the best advice I can give you is to take every opportunity you are given and run with it. From working at The Prospector as a contributor, reporter, and editor, I have learned a lot about myself and the amazing people I have been blessed with to work with.

To you and the people that surround me: Thank you. I want to dedicate this time to say thank you to all those I have worked for and with at The Prospector, which became a second home to me during college. This past year we have worked through tough times together and I am proud of you for coming together and producing quality content.

To the director of Student Media Publications, Veronica Gonzalez, Thank you.

Isaiah Ramirez

@marisolchs on Twitter.

REFLECTIONS

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The Prospector helped shape my inner self

Maria Salette Ontiveros
The Prospector

I was unsure to apply to The Prospector two years ago because I thought I needed experience to be there. I looked at the opportunity as something so far away from my abilities. And when I got there, I learned I could do anything through hard work and determination.

After many sleepless nights and a stressful year filled with uncertainties, it feels surreal my last college semester is finally here. The feeling of seeing the end of the line feels bittersweet, but I am excited for the journey that lies ahead.

As a transfer student from EPCC, I was nervous about applying to The Prospector at UTEP. During my orientation I was excited to see the beautiful campus and the space the campus had. It felt like a small city within the city. Coming from a small town, roughly a 30-mile ride, I enjoyed the time to sing my lungs out and de-stress.

Still as I applied to be the editor for a big campus newspaper, I remembered the feeling of being engrossed by the mass of people as I walked along the Cotton to Liberal Arts building. The urgency we all felt to get to our destinations without much else. Thanks to all became a wonderful memory that I could never experience once again due to COVID-19, but I’ll keep it close to me.

I got to experience wonderful things thanks to my professors in the communication department, especially Professor Kate Gannon. She pushed me to try my hardest and inspired me to continue writing. But I will always be grateful for her advice and always the best jokes. Also, to reporter Mallory Falk, who worked with us in our research course. Thank you for always listening and being a great role model as to who I want to become. I would also like to express my gratitude to the KTEP staff. Words cannot express how grateful I am for the opportunity to work at the station. My big thank to Devo Woo, whom I randomly met on the trolley one day. Also, to my closest friends, Sam Cassiano for your marvelous jokes. And to Paul, Alex, Maria and Seth, thank you for your continuous help. I would have been lost without you all.

I have a special love for everyone who helped me become who I am today, and I am grateful.

Working with every single student and putting effort on each story I wrote, I learned the most. I will always remember who I am today. I have grown as a person. I learned to adjust my life on a path to grow and adjust my life on a path to grow. I learned about teamwork and working as a journalist.

Thanks to Professors Kate Gannon too, because she helped me a lot to shape my future. I took more than two classes with her, and she advised me several times. Thanks to her too, I know who I want to become one day.

Even though half of my time at The Prospector was online because of COVID-19, I was able to learn even more about myself.

This last semester was challenging for me because I did not know much about being a writer, but Tracy, Vero, Anahy and Sol, were there for me to answer any questions. This opportunity made me realize there is another route of my career that I have never experienced before and noticed that I really enjoy it.

Working with the Minero Magazine team also made me grow as a journalist and helped me explore my roots, giving me the opportunity to write in Spanish, which was something I had never done before. Thank you, Maria, the Editor-in-Chief and I would like to explain to you guys and arguing about “all-time greats.” I learned so much from both of you and I am proud to call you my friends.

To Mike, thank you for being a hard-working and dedicated journalist. I look at your stories now and I am proud of the growth you made as a journalist.

From writing recaps to making some of the best work. The Prospector has produced, you are a perfect example that hard work pays off. I know you may see this as a jab, but I see you as a father figure and someone I could always depend on when I worked as a sports editor. I will appreciate your success in your life, thank you for being a great colleague and friend.

Finally, I want to thank my family, my mom, dad, grandparents, cousins, sister, aunts and uncles and my girlfriend Audrey for always being there for me. I attended college not only to fulfill my promise to my mom to earn a degree, but to make all of you proud. I love each one of you.

My future as a journalist is put on hold as I plan to join the United States Air Force after graduation, but I plan to work within its public affairs, but I plan to work within its public affairs to continue this passion of mine. Thank you, The Prospector, for being a big part of my life.

Thank you for all the advice and time you spend making me a better journalist and to all the great memories. I will deeply miss working here but I am grateful for the time I had with all of you.
Looking back and moving forward

Nicole Lopez
Graduation reflection

I believe receiving a college education is key when it comes to manifesting your passions. With higher education, you have the freedom to choose your own path and master your professional goals. Always six years in Ciudad Juarez, as a graduate-to-be, there is nothing truer than the gift of education and all the opportunities it comes with.

From a young age, language arts was my strongest and favorite subject. I always found myself lost in a book. There was always something about the art of writing that intrigues me. My interest only grew with every passing year.

Like others, I had a difficult time finding what I wanted to do after graduation. Even since the eighth grade, I was under an immense pressure to determine what it was that I wanted to study once I got to college.

I happened to take a journalism class by chance when I was a junior in high school. I needed to fill a course on my schedule, so I agreed. Little did I know that I would end up being the best thing that would become my desired career path.

When I enrolled at UTEP, I was beyond excited to start my career, to receive the experience I always wanted as a writer and journalist in the making. I got my first real taste of the journalism field when I reported on the Women’s Conference that was held at UTEP during the spring 2019 semester. At the time, I couldn’t have been more confident that I would be a journalist.

Stillborn and determined to find experience as a young journalist, I spent the summer of 2019 visiting news stations and newspapers, demanding they let me speak with an editor about an internship position. After going from one organization to another, KVIA ABC-7 News was gracious enough to take me in. I never thought I would want to pursue a job at a TV station, but when I shadowed producers at KVIA, I learned it could be a potential career.

While I interned at KVIA, I also worked as a content writer for AGI Marketing, a local digital marketing company in El Paso. Although balancing both was tough, I couldn’t pass up the opportunity of gaining experience.

Now, I’ve had the honor to contribute at The Prospector for allowing me to work with them. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to be able to bring my stories to the readers of The Prospector. In an email sent out by UTEP President Heather Wilson to all UTEP faculty members and students, it was announced that UTEP seniors prepare their cap and gown for commencement ceremonies on May 14 and 15. As UTEP also plans to host a virtual graduation ceremony, the in-person ceremony will be livestreamed at www.utep.edu. According to Wilson, this is due to the decreased level of COVID-19 in the community and the increased number of people immunized with the vaccine.

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Graduates prepare to celebrate as regulations loosen

Haynes Rodriguez
The Prospector

As UTEP seniors prepare their cap and gown for commencement ceremonies on May 14 and 15, some are also preparing to celebrate in-person with their loved ones as COVID-19 restrictions lessen and more community members receive the vaccine.

In 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, graduates across the country virtually celebrated their accomplishments, while others faced postponed or canceled ceremonies. At UTEP, the more than 3,000 graduating seniors were celebrated with a virtual ceremony in September 2020.

At the time, students took to social media to express their sadness, disappointment and frustration at having to celebrate a major milestone without family.

Now, as COVID-19 restrictions in El Paso and the rest of Texas loosen as more people become vaccinated against the virus, UTEP hopes to make up to the Class of 2020 and 2021 during the in-person ceremony.

According to Wilson, this is due to the decreased level of COVID-19 in the community and the increase of people immunized with the vaccine. At 7 p.m., Friday May 14, the colleges of Business Administration, Engineering, Health and Science, and the school of Nursing and Pharmacy will be graduating. The graduation ceremony will also be livestreamed at www.utep.edu.
entering the workforce. or soft skills students should have are targeting, as well as what skills industries are growing or what they present at UTEP to give the past, Borderplex has hosted development and analytics, in
vice president of workforce and Prudential, among others. to El Paso such as Amazon, ADT, Borderplex has brought companies or relocate in the borderland. companies wanting to expand working hand in hand with line, “ Castro said. “Although I know my professors and mass communication major with
is a junior multimedia journalism likely take it. ”

According to Castro, the Career Center meets with different companies to see how many people they need or want to hire, which is why having experience in one’s desired field is important since it’s what most employers look for. Castro explained employers look to see if students have had an internship or an on-campus job for the desired field. “We tell students, even when you are a freshman, you have to develop skills that are going to help you become more marketable down the line,” Castro said.

Borderplex is a local organization working hand in hand with companies wanting to expand or relocate in the borderland. Borderplex has brought companies to El Paso such as Amazon, ADT, and Prudential, among others. According to Kassandra Huhn, vice president of workforce development and analytics, in the past, Borderplex has hosted presentations at UTEP to give students an overview of which industries are growing or what they are targeting, as well as what skills or soft skills students should have entering the workforce.

“We work off a strategic plan,” Huhn said. “For the strategic plan we have a couple of targeted industries that we are trying to help develop, including logistics, manufacturing, business services, life sciences, and defense in aerospace.”

Borderplex helped introduce the College of Business. “When we talk with these companies, we always try to find a way they can engage on campus, this includes opening up an academy,” Huhn said. “In other cases, we’ve at least been able to make introductions to executives that we meet, so that can speak in classes about internships that they have available.”

This past year, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, some students have struggled to find jobs. UTEP student Breyana Nuñez, is a junior graphic design major who got laid off from her job due to COVID-19, but said she saw the situation as sign to begin looking into something that will benefit her in the future.

“I have started to look for graphic design internships here in El Paso and outside of the city, and it has not been successful,” Nuñez said. “Although I know my professors and advisor could guide me in the right direction and help me with tips and how to better my portfolio, it is hard to communicate with everything being online.”

As for after she graduates, Nuñez plans to stay in El Paso, but has also thought about leaving the city. “Graphic design is very beneficial since you can work with someone from outside of the city without meeting them,” Nuñez said. “If there is a better opportunity for me outside of this beautiful city, I will most likely take it.”

UTEP student Brianne Williams, is a junior multimedia journalism and mass communication major with a minor in creative writing. Williams currently works at Cinemark 20 and XD and Papaya at Cielo Vista Mall, she has worked at Cinemark for two years at Papaya for seven months.

“Juggling the two and school has been a bit of a challenge but I’m doing what I can to pay for school and my car,” Williams said. “I picked up the job at Papaya because hours were slow at Cinemark due to the pandemic, I applied everywhere—Target, Menchies, Bath & Body Works, and luckily Papaya called me back right away!”

Williams explained her dream career is to be a journalist for a newspaper, magazine, or blog. After she graduates, she plans to stay in El Paso.

“I love living in El Paso and hope to work for the El Paso Times,” Williams said. “I am hoping to intern with them sometime while attending UTEP.”

According to a 2016 report by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, employment in retail trade, transportation and warehousing, and public administration are higher in El Paso and lower in construction, finance, professional, and scientific and management, and services other than public administration. Meaning, El Paso has more jobs concentrated in traditionally low-wage industries and relatively fewer jobs in traditionally high-wage industries, forcing some El Pasoans to pursue their career endeavors outside the city.

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2020 graduate returns to walk the graduation stage

Adriana Mares is a 2020 graduate walking the stage in May after having earned her master's degree. Mares was named a tenor senior in 2019, when she graduated with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences.

"It's not only my accomplishment, it's my whole family's travel," Adriana Mares said.

With UTEP's commencement ceremony taking place May 14-15 at the Sun Bowl Stadium, Winter 2020 graduates will be able to participate. Adriana Mares, 22, who earned a Master's of Science in Public Health and Biological Sciences in December 2020, is looking forward to walking the stage this May in honor of the success she accomplished throughout her college career.

Mares knows the definition of hard work. As a senior in high school, she was among 14 recipients of the prestigious Terry Foundation Scholarship at UTEP, which awards a full-ride scholarship to Texas high school graduates who demonstrate promise of being future leaders in the state.

"The Terry Foundation Scholarship has really helped me focus on my education and these professional development opportunities, such as volunteering, shadowing, and all the organizations that I'm part of," Mares said. "I've been able to really dedicate time to each one of them, because I'm not stressed about how I'm going to be able to pay for my classes, nor are my parents stressed about helping me pay for my classes."

Mares has spent her college career focused on attending a medical school where she hopes to learn about interventional cardiology and structural and congenital heart defects.

"My interest in cardiology originated when I lost both of my grandparents when I was only one year old," Mares said. "It makes me wonder how different my life would have been if my grandparents still here." But then again, it inspired me to help children because I don't want them to lose family members due to cardiovascular disease."

With Mares' persistence in pursuing a career in cardiovascular disease, she has been a part of several community organizations where she's been able to show her dedication to the field.

Mares is an organizer for the American Heart Association Go Red for Women Event, held annually, which aims to bring awareness to women's heart health. Mares is also a co-leader for the Pulmonary Hypertension Support Group, which brings together patients who have been diagnosed with a complex form of pulmonary hypertension.

Additionally, Mares is a member of the American College of Cardiology, a medical students leadership group. She is the editor of this group, which has allowed her to advance her writing skills in medicine and learn how to summarize clinical trials. Each of these organizations has presented her with the opportunity to network with cardiologists around the world and medical students who have similar interests as hers.

Mares is also an ambassador for the All of Us research program with the National Institutes of Health, which aims to focus on areas like El Paso to ensure they receive medical research.

"My participation in a wide range of organizations, whether that's specifically in cardiology or something very broad, like the National Institute of Health, have all really contributed to my professional growth because I've gained a lot from each one of them," Mares said. "I have been able to seize every opportunity because my mentors presented them to me."

Mares finds it important for current students, regardless of the major, to have not just one mentor, but several.

"They can all advise you on different aspects of what you're going to expect later on in the future as a professional," Mares said.

Mares is not only a part of various organizations, as she has also taken it upon herself to lead aspiring medical students. In her first semester at UTEP, she founded the Institute of Cardiology at El Paso, where students can network with cardiologists to learn more about the medical field.

"Knowing that this was possible, I then found really brilliant friends through some of my first classes at UTEP," Mares said.

Although her college career was filled with accomplishments, it was equally filled with challenges which included experiencing an academic and personal life.

"All my experiences have really kept me busy," Mares said.

Mares gives her thanks to her father, Adriano Mares, her mother, Veronica Mares, and her brother, Emiliano Mares who have been by her side, supporting her throughout her studies.

"I really want to thank my family for their understanding and cooperation and everything," Mares said.

There were times where Mares had to miss out on family events, but her parents and brother always gave her the kindness, cooperation, and understanding that motivated her to keep going.

"Which is why, juggling classes while shadowing doctors and volunteering at hospitals was a task Mares knew she could do. Mares volunteered in several settings including Hospitals of Providence, University Medical Center, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and private clinics.

"Whether you're doing research or you need to finish that biochemistry exam, it always comes down to putting your absolute best in all of those tasks," Mares said. "I think it's very important that it's not always, 'Hey, I'm going to do this biochemistry test.' You can't really think about it."

"You blink an eye, and an opportunity will fly by..." Wilson said. "So you have to be more proactive."

"Do that application. When it comes down to it, stay up those extra hours, don't be afraid to ask for help or for a letter of recommendation. If you want to do something, just go for it," Mares said. "You blink an eye, and an opportunity will fly by..."

"If you have enough of your own opportunities, if you have an opportunity, take advantage of it."
God made it possible. To Him be the glory forever. Thank you!

-Alma Idali Hernández

Working hard is important but there is something that matters even more, believing in yourself.

-H. Potter

-Alieya Marquez

Thanks to my classmates and all my teachers for their help. But especially thanks to God, all my family and my parents because they have been a constant support for me all this time. Congratulations to everyone on our graduation! #gominers

-Lizeth J. Molina Ortiz

I am proud to be a Hispanic woman in STEM graduating from my master’s degree. I want to thank Johnson & Johnson for giving me the opportunity to start my professional career. Tambien quiero agradecer a mis padres por su amor y apoyo los cuales formaron a una mujer independiente.

-Dulce Zamorano

I want to dedicate this Bachelor’s to my mother who never gave up on her children, my boys who are always watching, my husband who supported me since day one, and my siblings whom I want to be that example for. Without God this wouldn’t be possible. We Did It!

-Wendy Canales

Thank you for the life lessons! I also appreciate the 15min walks between classes that helped me stay fit. I’m off! GO MINERS!!!

-Cedrick Miller

I am a part of the graduating class of 21’. I am forever thankful to my family, friends, professor, and everyone who has supported me along this journey. Now it’s my time to teach. Ms.Baffert signing out.

-Brittany Baffert

Life can be simple, or we can make it extraordinary. I went with extraordinary, sharing my journey along the way with such intelligent people. Thank you, we have created long lasting friendships. Lucky me.

- Arlene Hernandez

Thank you UTEP for everything! Nursing school was fun, but I’m finally DONE!

- Priscilla Rodriguez

Thanks to my classmates and all my teachers for their help. But especially thanks to God, all my family and my parents because they have been a constant support for me all this time. Thanks to my fiancé who was always there for me in all aspects.

-Brittany Baffert

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-Dulce Zamorano
I thank God and family for their strong support. It has been a tough four years but this PharmD has been a huge accomplishment. Thank you for believing in me. I am going to be the best pharmacist I can be. ¡Todo lo que necesito ya existe en mí! 

- Krista Ramirez

If Covid-19 couldn’t even stop us from graduating, nothing should stop us from pursuing our futures.

- Jonah A. Pierce

Thanks to my mom, sisters and grandparents for being encouraging along this journey. I did it for you all. Your unconditional love and support helped me achieve this dream. My friends Yanika, Yasmine and Juan, thank you for being my best friends and helping me along this journey. I Love Y’all.

- Aaron McTague

Long story short it was a great time! (except Covid) I am so happy to accomplish this milestone. Thank you so much to my parents, my sisters, my professors, my family, and my friends that accompanied me and supported me during my college experience. Proud to be a Miner!

- Lucia D. Mata Sanchez

I am leaving here today with an abundance of knowledge and great memories. I want to thank God, my family, friends, and the excellent staff and faculty. Your guidance and support shaped me into the well-rounded person I am today. Congratulations to my peers; we did it!!!

- Isabela Garcia

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- Lucia D. Mata Sanchez

I am so thankful for the opportunity of having both my BBA and MBA from UTEP, a university that does so much for the community where we live in. The preparation and knowledge i’ve learned from being here is something i’ll take with me forever. Picks up and Go Miners!

- Pamela Rios

“Always seems impossible until it’s done” - Nelson Mandela

- Karina Rivera
With the grace of God and support of my family and friends, I’ve achieved my graduation and moving forward to a new journey.

- Mario Gomez

I would like to thank my parents, Elvia and Rafael Modesto for supporting me throughout my journey in life. My sisters Kim and Anette for pushing and encouraging me to be stronger. To my friends, family and babe, thank you so much for everything. I love you.

- Aileen Modesto

They say sometimes you win some, and sometimes you lose some. Right now, I’m winning big. I worked hard and accomplished my goal. I thank God, my family, and professors for supporting me throughout pharmacy school.

If you’ve set a goal, start working towards it. Trust me, the result is rewarding.

- Erica Boakye

Thank you to my fiancé and family for your support during this journey. To my parents, your inspiration and guidance have led me to this point. I cannot thank you enough, but I promise to continue making you proud of the son you raised. This PharmD is dedicated to my grandmother, Juanita S. Acosta.

- Albert Nava

I want to thank God, my husband, and my parents because without their support I would not be here. I dedicate this to my daughter, Merab.

- Damaris Alcala

I would like to thank my parents and family because achieving this milestone would not have been possible without their endless love and continuous support. Thank you to my professors, preceptors and mentors for your encouragement and guidance. For all those who were a part of this journey with me, thank you.

- Cristina Ortega

I want to thank all UTEP community and athletics department. It’s been an amazing 4 years. I will take you with me wherever I go.

- Vanessa Valdez

I’m very grateful for all the opportunities I had at this University. It made me a new person.

- Demy Rodriguez

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- Cristina Ortega

I want to thank all UTEP community and athletics department. It’s been an amazing 4 years. I will take you with me wherever I go.

- Vanessa Valdez
I am very excited to be graduating with a BBA in Finance after four rewarding years. Thank you to my incredibly supportive family for helping me along the way! I am a proud UTEP Miner and proud to be a part of the class of 2021.

- Olivia Olivas

The thought of attending college was never in my plans. Though, later, I realized college had chosen me. I am very thankful for the great opportunity and experience UTEP granted me. Hope everyone best wishes to their future ahead of them. Thank you UTEP ‘21

- Arturo Castorena

Farewell, it has been fun!

- Angela Alanis

Thank you UTEP for giving me some of the best years of my life!

- Paola Ruiz

Thank You to UTEP for all the experiences and skills I acquired and especially want to thank my family for all their support. I’m eager to begin working within the engineering field.

- Daniel Barron

I want to thank my parents, my siblings, my niece, and my brother-in-law for all their support and love throughout my career. I especially want to thank God who has been with me all along encouraging me. Everything was done through Him and for Him.

- Paulina Sarinana

Seize Your Moment

- Daniella Pagan

I am very happy to meet the best of you at UTEP, congratulations!

- Yan Zhuang

Take pride in how far you have come and have faith in how far you can go.

- Destiny Ruiz
This challenging journey has helped me grow as a person. Thank you UTEP!

- Edna Diaz

Thank you to UTEP and UTEP Athletics for providing me endless opportunities, and thank you to God, my family and friends who helped me achieve my goals along the way.

- Joshua Ortega

Gracias a mi familia y todos aquellos que me apoyaron. Sin su amor y su ayuda, este logro no sería posible. Ahora has tocado ver el resultado de esta gran lucha. Audrey, this is for you, my princess. Know that for you, I rose against all odds.

- Francy Franco-Holguín

Attending UTEP has been an amazing experience that I will never forget. I have so many great memories here that I will cherish forever. UTEP and the aspiring professors solidified my love for science and assured me that I was going on the right path in my career. Although at times it was tough, I made it through and now can move on to graduate school.

- Karen Campos

Gracias a mis papás por inculcarme el valor que es la educación. I’d like to thank my husband for being my biggest supporter through this challenging journey. Finalmente quiero dedicarte este logro a mi hija Claribel y demostrarte que “si se puede”. I love you all!

- Danipsa Rodriguez-Garcia

A tree would not survive without support from its roots. I’d like to thank God, my family, and my friends for supporting me in everything from my academic endeavors to my lifelong hopes and dreams. Your care and love allow me to thrive even in the most trying times.

- Laura Mae Bagwell

My success is owed to my family and friends as they supported me through my academic journey. If it was not for my support system, this would not be possible. Thank you all who stood by me.

- Eric Guzman

“So, for now I say goodbye to this chapter of my life and I look forward to what comes next.”

- Evelyn Lopez
After 7 years in college, I’m so happy to finally be graduating. I want to thank my family for their unconditional support and love. I will miss walking through campus and hanging out with friends at the Union. Until later!

- Paulina Spencer

I want to thank my family for always believing in me, I want to thank all my friends for supporting me and I want to thank myself, for always keeping my head up. Thankyou father Jesus for this incredible life you gave me to live.

- Maria Dolores Benitez

First and foremost, I want to thank God, my parents, husband, family, and friends for their unconditional love and support that made this huge accomplishment possible. Special thank you to all my preceptors, professors, and mentors for guiding me in becoming the pharmacist I want to be. Go Miners!

- Sandra E. Saenz

The pandemic reminds us of what human nature does: be resilient, fight for our dreams, and adapt to circumstances. Here we are UTEP 2021 class, after a year of Zooms and endless Blackboard assignments, we made it. Felicitades a la clase 2021. Go, Miners!

- Maria Ramos Pacheco

I would like to say thank you to my family, friends, and my girlfriend for always being by my side and I hope I made all of you proud. I will forever be grateful for all the love and support you have given me.

- Isaiah Ramirez

Thanks to UTEP for the infinity opportunities that help me grow professionally and made me the scientist for the future. Gracias a mi familia que me apoyo en todo este camino.

- Lauren Patricia Berdeja Beltran

I give my biggest thanks to the team at The Prospector. I am more than honored to work with a dedicated group of student journalists. Now, I am confident that I can pursue my dreams as a journalist. To The Prospector staff, thank you for everything, and best of luck to you all!

- Nicole Lopez

I want to thank my family for always believing in me, I want to thank all my friends for supporting me and I want to thank me, for always keeping my head up. Thankyou father Jesus for this incredible life you gave me to live.

- Maria Dolores Benitez

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- Lauren Patricia Berdeja Beltran

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- Paulina Spencer
Congratulations

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

CONGRATULATIONS!

You were tough enough to beat the unique challenges of 2021!

We are excited for the great opportunities that await you and wish you the very best!

Go Miners!

---

Congressional Fellowship in Science Policy

THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CONGRATULATES

THE CLASS OF 2021
Congratulations to our Civil and Construction Engineering and Management graduates!

Class of 2021

The OSCAR wishes all 2021 graduates the best on their future endeavors.

A special thank you to Luis Ruperez, for serving as the photographer for this edition.

Congratulations on your achievements!
We wish you the best!

May you always remember the obligation of the engineer as you serve the public, with integrity, fairness, and respect.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Good Luck on your Path to Success!
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Class of 2021

Bachelor of Science

Carolina Amaya Licon
Alizah Jaclyn Arredondo
Jazmin Z. Alegria
Juleesi Azarian
Niam Miram
Gayl Yvonne Chavez
Kinley Rinzin Dorji
Yailsy Regina Escobedo
Kendra Marie Farr
Shayla Mckenzie Fernandez
Audrey R. Garcia
Shane Marie Lindquist
Samara E. Lassen
Sloan R. Leary
Jacqueline Orozco
Vivian Anne Perez
Joshua Preciado-Pina
Gabriela Ramirez
Svannah R. Ramirez
Rosevalera Reyes
Gwendolyn Ann Rivera
Maria Isabel Rivera
Stephanie Janae Rodriguez
Andrea Rodriguez-Crespo
Soreliz Roldan Soto
Mary Elizabeth Russell
Jaymee Kristine Saldivar
Charlie Sioux Schaffino
Demi Brianna Torres
Eliana Renee Torres
Samantha Renee Torres
Jenny Marie Ungrego
Liana Victoria Villar
Adriana Susana Villegas

Bachelor of Arts

College of Science

Richard A. Lazcano
Lillian Renae Casillas
Bachelor of Arts

Derrick E. Littles Jr
Merlina Lazcano
Kameron Hoaloha Keoho
Brianna Marie Jordan
Karen Victoria Jacob
Brian A. Alvarez
Isaac Arias
Angela Judith Amaya
Giovanni Amaya
Pamela Gastelum Anderson
Celeste Arreola
Vanessa Arrendillas
Samantha Arreola
Victoria Rain Azacarate
Alejandra Baca
Angel A. Badillo
Brualio Jose Banuelos
Joseph F. Barrara
Cynthia Bautista
Kennedy Lynn Behrview
Lana Patricia Berdaga Beltran
Joanna N. Bernal
Brittany N. Brito
Ashlee Burkett
Yency Sertochka Bustillos

College of Business

Alondra Liz Caban
Linda M. Calderon
Karen Cameron
Ruben Cardoso Jr
Leticia Caro
Natalia Estefania Carrasco Rojas
Diana Vanessa Carreon
Jessica Carrera
Emma Sofia Carrillo
Jazmin Carrillo
Deborah Castaneda
Jahayla Jaimee Chavez
Caitlin Aline Delgado Chanoi
Carmen Abril Chavez
Carolynne Chekichoski
Danielle Chow
Bessie Alicia Christmann
Chie C. Cifonn
Jessica Chris Cordova
Karina Cortez
Keara Chantell Coulehan
Karina Damian Carmona
Alyssa Nicole Davila
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Lindsey Dewey
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Luisa Nayely Dominguez Alcarda
Natalia Isabel Dominquez Rodriguez
Richard Duran
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Saul Adrian Escarcega
Judith Ann Ruth Escobar
Christopher F. Espinosa
Alejandra Flores
Brian S. Flores
Tyltana Mikale Ford
Diana Franco-Guiterrez
Kennys G. Gamboa
Andrea Teresa Garcia
Isaac Garcia
Marlina G. Garcia
Victoria Garcia
Rebecca Alexandria Garcia Vazquez
Luis Arturo Gardes
Andrea Sabrina Gomez
José Gabriel Guelpron
Alejandra Gonzalez
Lorenzo Andres Gonzalez
Noemy Lizette Gonzalez
Sandra Lorenza Gonzalez Cordova
Luis Antonio Gracia Mazaucia
Jose Alejandro Grajeda
Carlos Robert Guerrero
Rogelio Gutierrez III
Eric Manuel Guzman
Naseem Ayman Hajj
Sarrah Lillian Hardy
Arturo Andres Heras
Alma Isidra Hernandez
Niza Hernandez
Juan-Julian T. Hisa
Brittney Hughes
Seung Joon Hwang
Robert Paul Inalrardo Guerrero
Karen Victoria Jacob
Brianne Maria Jordan
Brenda Yevens Jaurez
Sangwon Kang
Kameron Hooaloa Keicho
Merliana Lazzano
Dennie L. Littles Jr
Eneitso G. Loera
Elisabet Lopez Tapia

College of Education

Alvaro Rivilla Casado
Jacqueline Rivera
Alejandro Rincon
Caress Jewel Riddell
Jacob Quiroz Jr
Nicole S. Pugsley
Joshua Preciado-Pina
Xay Thi My Pham
Linh Tran My Pham
Ana Cecilia Perez Perez
Leoncio Edmundo Perez Jr
Erick Roman Pena
Maria A. Pasillas
Nancy Pantoja
Jacquelyn E. Palomares Enriquez
Nancy Pantoyo
Ramiro Parada
Maria A. Pasillas
Erick Roman Pena
Vivan Ruby Peruhs
Anahit Perez
Leocindo Edmundo Perez Jr
Ana Cecilia Perez Perez
Linh Tran My Pham
Xay Thi My Pham
Janelle Perez
Monica Sofia Ponce Ruiz
Shayan Ennz Poujadehari
Joshua Preciado-Pina
Nicole S. Pugsley
Brayanna Alysia Quinones
Jacob Quiror Jr
Brandon Charles Hall Raab
Gianna Lysette Ragone
Carees Jewel Riddell
Alejandro Rincon
Jaqueeline Rivera
Alvano Rivilla Casado

Luís Alfonso Robles Jr.
Daniela Rodarte
Samantha Rodriguez
Ahrel Romero
Margarita Romero
Antonio Ruiz
Destiny Antoinna Ruiz
Michael I. Ruiz
Roberto S. Salas
Esteban Milan Salazar
Desiree Sofia Salas
Emmanuel Sanchez
Iris Celeste Sanchez
Sandra Odette Sanchez
Ysabel Olga Sanchez
Yashin Sandoval
Gicela Guadalupe Saucedo Salas
Austre Yarel Schaffino Bustamante
Vanesa Giseli Serracin
Danielle Grace Setzu
Lyndz Ann Smith
Diana Sotole
Itzel Aleja Tamez
Larissa Ariana Tavizan
Edina Daniela Tepezcano
Rhegan Michael Thompson
Paulina Tovar
Aesha N. Ureno
Anahi Natali Urribarri
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Jacob Aaron Valdez
Alexis Marie Vallecillo
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Alan Vaquera
Crystal Angelica Vargas
Rubi Vargas
Veronica Maria Vargas
Zelda Genesis Vargas
Monica Vazquez
Alexander R. Velasquez
Steven Michael Venor
Silvia L. Villalobos
Evan D. Villafa
Justin Craig Von Seebach
Kyle David Williams
Joseph Jaymes Wingate
Kayla M. Young
Sanaaz Zareei Chaleshtori
Sara Zareei Chaleshtori

Bachelor of Arts

Bachelor of Science

Isabel E. Acoosta
Stacy Acosta
Valeria Alfrey
Lilibeth Alwi
April Alvarado
Nidia Aliza Alves
Gema Oliva Almeida
Brittany E. Baffert
Raquel Barocenas
Esmirald Barraza
Laisha C. Barraza
Mercedes E. Barron
Wendy Canales
Barbara Cardiel
Marcia Carpintero
Crystal Dayeena Chairez
Carlss Vivienne Clarke
Gabriela Cortes
Jacqueline Marie Courtright
Rebeca Ann Delore
Kassaduban Daudi Nino
Alexis Andrea Duran
Indriana Preciosa Escobar-Torres
Amanda Jesi Espinosa
Jaliiene Yasmine Fraire
Paola Fria
Aracely N. Gamboa

Congratulations Class of 2021!!

We are so proud of you and all your accomplishments.

You Rock!!

The Department of Geological Sciences would like to congratulate each of the graduates of the class of 2022.

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

The College of Business Administration celebrates the Class of 2022.

We are proud of your perseverance, adaptability, and determination that you demonstrated throughout this challenging academic year.

Class of 2021
Georgina B. Ramirez
Paul Eduardo Ramos Jr
Esmeralda Guerrero Ramos Botelho
Laura Isabel Raygoza
Ashley Reichelt
Myriam Reyes
Ana Alicia Rico
Claudia Paola Riojas II
Andrea A. Rico
Brian E. Robles
Angelia Rodriguez
Carlos Rodriguez
Gabriela Lizeth Rodriquez
Iliana Rodriquez
Kimberly B. Rodriguez
Matthew Rodriguez
Pedro Rodriguez
Sergio A. Rodriguez
Eric L. Romero
Sienna Angela Rubio
Natalia Ruvalcaba
Erica Sales
Meliche Michelle Salas
Matthew Ryan Salazar
Vanessa Salazar
Angel Isaac Salcido Padilla
Isahe Sanchez
Luz Alejandra Sanchez
Nancy Aylin Sanchez
Juan Manuel Saucedo
Michael Wayne Settff Jr
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Jose R. Silva
Melanie J. Silva
Genesis A. Skull
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Jesus Solis
Luisa Solis
Christina Solis-Cervantes
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Cesar Alonso Sosa Jr
Rogelio Soto Jr.
James D. Spray
Blake Chandler Thompson
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Juan Pablo Torres Mendez
Tang Thi Tran
Llvia Lizeth Trevizo Gonzalez
Isaiah Daniel Troncoso
Ryan Turner
Vanessa Leticia Valdez Casas
Leonardo Valencia
Adan Jair Valcienciana
Bianca Pamela Valenzuela
Elena Guadalupe Valenzuela
Karen Gabriela Valenzuela Lara
Martin Varela
Tamara P. Vargas
Emily Ruth Elsabeth Vasquez
Matthew Vasquez
Carolina Vazquez
Ariadna Vega
David Ricardo Vega
Alejandro Velez
Francesco Venito
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Namyal Uwei Wanchuk
Christian Wayne Weaver
Aileen Wiebe
Alejandro A. Wichtwend
Abri Alejandra Wocoy Pinal
Jesus Apolinar Yanez
Maribel Yanez
Ileana Zurzua

George B. Ramirez
Paul Eduardo Ramos Jr
Esmeralda Guerrero Ramos Botelho
Laura Isabel Raygoza
Ashley Reichelt
Myriam Reyes
Ana Alicia Rico
Claudia Paola Riojas II
Andrea A. Rico
Brian E. Robles
Angelia Rodriguez
Carlos Rodriguez
Gabriela Lizeth Rodriquez
Iliana Rodriquez
Kimberly B. Rodriguez
Matthew Rodriguez
Pedro Rodriguez
Sergio A. Rodriguez
Eric L. Romero
Sienna Angela Rubio
Natalia Ruvalcaba
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Angel Isaac Salcido Padilla
Isahe Sanchez
Luz Alejandra Sanchez
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Juan Manuel Saucedo
Michael Wayne Settff Jr
Ricardo Silluente
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Ryan Turner
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Leonardo Valencia
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Matthew Vasquez
Carolina Vazquez
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Francesco Venito
Sara S. Vicencio
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Christian Wayne Weaver
Aileen Wiebe
Alejandro A. Wichtwend
Abri Alejandra Wocoy Pinal
Jesus Apolinar Yanez
Maribel Yanez
Ileana Zurzua

College of Health Sciences
Bachelor of Science
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Manuel Alberto Almaraz
Sulana Andjou
Karen Arias
Miguel Angel Avina
Virginia Quintana Bailey
Adriana Balcorta
Daniel Adrian Barraza
Janetie Alicia Barrera
Edward Abraham Barrio
Alina Isabel Barrios
Melissa Bautista
Tasha Nicole Bergstrand
Isaac J. Bermudez
Isahe Berunda Jr
Eyshabela Estre Camacho
Sofia Alejandra Campos
Alondra Caro
Jose Luis Timothy Cervantes
Anthony I. Chacon
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Arturo Cinza Jr.
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Brenda Cecilia Contreras
Josue Abraham Contreras Jr.
Jared Edward Cordoro
Edgar Alons Corral
Juan D. Cruz
Michael C. De La Cruz
Xavier De La Cruz
Bianca C. De Santos
Jared Deessel
Jessica Escobar
Martina Elbridge
Kiriin Victoria Esparras
Ishmael Cyrus Espinal
Elisha B. Fehrman
Stephanie Cecilia Flores
Alan Frusto
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Denmaneth Galviz
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Diego Gomez
Roy Albert Gonzales
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Garrett David Goodrow
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Alejandro Giovanni Guerrero
Valeria Guevara Orona
Isabel Gutierrez
Monica Elissa Gutierrez
Samantha Marie Gutierrez
Brittany Hampeys
Daman Harmon
Alexis R. Hernandez
Geovanne R. Hernandez
Matthew J. Hernandez
Sara Mia Herrera
Brianna Solis Jacque
Joel Alexander Jenkins
Aaron T. Jessel
Erika M. Jimenez
Valeria Syonne Joanville
Alma R. Juarez
Janeth Berenice Juarez Aguilar
Raneem Ismail Mohammad Karboji
Joseph Kennethy III
Emily Lariana Lebario
Johnathan Alexander Link
Adam Isaac Lopez
Jessica Michelle Lopez
Juan P. Lopez
Sayan S. Lobo
Soila Guadalupe Malos Valenzuela
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Samantha Sai Macias
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Vanessa N. Martinez
Orain D. Mordentt
Justin Jerod Mckenzie
Cesar Alejandro Meraz Chacon
Samantha M. Miller
Alejandro Michael Montes Galvan
Mariel Suracci Morales
Julia Marie Moyres
Zachary G. Muchа
Elizabeth Paz Navarro
Alisha Nieves
Marco A. Nigaglioni
Carina Bethel Ordonez
Jesus Fernando Padilla
April Marie Palomin
Melissa Perez
Miguel Andres Perez
Annabel Pietro
Daniela Quiros
Carlos E. Quintana Jr.
Jessica Quiroz
Anuradha Stephanie Rajapul
Gilberto Joseluis Ramirez
Irving Alejandro Ramirez Vega
Jennifer Ramirez Yee
Andres I. Ramos
Edgar Ramos
Kristina Danielle Ramos
Randall M. Ramos
Yadira Idali Reyes
Frye F. Rezzo
Gary Rhymes
Daisy Rico
Emilio Rico
Lisa Ashley Rodriguez
Roseline Agatha Rodriguez
Vanessa Rodriguez
Alisse G. Saenz
Patricia Michelle Saenz
Rudy Andrew Saenz III
Bratiana Saenz
Corey J. Salazar

Celeda Sanchez
Heriberto Sanchez Jr.
Kassandra M. Sanchez
Manuel Alejandro Santillan Alvidrez
Brendo D. Saucedo
Riley William Scott
Edna Serna
Rebecca Lynn Silva
Edwin Kipkirui Sileny
Alex R. Solis
James Cody Spence
Christopher Herna Tarango
Stephanie Tellez
Ashley Brin Torain
Joel O. Torres-Gardn
Han Thinh Tran
Isabel Brooke Trevino
Jasmime Nicole Urbina
Eilah E. Velez
Dalai Daniels Vargas
Harrison Dale Varnell
Guadalupe Vazquez
Kayla Marie Vega
Kevin Vicencio
Kevin Villareal-Rodriguez
Sonam Wangmo
Melanie Marie Wise
Christopher M. Zubia Jr.

Bachelor of Social Work
Danelle Hope Apodaca
Tiana Puallan Babers
Jennifer T. Camacho
Natalie N. Castro
Andrea Lillana Chavez
Gabriela Paola Cobos
Emily Ann De La Pena
Jessica Monsique Dominguez
Jeanett Fernandez
Alejandra Garcia
Maria Andrea Guzman
Richard Manuel Hernandez
Brianna C. Ibarra
Erika Landeros
Angelica Lasare-Farley
Kristina Magdaleno
Corina Aurelia Mannullo
Marcelo Martinez
Cassandra Marie Martinez
Ana Victoria Nunez
Jennifer Nunez Soto
Andres Ontiveros
Paola Ortiz
Denise Rosson Terrazas
Ariel Violeta Rodriguez
Josie Amanda Rodriguez
Monalisia Sanchez
Karina Sida
Enrika J. Silva
Virginia Soto
Jasmine Torres
Amanda Lee Valverde
Brenda Beatriz Lupe Varela
Ashley Mensine Villaure
Fernanda Irene Villanelll
Naomi Ryan Withers

School of Nursing
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Nana Yae Afari
Kira A. Aguirre
Amber A. Alcazar
Jose Armando Amparo
Jennifer Amendariz
Adriana Paola Arroyo-Santos
Alexis Mariela Avila
Monica Blue
Brittany Anna Louise Buitron
Victoria Elizabeth Bustillos
Julian Edward Campos
Jose Alejandro Carbalaj
Dalia Carlezi Saenz
Amber Noelle Castillo
Elisa Alejandro Castillo
Wendolynne Castillo
Natali A. Castro
Salvador Roberto Chavez
Ostina J. Clark
Ricardo Corona
Andrea Isabel De La Rosa Zapata
Cameron Lorenzo Deadmon
Cristina E. Espinoza
Gerardo Eufaki
Marilys Favela
Sergio Cristian Fernandez
Yamilet Feng

Karen Paulette Galan
Tiffany Angelica Gandara
Araozi Garcia-Canadna
Veronica Margarita Gomez
Rafael Servando Gonzalez III
Latasia Dominique Hashins
Ilsse A. Herrera
Natalia Ibarra
Jereme Sean Kalt
Jake Kimball
Ma, Julia L. Labayen
Ruben Laguna
Ashley N. Lake
Samantha Irene Limon
Mary Veda Lively
Ashley A. Lopez
Victor Lopez
Destiny R. Lopez-Vargas
Mamia Sophie Martinez
Angely Andres Martinez
Madsen Rene Martinez
Guillermo Antonio Matamoros Rico
Stormy Dawn McCarty
Raul Armando Medina Ill
Diego A. Mendez
Mayra I. Mendoza
Pearsa Marie Mendoza
Gabriela Adilene Miranda
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Juan Jose Nanez
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Jessica Nunez
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Scott Richard Schultz
Joshua Seguveda
Sara Solis
Jessica Dawn Torres
Mariiana Urria
Alexis Dawn Villalobos
Judy Kay Williams
Jessica Christina Yancy
Diana Zapata

The University of Texas at El Paso
Este doctorado está dedicado para ustedes, papá y mamá. Que con su apoyo, motivación, y amor pude realizar este sueño de ser Doctora Simón. Ustedes me han apoyado en todos mis objetivos y son la base de mi estabilidad. “Aveces lloré, aveces dudé, pero nunca me rajé! Me puse las pilas y lo logré.” ¡Los quiero mucho!

- Jovita Simon

Another life goal complete. I appreciate the love and support from my amazing husband and my two wonderful children throughout this journey of obtaining my master’s degree. A big thank you to UTEP faculty and staff who have been a great help and inspiration these past two years. It’s been a wonderful experience. Up next, Doctoral Degree. Go Miners!

- Silvia Muro

Thank you to my family, friends, professors, and the Terry Foundation for all your kindness and support throughout these four years! I am excited to continue my education journey at UIUC, where I will be pursuing a Master’s in Music Performance and will study with UTEP alumnus, Ricardo Herrera!

- Alejandra Sandoval-Montanez

Thank you to everyone who believed in me, provided me support and guidance, and helped me succeed.

- Katrina Villalobos

Le doy gracias a Dios por este logro tan grande, a mis papas y a mis hermanos por siempre apoyarme, y a mis amigos por estar conmigo durante este camino.

- Paola L. Rios

Take pride in how far you have come and have faith in how far you can go.

- Sofia Ruvalcaba

A journey full of expectations, global challenges, and unknown outcomes. Inspired by adorable Goddaughter Brianda Herrera class of 2015 RIP. I acquired my goal to be a UTEP College of Engineering Master graduate. I am dedicating this achievement to my father, example of honor and success, my lovely Mother, my courageous daughter Juliette, my hardworking son Nicholas, and Professor Marshall.

- Aurea Herrera

Any goal is accomplishable if you take it one day at a time.

- William Henry

I thank my entire family, especially my mom, sister, aunt and grandparents for their continuous support in my education and helping me achieve this PharmD. Above all, I thank God that with him all things are possible.

- Ivanka Jaques

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- William Henry

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- Ivanka Jaques

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- Ivanka Jaques

A journey full of expectations, global challenges, and unknown outcomes. Inspired by adorable Goddaughter Brianda Herrera class of 2015 RIP. I acquired my goal to be a UTEP College of Engineering Master graduate. I am dedicating this achievement to my father, example of honor and success, my lovely Mother, my courageous daughter Juliette, my hardworking son Nicholas, and Professor Marshall.

- Aurea Herrera

Thank you to everyone who believed in me, provided me support and guidance, and helped me succeed.

- Katrina Villalobos

Any goal is accomplishable if you take it one day at a time.

- William Henry

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- Katrina Villalobos
This achievement is for you, mom and dad.

- Carlos Cabanas

Thank you mom and dad! This one is for you!!

- Ruth Granados

It’s been a blessing to have been able to complete my undergraduate degree here at UTEP. To have served my university and its community throughout my time as a student, has been a true honor. Thank you UTEP, for all the amazing and beautiful memories.

Picks Up and Go Miners!

- Kassandra M. Sanchez

I thank God for accomplishing my goal of serving patients. I also thank my family, friends, and everyone with UTEP SOP for helping me reach the finish line.

I wish the class of 2021, my lifelong friends, all the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives!

- Amir Rastegari

I would like to thank my parents and sister for their sacrifices, love and support they have provided through this journey. Thank you to my family and friends for their love and support. I wouldn’t be here without the amazing teachers and preceptors who have guided me. Veni, vidi, vici.

- Brianna Sanchez

Primero que nada, quiero agradecer a mis padres por ser siempre un gran apoyo, estoy muy feliz de haber terminado y finalmente graduarme. También quiero agradecer a todos los que me rodearon a lo largo de mi carrera. ¡Muchas gracias!

- Kassandra Duarte Nino

I thank my family, friends and professors for their support though this journey. Your encouragement helped get me to where I am today, and I am forever grateful. This degree is dedicated to my Mom, Dad and Sister whose confidence and guidance has pushed me to reach the finish line.

- Andrew J. Carrion II

Thank you to my family for their continued love and support. I hope to one day be as big of an inspiration as my parents were to me.

- Monica E. Ieschitz

New Miners Alumni!

- Jazmin Carrillo

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New Miners Alumni!

- Jazmin Carrillo
I’d like to thank my family for the endless support that was given throughout this wonderful journey. Larissa, this one’s for you baby girl.

- Myrna Guzman

I am incredibly grateful to all my family for their endless support throughout my entire academic journey. It’s thanks to their words of wisdom and guidance that I have been able to accomplish everything up to this point. I look forward to giving back to them and to my community.

- Alec Ruiz

Do your best, God will do the rest. Have faith!

- Vridiana Magallanes

The key question to keep asking is, are you spending your time on the right things? Because time is all you have.

- Vianey Magallanes

I would like to thank everyone who has offered their support to me these last four years. As long as you put in the effort and time you can get through anything.

- Christian Ruiz

Success doesn’t come to you. You go to it.

- Derian Burciaga

This wouldn’t have happened without the love and support from my wonderful girl, my amazing family, and everyone who saw the potential in me.

Thank you to everyone who gave me the tools and knowledge I needed to continue to do what I love for the rest of my life.

- Jonathan Gonzales

I want to begin by thanking God for all the blessings and great people he has placed into my life. Thank you to my family and fiancé, for the unconditional support and pushing me to always be better. It’s been a hell of a ride, and we’re just getting started!

- Eyner Raya

Great things come from hard work and perseverance. No excuses.

- Ryan Reza
Thank you to everyone who has been a part of my pharmacy school journey. To my colleagues, professors, preceptors, I love you all.

- Lorenzo R. Mendoza

"El no puedo, no existe", so here I am.

- Denise Rascon Terrazas

It always feel impossible until it’s done.

- Melanie Huerta

There was a time in my life I thought I would never get here, and after many obstacles, I’m a few weeks away from graduating. I will forever be grateful for the people I met during my undergraduate time. I wish nothing but the best to every single one of my classmates. Congrats class of 2021! We did it!

- Valeria Sosa

My time at UTEP has been filled with memories that will forever be engraved in my heart. The myriad of opportunities for personal and professional growth made UTEP a great decision, but it was the faculty, staff, and classmates that made it feel like home.

To God be the glory.

- Karina Damian

I would like to start of by thanking God for all the blessing he provided me. I would also like to thank my parents, siblings, family, and friends for all the support, and for believing in me!! Sí Se Pudo!!

- Paola Padilla Flores

Dream big and set your goals high, make those dreams come true as you accomplish your goals.

- Bridgette Gonzalez

Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.

- Albert Einstein

Thank you to my family, friends and educators for always giving me constant support in order to achieve this milestone in my life. Always chase your dreams to the fullest. Keep setting new goals and do everything with heart.

- Jesus G. Cerceda

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- Paola Padilla Flores
Take pride in how far you've come. Have faith in how far you can go. Life is a daring adventure towards an unknown future; a never ending journey.

- Andrea J. Flores

Thank you to my family and friends who always believed in me and pushed me through it all. My cheerleaders, mentors, and inspiration in my life. To my professors, thank you. Finally, I want to thank God for giving me the strength and wisdom to complete another goal.

- Rocio Arana

I have been waiting for this moment when I can finally say that I am graduating from college. I'm extremely happy and thankful for the people who have been in my life throughout my college career family, friends, and mentors.

- Laisha C. Barraza

“Scars are a truly beautiful thing. Scars show that you’re a survivor, that you made it through something, and not only did you make it through, but now you’re stronger and wiser and more educated because of that tough time that you went through.” - Kyle Carpenter

- Jessica Monique Dominguez

I have been waiting for this moment when I can finally say that I am graduating from college. I’m extremely happy and thankful for the people who have been in my life throughout my college career family, friends, and mentors.

- Kimberly Buentello

These past few years have been a learning experience full of commitments, challenges, and accomplishments. I can say with certainty that the preparation I received has guided me to become a better man for tomorrow.

- Alejandro S. Mandujano

Thank you to my university for giving me the gift of education and the tools to succeed in my future. Most of all thank you mom for being by my side every step of the way, believing in me, and inspiring me to accomplish my goals.

- Guadalupe Sanchez

Don’t be afraid to go after your dreams. You will only know if you face your fears. If I can do it at age 36, than anyone can do it!

- Mauricio Cabezuela
It’s bittersweet to finally reach the end of this journey. I am glad that we were able to make it despite the hardships that came along with 2020. I want to thank my friends and family for supporting me and loving me through this journey.

Congratulations Class of 2021!!

- Elizabeth Riley

Despite the difficulties I faced while completing my degree remotely, I am proud of all my academic achievements and being one step closer to becoming a mental health professional. I am immensely grateful to my loving family and close friends for believing in me and supporting me through this journey!

- Melissa Acosta

Glory to God for blessing me with so much; including an amazing family who has supported me and encouraged me through all my struggles and helped me achieve this milestone. I don’t know where I’m going, but I know I’m on the right path.

- Fernando A. Flores

As I reach an end to this chapter, my heart is full of love and happiness. Thank you to everyone who made it possible

- Sabrina Sanchez

I am loud a voice that won’t be calmed a tone that is my and only mine to hear

- Andres Gomez

As I graduate, a new journey begins. I thank my mom and dad for their endless support, thoughtfulness, and prayers. Graduation reminds me of everyone who has touched my life. I also appreciate all the time and energy that the UTEP team put into helping me throughout my college days.

- Alireza Mohammadi

Thank you to my family and friends for all your support and encouragement throughout my time at UTEP! I feel so lucky that I have you all to share this special achievement with.

- Adriana Balcorta

“Congratulations Tyler! We are all so proud of you and are so excited to see you grow and succeed! Love you!” From the Miller Family.

- Tyler Miller, Class of 2020

Enjoy the journey as much as the dream.

- Sarahi Hardy
Alyson Rodriguez
The Prospector

UTEP hosts Spring Fest, largest in-person event yet

MAY 4, 2021

The Prospector

Don’t get raped.

Alyson Rodriguez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

Student games included basketball, dance, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, and roller skating. As more guests arrived, music played by guest DJ Johnny Cage.

The back area of the field was dedicated to a wide, safely distanced sitting area where guests could enjoy free food and individually packaged s'mores as treats served by students wearing protective, sanitary serving gear like gloves and face masks.

Music for the event was provided by guest DJ Johnny Cage. Tents were set up around the event providing protective gloves and hand sanitizer for everyone and the Student Recreation Center provided free face masks.

Photo courtesy of Alberto Silva/The Prospector

Perla Ricartis, a junior mechanical engineering student at UTEP praised the university’s dedication to sanitary practices and prioritizing cleanliness.

“IT’s really exciting. I think we are doing it one step at a time, and we are going to get through the pandemic this way,” Ricartis said. “I feel so safe. I work at the [Recreational Center], and we always disinfect and clean all the equipment and machines, so I think we are going through a lot of safety protocols, and we are doing good.”

Overall, students expressed gratitude to be on campus with their fellow miners and some even stated that in-person classes are an aspect of campus life they anticipate returning to the most.

Spring Fest marked a joyful occasion of relief and school pride for students as the UTEP staff lays the next steps to return to in-person events.

Review: Mortal Kombat’s reboot lacks substance, could but please fans

Photo courtesy of SubControls/Licensed under CC by 2.0

Mortal Kombat is a 2021 American martial arts fantasy film based on the video game franchise of the same name and a reboot of the Mortal Kombat film series.

A fresh reboot of the fighting-action arcade game Mortal Kombat hit the big screen April 16 in theaters and homes.

The Midway Games and NetherRealm franchise returned with a new director, Simon McQuoid, to revive the series and set a new bar that the predecessor failed to reach 25 years ago.

The film is set in the original series and seeks to rekindle original fans’ excitement for the beloved characters and origin stories. The film opens in medieval Japan with Hiroshi Kamiya portraying Hanzo Hasashi, also known as Scorpion, as the last member of his clan is hunted down.

Joe Taslim portrays Bi-Fan, also known as Sub-Zero. When Hanzo is killed, one of his children is saved by Earthrealm’s guardian thunder god, Raiden (Tadanobu Asano), who safeguards Hanzo’s bloodline till present day. The next protagonist Cole Young (Lewis Tan).

Learning about an ancient tournament called Mortal Kombat, Young chooses to journey alongside veteran special forces Sonya Blade, played by Jessica McNamee, and Jax, played by Mehcad Brooks. Together, they solve the mystery surrounding
Spend summer break pandemic style, on the couch

Alex Diaz is a UTEP alumnus who is now the published author of two books “Love and Wine” and “In the Books.” His journey to becoming an author wasn’t the typical path. It started with Diaz studying business.

“That’s what my dad wanted me to study. I asked myself if I really liked the business and the truth is that I didn’t,” Diaz said.

In questioning his passions, Diaz figured out that reading and writing were what he enjoyed most. He then decided that he would write a book.

Diaz graduated in 2017 with a Bachelor’s Degree in English and would later touch in Soccoro Independent school district in 2018. Teaching played a critical role in Alex’s life and career. As a middle school teacher, he didn’t have the time to write his books. Diaz had to choose to pursue what he loved or what others wanted for him.

He discussed his decision with his students.

“I told my students that I was thinking about quitting my job to be a writer and I was surprised because they were so supportive,” Diaz said.

“That was the starting factor for me to becoming a writer.”

In 2019, Diaz traveled to UTEP and enrolled in an master’s in English rhetoric and writing studies. He also worked at the University’s writing center at the library.

Diaz says the writing center was a vital element for his writing and finishing his books because he got help to edit both of his books. Diaz had to shoutout to the UTEP’s creative writing center because it helped me so much. It helped me so much to help others and everybody there is so helpful, so brilliant, and so kind,” Diaz said.

Alex’s book “Love and Wine,” is about romance, love, and everything is positive. Alex didn’t wanted to write or add anything dark along the lines of the book.

The second book is called “In the Books.” It centers around what a young person can learn about life, homosexuality, non-religious faith and everything that life has taught Diaz throughout his 25 years. Diaz describes this book as poetry; but overall a story.

“I tried my best to express my mind and write these books. ‘In the Books’ is more like the representation of my mind and ‘Love and Wine’ is the representation of my heart”, Diaz said.

Future projects for Diaz include writing a screenplay: It’s something that he mentions he was introduced to in college, and he would like to write one sometime in his career.

In the short term, Diaz would like to have his books in bookstores like Barnes and Noble, but for now, he is selling through Amazon. Diaz would also like to finish his Ph.D in literature.

For the moment, Alex has been working on the marketing for his books. It is a long process and requires most of his time, so he has paused his MA studies, but he promised his family that he would complete his master’s degree in the near future.

“Though his journey to becoming an author has been unique, Diaz accredits his success in a constant thinking about quitting my job to be a writer and I was surprised because they were so supportive.”

In the long term, Alex is selling through Amazon. Diaz extremely proud, “Diaz’s books can inspire everyone who watches it. It is the epitome of what a good feminist movie should be. It is a very optimistic coming-of-age film. The theme of the movie was to stand up for what’s right and to use your voice to be heard. This movie was very witty and inspirational and will inspire everyone who watches it.

If you’re in the mood for a feel-good family movie, “Yes Day,” is the movie for you. The movie directed by Miguel Arteta and is also available on Netflix. This movie is about two parents who always tell their kids, “no but one day they decide to only say yes to their kids for 24 hours and let their kids make the rules. They end up having a whirlwind family adventure, while running into a couple of obstacles along the way.”

Yes Day stars A-lister Jennifer Garner and also Disney channel star Jenna Ortega. This movie is rated PG, so there’s something in it for everyone in the family.

Thunder Force was directed by Ben Falcone and is available on Netflix. It is a comedy, adventure film that stars Octavia Spencer and Melissa McCarthy. The pair stopped talking after a fight and have become estranged. But they are forced to rekindle their friendship, they meet up and accidentally become superheroes when they are infected with a secret formula. Throughout the film, they try to figure out their new powers and become a cohesive crime fighting duo.

I liked this movie because it was hilarious. It had a good storyline and starred some of my favorite actors. It is a hidden gem for sure. This movie is PG 13 as well, so it’s safe for families.

Graphic by Hugo Himiona/The Prospector via Canva

Review from Page 27
Mortal Kombat and save their universe from Outworld’s corrupt god, Shang Tsung. This leads to a training sequence and a series of near-death escapes. The film includes each character undertaking individual enemies in duels to the death before the climactic ending fight between Young, reincarnated Scorpion, and Sub-Zero. There is also a final scene teasing using Takei Cage leaving audiences to speculate another film in the works.

The film had potential to settle the age-old confusion of the purpose of Mortal Kombat and the importance of the Dragon medals given to each fighter. It also could’ve focused on the underveloped story between Scorpion and Sub-Zero and explored their relationship, but rather focused on the importance of training.

The true takeaways of the film be farsee the familiar characters, their fights, and the “fistfight” they unleash upon their opponents. A fatality is a finishing move coined by the franchise in which a character kills their opponent in an excessively gory fashion that is achievable through a combo. Notorious catch phrases are included in the film such as Scorpion’s “Come Here” or “Flawless Victory” from Liu Kang, but aside from that the story lacks substance. It makes the film seem like a cash-grab attempt from Warner Bros.

At best, this film delivers filler ambient media to play while focusing on other things at home. It’s not worth investing your time and attention, except for bloody action scenes. I rate this film a solid three out of stars.

See film may be watched at prospector@utep.edu. @handsoul on Twitter

To read more stories, visit theprospectordaily.com

Students react to UTEP’s plan for fall in-person classes

UTEP set to allow eight guests at in-person graduation

Poet Joy Harjo recites poems, songs at Somos Writers series
A look at UTEP’s top senior athletes of 2020 through 2021

Four C-USA players selected for 2021 NFL draft

Michael Cuviello

Four C-USA players selected for 2021 NFL draft

The Prospector

The NFL once again feasted on Power Five schools to supply their rosters and largely ignored minor football conferences such as Conference-USA (C-USA). Overall, 191 players out of the 259 total players drafted were from Power Five schools, while only four total players were recruited from C-USA.

Dominating the draft was the Southeastern Conference, with 65 players chosen from its ranks. National Champion Alabama had 10 total players selected, including six first-round picks. C-USA’s grand total of 4 players is down from the 2020 draft, where 10 players were chosen.

For the third consecutive year, no UTEP Miner was taken. Will Fernandez, a second-round pick by the New York Giants, was the last Miner selected in the 2018 draft. Since 2008, the only other Miner selected in the NFL draft was Aaron Jones in 2017.

The highest drafted C-USA player this year’s draft was defensive tackle Milton Williams of Louisiana Tech. Williams was drafted in the third round with the 73rd pick by the Philadelphia Eagles. A Pre-Football Focus All-American and C-USA all-conference player this season, Williams was third overall in tackles for loss in conference. He had 4.5 sacks and 30 pressures for the 2020 season. At 6-4, 278, Williams can play tackle and end and is a freakish athlete with 4.6 speed.

In the fourth round, Jordan Smith, a linebacker out of UAB, was drafted by the Jacksonville Jaguars with the 121st pick. Smith, who has quite a troubled past, originally signed with the Florida Gators out of high school. After a disciplinary incident involving credit card fraud, he found his way out the door and on to the junior college route.

After signing with UAB in 2018, Smith was immediately a force for the team with 10 sacks in his first season. In 2020 his sack total fell to 4.5. A tall, rangy player at 6-6, 255, Smith projects as an edge rusher or an Urban Meyer defense who could become a solid starter. He will need to improve his NFL strength but should earn playing time on passing downs.

Eight picks later in the fourth-round wide receiver Jaelen Darden out of North Texas was by the Super Bowl Champion Tampa Bay Bucs. Standing 5-9, 174, Darden was one of the most productive football players out of all college last season with 19 receiving touchdowns, second only to Alabama’s DeVonta Smith, who had 23.

Darden is the all-time leading North Texas receiver in receptions (228), touchdowns (38) and yards (2782). Named the C-USA MVP this season, Darden was also named to multiple All-American teams. In his final game of the 2020 season, Darden had eight catches for 173 yards and four touchdowns versus UTEP. Darden is also a dynamic return man and should instantly impact a team that sorely needs a punt returner.

In the fourth round, the Dallas Cowboys selected tackle Josh Ball out of Marshall as a tall project lineman. First-team all-conference tackle that was a key blocker for 2019 C-USA MVP Brenden Knox, who led C-USA in rushing that season with 1284 yards. Marshall was again one of the top rushing teams in the conference in 2020, placing fourth overall. Ball is tall at 6-8, 309 and will have to add some weight to his frame.

Ball is another former top player from a Florida School that ended up transferring due to disciplinary issues. Initially signing with Florida State as a four-star prospect, he started seven games for the Seminoles before being kicked off the team due to the school judicial panel finding he committed dating violence.

C-USA also did have 14 undrafted free agents that were signed to teams right after the draft.

Michael Cuviello may be reached at mcviello@utep.edu or on Twitter @dlockz

Photo courtesy of UTEP Athletics

The Prospector

Editor Michael Cuviello, 747-5161

MAY 4, 2021

Four C-USA players selected for 2021 NFL draft


After the end of the university school year at hand, many of UTEP’s top athletes will depart the programs that the FBS of their sports occur over the years. Below is a profile on some of the standout from the Miners over the past season.

Cheyenne Jones- Volleyball (International Business)

Jones was a four-year starter for the volleyball team and made all-conference both her junior and senior seasons for the Miners and all academic all four of her seasons at UTEP. She was the first Miner to make all conference in every category from her junior season. Pruitt averaged 9.3 points and 6.7 rebounds as a senior after averaging 5.6 points and 2.9 rebounds as a junior. Pruitt increased her playing time from 12 minutes to 21 minutes a game. Currently, Pruitt, a Chicago native, is in the transfer portal as a graduate transfer.

Dejanae Roebuck- Basketball (Criminal Justice)

After only playing about seven minutes a game for the Miners as a junior, Roebuck emerged as a starter her senior season and started all 25 games for UTEP. Roebuck averaged 7.3 points and 3.4 rebounds a game and became one of the Miners’ most 3-point shooters this season with .364%. In the C-USA tournament. Scoring a team-leading 17 points, Roebuck led the Miners to a 74-67 comeback victory over Florida Atlantic in the conference tournament. Roebuck also made the commissioners honor roll for the season.

Bryson Williams- Basketball (Multi-disciplinary Studies)

Over the past two seasons, Williams has started every one of the Miners’ 56 games and was the first Miner since Vince Hunter to make all-conference two seasons in a row. Over two seasons with the Miners, Williams averaged 16.7 points and 7.3 rebounds a game while shooting 53% from the field. Both seasons with the Miners, Williams made the commissioner’s academic honor roll for C-USA as well as the District 11 All-NABC team. Williams has entered the portal as a graduate transfer and has multiple Power Five offers, including Texas, USC, Texas Tech and Oklahoma.

Sean Bailey- Track and Field (Multi-disciplinary Studies)

Bailey was the first UTEP Miner 400m runner since Berti Cameron in 1983 to be named to an NCAA All-American team in the distance in 2019. Winning a C-USA title in both the indoor and outdoor 400m, Bailey ran the third-fastest time in UTEP history at 400m in the 2020 indoor track season with a time of 46.42 seconds. A C-USA all conference athlete in the 200m, 400m and 400m relay, Bailey currently has two first-place finishes on the season and has C-USA’s top time this season in the 400m with 45.46. He is the favorite in the upcoming C-USA
Miners reload women’s basketball roster

Michael Cuviello

The UTEP Miners women’s basketball team added its seventh transfer of the offseason to bring its roster to 14 players. The addition of freshman forward Adhel Tac from Texas Christian University (TCU). For the 2020-21 season, the Miners lost seven players to the transfer portal.

During the season, the Miners lost Tatyana Modawar and Ariana Taylor. Neither player was a significant contributor at the time of their departures. The Miners finished 17-8 and clinched a top-four seed in the conference and made it to the semifinals of the C-USA Tournament. Senior Taylor had a major step for the team from the previous season’s 16-14 record, the team would return four of its starters for the next season as well as significant contributors from the bench. Unfortunately, UTEP’s success would come at a cost and five more players would enter the transfer portal.

Senior Michelle Pruitt, the Miners second-leading scorer and top rebounder and sophomore Iasia Lopes, the team’s best 3-point shooter and fourth leading scorer, entered the transfer portal. They were joined in full strength by former senior Tai Bradshaw and sophomore Ariona Kelkova as transfers.

During the spring signing period, Head Coach Kevin Baker secured three early signings, including two transfers.

The one high school player to sign with UTEP was point guard Grace Alverson from Height Height High School in Houston. As a senior, she averaged 15 points, four assists and 2.4 assists per game. Among the early transfers was sophomore guard Elena Cabral from Dallas who played in the 2019-20 season at Weatherford College in as a freshman. During her sophomore season, she averaged 18.2 points, 4.6 rebounds and 2.9 assists per game. She also shot 49% from the floor, 44% from the arc and 88% from the free-throw line resulting in her being named to third team All-American at the junior college level. A native of Belara, and has participated in multiple FIBA European championships averaging over 13 points a game. Since April 20th, the Miners have secured the services of five more transfer players to complete its roster. Adhel Tac

On April 20, the Miners announced the signing of graduate transfer forward Teal Battle from the University of Arkansas Little Rock (UALR). Battle averaged 11.5 points and 3.9 rebounds per game while shooting 41% from the floor as a senior. Over the past two seasons, Battle has made All-Sun Belt Conference for her contributions on the court. “Teal got our attention this year as she was one of the top players in the Sun Belt Conference,” Baker said. “At UALR, Teal improved every season and grew into one of the conference’s top three players. She has the ability to play her back to the basket, shoot the mid-range jumper, and she is great off of the glass. Teal will give our team a solid threat to score in the interior. Defensively, Teal can play multiple positions because of her athletic ability. Finally, being a graduate transfer, she will bring a level of maturity and leadership to our program.” The following day the Miners announced that the team had landed Kansas State University (KSU) transfer Makayla Pippin. Pippin, 6-1 junior guard, only played in six games for the Wildcats of KSU before opting out of the season Jan. 1. Previously, Pippin was a junior college All-American at Central Arizona College where she averaged 16.8 points, 8.9 rebounds and 2.9 assists per game and 1.7 steals in 34 career starts. “Makayla is a fantastic addition to our program,” Baker said. “Coming out of junior college, she was one of the most talented and highly coveted players in the country. She has a natural ability to score the ball in a variety of ways. She has developed her perimeter shot but can still play inside with the forwards. Makayla is a relentless rebounder and is willing to defend with a ton of energy. Overall, her versatility will fit very well in our system and she will flourish into a top player in our system.”

On April 29, UTEP announced the transfers of 5-11 guard Mahri in 44 games for the Horned Frogs in 2019 and 2020. Mahri joined TCU as a freshman and played in 14 games for the Horned Frogs of TCU but only played 54 minutes, shooting 41% from the field. Tac was considered a three-star prospect out of Sachse High school as a high school senior after being named Texas Girls Coaches Association all-state two years in a row.

“Adhel was one of the top forwards in the country coming out of high school,” Baker said. “We are very excited to know that she will be joining the Miners this fall. In addition to being a strong forward, Adhel really impressed us her skills on the perimeter. She can now handle the ball like a guard and is even a three-point shooting threat. Adhel can guard with great defensive energy and purpose. She will be a great fit in all that we do on the floor. Adhel is a very intelligent player and this will allow her to do even more within our system.”

Filling out the roster for the Miners will be junior guard Gabriela Sales out of Northwood Community College (NWCC). Sales played in 34 games for NWCC and averaged 5.3 points and 2.6 rebounds, along with six starts. Graduating from San Pasqual High School, Sales has played in the FIBA under 17 championships for Brazil.

Overall, the Miners have been aggressive in the transfer portal, replacing playing players and will still return four starters from the previous season with Sophomore Katia Gallegos, Avery Crouse, freshman Lauren Arrington and senior Destiny Thurman. Battle will most likely join this group in the starting lineup and is an immediate contributor.

While the team lost some major contributors since the end of the season, the Miners believe they have seen a significant drop-off in quality and Battle gives the team its most experienced player at the Division I level.

With this signing class UTEP should be a competitive team in C-USA and should be able to take another step forward with the returning starters. The Miners have good sign of changeover on the roster could be a challenge for the Miners but we have the program headed in the right direction.

Bryanna Molina-Saltabargh (Pre-Science)

Molina is a four-year starter and is the best of her career. Molina is considered a 299 batting average, three home runs, and 10 runs batted in. An El Paso Born native and graduate of El Paso High School, Molina has started a career-best 29 games this season and has been a defensive stalwart at first base with only three errors on the year. Molina has made the conference’s all-academic honor roll all four seasons.

Erandi Martinez - Tennis (electrical/ computer engineering)

Over her four-year career, Martinez has 47 victories in singles play overall and paced by a 7-4 record this season. During her freshman season, Martinez posted a career-best 20-10 record. For the past three seasons, Martinez has made the all-conference academic honors at first base. Martinez is a three-time commissioner’s all- academic honor roll recipient.
Miners survive late Utah Valley rally to win 10-9

From leading hitter, sophomore outfielder Idalis Mendez. With two players on the bases, Flores was able to earn a base on balls to load the bases. Molina came to bat and hit a sacrifice liner to the right-field, bringing home a run for the Miners. An error on junior Pate Cathey's at bat scored another run for the Miners giving the team a 5-1 lead. With her second hit of the day, Somoza drove in two runs on a centerfield single that was followed by back-to-back sacrifice flies by Valles and Molina. At the end of four innings, the Miners would have a seemingly insurmountable 9-1 lead. "The first couple of times through the lineup, I thought we were really locked in and doing what we needed to do to give ourselves those opportunities," UTEP coach T.J. Hubbard said. "I think (sophomore pitchers Isabella Kelly and Zaylie Calderon) did what they needed to do to give ourselves those opportunities."

Somoza had her first multi-hit game and home run in the game. "I thought we had some good offensive performances in the first half of the game, giving ourselves an opportunity to be up 9-1," Hubbard said. "I think (sophomore pitchers Isabella Kelly and Zaylie Calderon) did what they needed to do pitching wise in the circle to keep us competitive. We have to try to make some better plays defensively and try to limit the damage in those bigger innings."

After winning this nonconference match, the Miners’ playoff picture is clearer since Louisiana Tech (22-25, 10-6) clinched the third seed in the West Division of the Conference USA Tournament that will be held in Bowling Green, Kentucky. UTEP will play for one of the two Wild Card seeds of the C-USA Tournament that are for the two teams with the highest winning percentage of any division. The four teams that have a better winning percentage than UTEP (.250) are Western Kentucky (.500), FAU (.375), FIU (.313), and UTSA (.313). Now the UTEP softball team will go on the road to face UTSA (11-29, 5-11) May 7-9 with the chance of winning at least three of its four games and combine these results with others from FAU, WKU and FIU. This series at San Antonio has, of course, playoff implications on the line for its final regular-season road games of the year.
Congratulations to UTEP’s Inaugural Doctor of Pharmacy Graduating Class

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