A UTEP student takes their senior graduation picture in front of the pick located at the front of the UTEP campus.
A farewell to articles: Graduation, and ever after

Julian Herrera

As many criticisms, justifed or otherwise, that may be shared about UTEP, I am not alone in saying that I never had a “single” bad professor. The instructors that guided me through my interests were knowl- edgeable and unconventionally spirited and sincere. I feel that they not only facilitated my learning but informed my place among those that saw the world the way I did, who preferred camera lenses to eyes and spoke in prose and poetry because just saying something was never good enough. Greg Bean, thank you for nurtur- ing my fascination with the art of filmmaking, your guidance and unwavering support—whatever it comes of it, it was wonderful to feel accepted and recognized. I spent most of my initial time in college meandering in the library around the religious studies sec- tion, pondering if I would ever make something of myself. I felt as though the portion of my life that I dedicated to being a writer was wasted. I couldn’t find work anywhere and I never felt like there was a purpose to being in college beyond fulfilling an expectation and getting a slip of paper. I con- firmed I passed all my courses. My first job was here on campus with UTEP Marketing and Com- munications, then known as Uni- versity Communications (UC), and I still remember feeling tear-y-eyed the first time I saw my name com- mitted to print below something that I had written. It was a simple piece of interview work—but it conspired a part of me that had been suffering for an unforgivably long time. I struggled with a variety of mental illnesses for years, many of which I kept from feeling like nothing I did would ever matter and the years of pages I had poured myself into would wither, seeing no other eyes but mine. However, I was overcome by the realization that my words could potentially make a difference, and I decided that I would dedicate my life to helping others through my writing.

When the pandemic hit, I was unfortunately released from my po- sition as a communication assistant and I panicked, unsure what I could do to pay the bills now that I had just moved out on my own—not a few days later. I was hired as a staff reporter for The Prospector, and I know that I will look back at this time in my life as one of the moments that helped define me as a person.

After a few months I was pro- moted to Copy Editor before ultimately becoming the Editor-in-Chief. A large chunk of the staff graduated or left the paper, and I was set to the task of assembling an entire team of new people in the meantime managing the duties of multiple editors at once. I recall one night that I collapsed onto the bed, delirious, and malarious, crushed by the responsibili- ties of my work and huge changes at home. As much as I wish I could have stopped the world then, I think that putting myself through those hours and facing the challenge did push me to become a better person and amounted to one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I would like to thank The Prospector for giving me the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people and prove to myself that there is far more to enjoy and celebrate in my life than I ever could have known.

I am prepared to undertake any- thing that life has waiting for me. If nothing else, I am a better person than I once was, and I hope to shed the same light that was shared with me on the lives of others that might need it.
All the pandemic left behind for us

MARÍA L. GUERRERO DURÁN
The Prospector

As the semester comes to an end, it is important that we look back and acknowledge how we survived our first semester back on campus after being isolated for almost two years, and we step into this “new reality.”

Almost two years ago, we received an email saying our spring break would be extended two more weeks; after those two weeks passed, our lives changed forever. Our notifications were filled with breaking news of countries under lockdown, hospitals over capacity, and people fighting over toilet paper. This past year and a half have been filled with many transitions, with the fear of the unknown, illness, loss and grief. We had to adapt to a virtual world, to solitude, but mostly to hope.

I will not sugarcoat the tragedy that most of our population experienced, but I want to highlight how we tried to entertain ourselves at home to avoid insanity. How many tackled that challenge? How many watched their favorite show, or engaged in that To Be Read list, binged watched a challenge? How many tackled that home to avoid insanity. How many we tried to entertain ourselves at home, and acknowledged how we survived that experience, but I want to highlight how most of our population experienced that most valuable for you and your growth as an individual. Maybe that friend you called your best friend was not the best support you had, and if you decided to cut that friendship, it is okay? You learned to do what is best for you. This past year was a year of many changes for me as well. I got my first non-retail job and had the pleasure of working with incredible people as an undergraduate assistant for the Parking and Transportation department. I will be forever grateful for their encouragement to get out of my comfort zone and pursue opportunities that will benefit my goals.

Now, as I am finishing my first semester as The Prospector’s web editor, I know I made the right choice. It is common to fall into the comfort zone, and stay in what we already know, and the change of scenario helped me to burst out of my bubble of solitude. Connecting with other people my age, and the exposure to news, has helped me become aware of my surroundings after months of experiencing the world through the screen. As the new web editor, I hope to help the student community engage with their campus and become aware of the opportunities to enjoy their college experience. It is important that we, as students, connect with our institution, especially during this recovery and readaptation process. So much potential is hidden inside each of us. I will continue working hard to showcase the reporters’ and photographers’ work on the website, so you can all appreciate the amazing job they do and relate to them.

I am here to serve the student community. That is why this semester, I have worked alongside the editors and directors to make the website more engaging for you. So, you can easily access all the stories that are happening around you and enjoy reading a newspaper. It is important, especially in times like these, that we stay in touch with the world, and be aware of everything that is happening around us. That is our main goal here at The Prospector, to provide the students with sound journalism.

I would like to thank Editor-in-chief Julian Herrera, and Assistant Director Tracy Roy for seeing potential in me and being patient as I adapted to this new-to-me world of journalism. I would also like to thank all editors, reporters and contributors for welcoming me in their team with open arms.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate every single student that persevered through these tough times and worked their way toward finishing this semester. To those graduating, I wish you nothing but the best in life. I am proud of you, and I am sure you will achieve great things in life. Keep working on your goals and dreams. “Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far can one go?” - T.S. Eliot

María L. Guerrero Durán is the web editor and may be reached at mlguerrerod@miners.utep.edu

The Prospector would like to thank our Graduation Issue sponsors:

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Thank you!
Grad students wield competitive edge

UTEP Graduate School forges useful relationships and professional development

Julia Lucero
The Prospector

Graduation is creeping up for students and while some may go right into their careers others may consider graduate school as an option. UTEP Political Science Graduate Studies Director and Advisor Rebecca Reid said graduate school is a terrific option for most students.

“In previous times, most career advice included going to college for a BA in order to make one competitive in the job market,” Reid said. “Today, most everyone has a bachelor’s or associate degree, so that degree is no longer sufficient to be competitive in the job market—especially where the modern job market is extremely competitive and globalized.”

UTEP offers graduate programs in business, education, health sciences, engineering, liberal arts, nursing, and science.

According to the 2021-2022 UTEP graduate catalog, each school has a wide range of fields of study with 157 degree programs. Reid said graduate school teaches more in-depth, substantive courses that require higher levels of critical analysis, writing and researching.

Reid said students do not need to have majored/minored in the discipline to apply to graduate school, and students should select graduate programs by the people you want to learn from and work with.

Reid also advises students to plan ahead and look at the admissions criteria or requirements for each program, including the deadlines.

GPA and GRE scores aren’t the only criteria considered on applications; a good personal statement is also sought out. Students should also talk to graduate students in or from that program so they can gain insights from other or previous students, Reid said.

For Cheyanne Lozano, a graduate student in creative writing, UTEP presents a prime environment of diversity and inclusion that facilitates greater creative output and makes learning. Networking in class with other students and professors can be helpful peers.

“What I would recommend is that you pick your classes or can even go talk to faculty and find them networking opportunities but go look for them on campus which I think is really great,” Martinez said. “You pick your classes or can even make your own,” said Lozano. “It’s nice having people around you that can understand what you are struggling with because they are right there with you. Those peers, your teachers, and the opportunities you will find in grad school are all connections that will help you in the future of your career.”

College of Education Department Chair Beverley Calvo says some challenges students may face in graduate school is the expectation of students to work independently, not meeting as often in classes, outside learning, more reading, research and practical applications of the material.

“What I would recommend is that if you have any ideas of things you might be interested in, I would contact faculty who are teaching those courses,” said Calvo. “Just reach out to them and get some advising.”

The benefit of graduate school is students are able to specialize in an area in which they are mostly interested. Students are able to become an expert in that field. Calvo said, “When I was looking into graduate programs at UTEP, says he had prior knowledge of video editing but his classes taught the skills that are required of editors in the field to appeal to prospective employers.

“I feel like the classes I have been taking have really prepared me,” Martinez said. “And all the classes I am going to be taking later on the line will help me continue and further my knowledge for my career.”

Martinez said classes have offered him networking opportunities but he prefers to find connections on his own; he believes that positions offered to the broader public might be more difficult to obtain.

“Even if you don’t choose to go to the one through a class offers like the one I am in, you could always go look for them on campus which I think is really great,” Martinez said. “Everything starts with a question.”

JULIA LUCERO
The Prospector

With the semester coming to an end and graduation fast approaching, UTEP students were asked if they felt their colleges have prepared them well enough for their careers.

Junior Nahianie Regaldo, mechanical engineering major at UTEP, said the College of Engineering has prepared him for practical solutions and theory based learning.

Regaldo said he has developed time management skills which help him complete projects and tasks efficiently, giving him a competitive advantage in the industry.

Regaldo feels professors in mechanical engineering could be more understanding and patient with students since it is the first time being exposed to the material.

“They got to realize that we’re not as advanced and it’s not common knowledge for certain aspects in that subject,” Regaldo said. “For us to understand as opposed to them.”

Junior Ruben Martinez, a multimedia journalism major at UTEP, says he had prior knowledge of multimedia journalism major at Martinez said. “And all the classes I am going to be taking later on the line will help me continue and further my knowledge for my career.”

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ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ

A graduating UTEP student holds a diploma folder given to students when they receive their Master’s degree.

Sophomore Paola Martinez said the College of Business hosts a variety of career serving events for students and encourages students from every college to attend.

“Every single week there’s people from different companies that come and speak to us and we’re always invited, we even get extra credit,” said Paola Martinez. “Those are always good opportunities for your future.”

Martinez says that students are networking in class with other students and professors can be important for their career.

“Networking is something really big in the College of Business because that’s the biggest thing for your future,” Paola Martinez said. “Even with classmates, meeting someone, maybe in the future you’ll have a company with that person or your professor can hire you if he has something going on.”

Julia Lucero is a contributor and may be reached at jlucero13@miners.utep.edu.

ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ

A flyer for Job Mine alongside multiple career ready pamphlets sits outside the Career Center in room 103 in the Union West.

In grad school all the classes you take lead directly to what your goals are for the future.

Cheyanne Lozano, graduate student in communication

In grad school all the classes you take lead directly to what your goals are for the future.

Cheyanne Lozano, graduate student in communication

In grad school all the classes you take lead directly to what your goals are for the future.
UTEP Career Center pairs students with best career options

EDUARDO A. FLORES
The Prospector

For many students, landing their dream job might seem a distant goal. Career counseling services have played an essential part in colleges and universities across the United States in helping students develop and plan their careers.

Students attending UTEP have opened its services for students even after they graduate.

Graciela Maynes, multimedia and visual media designer and recent graduate, shared a piece of advice for upcoming graduates when they are applying for a job.

“Walk out knowing what you want,” Duarte said. “Do an assessment of what your interests are and be prepared by doing your research about the organization you want to work in and always ask questions at the interview if you are unsure of your tasks.”

EDUARDO A. FLORES is a contributor and may be reached at eduardo.flores@utep.edu
Do not give up. Just go for it. No one should stop you. It does not matter how old you are. Just go for it.”

Dolores Anguiano, age 86, is graduating from UTEP with a multidisciplinary degree.

PROFILE

Dolores Anguiano to walk the stage of the Don Haskins after 30 years in college.

Izte! Giron

When entering UTEP, you find students across campus diverse in age and ethnicity, all striving for the goal of one day graduating and earning their degree. For years, Dolores Anguiano has strived for the moment to walk across the stage of the Don Haskins — about 30 years to be exact.

Dolores Anguiano is 86 years old and graduating this semester with a degree in multi-disciplinary studies. After graduating from Stephen F. Austin High School in 1954, Anguiano has finally reached a lifelong milestone of hers. For years she has continuously pushed herself to receive her diploma.

“I came from a very poor family, and I saw how my parents suffered to put food on the table, that’s what pushed me really,” Anguiano said. “My mother would go cotton picking and my father would do construction work, but he still wouldn’t have enough (money) to put food on the table. Being poor made me want to finish my degree.”

Along with determination forged by her circumstances as a young girl, the start of her academic journey was not an easy one. Although she enrolled at New Mexico State University, Dolores struggled due to the abusive marriage she was in at the time.

“I was an abused wife,” Anguiano said. “When I started at New Mexico State, my husband would throw away my books because he didn’t want me to get educated.”

Despite her obstacles, Dolores was supported from the very beginning to continue her education. Her former boss, Margret Borton Zeich, is the person Dolores credits with pushing her not only to leave her husband but to continue her education.

“I would go into work with a black eye, and she would tell me, “When are you going to leave him, Dolores?” but all I could do was put my head down,” said Anguiano. “She is one of many people who helped me go to school; if it weren’t for her, I don’t think I would have left my husband and gone back to school.”

While attending school, Dolores also kept a full-time job at White Sands Missile Range for 32 years and took care of a family. She later became a substitute teacher at both Socorro and El Paso Independent School District until 2016. With her perseverance and humility, Dolores has continued to be a breath of fresh air everywhere she goes. Her carefree and gentle humor is a reminder that there is no limit to having fun and enjoying life to the fullest. As she reaches this big milestone in her life, one might ask what she plans to do next.

“I thought about doing my master’s, but I can’t. All the walking and coming to school is going to be tiring,” said Anguiano. “My advisor even tried to convince me to do my master’s, but it’s too much. I am thinking of being a volunteer somewhere, but we’ll see.”

From developing close relationships with the people at the Center for Accommodations and Support Services to her advisor, Dolores has always wanted to finish her degree even if it means finally leaving a place she calls home.

“I’m sad to leave this place, (UTEP) has been my home for so long,” Anguiano said. “I have friends and heroes here that I want to thank. From my advisor Julio Rogers to Mr. Flores and the other lovely people of CASS and to people across campus, they’ve all helped me get here. They’ve all helped me get here and I’m blessed to have those people be there for me.”

It is an emotional end for Dolores as she closes this chapter of her life. She wishes to thank everyone who has helped her reach this point and reminds students who feel like they cannot finish that it is possible, no matter how old you are.

“Do not give up. If you get bad grades, you can make it up,” said Anguiano. “Go for it; just go for it. No one should stop you. It does not matter how old you are. Just go for it.”
UTEP finance major awarded diversity scholarship

Eduardo Sano, a finance major at the University of Texas at El Paso’s College of Business Administration, was awarded a $10,000 scholarship from PGIM, the principal investment management business of Prudential Financial Inc. (PFI), according to a news release from UTEP Marketing and Communications.

Sano was among 242 interns from 105 universities who participated in PGIM’s Ron Andrews Diversity Scholarship (RADS) Program in summer 2021.

From June to August, Sano interned with PGIM Real Estate’s debt originations team in Chicago, where he was involved in financial modeling of potential new deals, market research and due diligence during the deal process, the release stated. He also networked with PGIM’s senior executives and worked with a mentor.

“I want to go into a career in finance because I love the analytical side of the industry,” said Sano in the release, a member of the University Honors Program and vice president of the UTEP chapter of Delta Sigma Pi, professional business fraternity. Sano has been offered a job as an investment analyst at PGIM Real Estate after he graduates from UTEP in May 2022. “Being able to see whether or not an investment can pay off is very rewarding. Additionally, finance is part of every industry, so your options are very wide with a degree in this field.”

RADS was established in 2020 in honor of Ron Andrews, retired head of human resources for the U.S. businesses of PFI, to help advance diversity in the asset management industry. Winners receive a 529 Savings Plan funded at $10,000, a paid internship, mentorship and professional development opportunities.

UT System Board of Regents contributes $1 million to create endowment in honor of Diana Natalicio

The University of Texas System Board of Regents has allocated $1 million to create an endowment to benefit the new Diana Natalicio Institute for Hispanic Student Success at The University of Texas at El Paso, according to UTEP officials.

A news release said the endowment will be used to fund a distinguished directorship of the Institute, which is named for the longtime and beloved UTEP president who died in September. The Diana Natalicio Institute for Hispanic Student Success will be dedicated to studying and implementing systemic changes that will promote greater access to higher education and will serve as a national resource and model for Hispanic student success.

Natalicio served as president of UTEP for 31 years before her retirement in 2019 and was instrumental in the University’s ascent to Carnegie R1 research status. She was a steadfast advocate for students and was dedicated to ensuring UTEP’s growing enrollment reflected the demographics of the surrounding Paso del Norte region.

“We are deeply grateful to the Board of Regents for providing the funding to help us recruit and retain outstanding leadership for the new institute,” UTEP President Heather Wilson said in the release. “But more importantly, it secures ongoing support of Dr. Natalicio’s legacy.”

PROSPECTOR STAFF REPORT
Information courtesy of UTEP Marketing and Communications.

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Commemorating commencement
Celebrating the occasion is too costly for some students

You're going to buy all this stuff. It's like, 'I just spent all that money here.'

Elias Rivas, UTEP student

Students feel pressured to decide their future

As graduation draws near, it's time to decide who to invite, where to hold your family get-together, and what to buy to commemorate the event. You have already dropped a lot in tuition, and you had to pay for your cap and gown – do you feel obligated to spend money on adornments as well?

Some students say yes, there is a pressure to get an expensive frame or a class ring to commemorate their time at college. Some students have voiced that society and advertising companies play a big role in the pressure to spend, while others say their families push for it.

"I know my mom has already started, 'when you graduate, we're going to go all out, we're going to send out our invitations; you have to buy them from your school," said Zipporah Rios, a sophomore at UTEP. "Personally, I feel there is a lot of pressure, but I don't see a point in doing all of that nonsense." According to Cost Helper, the total cost of a graduation ranges between $300-$2,500, depending on what you purchase along with your cap and gown. These additional accessories can include a commemorative medallion, a class ring, announcements, graduation packs, frames, and additional materials for graduation parties.

"I would be the first person in my household to graduate college, so I could see how they're proud of me and they want to flaunt it or whatever," Rios said. "But for me, I've been working towards this goal since I was younger. I knew I wanted to graduate college since I was younger. So, it's just another milestone for me." UTEP senior Sadie Carrillo said she feels obligated, but is probably not going to make these types of purchases.

According to Education Data Initiative, the average four-year public university cost for a student living on campus is about $25,000 per year. This is before books and additional fees are factored in. In the 2015-2016 school year, 58% of full-time students held a job. With college prices rising and the U.S. minimum wage remaining idle, students are struggling to cover costs. According to Urban Institute, 30-40% of undergraduates take out student loans to cover their costs, and 76% of 4-year college graduates have debt afterwards. Considering the mounting cost of attending university alone, a grand celebration may not be an option for every student and some feel there is no reason to stigmatize a refusal to spend much on commemorative decor or memorabilia.

"It's one thing to go through all these years of college and finally finish. Then to graduate, you need to buy a cap and gown," said Elias Rivas, a sophomore at UTEP. "You're going to buy all this stuff. It's like, 'I just spent all that money here.'"
ITZEL GIRON
The Prospector
Many woke up Thanksgiving morning with the energy to prepare for the feast taking place later in the evening, all while both UTEP dance and cheer teams found themselves in New York City for the 95th annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade.

Earlier this semester both teams announced they were invited to Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade and were fundraising money in hopes of being able to attend. After many generous donations, both teams had raised enough money to take part and be the first program in the UT System to do so.

“This trip gave the team a new sense of gratefulness,” said Yamel Garcia. “We had so much support coming from El Paso, it was truly and unbeatable feeling, I hope the UTEP community knows now that (UTEP) is on a national scale and our community is more appreciated now than ever before.”

Arriving a week early, both teams were able to not only explore the city but create closer bonds with one another while preparing for a week to enjoying the scenery New York has to offer, both teams put on a motivated mindset to work even harder to be the best dancer I can be, Cedillo said. “Without the support of our teammates and our coach, Leslie Lopez, nothing would be possible.”

The UTEP Cheer team released the following statement expressing its gratitude Saturday through their social media platforms:

“We would like to give the biggest shoutout to the El Paso community, UTEP alumni, family, friends and our fellow UTEP Miners. We are so grateful for your generous donations and continued support through this amazing experience.”

Itzel Giron is a staff reporter and may be reached at itzel_anahi_16@miners.utep.edu; @by.itzel.giron on Instagram; @itzel_anahi_16 on Twitter.

“W e would like to give the biggest shoutout to the El Paso community, UTEP alumni, family, friends and our fellow UTEP Miners. We are so grateful for your generous donations and continued support through this amazing experience.”

“A UTEP cheerleader waves during the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade on Nov. 25, 202, in New York City. The Empire State Building – it was so fascinating to witness in real life.”

“A UTEP cheerleader waves during the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade on Nov. 25, 202, in New York City. The Empire State Building – it was so fascinating to witness in real life.”

CASS ONLINE PORTAL
Connect from anywhere, anytime!
cassportal.utep.edu

The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) has an online portal with a three-question application for students with disabilities or temporary disabilities. CASS will then meet with students virtually or in person to discuss their case and determine what accommodations the student is eligible for.

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From The Prospector Staff: Congratulations!

Part of The Prospector staff pose in front of the Centennial Plaza on Nov. 29, 2021

Congratulations Miners,
we are proud of you!

2021 Fall Commencement
Don Haskins Center

Saturday, December 11
1 p.m. Health Sciences and the School of Nursing
6 p.m. Engineering and Science

Sunday, December 12
1 p.m. Liberal Arts
6 p.m. Business Administration and Education

For more information, visit: www.utep.edu/commencement
Congratulations on your resilience, we wish you the best!

Congratulations to all of the College of Liberal Arts Graduates
From the Liberal Arts Dean's Office
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HAPPY GRADUATION DAY
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"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

The College of Health Sciences is so proud of your achievements!

We can’t wait to see your next steps, and we want you to stay connected to us!

Thank you for helping us build our future together!

Go Miners!
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

CLASS OF

2021

Congratulations to the Class of 2021! You did it! We made it! It's time to start our own journeys in our careers. All the best, Class of 2021.

Thanks for everything.

-Sara

Congrats Grad! You did it! I knew it was a hard road but it's worth it at the end.

-Jonathan

Thank you to all my family and friends who supported me throughout this journey.

-Miranda

Por fin lo hizo! Gracias a Dios y a mi familia.

-Sarah

Thank you for everything.

-Adam

Thank you for your support.

-Roza

Thank you to all my family and friends who supported me throughout this journey.

-Evelyn

Thank you to everyone that believed in me. I DID IT! I AM AN ENGINEER! - Diana

Thank you for your years of hard work! You all did it!

-Abhi
Thank you, Lea! We love you.

Amanda, I'm Ready

Thank you Lea! We love you!

Class of 2021, I'm Ready!

Thanks to my Family and Friends for all the support.

Yay! Congrats to everyone.

Congratulations to all! You ALL Did it!

Finally! It's been a long road here. Finally! I can be free!

I'm the first to graduate. The plan to help the people of El Paso is my dream. I'm aningenious.

Finally, we did it! Congrats! Congrats to all! You ALL Did it!

Finally! It's been a long ride! Congrats to us all!

Enroll at UTEP. We Love you.

Congratulations Class of 2021! It's been a long ride! Congrats to us all!

Emilia Canale

I did it!

It's been a long road here. Finally! I can be free!

Congratulations to all graduates! We did it!

Emilia Canale

Congratulations Class of 2021! It's been a long road here. Finally! I can be free!

Hannah Canale

Congratulations Class of 2021! It's been a long road here. Finally! I can be free!

Hannah Canale
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Candela Castillo Canseco

Master of Science
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Landy Estefania Aranaz Mendoza
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Congratulations! You have completed your degree.

Thank you for living on campus with us.

We wish you all the best in the future.

The OSCC wishes all the best on your future endeavors.

Go Miners!

Congratulations! The Department of Mechanical Engineering is excited to celebrate this momentous achievement in our program.

Wish you the very best.
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CONGRATULATIONS ON REACHING MILESTONE.
CONGRATULATIONS ON REACHING THIS IMPORTANT MILESTONE. GO MINERS!
Fall commencement returns to Don Haskins

ALISON RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

After a distressing two years filled with uncertainty, UTEP commencement returns to their rightful place at the Don Haskins Center, 151 Glory Road. UTEP’s Spring 2021 commencement was held at the Sun Bowl stadium and well-attended graduates from Spring 2020, December 2020 and Spring 2021.

“Graduation is not only an important milestone for the student, but for the whole family as well. Whether it’s graduation for undergrad, masters, or doctorate students, it’s a great accomplishment for everyone,” said Beto Lopez, vice president of University Relations for UTEP.

This year’s fall commencement will be held on the weekend of Dec. 11-12. Doors open one hour before each ceremony. The College of Health Science and the School of Nursing will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, followed by the College of Engineering and Science at 6 p.m. The college of Liberal Arts will walk at 1 p.m. Sunday and the college of Business Administration and Education at 6 p.m.

There are various changes since the last commencement. Graduates are no longer limited to eight guests due to the loosening COVID-19 restrictions. However, guests are still encouraged to wear a mask and practice social distancing, due to a current rise in reported COVID-19 cases. Guest tickets are not required due to the loosening COVID-19 restrictions. However, guests are still encouraged to wear a mask and practice social distancing, due to a current rise in reported COVID-19 cases.

For information about the first- and second-semester commencements, visit minetracker.utep.edu/commencement.

Items that are not allowed inside the building due to the risks they pose or due to space limitations are:
- Aerosol cans
- Animals (service dogs or service dogs in training permitted)
- Artificial noise-makers
- Baloons
- Bats, poles and sticks
- Car seats and baby strollers
- Coolers/ice chests
- Cameras lenses larger than 4”
- E-cigarettes
- Firearms
- Fireworks
- Flags on poles
- Glass bottles
- Illegal drugs
- Laser pointers
- Lawn chairs
- Missile-like objects or other items that can be used as projectiles (i.e. balls)
- Outside food and beverages including alcohol
- Scooters
- Bicycles, roller skates and skateboards
- Tobacco products
- Tripods, monopods and selfie sticks
- Unauthorized video cameras and drones
- Weapons

Items that are allowed include small umbrellas, sealed bottled water (clear plastic bottles only; one per patron), fanny packs, radishes with head only, service animals, blankets, baby food (in plastic containers only).

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THE PROSPECTOR • NOVEMBER 30, 2021 • PAGE 21

Arts & Culture Victoria Rivas, editor

Fall commencement returns to Don Haskins Center Dec. 11-12.

ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ/TE PROSPECTOR

Fall commencement returns to Don Haskins Center

ATEP SELC celebrates Rainbow Miner Graduation

EDUARDO A. FLORES
The Prospector

Each spring semester, UTEP’s Student Engagement & Leadership Center (SELC) hosts Rainbow Miner Graduation to acknowledge the accomplishments of LGBTQIA2S+ students and see them onto the following stages of their lives. This year is the first time that SELC has hosted an event for fall graduates.

Rainbow Miner Graduation is an event where LGBTQIA2S+ students share their hopes and dreams while being officially recognized for their leadership and success. The ceremony was held 6-7 p.m. Nov. 19 at the UTEP’s Tomás Rivera Conference Center.

Each participant was given two passes to invite their loved ones and watch them receive a special rainbow cord that graduates can wear at the Fall commencement ceremony. According to SELC officials, students were encouraged to “dress to impress” on the ceremony day.

This event is not in place of traditional graduation, but instead is meant to augment and enhance the graduation experience.

The Rainbow Miner Graduation included addresses from UTEP faculty, a cording ceremony, and food to share with their friends, family and well-wishers.

“Acknowledging such diversity within the LGBTQ community is as important as recognizing sexual orientation and gender diversity in UTEP,” said Mariana Gonzalez, a biological sciences major at UTEP. SELC also gave graduates a personalized certificate to celebrate their achievements.

In El Paso, resources such as The Purple Pages of El Paso and The Borderland Rainbow Center are available to connect LGBTQ individuals and families across El Paso and El Paso del Norte region.

UTEP students can also band together to advance LGBTQ equality and pride through campus organizations such as The Queer Student Alliance. The Queer Student Alliance at UTEP is a social and educational student organization that provides a safe and supportive environment. Crystal Vasquez, a criminal justice major at UTEP, also expressed her opinion about the significance of the event.

“Unlike support can encourage everyone from their goals, and I think that this graduation is a great way to inspire the LGBTQ community by knowing they have the institutional support,” Vasquez said.

SELC created the Rainbow Miner Initiative in response to the increasing need for LGBTQ visibility on campus currently under the Inclusion & Advocacy program to create an environment at UTEP that embraces individual differences, sustains inclusion, and cultivates a campus that is free from bias.

In 2016, the speaker of Rainbow Miner Graduation was UTEP Creative Writing professor Benjamín Alire Sáenz who remarked on embracing inclusion.

“Be yourselves and never underrate who loves you. Never,” said Saenz. “Remember, you are loved, and you will be loved.”

For information about the first-ever Fall Rainbow Miner Graduation, visit minetracker.utep.edu/event/7390300 or contact Daisy P. Marquez, leadership, inclusion, and advocacy coordinator of the student engagement and leadership center at dpmarquez.utep.edu.

Fall commencement returns to Don Haskins Center Dec. 11-12.

ALBERTO SILVA FERNANDEZ/TE PROSPECTOR

A graduating student holds pride flag in Rainbow Miner Graduation ceremony Nov. 19, 2021, at the Tomás Rivera Conference Center.
Myriad ways to celebrate UTEP graduation

ALYSON RODRIGUEZ The Prospector

As another graduation season rolls around and students begin preparing to celebrate with their family and friends, there are many places and activities to do to commemorate this joyous achievement. Most students choose to eat at a fancy restaurant with their loved ones such as Ruth Chris’s Steak House, Mesa Street Grill, Landry’s Seafood, West Texas Chop House, Crave Kitchen & Bar, Avolino’s Pizza, Corralito’s Steakhouse, and many other delicious restaurants located around the city. Graduates also mark the occasion by hosting parties at their house or a party venue. Local party venues include The Barn Venue, 2828 N Lee Trevino Drive, and the El Paso Party Room at 1500 Pelicanos Drive. If you want something more historic or antique, Magoffin Hall at 801 Magoffin Ave. has its own beautiful history. For graduates who enjoy the outdoors, Keystone Heritage Park on the west side offers a unique experience in its botanical gardens. The McKelligon Canyon Pavilion on 1500 McKellog Canyon Road offers guests the chance to be engulfed in the El Paso wilderness. One graduate decided he didn’t need a fancy venue to celebrate with his loved ones. “I just want to eat some good food with my family and friends,” said Ramon Castro, an industrial engineering major graduating from UTEP. “I’m going to have a taco at my house with agua frescas, salsa, guacamole and more great food, so I’m excited to finally be graduating... I have waited many years for this moment and want the day to be special.” There are many pretty spots around El Paso that graduates can take pictures at to memorialize their special day. These picture-worthy spots include a picture in front of the iconic Plaza Theatre’s façade. Across the street stands the newly renovated Plaza Hotel and Paso Del Norte Hotel with their new restaurants and rooftop bar. Anywhere in downtown El Paso is a picture-perfect spot with all of its tall buildings, murals, historic structures, new skyscrapers and hotels. El Paso is filled with all sorts of beauty with awesome mountain backdrops, urban and nature spots. Tom Lea Park is also a hidden gem nestled in the mountains. Other parks include Album Park, Centennial Park, the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens at UTEP Memorial Park and the Franklin Mountains State Park, to name a few. End-of-year recitals are also a great way to celebrate a student’s college achievements. Senior Nicolas Acero Aguilar, who is graduating with a bachelor’s degree in commercial music, said this is the best way to finish his college career. “My senior recital is the best way to finish off my college experience,” said Aguilar. “It’s a great way to thank all of my professors, family and friends who have supported me throughout my time at college. I couldn’t have asked for a better way to top it all off.”

ALBERTO FERNANDEZ SILVA/The Prospector

A cap and tassel for the graduating class of 2021.

CAPS helps students cope with stress as semester ends

BEATRIZ VELAZQUEZ The Prospector

Graduation and finals are around the corner and students are once again dealing with stress as the semester comes to an end. Graduation can be very stressful — preparations for the graduation party, inviting family and friends and especially the questions that many future graduates as themselves, “What will I do after graduating? Should I continue with my master’s or doctorate? What would happen if I cannot find a job?” All of these are worrying stress factors for students, but keep in mind that you are not alone. UTEP’s Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) have counselors who can help students manage stress and other personal issues affecting their lives. “CAPS offers group counseling, individual counseling, general career counseling, campus presentations, and workshops,” said Elisa Dobler, a clinical counselor at CAPS. “I recommend people to find coping skills that work for them. It might be exercise; it may be connecting with family and friends or getting outside and being mindful of your surroundings... Remember to switch up your tasks because our brains get tired of doing the same thing for too long.” Dobler said it is essential to get advice and discover what activities help students learn how to relax and handle stress appropriately. “Different coping skills work for different people,” said Dobler. “I encourage you to find what works for you.” Dobler said: “CAPS also offers mindfulness workshops periodically that students can sign up for on Campus Edge or follow UTEP CAPS on Instagram/Facebook. We post upcoming events there as well as give weekly tips that can help with stress or anxiety.” Some students weighed in on how they tend to cope of the stress as finals come to an end. “Now that the semester is over, I feel very stressed with all the projects that I have to do,” said Mariana Mendoza, a senior majoring in digital media production at UTEP. “I feel calm even though there are many things to do, and at the same time, I feel out of place,” said Alexis Santos, a junior digital media production major at UTEP. “The semester went fast, but it has left me good experiences. I usually listen to music and go for a walk in the park every night. I also play the piano to relax. I am a person who does not stress too much, and I always try to be as calm as possible.” The sessions that CAPS offers in group therapy are for five to eight students and individuals and are free and confidential. CAPS also has groups in Spanish and LGBTQ+. “We do have regular groups all semester long,” said Dobler. “The best thing to do is to join a group at the beginning of the semester to have that weekly outlet as far as stress and other concerns go. The groups create a lot of peer support and connection for students who realize that other people feel the same way they do, or they have a counselor in every group, but they also have access to feedback from their peers.” For more information, CAPS is located at 202 Union West, 500 W University and you can contact them at caps@utep.edu or 915-747-5302.

New Open! until February 25th

This exhibition features six projects currently supported by the Fund for Ethical Practices of Transborder Art, with work in progress videos highlighting the artist voices as they talk about their experience creating work on the US-Mex border during World War II. To view the videos visit our website utep.edu/trans or scan the QR code.

THE PROSPECTOR · NOVEMBER 30, 2021

UTEP students struggle during finals week of their first semester back on campus.
Laura Valdez is an Ecology and Evolutionary Biology UTEP student graduating this semester. She has been both a mentor and a member of the lab for advice and mentoring, her long-term goals. Along with wanting to bring more Latinx people into the journalism field, she plans to attend graduate school to continue following her passion for research and her long-term goals. She hopes to one day be a professor and to后悔 hiring me is immense; I'm only one person from El Paso, and I want to represent our city and our culture well.”

Even with her remarkable success, Estefania Morales-Mitre is a bilingual freelance journalist and UTEP student majoring in multimedia journalism with a minor in market...
Miner football awaits bowl game

UTEP prepares to wrap up historic season

Emily Autumn Velasquez
The Prospector

The UTEP Miners had a historic season that consisted of breaking many records and surpassing the expectations of many. They finished their regular season with a record of 7-5 and went 4-4 in Conference USA.

UTEP finished .500 or better in their conference for just the fourth time since joining C-USA in 2005. This is also only the seventh time in 53 years that the Miners have managed to record seven wins in a single season.

The Miners offense played at a high caliber level which helped them attain a winning record. Sophomore quarterback Gavin Hardison finished the season with 2,965 yards passing. If he throws for at least 35 yards in the bowl game, he will be only the fifth UTEP player to throw for 3,000 yards in a season.

Hardison passed for a career-high of 366 yards against Rice University, the most by a UTEP player in 12 years. He has also thrown for 17 touchdowns this season, the most by a UTEP quarterback since 2010.

Sophomore wide receiver Jacob Cowing finished the season with 1,330 yards, putting him into second place on UTEP’s single season receiving list.

Cowing has 2,571 career receiving yards, which puts him fifth on the UTEP list. Cowing also finished the season with eight 100-yard receiving games, which is the most recorded by a Miner since 1965.

Sophomore running back Deion Hankins went over 1,000 yards rushing for his career in the UAB game. Hankins has rushed for 1,058 yards as a Miner and has recorded 15 career rushing touchdowns.

While the Miners were thriving offensively, another big part of their success can be attributed to their defense.

Senior defensive back Dy’vonne Inyang led the team with three interceptions this season, which is the most by a Miner in a single season since 2011.

Junior linebacker Breon Hayward led the team in tackles with a total of 98, and junior defensive end Jadrian Taylor led the team with a total of 6.5 sacks.

The Miners allowed fewer than 350 yards in five of their eight C-USA games and allowed an average of 350.6 yards to their eight C-USA opponents.

A significant component of special teams is junior kicker Gavin Baechle as he successfully made 17 field goals this season. He is tied for the fourth-most in a season in school history and is the most by a Miner in a season since 2008.

One of the most notable games this season was when the UTSA Roadrunners traveled to the Sun Bowl to take on the UTEP Miners. While the Roadrunners ran away with the game, an impressive 31,658 fans attended the game.

This was the second largest crowd UTEP has seen for a C-USA game since 2010.

UTEP had an impressive turnaround this offseason as they went from a 2019 record of 3-5 to an impressive 7-5 this season. The players and coaching staff worked vigorously to play to the best of their capabilities and it is their hard work that led them to bowl eligibility for the first time since 2014.

UTEP awaits its invitation to a bowl game as it prepares to wrap up the season. The Miners are seeking eight wins in a season for only the 11th time in their program’s history.

All stats used provided with the courtesy of UTEP Athletics.

Emily Autumn Velasquez is the sports editor and can be reached at eavelasquez@miners.utep.edu; @emilyautumn20 on Twitter.
UTEP wide receiver makes history

DANNY LOPEZ
The Prospector

While on the cusp of an improved season for the UTEP football team, sophomore wide receiver Jacob Cowing has helped guide the Miners to a winning record this season. The 5'11 wide receiver has posted record breaking numbers this season.

Cowing has also been named to a couple of awards as well. He was named preseason All-Conference-USA, and the Biletnikoff Award list earlier this year. Cowing was named Pepsi player of the game recently against the University of North Texas.

"I was extremely honored and blessed to get those, the watch list Biletnikoff Award and all-Conference preseason awards," Cowing said in an interview Nov. 17. Cowing comes from Maricopa, Arizona, a two-star product from Maricopa high-school with his only offer being from UTEP. During his time in Arizona, he played varsity for three seasons and combined for a total of 89 receptions for 2,065 yards and 21 touchdowns. During Cowing's senior year, he notched 28 receptions for 872 yards and 10 scores.

In his current season as a sophomore, Cowing has 1,330 yards and seven touchdowns this season. In each game that he plays in, Cowing is fighting hard for more yardage and looking for the big play each time. In Conference-USA, Cowing is second in receiving yardage with 1,330 yards right behind junior wide receiver Jerreth Sterns from Western Kentucky University. Cowing would also record his second 100-yard game of the season in an eight-catch, 110-yard performance against Abilene Christian University.

Cowing now has the second most 100-yard games in his career in school history with 13 in total, tied with former UTEP player Chuck Hughes; Hughes set the record of 13 from 1964-1966. Cowing had eight 100-yard games this season, which is eight behind Hughes for the most 100-yard games in a single season, a record of nine set in 1965. Cowing finished the season with 1,330 yards, which is the second most in school history. "I wanted to at least get 1,000 yards for this season, I was blessed enough to actually achieve that, also the last two seasons I only had three touchdowns," Cowing said in a Nov. 17 interview.

His freshman year was nothing to scoff at as Cowing had 550 yards and three touchdowns. He ranked 37th in the nation and seventh in C-USA in yards per reception. Cowing also set a UTEP freshman record with 145 receiving yards against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Cowing led UTEP in receiving yards with 550 yards, receiving touchdowns three yards per game 45.8 and yards per reception 17.7 as a true freshman.

Cowing led all C-USA freshmen and ranked number 13 nationally among freshmen wide receivers with 550 yards. His impact on the football field is noticeable due to the fact he is always making big plays to help the Miners offene that can struggle at times. But nonetheless, Cowing's ability to make big plays helps the offense get going. Statistics provided with the help of UTEP Athletics.

Danny Lopez is a staff reporter and can be reached at dalopez23@utep.miners.edu.
**Men's basketball working hard to improve**

**DANNY LÓPEZ**  
**The Prospector**

The UTEP men's basketball team (4-2, 0-0 Conference-USA) is off to a promising start, practicing and playing hard to keep the momentum going through the rest of the season.

So far this season the Miners have performed well against rival teams such as Western New Mexico University and Louisiana Tech University. With a season sweep against NMSU since 2003 and the first win on NMSU turf since 2004.

"I'm really proud of my group for accomplishing 20 wins," Walls said after the win against NMSU. During the post-season, some Miners accomplished individual honors.

Junior outside hitter/middle blocker Alazna Darley was named to the All-Conference Second Team. Darley has a career-high of 16 kills in a set against Western New Mexico University on Saturday, Nov. 20 for the C-USA semifinals. UTEP was unable to make a comeback and fell to No. 18 Western Kentucky 0-3. For the offense, junior middle blocker/outside hitter Alianza Darley led the Miners with 13 kills and senior setter Kristen Fritzschke had 16 assists. Perez Rosas led the defense with seven digs. UTEP will face Conference USA foe Tulsa on Nov. 27. Despite coming up short against the Miners defense in the regular season, senior中小型 django. Since 2005, the Miners were also swept against them and struggled to defend the paint against Lofon Jr., the Bulldogs' top scorer in the first round. Since 1984 with a No. 2 spot in the overall ranking.

"Tis year, the Blazers are powerful to make any baskets against them. The Miners struggled to defend low range with jumpers and lay-ups that are at 50%.

The Miners might struggle in this match-up since UAB can score from the inside and the big men for the Miners struggle to defend low and rebound.

The Miners’ next conference opponent is Middle Tennessee University. This season, Middle Tennessee is doing well with wins against Bethune Cookman University and Winthrop University. In 2019, the Miners lost to the Blue Raiders with a final score of 48-47.

The Miners’ most challenging opponents this year will be the University of North Texas, Florida Atlantic University and Louisiana Tech University. The Mean Green look to give the Miners one of the most difficult matches of the season. North Texas has a lot of noise last year by winning C-USA and winning an NCAA tournament in the round of 64 game to advance to the round 32. North Texas could not be stopped last year on the offense, especially from the 3-point line, while also pressuring the Miners on defense.

Louisiana Tech was a formidable team last year and split with the Miners. Tech returns freshman forward Kenneth Lofon Jr., a key player that played a pivotal role in the match-ups against the Miners. UTEP should do better against the Bulldogs but might struggle to defend the paint against Lofton Jr, the Bulldogs' top scorer in the season.

The Owls eliminated the Miners last year in this first round of the Conference-USA tournament. The Owls' leading scorer, junior Michael Forrest, is someone UTEP must keep their eyes on while on defense due to the fact he can sink a bucket within the blink of an eye. Overall, however, the Miners do match up well with the Owls and should not struggle as much against FAU this year.

The Miners match up decently in the toughest parts of Conference USA and are geared up to fight for a couple of big wins this season.

Danny Lopez is a staff reporter and can be reached at dalopez23@utep.miners.edu.

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**KATRINA VILLARREAL**  
**The Prospector**

UTEP volleyball celebrates after sweeping NMSU on the season for the first time since 2001 on Nov. 10. UTEP volleyball concludes historic season

The Mean Green look to give the Miners one of the most difficult matches of the season. North Texas has a lot of noise last year by winning C-USA and winning an NCAA tournament in the round of 64 game to advance to the round 32. North Texas could not be stopped last year on the offense, especially from the 3-point line, while also pressuring the Miners on defense.

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Danny Lopez is a staff reporter and can be reached at dalopez23@utep.miners.edu.
KATRINA VILLARREAL

UTEP women's basketball started out the season 5-0 under Head Coach Kevin Baker. Unfortunately on Nov. 27, the Miners suffered their first loss against Kansas at the South Point Thanksgiving Shootout.

In its season opener against Incarnate Word, the Miners defense was unstoppable as they forced 25 turnovers and recorded 11 steals; they also tallied 17 assists and only 13 turnovers throughout the game. The Miners got off to a slow start, but junior guard Destiny Thurman began a 15-0 run for UTEP with a set of free throws. Against Incarnate Word, UTEP shot over 47 percent from the floor and more than 38 percent from downtown. The final score was 81-47, a 34-point win for UTEP defense recorded a season-high of 28 turnovers and blocking four shots. The Miners have won five consecutive games over the Aggies for the first time since the 2012-2013 and 2015-2016 seasons. UTEP shot over 50 percent from the field and went 19-of-27 from the foul line. Sophomore guard Avery Crouse led the Miners with a career-high of 19 points along with a team-high of 15 points on 5-of-10 shooting. While Gallegos tallied 14 points and a team-high of four assists.

The bench combined for a total of 29 points as Petree scored 6 points along with a team-high of two blocked shots. Sophomore guard Elaina Cabral and two Erinn Wilson added five points.

“One of the things we decided to do in the spring was, we knew we had to go and get better and rebuild our bench,” Baker said in a post-game interview. “It was really telling to see when our bench comes to play like that. Not only did our coaching staff do a good job recruiting, but the players did a great job playing. We leaned on our bench, we needed our bench and it couldn’t have happened to a better bunch of ladies who work hard every day and deserve it.”

As for how the Miners are doing against conference rivals, UTEP is matching well. In scoring offense UTEP is ranked third with 318 points, averaging 79.50 percent, however in scoring defense it is ranked eighth with 239 points, averaging 59.75. In 3-point field goal percentage the Miners are fifth with .329 but are twelfth on defense with .333. The Miners are thirteenth in rebounding offense with an average of 35.50; the defense number one on rebounding defense, average 28.25. On assists UTEP is first in the conference, average 16.00. Baker also added that new student athletes for the 2022-2023 season that includes incoming freshmen Soli Montrose and transfers Vesco Powell and Adela Valkova.

The next game for the Miners is at 6 p.m. Dec. 1 for an away game against New Mexico State University for the Battle of I-10.

The next game for the Miners is at 1 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Don Haskins Center against Utah State after their original game scheduled for Dec. 1 against NMSU got postponed due to COVID-19 related concerns.

All stats and quotes for UTEP courtesy of UTEP Athletics. All conference stats courtesy of Conference USA official website conferenceusa.com.

ANNABELLA MIRELES / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP fights to reach C-USA Tournament

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SPORTS Page 27

THE PROSPECTOR · NOVEMBER 30, 2021

LEVI CARLOS

The Prospector

Kezza Giffa, freshman guard for the UTEP men’s basketball team, comes a long way from home to play for the Miners. Giffa is a basketball player and played professionally in the Euro League and was a member of the Saint-Quentin Leos. He's a 6-foot-5 point guard from France, Paris and has had a basketball in his hands for most of his life. Giffa’s father, Sacha Giffa, was also a basketball player and played professionally in the Euro League and served as Kezza’s main inspiration. “It wasn’t until I was 6 or 7 that I started to figure out that my dad was somebody (famous),” said Giffa. “He became somebody I look up to. He’s definitely a role model for me.”

Giffa has had many people that have influenced him and have given him the game on Parker because of their physical similarities. “He gave me great advice because I’ve always been skinny like him,” said Giffa. “He told me my size is an advantage, and I have to use it.” One aspect of Giffa’s game in particular has been specifically influenced by Parker. “His signature move is the floater, so I used to work on that a lot,” said Giffa.

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Giffa has had many people that influence his game and come with real championship experience. Due to his father’s prominence, Giffa was able to meet Tony Parker of the San Antonio Spurs. Giffa has modeled his game on Parker because of their physical similarities. “I’m proud of Kezza,” said Golding. “He’s got his team how to use it.” Giffa grew an admiration for United States basketball after watching a documentary on the Fab Five of Michigan with his father.

“Keep working and dedication will pay off,” Giffa said. “I’m happy about the opportunity to play here with Coach Golding, who is a great coach.”

With hard work and dedication Giffa taught himself English by watching a documentary on the Fab Five of Michigan with his father.

The Prospector

Frontman point guard Kezza Giffa plays defense during the first half of the home game against Western New Mexico on Nov. 9.

“I loved American basketball and I always wanted to be here,” Giffa said. “I’m happy about the opportunity to play here with Coach Golding, who is a great coach.”

Freshman forward Brenda Fontanaz put up a career-high of 8 points along with a team-high of four assists. In its season opener against Incarnate Word, the Miners defense was unstoppable as they forced 25 turnovers and recorded 11 steals; they also tallied 17 assists and only 13 turnovers throughout the game. The final score was 81-47, a 34-point win for UTEP defense recorded a season-high of 28 turnovers and blocking four shots. The Miners have won five consecutive games over the Aggies for the first time since the 2012-2013 and 2015-2016 seasons. UTEP shot over 50 percent from the field and went 19-of-27 from the foul line. Sophomore guard Avery Crouse led the Miners with a career-high of 19 points along with a team-high of 15 points on 5-of-10 shooting. While Gallegos tallied 14 points and a team-high of four assists.

UTEP’s bench stepped up during the game against NMSU. Freshman forward Brenda Fontanaz put up a career-high of 8 points along with a team-high of four assists.

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UTEP freshman guard comes a long way

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